

Minutes
Kinston City Council
City Hall · 207 East King Street
Monday, May 21, 2018
Work Session at 5:30 pm · Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm

Mayor Don Hardy called the City Council meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

Those present: Councilmembers Robert Swinson, Sammy Aiken, Joseph Tyson, Kristal Suggs, Mayor Pro Tem Felicia Solomon and Mayor Don Hardy

Also present: Tony Sears, City Manager and James Cauley, City Attorney

Adoption of the Agenda

Councilmember Tyson made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Solomon and upon a unanimous vote (5-0) the agenda was adopted.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Queen Street Design.....Stewart Engineering

Adam Short, Planning Director, introduced Chris Miller and Brian O’Haver with Stewart Engineering and stated they are back to discuss more detailed plans for Queen Street.

Brian O’Haver, Principal with Stewart Engineering, stated we were here in January and presented an overall concept design for north and south Queen Street. The cost was at a very high level and the City Manager has given us direction for lowering the cost. We solicited a cost estimate firm and got it down to cad drawings with hard numbers. They costs are in line with the estimates presented in January.

Christopher Miller, Landscape Architect and Senior Project Manager, stated we talked about curb extensions, making crossing shorter and safety, the types of trees providing closure, paving, new sidewalks, crosswalks, mid-block crossings, utilities and lighting relocations. We have a project for the full length of Queen Street which is about nine blocks, ¾ of a mile long around 3,900 linear feet. It is about an 8.5 acre street scape project. The project proposed was between \$3.5 to \$7 million with different finishes. He showed photos of other communities who have updated their main streets including New Bern which was 1,200 feet; Greenville, SC which is about 3,000 feet, Fayetteville Street in Raleigh which was 2,600 feet. Queen Street is a rather long linear project. With the professional cost estimates, the original project presentation was \$13.00 per square foot or \$4.7 million. Through value engineering we reduced the project and costs. We removed the concrete crosswalks and that would save \$520,000. We removed brick paving accent bands around the trees and the planting areas and replaced with mulch which

would save \$530,000. We removed half the paving which would save \$650,000. We reduced the tree spacing which reduced the trees by 50% which would save \$420,000. The last value engineering option is the trees which is not preferred. If we remove the trees, soil, concrete and all that goes with it, we would save \$1 million and would take the project to around \$1.6 million or \$4.36 per foot. This would basically only relocate the curbs.

Councilmember Aiken stated a main concerns was backing out of diagonal parking. Mr. Sears stated both diagonal and parallel parking have inherited safety risks. We promoted diagonal parking because it gives two to one parking spaces. Mr. O'Haver stated one of the main objectives is that once you reduce the scale of the street, people will drive slower and the diagonal parking will provide a larger number of parking spaces. Slowing down traffic and providing the additional spaces is the intent.

Mayor Pro Tem Solomon asked Mr. Steele if business owners support the diagonal parking. Leon Steele, Executive Director of Pride of Kinston, stated that discussion has not taken place in a long time. [Mr. Steele was hired late 2017.] Mr. O'Haver stated when this contract started last summer, it was his understanding that a lot of conversations had taken place in the community about the diagonal parking prior to the contract and decisions were made through the community conversations.

Mr. Sears stated we started with a \$4.9 million project, and we have asked that it be narrowed down. NCDOT will let the paving project bid around March 2019, and paving could take place late spring or early summer depending on the contract. We have to get our work done before NCDOT paves. There are things that need to be done in preparation for the paving. We have had a lot of conversations about trees, crosswalks and artistic opportunities. We are nearing the end of our utility infrastructure projects. This is an important project and there will not be an opportunity later.

Councilmember Tyson asked how much of the Electric Fund can be used for the electric work and will it reduce the \$1.6 million. Mr. Sears stated yes, the Electric Fund can legally and legitimately pay for electric items on Queen Street which will reduce the cost of the project. The next time we see Stewart, they will have the blueprints and the price tag.

Councilmember Tyson stated he can live with \$1.6 million, but his concern is they don't want to produce a project that the City will not be happy. Maybe we will have the capability to do additional things down the road. Mr. Sears stated Adam Short, Marcia Perritt and Leon Steele will have more discussions to have a quick round of meetings for feedback.

Councilmember Tyson asked about the grant funds received for South Queen Street. Mr. Sears stated \$120,000 has been spent, and we planned for the redesign of Queen Street.

Mr. O'Haver stated \$1.6 million is a barebones project and its moving the curb and adding spaces. At this price there aren't options beyond that. The trees, the scale, perception of comfort and speed of travel are important. Really, the barebones project should be \$2.5 because there is a \$1 million in trees. This street is much longer than the average main street. We have a big cake, but a certain amount of icing. Do we spread the icing very thin or do we focus on certain areas? Maybe the money can't be spread evenly because it is a long street.

Mr. Sears stated it is an option if City Council decides to upgrade certain intersections.

Councilmember Tyson stated he wants to do some backwards planning and a timetable. Mr. Sears stated we want the plan nailed down August or September and we will have an idea of the funding. We would like to be ready and have contractors ready for construction in January. Mr. Miller stated to plan for paving early summer would be correct.

Councilmember Tyson asked about the Plan B to address Heritage Street business owners. Mr. Sears stated he does not have an answer now and needs an opportunity to develop a plan.

Councilmember Swinson stated he wish we could apply for grants for Queen Street and we need to go over and beyond. We need to exhaust all resources to do the project right and make it speak. We should find funds or dig deep in our pockets reinvent Queen Street.

Mr. Sears stated the City is not the only one working on Queen Street to enhance it. There is only one way to get more money and that is to increase revenues. It is a real conversation. We are struggling to piece together \$1.5 million, and I hope we can deliver.

Councilmember Aiken asked if the City applied for the downtown revitalization grant. Mr. Short stated we have in the past. Typically, it is for redevelopment projects. Mr. Sears stated it is more for rehab, and it will not help with this type of project. The Tiger grant is super competitive with four criteria, a port, bus station, train station or multi-mobile population. We will pursue it, but we need someone to handle it who has been successful to do it right.

Councilmember Swinson stated we used to have Trailways bus station, but they have left. The City had nothing to do with Trailway leaving, but maybe a letter could be written to them asking for another station.

Councilmember Aiken stated out of 21,000 [in Kinston], just over 7,000 people are employed. Out of \$100 million budget, \$48 million is electric. Mr. Sears stated the General Fund budget is around \$23 million and police and fire take up a significant portion of the General Fund.

Councilmember Suggs asked if we can get estimates for box outs and trees for certain areas or certain pockets. Mr. Miller stated sure, it can be broken out in many different ways. The big question is where would the items go along Queen Street and how will the locations be selected.

Mr. O'Haver stated continuity is important. We recommend that we figure the square footage and how many blocks can be done and decide what makes sense. It could be two to three blocks and make them look nice easily.

Councilmember Aiken stated he is in favor of diagonal parking and it definitely slows down the traffic.

Mr. O'Haver stated in a week or two we can have a series of different iterations available for City Council.

Mayor Hardy asked if there are any other funding opportunities with the time limits. Mr. Sears stated he is unaware of any that would make a significant difference. There are small grants that would pay for enhancements, like trash receptacles, but nothing that will change the substance of the project.

Mayor Hardy asked about the project time frame. Mr. Sears stated we would like to have finalization around September to look at the funding, bid the project, get a contractor and be ready around January. It should take three to four months.

Mayor Hardy asked City Council for their recommendations. Mr. Sears stated Councilmember Suggs suggested looking at options for specific areas for the project. Stewart said they can bring back options in about 2 weeks, but in June we need to present and approve the budget which has some difficulties and challenges. This item can be brought back for the July meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Solomon confirmed that City Council will be given the estimated dollar amount that the Electric Fund will pay in the project. Mr. Sears stated yes. Once we have the options presented, we will figure out how to fund it.

Mayor Hardy confirmed that this item will be brought back in July.

Councilmember Aiken asked if the trees could be done in the last phase. Mr. Miller stated the bulk of the cost for the trees and tree pits is the soil to provide enough space for the roots to grow. When we invest in new trees to get the big growth, we have to rebuild underground and to do that we need to dig out more of the sidewalk. That is why the trees price is around \$1 million. It is mostly the soil and repaving. If the curbs are installed, the trees can be done afterwards. Mr. O'Haver stated there is an opportunity to plant trees in planter.

Councilmember Tyson asked if this will be in the budget. Mr. Sears stated yes and no because we don't currently have the cost, there will be a budget amendment, and we will have to figure it out in the next fiscal year [July 1, 2018].

2. Public Services Budget.....Rhonda Barwick

(This item was moved up from Information and Updates.)

Rhonda Barwick, Public Services Director, stated we have upcoming rate changes for Environmental Services and the Sewer Funds. Lenoir County has increased tipping fees from 14% to 25% depending on the garbage. Landfill fees are about 53% of the Environmental Services budget which has difficulty absorbing any changes. They have used fund balance to make ends meet. We do have full service Environmental Services, and we pick up a lot of things that other cities do not pick up anymore. We pick up anything that the landfill will accept. The financial forecast from 2016 does not include an increase until 2020, but the change in the landfill fees is going to affect that. We are requesting a 15% increase July 1st which is about \$4 more for the average customer per month. Our commercial rate will go from \$63.02 to \$72.47 and the residential rate will go from \$27.03 to \$31.08 per month.

Councilmember Tyson confirmed that the electric bill will not increase, yet the overall bill will have an increase due to the increase in garbage [environmental services] and sewer rates.

Mrs. Barwick stated we also do a financial forecast for the Sewer Fund and it showed a need for a 10% increase in July 2018 which is roughly \$4 per month on average. Ongoing and upcoming projects are factors for this increase. The projects include Queen Street sewer rehab, Briery Run Outfall phases one through five. Lawrence Heights, Oliver Glass force main replacement and Rochelle Boulevard sewer replacement. Our typical customer currently pays \$38.38 per month for sewer which is based on the water usage, and it will increase to \$42.16. The Sewer Fund spent over \$2 million for Hurricane Matthew repairs, but we expect to get those monies back, but we also spent around \$1.2 million for emergency repairs this year.

Mrs. Barwick stated we are struggling to find the funds for the reconstruction of Hardee Road. We want to make it better. As we are making improvements the cracks and potholes move. We need to make improvements and we will have to sacrifice funds to do it.

Brian Lucas, Water Resources Manager, stated we sent out bids for the reconstruction of Hardee Road, the lowest bid came back at \$1.9 million and that was the worst case scenario. We didn't have the soil survey, how much stone was needed, etc. After receiving the information we needed, we cut the bid down to \$1.3 million. We negotiated with Tripp Brothers, our low bidder, and found a way to take the asphalt section without the stone and geo grid and what we could do to make it better. We are fighting a losing battle. Every time it rains it will get worse and this winter it will get worse. We have requested a purchase order for \$70,000, \$40,000 will come from the asphalt account that we use to patch potholes, which we have been using on Hardee Road. \$30,000 will be from a preventive maintenance account which we typically use for crack filling to stop water from penetrating the asphalt. Through the entire length of Hardee Road there is no stone underneath and the asphalt ranges from one half inch to three inches thick. The subgrade is failing and holds water. The contractor will mill out the asphalt four inches deep and

put back 2-1/2 inches of binder and 1-1/2 of surface right on top of the dirt. It is not the correct fix that the engineers proposed and will not last 30 years, but it is going to be better than it is today. We will be able to do over 800 linear feet, but Hardee Road is 9,700 feet long, so we are only going to do the worse sections. We will look at options next year, but that is all that is available this year. We are sending crews out almost every day and we fighting a losing battle.

Councilmember Tyson stated he appreciates what staff is doing, but as a City Council we have to come to a realization that we are going to have to completely redo Hardee Road. If we have another bad winter, we will have more work on Hardee Road and we need to think long term. At the rate we are going, we will have to take \$2 million from the General Fund, get a loan or raise property taxes. Mr. Sears stated an average winter will make this road come apart. Mr. Lucas stated he believes it can be cut to less than \$1.3 million because there will be some sections worse than others. About 6,000 feet is in bad condition.

Councilmember Tyson confirmed that the General Fund Fund Balance is between 18% and 22%. Mr. Sears stated it will be at the end of this fiscal year.

Councilmember Tyson asked where the City will be if \$2 million is taken from the General Fund. Mr. Sears state there is not \$2 million in the General Fund Fund Balance that can be taken out. If we get down to 15% there will be a problem paying the bills because it creates a cash flow issue.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Suggs and upon a unanimous vote (5-0), the City Council enter closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3); Litigation Matters at 6:57 pm.

Councilmember Aiken made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Swinson and upon a unanimous vote (5-0) the City Council returned to open session at 7:03 pm.

RECESS

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Don Hardy reconvened the City Council meeting at 7:11 pm.

Councilmember Sammy Aiken led the prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Jerry Kanter, 1007 Harvey Circle, Member of the Board of Directors for Global TransPark shared an article that showed small helicopters made by Airbus that could be used for local transportation similar to Uber in the future. He showed a map of the Quad East project and connected it to the 2 mile airport runway. He would like for City Council to write letters to legacy airlines to help with Quad East. Quad East represents eleven cities within an hour drive time which is what a commercial airline would want.

Lindia Hughes and Dorothy Gooding, African-American Heritage Commission stated they will have Gospel Connections Friday, May 25th and it will be free. Saturday, May 26th will be the third annual Funk Fest at Lenoir Community College. Dr. Ira Wiggins and Milton Bullock will be honored.

Ben Knight, Owner of Chef and the Farmer, thanked everyone for their comments on the proposed Queen Street project [during the work session]. He thanked the Mayor and City Council for the work they do to make the community better. This project is near and dear. The challenge is the money. We can achieve significant investment in the community. He suggested building a demo. If \$4.6 million completed the whole thing [Queen Street project], then \$1.6 million could possibly redo four blocks the nicest we can build them. We can potentially have more investors if we put forth the plan and our vision. Every overnight stay in Kinston is worth a lot of money. We have more leverage with Legislators than we think we do, and we should call them. A lot of people would like to see something happen in the community that demonstrates a vision for them to follow. We need to set the tone because we have a lively tourist market. Programs like Kickstarter can help raise funds. We should figure out what we want the community to look like, and then we should work to make that happen because we know we don't have the money ourselves.

Carolyn Dawson stated on June 6th at 6:30 pm, we are planning a forum, 'Renewing of the Mind' at Fairfield with the focus of parenting, violence, safety substance abuse and other problems in the community. If we don't work together, things will not work.

PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

1. **smART Kinston and NC Arts Council UpdatesStephen Hill**

Stephen Hill, smART Kinston, introduced Nancy Trovillion and Leigh Ann Wilder with the North Carolina Arts Council. Three years ago we became a smART city which is a designation from the North Carolina Arts Council and it brings a lot of things Kinston.

Leigh Ann Wilder, Senior Program Director, stated the North Carolina Arts Council is investing in Kinston. Our work started in 2008 when we hired folklore to do field research which started the creation of the African American Music Trail due to Kinston’s musical legacy. The park is a gathering place for the community and includes a performance space and public art sculpture. Today we replaced the glass that had faded and the new glass will be UV protected for 10 years. We hope to install five new shade structures which will be lighted (tornadoes). We created a mural adjacent to the park. We install storefront exhibits of 45 musicians from surrounding communities on Queen Street. We will have a free celebration concert on June 1st at the Arts Council from 7-9. Our total investment in the music park has been around \$225,000 in partnership with the City and other funders. In 2014 we created a new initiative based around using art assets to drive economic development. We held a series of workshops with citizens. We heard the river was an asset and they wanted to connect the river to the rest of the city. We want to create a safe way to cross the river with a pedestrian bridge and also way finders. The City has received a \$100,000 grant to help with some of the ideas.

Nancy Trovillion, Deputy Director, stated we cannot do much without a partnership at the local level. She invited everyone to attend Wednesday night to see Dick Knight receive the American heritage award. Stephen Hill been appointed as the Chairman of North Carolina Arts Council Board and he is one of the best ambassadors that Kinston could ask for.

Councilmember Aiken asked about smART Kinston on Mitchell Street. Mr. Hill stated there is still one house that is condemned and we don’t know what will happen with them. The other two have long term residents. We have about 57 homes in the neighborhood and three specifically for visiting artists. We have recruited about 30 artists from other areas that are moving here and will be moving here through the end of August.

Mayor Pro Tem Solomon thanked North Carolina Arts Council and Mr. Hill for the project recently completed at Rochelle through the partnership of NC Arts Council and smART Kinston. She thanked them for reaching into our schools and for the opportunity for the children to have a place. She extended an invitation for the public to visit Rochelle to see the mural.

2. Childhood Obesity.....Camille Bridges, Miss Capital City

Camille Bridges stated she moved to Kinston 2 years ago with Teach for America. She has been involved with the Miss America organization for several years. There are four points to the Miss America Crown, style, scholarship, success and service. I served with a program called Girls on the Run as a coach in Michigan. She has started a team at Rochelle Middle School, and we focus on spirit, mind, body, heart and the social. It was incredible to watch the girls cross the finish line of their first 5K with confidence. Representation matters and young people look up to us. We want to reverse childhood obesity, but we are also reversing a lot of the stigmas that we see in society. I am in need of three things, golf teams, Childrens Miracle Network fundraising and to secure a spot in the top 15, visit www.abc11.com/missnc and vote until June 22nd.

ACTION AGENDA

1. Conduct a Public Hearing to receive public comment on the Neighborhood Revitalization program application.....Tatiana Height

Tatiana Height, Community Development Planner, stated the North Carolina Neighborhood program is accepting applications for non-entitlement communities to apply for community development funds to meet the needs of low to moderate income residents. The application deadline is September 28th and communities can apply for up to \$750,000. As part of the process two public hearings must be held and another public hearing will be held over the summer to receive suggestions and feedback. A public meeting is also required and will also be held this summer. All projects have to incorporate one or more of the following: the promotion of equitable affordable housing, supporting existing communities and valuing community and neighbor. We also have to meet one of the national objectives for community development block grant program. We have to benefit low and moderate income, prevent or eliminate slum or blight and potentially meeting other community development needs that are deemed to be urgent because of existing conditions poses a serious and immediate. We are looking for 30 month projects including increasing walkability, recreation projects, demolition projects and efficiency upgrades for owner occupied residences.

Councilmember Aiken stated he would like to see some of the funds to go towards the cleanup of blighted areas.

Mayor Hardy declared the public hearing open. After no one speaking in favor of or against the application, the public hearing was closed.

Ms. Height encouraged citizens to participate and provide ideas and feedback. Citizens are welcomed to call her direct at 252.939.3271.

2. Consider adoption of an Ordinance to amend the FY 2018 operating budget.....Donna Goodson

Donna Goodson, Finance Director, stated we have two budget amendments. One is additional funds for the Pride of Kinston for the municipal service district property taxes that were not originally budgeted. We are proposing this be funded with a reduction in collection fees property tax expense in the Finance collections division. We also will appropriate funds in the transfers division of the Water Fund to support the City’s 5% match requirement for the Water Asset Management grant in capital projects. This will be funded with the Water Fund fund balance.

Mayor Pro Tem Solomon briefly left the City Council Chamber at 8:09.

Councilmember Tyson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Swinson and upon a unanimous vote (5-0) [Mayor Pro Tem Solomon had left the Council Chamber], the following ordinance was adopted.

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL
OPERATING BUDGET**

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted the annual operating budget on June 19, 2017 authorizing appropriations for the General Fund and Water Fund, and

WHEREAS, amendments by the City Council may become necessary during the year as conditions change, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to appropriate funds in the Organizational Support division of the General Fund to fund additional payments due the Pride of Kinston for prior year Municipal Service District Property Taxes not originally budgeted. This will be funded with a reduction in Collection Fees Property Tax Expense in the Finance Collections division, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to appropriate funds in the Transfers division of the Water Fund to support the City’s match for the Water Asset Management Grant Capital Project from the NC Division of Water Infrastructure Environmental Quality. This will be funded with revenue from an appropriation of fund balance in the Water Fund.

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Kinston, North Carolina that the annual operating budget ordinance be amended as follows:

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Amended Budget</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>
Revenues:			
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 1,925,106.01	\$ 1,925,106.01	\$ -
Total Other General Fund Revenues	23,717,016.00	23,717,016.00	-
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 25,642,122.01</u>	<u>\$ 25,642,122.01</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Expenditures:			
Collections:			
Collection Fees Property Tax	\$ 176,230.00	\$ 167,730.00	\$ (8,500.00)
Other Collections Expenditures	276,538.69	276,538.69	-
Organizational Support:			
Municipal Service District	66,500.00	75,000.00	8,500.00
Other Organizational Support Expenditures	594,523.00	594,523.00	-
Total Other General Fund Expend.	24,528,330.32	24,528,330.32	-
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 25,642,122.01</u>	<u>\$ 25,642,122.01</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<u>Water Fund</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Amended Budget</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>
Revenues:			
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 384,891.13	\$ 394,641.13	\$ 9,750.00
Total Other Water Revenues	10,422,150.00	10,422,150.00	-
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 10,807,041.13</u>	<u>\$ 10,816,791.13</u>	<u>\$ 9,750.00</u>
Expenditures:			
Transfers to Other Funds:			
Transfers to Capital Projects Funds	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 49,750.00	\$ 9,750.00
Total Other Transfers Expend.	1,636,342.00	1,636,342.00	-
Total Other Water Fund Expend.	9,130,699.13	9,130,699.13	-
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 10,807,041.13</u>	<u>\$ 10,816,791.13</u>	<u>\$ 9,750.00</u>

Mayor Pro Tem Solomon returned at 8:11 pm.

3. Consider adoption of an Ordinance to establish a capital project budget (W9117) for the Water Asset Management grant fund.....Donna Goodson

Donna Goodson, Finance Director, stated this is to establish a fund for the Water Asset Management grant from the State of North Carolina’s Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Infrastructure. Funds will be used to conduct condition assessments of the water system. Project will be funded with the grant revenue in the amount of \$150,000 and revenue from a transfer from the Water Fund for the 5% City match.

Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Tyson and upon a unanimous vote (5-0) the following Ordinance was adopted.

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE CAPITAL PROJECT FUND
WATER ASSET MANAGEMENT GRANT (W9117)**

WHEREAS, the City of Kinston was awarded a grant from the State of North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Infrastructure to ensure the City’s water infrastructure system is safe and reliable for our citizens, and

WHEREAS, the funds will be used to conduct condition assessments of the infrastructure in the City’s water distribution system which will include work such as determining pipe conditions, evaluating problem areas, determining capital improvements projects and completing a Water System Asset Management Plan, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to appropriate expenditures related to the project work within the new capital project fund, and

WHEREAS, the project will be funded with a grant revenue in the amount of \$150,000 and revenue from a transfer from the Water Fund to furnish the 5 percent city match.

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Kinston, North Carolina that the following capital project budget ordinance is hereby adopted:

<u>Water Asset Management Grant (W9117)</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>
Revenues:	
NCDEQ State Reserve Grant	\$ 150,000.00
Transfer from Water Fund	<u>9,750.00</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 159,750.00</u>
Expenditures:	
Grant Fee	\$ 2,250.00
Water Asset Management Grant	<u>157,500.00</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 159,750.00</u>

4. Consider approval of the purchase of electric and water meters plus related equipment for the amount of \$4,886,531.99 from NexGrid as part of the Smartgrid projectRhonda Barwick

Rhonda Barwick, Public Services Director, stated we have \$6.5 million budgeted for this project. We have purchased other equipment and these are the electric and water meters needed for the project.

Councilmember Swinson made the motion, seconded by Councilmember Suggs and upon a unanimous vote (5-0) the purchase was approved.

Councilmember Tyson suggested the City Council receive an update on SmartGrid at a later meeting.

INFORMATION AND UPDATES

1. Introduction of Planning’s Summer Intern.....Tatiana Height

Tatiana Height, Community Development Planner, introduced Fatima Barrios, Summer Intern, who is a North Carolina State University Masters student studying International Studies, and she

is helping with our small business recovery program through the North Carolina Rural Center to help stimulate entrepreneurial ship in Kinston following the flooding that we experience with Hurricane Matthew. She will be here until July 20th.

Ms. Barrios stated she is happy to be in Kinston. She hopes to have more time with the community. I am originally from Paraguay, South America and I am studying in Raleigh. My Bachelors is in International Business.

2. Public Services Budget.....Rhonda Barwick
(This item was moved to the Work Session Discussion.)

3. Emma Webb Pool Closing and Busing to Holloway.....Galen Treble
(Councilmember Swinson asked for an update on this item.)

Galen Treble, Interim Parks and Recreation Director, stated Emma Webb is not opening this year, but Holloway will open beginning June 8th. We will shuttle children from Emma Webb to Holloway at 1:30, 2:30, 3:30 and 4:30. Each child will need to have their parent sign a registration form in order to ride the bus. The registration forms are currently available at Holloway, Martin C. Freeman and Fairfield. We will also have swimming lessons.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

The City Manager had no report.

CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

The City Attorney had no report.

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

Mayor Hardy read the history of Memorial Day and added that it is a day of celebration to honor those who died in all American wars as well as those who are veterans and currently members of the US military. In 1971 it was declared a national holiday. He read 1986 remarks by President Ronald Reagan.

Mayor Hardy asked for a moment of silence for the Santa Fe school shooting. He read the names of the 13 victims.

Councilmember Swinson reminded citizens of the Lincoln City Reunion at Holloway Park on Sunday, May 27, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Tyson made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Solomon and upon a unanimous vote (5-0) the City Council meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique Hicks, City Clerk