

**CITY OF NORTHWEST  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021  
7:00 PM**

**ASSEMBLY**

The Northwest City Council held their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 7:00 PM, at Northwest City Hall, 4889 Vernon Road.

Present were: James Knox, Mayor; Councilmen: Charles Carroll, Haywood Miller and Councilwoman Sheila Grady

Absent were: Councilmen Michael Troy and Aaron Perkins

Also present were: Donna Strickland, City Clerk and Chief Copelen Taylor

**CALL TO ORDER & INVOCATION**

Mayor Knox called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Councilman Haywood Miller gave the invocation.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilman Charles Carroll **MOVED, SECONDED** by Councilwoman Sheila Grady to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS**

**A. MAYOR AND COUNCIL EMAIL ADDRESSES**

City Clerk, Donna Strickland, stated that in the agenda packet is the instructions on how to set up the Mayor and Councils emails. She also stated that if anyone needs help to please let me know.

**B. RONNIE JENKINS – CRYSTAL SPRING MASONIC LODGE #793**

Mayor Knox introduced Ronnie Jenkins who is with Crystal Spring Masonic Lodge #793. Mr. Jenkins introduced Jesse Hannible who is part of another Masonic Lodge. Mr. Hannible stated that he would like to remodel the City's Community Center. Mr. Hannible would like Council to help with the cost at a 60/40 percent, with the City being the 60 percent. He also stated that the upstairs would be for the lodge to keep their items.

Councilman Haywood Miller stated that before the City obligates itself to a percent there needs to be a list of what it would cost to redo the building. He stated that he did not feel like the whole upstairs should be for the Masons. Mr. Ronnie Jenkins spoke up and said that the Masons only needed a place for a cabinet so they to go which would have their things in it locked up. Mr. Jenkins stated that they would need a commitment that the members could meet 1 night a month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday.

Councilman Charles Carroll stated that he did think the building would be a good community building, but he felt like there should be more information gathered before a vote was taken.

Councilwoman Sheila Grady stated that she would need more information and would like a schedule time frame.

It was the **CONSENSUS** of Council to have Councilmen Charles Carroll and Haywood Miller along with the Mayor to do a walk through with Mr. Hannible to determine what needs to be done in the building. Mr. Hannible stated that there was some mold inside the building. Mayor Knox stated that everyone going in that building needed to make sure they are wearing proper PPE.

Mayor Knox called for a recess at 7:25 PM.

Mayor Knox called the meeting back together at 7:28 PM.

**C. BUDGET CALENDAR FY 2021-2022**

Councilman Charles Carroll **MOVED, SECONDED** by Councilman Haywood Miller to approve the budget calendar as presented except for the April 1, 2021 meeting change from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**D. NORTH CAROLINA RESILIENCY GRANT - UPDATE**

Donna Strickland, City Clerk, stated that it was her pleasure to announce that the City of Northwest had received a \$500,000 grant. Mrs. Strickland stated that the grant can only be used for two purposes, which are \$200,000 go toward salaries and \$300,000 toward roads and ditches. Mrs. Strickland also stated that the City Attorney, Santana Miller, has reviewed the MOA and reiterates that the grant can only be used for the salaries, roads, and ditches.

**E. COUNCIL WORKSHOP – ROADS & DITCHES**

Councilman Charles Carroll **MOVED, SECONDED** by Councilman Haywood Miller to have a workshop discussing the roads and ditches within the City of Northwest on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**F. DESIGNATION OF SAFETY OFFICER**

It was the **CONSENSUS** of Council to have Mayor Knox and Councilman Haywood Miller share the duty of being the safety officer.

**G. COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAM**

City Clerk, Donna Strickland stated that Chief Taylor will be available on the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM each month to supervise community service workers.

It was the **CONSENSUS** of Council to enter into an agreement with the Brunswick County Community Work Program.

**H. RELOCATE CITY LIMIT SIGN**

Donna Strickland, City Clerk, stated that she had received a certified letter from a concerned citizen concerning to the City limit sign on Blue Banks not being in the correct location.

It was the **CONSENSUS** of Council to have City Clerk Donna Strickland work with Lt. Perez in interpreting a response to the citizen. Letting him know the sign is owned by the State, but the City will work on relocating the signage if it is in the wrong place.

**I. ROAD COMPLAINTS**

Donna Strickland stated that there has been a lot of roads flooding within the City. Councilman Haywood Miller and Councilman Charles Carroll stated that they had also been receiving calls on the conditions of the road.

Councilman Haywood Miller stated that he had been down Smith Trail and the road needs rock on it now, before we get the grant because the road is in bad shape now.

Mayor Knox stated that rock will be put on the roads next week weather permitting. Mayor Knox also stated that he is meeting with Commissioner Frank Williams tomorrow to discuss the flooding and condition of state roads.

**J. CONCERNS ABOUT UTILITY RATES**

Mayor Knox stated that he had received an email concerning Brunswick County rates increasing

substantially. Mayor Knox stated that the increase in the rates needs to be investigated and this increase will be for all their utility customers.

#### 4. LIAISON REPORTS

- **Administration**

*Councilman Miller*

- Covid19 Impact Report & Summary
- Tr-2-20 Municipal Certification (Valuation & Property Tax Levies)

City Clerk Donna Strickland stated that the two reports are required, and both have been sent to the appropriate State Department.

- **Annexation, Information Technology & Marketing**

*Councilman Perkins*

No Report

- **Park**

*Mayor Knox*

No Report

- **Police**

*Councilman Carroll*

Police Report

Police Chief, Copelen Taylor stated that ADT had been out today and began the work on running new wires and updating our current system.

Mayor Knox asked; when would the trench for the ADT cameras be covered back up? Chief Taylor stated that as soon as ADT gets finished he will have it covered up ASAP.

- **Finance & Emergency Preparedness**

*Councilwoman Grady*

- NC Division of Emergency Management Recover – Public Assistance Team
- North Carolina Department of Revenue – Local Government Distribution Schedule for Fiscal Year 2020-2021
- LGC – 203 Report

Councilwoman Sheila Grady stated that at the back of the book you will find all the information on emergency management and the distribution of funds from the NC Department of Revenue. She also stated that the state required LGC-203 report has been sent to the appropriate State Department.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Knox stated that the NAACP will be sponsoring Covid 19 vaccinations again tomorrow at the 74/76 ballpark.

Louis Parker stated that he would like the City to check into allowing the residents to connect to the natural gas line. Councilman Charles Carroll stated that he had checked with the gas company a few years back. He was told that there were not enough customers in Northwest to make it feasible for them to have any other customers hook to the line.

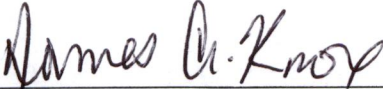
It was the **CONSENSUS** of Council to have Councilwoman Sheila Grady investigate the possibility of citizens being able to connect to the gas line.

Mary Windham stated that she had concerns about the roads. She stated that Smith Trail Road was extremely bad. She asked Council please do something about the road.

She wanted to let Council know that she greatly appreciated the public alerts that have been sent out to everyone. It gives everyone information on the Covid 19 and other things going on around our community.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Charles Carroll **MOVED, SECONDED** by Councilwoman Sheila Grady to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 PM. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

  
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James A. Knox, Mayor

  
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Donna Strickland, City Clerk/Finance Officer