



CITY OF LUMBERTON

CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES • MAY 12, 2021

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

11:00 AM

500 N Cedar St, Third Floor, Lumberton, NC 28358

I. CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Bruce W. Davis	Mayor	Present	
Leroy Rising	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	
Melissa Robinson	Precinct 2	Present	
John R. Carroll	Precinct 3	Present	
Karen Higley	Precinct 4	Present	
John Cantey	Precinct 5	Present	
Chris Howard	Precinct 6	Present	
Eric Chavis	Precinct 7	Excused	
Owen Thomas	Precinct 8	Present	
Wayne Horne	City Manager	Present	
Brandon Love	Deputy City Manager	Present	
Holt Moore	City Attorney	Present	
Laney Mitchell-McIntosh	City Clerk	Present	

II. INVOCATION: CITY ATTORNEY MOORE

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: NO COMMENTS SUBMITTED.

A. Public Speakers

1. Rhonda Williamson - Main Street Committee –

Ms. Rhonda Williamson appeared before Council to give an update on the activities of the Main Street Advisory Board:

Good morning Mayor and Council, it is my privilege as a member of the Main Street Advisory Committee to bring you greetings from City leaders who are serving as volunteers for Main Street committees. I'd like to provide an update from our Chair, Dencie Lambdin, on where we are with our work in downtown Lumberton, and to answer questions you may have.

The Implementation Plan for 2021 to date:

- 1) Working with consultant Jason Epley, Main Street is awaiting a draft of downtown design guidelines. When our Advisory Committee receives the draft, we will review it and move forward to seek City Council approval. In addition to the design guidelines, Mr. Epley will also provide historic preservation guidelines which ensure that in future development of the downtown, the City will not lose any historic buildings to demolition without review of the standards that will be put in place.

- 2) And after approval of these guidelines, Main Street intends to hold a Design Education Workshop for property owners and renters so that our future development downtown will provide a consistent image for community members and visitors to enjoy.
- 3) Continue efforts through the Promotions Committee to highlight Main Street activities in the Robesonian and social media, Trending in Robeson.
The Committee is also planning a series of news story highlighting the current renovations to buildings in the downtown area including Senator Britt's law office and the County Administration building now housed in the former Southern National Bank/BB&T building.
- 4) Main Street Design Committee has been able to secure grants from the Robeson County Arts Council, the Lumberton Visitor's Bureau, and The City of Lumberton's Façade Improvement Grant to begin work on a mural which will be located on the plaza side of Washington's Men's Store. The mural will be an interactive/social media piece of public art. Currently we hope to have the installation in place by late June.
- 5) Since our Main Street Lumberton initial Clean Sweep in November, additional Saturday cleanup has been held in February and most recently in April. Thirty plus volunteers have come downtown to pick up litter.
- 6) Later this month North Carolina Main Street will hold a workshop for our Main Street Lumberton Advisory Committee and Rediscover Downtown Lumberton. The focus of this workshop will center around building collaboration between RDL, as a non-profit, and Main Street Lumberton to enhance and expand the economic development strategies each organization has as a goal.
- 7) Brandon, are there additional remarks you would like to make? Deputy City Manager stated not at the time.
- 8) Council Members, Do you have any questions? No questions were asked.
- 9) Thank you for allowing our group to have an active hand in economic development in downtown Lumberton.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Lumberton Housing Authority Annexation request for property located on Caton Rd. – ArTriel Kirchner, Planning Director
The Planning & Neighborhood Services Department received an application for annexation from Lumberton Housing Authority, requesting a contiguous annexation of property located on Caton Road (Parcel # 161001005/Deed Book 2099 Page 128).

The property is currently zoned City of Lumberton R-3 (residential multifamily) therefore a rezoning is not required.

The Planning Department recommends that City Council hold tonight's public hearing and approve the annexation request.

Mayor Davis opened the public hearing to consider extending the corporate limits by annexing property located at Caton Road into the City limits. City Clerk Mitchell-McIntosh submitted the Affidavit of Publication showing that it was published in the Robesonian.

Mr. Adrian Lowry, appeared before Council and stated that this is an ongoing process since the devastation we had from Hurricane Matthew. We have done a lot of work and there is much more to be done. This property was rezoned by the City and this is the final process to get it annexed into the City. I am available to answer any questions Council may have. No questions were asked and the hearing was closed.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	John Cantey, Precinct 5
SECONDER:	John R. Carroll, Precinct 3
AYES:	Davis, Rising, Robinson, Carroll, Higley, Cantey, Howard, Thomas
EXCUSED:	Chavis

V. AGENDA ITEMS

A. EDA Administrative Services for the Floodgate Project – Rob Armstrong, Public Works Director

We have received proposals for administrative services for the Floodgate EDA grant. The proposals are being scored by City Staff. The scoring results will be distributed to City Council prior to the Wednesday May 5th Council Meeting.

Public Works is requesting Council to award the EDA Administrative Services Contract to the firm selected by City Staff.

Director Armstrong stated that four responses were received and scored and that Public Works is recommending the award of bid to McGill for EDA Administrative Services. Funds will be paid of the EDA Grant Fund. Councilman Cantey asked about the timeline to see some dirt moved. Director Armstrong stated that his projection would be late 2021. There have been a lot of delays most out of our control. Many are trying to coordinate with the railroad; DOT with the I-95 widening and the funding agencies. Right now, the design is on pause while we wait for the CDBG-DR money before we can move forward. If we move forward by June; we predict that by June we will go into the bid phase for construction around September or October of next year. That means that we will probably break ground next year assuming that we keep this schedule.

City Manager Horne stated that part of the delays; if you recall, the official design for the floodgate project was located on the East side of 95, but DOT came back and stated that it had to be relocated to the West side. We had already engaged engineering services and obligated \$700k for the project. He stated that we are waiting for reimbursement now from Golden Leaf for the \$700k so we can initiate the design for the West side. In the meantime, Encore who has about 1.4 million in this project has come back said that they want an environmental review. Their funding is somewhat complex and comprehensive. Their cost will be somewhere around \$100k. They have indicated that they will assist with the cost of the environmental review but not necessarily with the soil borings but we don't know what that will be.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Owen Thomas, Precinct 8
SECONDER:	John R. Carroll, Precinct 3
AYES:	Davis, Rising, Robinson, Carroll, Higley, Cantey, Howard, Thomas
EXCUSED:	Chavis

B. Tanglewood Drainage Project Construction Bid Award – Rob Armstrong, Public Works Director

Bids were opened on April 29th for the construction of the Tanglewood Drainage Project. Three contractors submitted bids: TA Loving Company, Terrahawk LLC and Thalle Construction Company. A final bid tabulation and certification will be submitted by the Wooten Company before the Wednesday, May 5th Council meeting. At the time of the bid opening, the apparent low bidder was Terrahawk LLC at \$8,449,999.

Public Works is requesting Council to award the construction of the Tanglewood Drainage Project to the lowest responsible bidder presented in the bid discussion provided by the

Wooten Company

Award of construction contract of the Tanglewood Drainage Project is to Terrahawk LLC at \$8,502,294.18.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Owen Thomas, Precinct 8
SECONDER:	Karen Higley, Precinct 4
AYES:	Davis, Rising, Robinson, Carroll, Higley, Cantey, Howard, Thomas
EXCUSED:	Chavis

- C. Barbara Lynn Cagle Benton annexation request for property located at 101 Arbor Lane. – ArTriel Kirchner, Planning Director

The Planning & Neighborhood Services Department received an application for annexation from Barbara Lynn Cagle Benton, requesting a contiguous annexation of property located at 101 Arbor Lane (Parcel #1002-05-043/Deed Book: 1818 Page: 676).

The property is currently zoned R-20 (Residential single family) therefore a rezoning is not required.

The City Clerk has certified the sufficiency of the petition and the Planning Department recommends City Council set the date of the public hearing for their June 2021 meeting.

RESULT:	REFERRED [7 TO 0]	Next: 6/9/2021 11:00 AM
MOVER:	Leroy Rising, Mayor Pro Tem	
SECONDER:	Owen Thomas, Precinct 8	
AYES:	Rising, Robinson, Carroll, Higley, Cantey, Howard, Thomas	
ABSTAIN:	Davis	
EXCUSED:	Chavis	

- D. Steven Branch request rezoning for a parcel located on Country Club Drive (Parcel #16100200304/Deed Book: 2128 Page: 287). – ArTriel Kirchner, Planning Director

Analysis: The Planning & Neighborhood Services Department received a rezoning petition for a parcel located on Country Club Drive (Parcel #16100200304/Deed Book: 2128 Page: 287). This request is to rezone the property from R-20, residential single family to PCU B-4, Parallel Conditional Use Business General Commercial, restricting the uses to self-storage, parking rental spaces for automobiles, boats, R.V., etc., retail sales of moving staples and storage buildings, U-Haul rentals.

Land Use Plan: This property is currently zoned R-20. The Land Use Plan, area 9, designates the future use of this parcel as rural, furthermore, this property is located within Council Precinct 7.

The planning staff recommends that CPC review the request, refer the petition to the May 2021 Planning Board meeting for their review, and authorize the Planning Director to set the date of the public hearing

RESULT:	REFERRED [7 TO 0]	Next: 6/9/2021 11:00 AM
MOVER:	Owen Thomas, Precinct 8	
SECONDER:	John Cantey, Precinct 5	
AYES:	Rising, Robinson, Carroll, Higley, Cantey, Howard, Thomas	
ABSTAIN:	Davis	
EXCUSED:	Chavis	

E. Write-off of Delinquent Receivables – Alisha Armstrong, Finance Director

A list of delinquent receivables is attached for review and consideration for write-off. This is a standard accounting practice to write-off accounts receivable that are three years old and taxes receivable that are ten years old and continue our effort to collect them.

Recommend that Council approve the write-off of the attached delinquent receivables.

RESULT:	APPROVED [7 TO 0]
MOVER:	Owen Thomas, Precinct 8
SECONDER:	Melissa Robinson, Precinct 2
AYES:	Rising, Robinson, Carroll, Higley, Cantey, Howard, Thomas
ABSTAIN:	Davis
EXCUSED:	Chavis

F. Approval of Budget Amendments – Alisha Armstrong, Finance Director

Budget amendments will be needed for the year end closing of fiscal year 2021.

Recommend that Council authorize the City Manager and Finance Director to perform budget amendments to close fiscal year 2021.

RESULT:	APPROVED [7 TO 0]
MOVER:	Owen Thomas, Precinct 8
SECONDER:	Melissa Robinson, Precinct 2
AYES:	Rising, Robinson, Carroll, Higley, Cantey, Howard, Thomas
ABSTAIN:	Davis
EXCUSED:	Chavis

G. Approve Boards and Commissions / Non-Profits Budget Requests for FY2021-2022 – Wayne Horne, City Manager

The City Staff has started preparation of the FY 2021-2022 Budget. In 2002, City Council approved a policy on contracting with non-profit agencies creating procedures for evaluating proposals and creating clear responsibilities for accountability. Attached are the Boards and Commissions / Non-profits FY 2021-2022 Budget requests along with the City Manager's recommendations.

Council review the funding for boards and commissions / Non-profits budget requests and provide recommendation.

RESULT:	APPROVED [7 TO 0]
MOVER:	Owen Thomas, Precinct 8
SECONDER:	Karen Higley, Precinct 4
AYES:	Rising, Robinson, Carroll, Higley, Cantey, Howard, Thomas
ABSTAIN:	Davis
EXCUSED:	Chavis

- H. Additional Non-Profit Budget Request for FY2021-2022 for \$2,500 – Wayne Horne, City Manager

The City Staff has received an additional request from Crossed: The Youth Law Center a non-profit organization requesting funding. This is a 501(c) 3 organization and its request is attached. They previously received funding in the amount of \$1,400 of CRF in April of this year.

Council review the funding request and provide recommendation.

RESULT:	APPROVED [7 TO 0]
MOVER:	John Cantey, Precinct 5
SECONDER:	Chris Howard, Precinct 6
AYES:	Rising, Robinson, Carroll, Higley, Cantey, Howard, Thomas
ABSTAIN:	Davis
EXCUSED:	Chavis

- I. Approve May 19th as the FY 2021-2022 Municipal Budget Workshop – Wayne Horne, City Manager

As part of the annual budget process; the following date is being presented for Council's consideration for the Budget Workshop. The Budget hearing is tentatively set for June 14., 2021.

It is recommended that City Council set the date for the Annual Budget Workshop as May 19th or any other date that maybe considered by Council . The Workshop would start at 10:30 am as a zoom meeting if this time is convenient for Council.

* Wednesday -May 19th

RESULT:	APPROVED [7 TO 0]
MOVER:	John Cantey, Precinct 5
SECONDER:	Chris Howard, Precinct 6
AYES:	Rising, Robinson, Carroll, Higley, Cantey, Howard, Thomas
ABSTAIN:	Davis
EXCUSED:	Chavis

- J. Council Audio/Video System Replacement – Travis Branch, MIS Director

The Audio/Video System in Council Chambers was installed when City Hall was built in 2005 making the system 16 years old. We have experienced issues with the system over the

last couple of years and have performed repairs on several occasions. Several components of the system are now obsolete. I have worked with Troxell Communications, a NCPA member, to replace and simplify the system at a cost of \$42,482.74. This is part of the 2020-2021 MIS Capital Budget.

The recommendation is to approve the replacement of the system by Troxell Communications at a cost of \$42,482.74.

RESULT:	APPROVED [7 TO 0]
MOVER:	Owen Thomas, Precinct 8
SECONDER:	John R. Carroll, Precinct 3
AYES:	Rising, Robinson, Carroll, Higley, Cantey, Howard, Thomas
ABSTAIN:	Davis
EXCUSED:	Chavis

- K. Approve the Contribution of \$100 from Community Revitalization Funds to Lumberton Chamber of Commerce from P8 – Owen Thomas, Precinct 8
Councilman Thomas would like to contribute \$100 of CRF to the Lumberton Chamber of Commerce to assist them with their fundraising golf tournament.

Approve \$100 donation to the Lumberton Chamber of Commerce.

RESULT:	APPROVED [7 TO 0]
MOVER:	Owen Thomas, Precinct 8
SECONDER:	Leroy Rising, Mayor Pro Tem
AYES:	Rising, Robinson, Carroll, Higley, Cantey, Howard, Thomas
ABSTAIN:	Davis
EXCUSED:	Chavis

- L. Appointment to ABC Commission – Holt Moore, City Attorney
The Mayor would like Council to consider the appointment of John McArthur to the ABC Commission. This would be to fill the vacancy created by Abe Marshall's leaving the board. Consider appointment of John McArthur to ABC Commission.

RESULT:	APPROVED [7 TO 0]
MOVER:	Leroy Rising, Mayor Pro Tem
SECONDER:	Owen Thomas, Precinct 8
AYES:	Rising, Robinson, Carroll, Higley, Cantey, Howard, Thomas
ABSTAIN:	Davis
EXCUSED:	Chavis

- M. Approval of Bid for HMGP Home Elevations – Brian Nolley, CDBG Administration
The Planning Dept. is asking for approval to award contracts for the elevation of 8 homes under the city's Matthew – Hazard Mitigation Grant. A bid opening was held on April 30, 2021 and we received 3 bids for each property. The low bidder for all properties was Cook Contractors, LLC located in Whiteville, NC. These properties are located at.

116 Page St.	\$74,392
1704 Case St.	\$87,925
1709 Maryland St.	\$68,850
211 Center St.	\$98,238
2416 MLK Jr. Dr.	\$168,371
3660 Kale Dr.	\$138,515
507 Swann Dr.	\$78,758
4114 Vann Dr.	\$168,190

These will be awarded as 8 individual contracts and paid for with grant funds.
We recommend awarding the contract to the lowest bidder, Cook Contractors, LLC.

RESULT:	APPROVED [7 TO 0]
MOVER:	John Cantey, Precinct 5
SECONDER:	Chris Howard, Precinct 6
AYES:	Rising, Robinson, Carroll, Higley, Cantey, Howard, Thomas
ABSTAIN:	Davis
EXCUSED:	Chavis

- N. 3264 : Precinct 4 - CRF to Lumberton Boys' Basketball Program - Approve \$2,0000 – Karen Higley, Precinct 4

Lumberton boys' basketball program...looking for sponsorship to help with their summer program. The summer program will consist of camps and many more activities. A donation of \$300 will sponsor 1 player for the summer and will help with gas and food for each player. Partial donations are welcomed.

Councilwoman Higley would like to sponsor 1 player and asking if anyone would like to participate and sponsor a player as well.

Approve the designation of \$300 for sponsorship to the Lumberton boys' basketball program from Precinct 4.

Approve \$2,000 of CRF to the Lumberton Boys' Basketball Program as follows: P1 - \$300 P2 - 3000 P3 - \$300 P4 - \$300 P5 - \$200 P6 - \$300 P8 - \$300

RESULT:	APPROVED [7 TO 0]
MOVER:	Karen Higley, Precinct 4
SECONDER:	John Cantey, Precinct 5
AYES:	Rising, Robinson, Carroll, Higley, Cantey, Howard, Thomas
ABSTAIN:	Davis
EXCUSED:	Chavis

- O. Approve the designation of \$500.00 of CRF to Lumberton Junior High School to Repair Baseball/Football Fields – Chris Howard, Precinct 6

Councilman Howard is requesting \$500.00 of CRF be given to Lumberton Junior High School to help repair the baseball/football fields.

Approve the designation of \$500.00 to Lumberton Jr. High School.

Approve \$1,915 of CRF to Lumberton Junior High School to repair ball fields: P1 - \$250 P2 - \$250 P3 - \$250 P4 - \$250 P5 - \$300 P6 - \$500 P8 - \$115.

RESULT:	APPROVED [7 TO 0]
MOVER:	Chris Howard, Precinct 6
SECONDER:	John Cantey, Precinct 5
AYES:	Rising, Robinson, Carroll, Higley, Cantey, Howard, Thomas
ABSTAIN:	Davis
EXCUSED:	Chavis

VI. ADJOURNMENT