

April 8, 2024

The City Council of the City of Rocky Mount met this day in a regular session scheduled for 7:00 p.m. in the George W. Dudley City Council Chamber of the Frederick E. Turnage Municipal Building with Mayor Pro Tem Lige Daughtride presiding.

Councilmembers present: André D. Knight, Reuben C. Blackwell, IV, Richard Joyner, T.J. Walker, Jr., Lige Daughtride, Tom Harris and Jabaris Walker.

Members absent: Mayor C. Saunders "Sandy" Roberson, Jr.

Staff present: Keith Rogers Jr., City Manager; Kim Batts, City Clerk; Elton Daniels, Assistant City Manager; Nyki Hill, Assistant City Manager; Emilie Pinkston, Director of the Department of Development Services; Archie Jones, Director of Human Relations; Stephanie Taylor, Community Development Administrator; Darvin Moore, Fire Chief; Michael Roupp, Assistant Chief of Operations; Robert Hassell, Police Chief; Mark Adcox, Video Production Specialist; Robin Cox, Communications Specialist; Monica Brantley, Deputy City Clerk and Richard J. Rose, City Attorney.

Security Officers: Corporal Clay Wilder, Sergeant Chris Williams, and Senior Police Officer Shawn Battle.

The Mayor Pro Tem called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and requested all in attendance to stand for a moment of silent prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Harris, and unanimously carried that the minutes of the Regular Scheduled City Council meeting held November 13, 2024 be approved as submitted to the City Council prior to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

Mayor Pro Tem Daughtride recognized Sheriff Stone's attendance.

COMMUNITY UPDATE BY CITY MANAGER

City Manager Keith Rogers Jr. provided the following community update. The City Manager reported that:

- Stated this Friday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Imperial Centre, Gretchen the Grudge will take the stage and tickets can be purchased at imperialcentre.org/theatre
- Stated the Rocky Mount community is invited to show off their movie making skills at the 48-Hour Film Festival and the kickoff event will be held on Friday, April 19th at 3 p.m. at the Imperial Centre
- Stated the premier event will take place at the Imperial Centre on Sunday, April 21 at 4 p.m. and for more information you can visit imperialcentre.org/theatre

Councilmember Knight requested an update on the four burned houses since they have not come to the Council for demolition

approval. He also inquired about whether the houses had gone through the process as of that day.

City Manager Rogers stated that staff is moving forward with the process for those houses pursuant to the motion that was approved at the last Council meeting.

Councilmember Knight asked the City Manager for further information related to what stage the houses were in the process and for an update on when Nathlyn Ohree would be receiving the good neighbor award. The City Manager stated he would provide that information to Council later in the week.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING ROCKY MOUNT HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR KAYLEE EGGERS ON WINNING THE NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CLASS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE 200-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

Mayor Pro Tem Daughtridge welcomed and congratulated Kaylee Eggers on her significant accomplishments.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Knight, and unanimously carried that the following **Resolution R-2024-11** entitled **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING ROCKY MOUNT HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR KAYLEE EGGERS ON WINNING THE NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CLASS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE 200-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY** be adopted:

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING ROCKY MOUNT HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR KAYLEE EGGERS ON WINNING THE NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CLASS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP 200-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

WHEREAS, Kaylee Eggers, a Rocky Mount High School senior, competed in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Class 3A Swimming and Diving State Championships in Cary; and

WHEREAS, Kaylee won the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:09.77, edging out her closest competitor by 1.68 seconds; and

WHEREAS, Kaylee is the first-ever Rocky Mount High School swimmer to win a state title; and

WHEREAS, in her 4 years as a Gryphon, Kaylee has broken school records in the 100-yard breaststroke, 100 backstroke, 100 butterfly, 200 individual medley and 500 freestyle; and

WHEREAS, Kaylee is a conference champion and holds conference records in the 100 backstroke, 100 butterfly, 200 individual medley and 500 freestyle; and

WHEREAS, Kaylee's win has brought Rocky Mount High School its first-ever Swimming State Championship; and

WHEREAS, contributing to Kaylee's success were her coaches, family and friends that have supported her throughout the years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor C. Saunders Roberson, Jr. and the Rocky Mount City Council hereby congratulate Kaylee

Eggers on her outstanding season, record holding accomplishments and history making championship win; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be spread upon the pages of the minutes of this proceeding and a copy shall be presented to Kaylee Eggers in recognition of her significant accomplishments.

FAIR HOUSING MONTH

Mayor Pro Tem Daughtridge read a Proclamation proclaiming the month of April 2024 as Fair Housing Month. He presented the Proclamation to Human Relations Director Archie Jones who joined Mayor Pro Tem Daughtridge and the City Council for a picture.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Mayor Pro Tem Daughtridge read a Proclamation proclaiming the month of April 2024 as Community Development Month. He presented the Proclamation to the Community Development staff and they joined Mayor Pro Tem Daughtridge and the City Council for a picture.

Councilmember Knight stated that he would like to acknowledge another staff member named Cornelia McGee, who is not here this evening, but has been very instrumental with Community Development and the housing program for a long time. He added he would also like to recognize Jayson Dawkins.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Mayor Pro Tem Daughtridge read a Proclamation proclaiming the month of April 2024 as Child Abuse Prevention Month. He presented the Proclamation to Chief of Police Robert Hassell who joined Mayor Pro Tem Daughtridge and the City Council for a picture.

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Mayor opened the meeting for petitions from the public and outlined guidelines for public petitions. He called on the following individuals for public comment and a brief summary of comments is outlined below:

Nathlyn Ohree

- Stated last week she received news that there was going to be a meeting in the Council chamber regarding the \$5.4 million dollars for the replacement of gas pipes in the underserved areas of Rocky Mount
- Stated she is trying to understand why citizens were not allowed to come into the building when they came for the meeting, some people were turned around at the door
- Stated it was stated in the Rocky Mount Telegram that the funding for the replacement of the gas lines only for underserved areas downtown then in the presentation it was said that they would be allocated to the downtown and sunset west ridge areas
- Asked for clarity on how that is an underserved community
- Asked what is going to be done to the Edgecombe side of Rocky Mount because they are in need of new pipelines also
- Requested a copy of the application with a project map so she can have a better understanding of the service project area and the timeline

Councilmember Knight inquired if people were turned away from the press conference.

City Manager Rogers responded that he is not aware of anyone being turned away as the City Hall is a public building and is open to the public. He explained that he was at the press conference briefly and he did see some citizens there, so he is not aware of anyone being turned away.

Dr. Kim Koo

- Stated every homeowner in Rocky Mount recently received a revaluation of their property
- Stated if the value of your property goes up then the property tax goes up, both the City and County will collect more money from you, Nash County already said that it will see a 40 percent increase in the County revenue
- Asked how people can afford homes anymore since the market value has increased as buying a house is not only onerous but maintain one is even more difficult
- Stated the housing crisis in both counties will exacerbate and the homeless population will sore exponentially as renters pass on the raises to their tenants
- Stated citizens were told they can appeal the reevaluation, but she knows nothing much will change
- Stated this kind of double dipping where you pay two taxes for one property is not sustainable as wages have not increased commensurately

Mumtaz Shaik

- Stated the housing dilemma is critical as housing is a basic need and has never been adequately funded and housing plans not consistently implemented in a timely manner thanks to decades of division among government officials stalling tactics and utter indifference towards black and brown majority of victims
- Stated until housing is available and affordable the streets, parks and bridges will become the acceptable assigned waiting rooms for this unfortunate population
- Stated this is not good governance, good governance is meeting the needs of everyone equally especially the neediest

Celeste Beatty

- Stated she has a letter she would like to read from quite a number of amazing business owners, advocates, stakeholders in the downtown area
- Stated this is connected to their effort to find ways to creatively help uplift the community through the arts and culture and public private partnerships
- Stated in the letter it says the undersigned stakeholders are united in their vision to transform Howard and Church Street along with the 100 block of Sunset Avenue into a vibrant art district that serves a beacon of creativity, community and economic revitalization, their collective ambition is to see this area thrive not only as a hub for artists but also to enrich the City and its residents, they request that the City Council make the art district a priority and direct staff to implement the following actions: enhance streetscapes and public spaces, invest in making the designated art district area more pedestrian friendly and visually appealing conducive to public art and gatherings, provide financial incentives, encourage property renovation and the support of art related businesses with grants, low to no interest loans and other financial mechanisms, and hire a dedicated grant writer

Ekiuwa Asemota

- Stated she is a dance artist who recently moved to the City of Rocky Mount and she would like to advocate her support for the establishment of an art district in downtown Rocky Mount
- Stated when she heard of the vision of an art district she was moved to bring her talents to contribute to it and was pulled to start dance classes right away
- Stated her studio on Howard Street is in the heart of where they envision the art district, a once desolate block but through the power of dance they are bringing a little light to the space and want more artists to be a part of it

- Stated she teaches what is called The Joy of Dance to all kids from ages from kids to seniors and with over 20 years of experience in Arts she has led over 40 sessions in less than a year including the magical Motown production at the Imperial Centre last month
- Shouted out the Juneteenth Empowerment committee who showcased an amazing cast

Charles Roberson

- Stated he is an advocate for downtown development and last time he was here he brought a letter with over 20 signatures for downtown stakeholders
- Stated personally he has invested in downtown creating 18 units of affordable apartments
- Stated they need a coordinated effort as it is not enough to have a few people renovating their buildings with neighboring blight
- Stated high interest rates, inflation, and a lack of a robust market make downtown investment difficult

JaQuan Phillips

- Stated he came a couple of months ago and spoke with the City Manager and he has been in communication with some of the Councilmembers individually, but he has not gotten to everybody
- Stated has been speaking with Councilmember Blackwell's son at OIC and would like to know what can be done as a City and a community to support sickle cell awareness as well as other non-profits in the City

Jusiyah Bryant

- Stated he wanted to speak on behalf of the Motown show and how it inspired him to keep dancing and performing
- Thanked Jolly Manning, Band Director at Rocky Mount High school for everything he has done helping him become the great performer that he is today
- Stated he is with the high school band and performing MJ in the Motown show helped him experience old school music and while performing it inspired him to keep going and never give up on his dreams
- Stated the Motown show also inspired others to overcome their fears of being on stage and to show their great talent
- Stated he is in full support of bringing an art district to downtown Rocky Mount for him and other children like him to share their talents

Lynn Jones

- Stated she is a small business owner in downtown Rocky Mount and unfortunately she had submitted some information to get her CO and she was informed that she needed to get an additional bathroom
- Stated once she got the failure notices she put in a dispute and the response she received was since she was unhappy with the response and the failure notice that she should get an architect
- Stated she reached out to a local company and shared the information that she was given by inspections and the architect came out with a team and they submitted all of the findings and the inspector still denied it
- Stated because the results did not come back favorable to inspections she is still suffering as she has lost approximately \$40,000 in revenue for her business

Nakia Richardson

- Stated she is a new investor here in Rocky Mount and when she first moved back to North Carolina, she thought Rocky Mount was such a great city and it moved her to invest in it
- Stated this City has a great opportunity for growth and she loves that there is the sports tourism but the City needs places for people to go and she thinks the art district would be perfect for downtown
- Stated Rocky Mount itself needs some rebranding, making it for everybody so everyone would like to reinvest in downtown

- **Stated as an investor she would also like to be able to create housing with the properties she has invested in but she is having issues with funding**

Councilmember Blackwell stated that he was out of town during the press release, but he did receive several phone calls and texts about people not having access. He explained that he takes umbrage as this is a public facility, public intent, public investment, and people should be allowed so he does not know what happened there. He inquired about if the City applied for a grant, if those areas that were funded for new gas lines needed gas lines, and who said West Ridge was an underserved community. He explained that there are 14 underserved communities that are documented with statistics and real-life examples and he is happy about the investment but he is not happy about branding a community that is middle class and upper middle class underserved.

Mayor Pro Tem Daughtridge stated he had to step in for the Mayor as he was not able to attend and he does recall several citizens in attendance as well as staff and the City of Wilson since Rocky Mount was not the only City to receive funding. He explained that he had asked why the locations were Sunset and Westridge. He stated he wanted to read the following:

In February of 2010, the Federal Code regulating the natural gas industry was modified to mandate that operators must assess their distribution system and prioritize pipe replacement priority projects based on risk. Risk factors include, but are not limited to age of pipe, size of the pipe, material type and leak history. Rocky Mounts risk assessment that was developed as mandated found that two inch steel mains installed pre 1980 and black plastic services installed pre 1980 were our highest risk infrastructure. Our assessment also found the majority of the high-risk pipe was in Edgecombe County. As a result of our assessment, we began an intensive two-inch steel main replacement program in Edgecombe around 2010. The results are as follows, since the start of this program, we have replaced approximately 28 miles of two inch main along the associated black plastic services. Today there's approximately seven miles of two-inch steel main in Edgecombe County. To date there's approximately 44 miles of two-inch main in Nash County. At the completion of this grant project, we will have approximately 34 miles of two-inch main in Nash County. He stated the grant is funding pipe replacement Nash county because there's very little two-inch main remaining in Edgecombe County. As a result, the assessment now shows the high-risk infrastructure has shifted to mains in Nash County. He stated he feels, to the city's credit, recognized a need in 2010 and that was over 14 years ago and started in Edgecombe County. He continued stating that while there is still a need of seven miles in Edgecombe County, there is now a

need of forty-four miles in Nash County. This grant will only take care of 10 miles, but that will free up future funding for other parts of Rocky Mount

Councilmember Knight asked where the underserved areas on the Nash side are.

Councilmember Blackwell stated he would like to know how the priorities were set for the capacity of where growth is or where growth will occur. He inquired if they are just replacing what was already damaged or worn out. He stated that if they know that there has been intentional historical neglect and disinvestment then as they are building their pathway to the future they would like to see infrastructure placed in growth opportunity corridors. He continued stating that he would like to see the actual information in order to chart a course to help ensure federal monies come back in an equitable manner.

Mayor Pro Tem Daughtridge requested that at a future Committee of the Whole they have a presentation on this as well as any other infrastructure needs they may have since it is timely with the budget coming up.

Councilmember Harris stated he is very concerned about the tax valuation increase that everyone has seen and he thinks it is going to be accumbent upon the Council working closely with City staff to challenge what their budget request will be for next year. He explained that he is committed to keeping the tax rate increase as low as they possibly can and he hopes the budget that they are receiving will include projected tax rates of various amounts as he does not want to see just one tax rate.

Councilmember Jabaris Walker thanked Ms. Nathlyn Ohree for what she said regarding the trash situation at the Oak City trailer park as it has been cleaned up and there are now City trash cans out there.

Councilmember Knight asked if Council agrees that the City Manager and staff could get with both Edgecombe and Nash County commissioners and let them know the sentiments of Council and the citizens while considering the revaluation.

The City Manager stated that staff had spoken with both counties. He stated the additional information requested by Council was still being compiled by staff. He reiterated that the assessment process was being handled by the counties and as they had talked about before, the revenue neutral rate would be presented for Council's consideration, as required.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Harris, and unanimously carried that the Consent

Agenda [Items 9(A) through 9(D), be approved as follows and more specifically:

A. ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY/UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - ENERGY EFFICIENCY LOAN (UAP-EEL) :

The City Council was presented with a Resolution approving Administrative Policy No. II.49 Entitled "Utility Assistance Program - Energy Efficiency Loan (UAP-EEL)".

It was noted that the UAP-EEL is designed for utility customers to complete approved energy efficiency projects that may not be financially feasible via traditional financing options. The loan program allows the funding pool to be replenished with loan repayments that allow for program sustainability. UAP- EEL cannot be used in conjunction with other programs funded through City of Rocky Mount for like repairs.

Resolution No. R-2024-12 entitled **RESOLUTION ADOPTING ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY NO. II.49 ENTITLED "UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - ENERGY EFFICIENCY LOAN (UAP-EEL)"** was adopted.

B. RESOLUTION ENDORSING SUBMISSION OF LOCAL ASSISTANCE FOR STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT (LASII) GRANT - DOWNTOWN DRAINAGE PROJECT

Consideration was given to a resolution endorsing the submission of grant applications for Local Assistance for Stormwater Infrastructure Investment (LASII) grant for a downtown drainage project.

It was noted that due to the uncertainty with the application under review for funding from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, that City Staff would like to proceed with applying for a LASII grant to fund construction of at least I phase of the project. If both grants are awarded, they could be used as matching funds between one another, further reducing the requirement for a City match to this project.

It was also noted that the total award being sought by the City for the LASII Grant is \$5,000,000, with an anticipated City match of up to \$1,500,000. Reserves in the Storm water Fund are sufficient for this purpose and were intended to be used for the Downtown Drainage Project.

Resolution No. R-2024-13 entitled **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION FOR LOCAL ASSISTANCE FOR STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT (LASII) GRANT** was adopted.

C. ANNEXATION NO. 335/1951 OLD WILSON ROAD (CONTIGUOUS)

That the following resolutions were adopted:

- **Resolution No. R-2024-14** entitled **RESOLUTION OF CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION OF THE SUFFICIENCY OF PETITION FOR ANNEXATION OF A CONTIGUOUS AREA BY CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT ANNEXATION NO. 335 - 1951 OLD WILSON ROAD**

- **Resolution No. R-2024-15** entitled **RESOLUTION CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT TO INCLUDE ANNEXATION OF A CONTIGUOUS AREA ANNEXATION NO. 335 - 1951 OLD WILSON ROAD**

City Council was advised the resolutions certify the sufficiency of the petition pursuant to NCGS 160A-31 and call for a public hearing to be scheduled for the annexation.

It was noted that the Department of Development Services be instructed to prepare a feasibility study in connection with the annexation.

D. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT OF 2024-2026 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN/DOWN EAST HOME CONSORTIUM

City Council was advised that a public hearing is required for the Proposed Three-Year Consolidated Plan for FY 2024-2026. In accordance with federal regulations at 24 CFR Part 91, the City of Rocky Mount, and the Down East HOME Consortium (DEHC) has prepared a Consolidated Plan for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development and Planning program. The Consolidated Plan covers the three-year period from 2024 through 2026. As part of the Consolidated Plan process, an Annual Action Plan for program year 2024 has also been prepared, which outlines how the City intends to expend an estimated \$536,901 in federal Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG) and \$469,399 in HOME Investment Partnership Program funds (HOME).

A draft of the Proposed Three-Year Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan is available for public review and comment for 30 days beginning March 27, 2024 and ending on April 27, 2024. Copies of the draft documents will be available for review at the following locations during regular business hours:

Office of Community & Business Development
Frederick E. Turnage Municipal Building
331 S. Franklin Street
Rocky Mount, NC 27804

PUBLIC HEARING (same address): Monday, April 22, 2024, at 4pm in City Council Chambers on the 1st Floor.

In addition, the draft documents can be reviewed online at <https://rockymountnc.gov/community-development/>

Written comments are encouraged and should be received no later than April 27, 2024, to be considered in the Plan.

Stephanie Taylor, Community Development Administrator
Office of Community Development
331 S. Franklin Street, Post Office Box 1180
Rocky Mount, NC 27802

The Draft Plans were approved and the Department of Community Development was authorized to advertise a public hearing for April 22, 2024.

ANNEXATION NO. 332 - HARPER & WILLIAMS (SUNSET AVENUE, WARD 5)

It was noted that this item was postponed from January 8 and February 12, 2024 City Council meetings. The recommended action is to postpone this item until the May 13, 2024 City Council meeting.

Motion was made by Councilmember T.J. Walker, seconded by Councilmember Harris and unanimously carried that the item be postponed to May 13, 2024 City Council meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING/REZONING REQUEST

It was noted that this item was postponed from January 8 and February 12, 2024 City Council meetings. The recommended action is to postpone this item until the May 13, 2024 City Council meeting.

Motion was made by Councilmember Harris, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that this item be postponed to May 13, 2024 City Council meeting.

PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Council received the minutes and recommendations from a Planning Board meeting held February 13, 2024.

The following action was taken upon the recommendations of the Planning Board:

PUBLIC HEARING/REZONING REQUEST

The Mayor Pro Tem opened up a public hearing relative to the following rezoning request recommended for approval and found in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan by the Planning Board:

- Request by Joel M. Boseman (Boseman Family, LLC) to rezone two properties having combined area of ± 2.19 acres at 1144 & 1156 Benvenue Road, from R-10 (Low Density Residential District) to B-2 (Commercial Corridor District)

Emilie Pinkston, Director of Development Services, gave an overview of the request.

No one from the public appeared and the Mayor Pro Tem declared the public hearing closed.

Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Blackwell and unanimously carried that **Ordinance No. O-2024-10** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE AND MAP OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT** was adopted.

PUBLIC HEARING/REZONING REQUEST

The Mayor Pro Tem opened up a public hearing relative to the following rezoning request recommended for approval and found in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan by the Planning Board:

- Request by Richard Heath King (Quality Rental, LLC) to rezone two properties having a combined area of ± 0.34 acres at 809 & 813 Carter Street, from L-1 (Light Industrial District) to B-5 (Commercial Services District)

Emilie Pinkston, Director of Development Services, gave an overview of the request.

Councilmember Blackwell inquired if these two properties are occupied, and it was confirmed they are not.

Mrs. Pinkston responded that the applicant has indicated that they intend to tear down the two homes and construct a warehouse on the properties.

Councilmember Blackwell stated he would like to hear the vision for the property if rezoned.

The Mayor Pro Tem recognized the following who wished to speak on the item:

Richard Heath King -

- Stated he has quite a bit of property in Rocky Mount and he takes distressed homes and he renovates them and rents them out
- Stated these two properties are beyond repair and he has a customer that would like him to build a warehouse space for them so he would like to tear the two houses down and put a warehouse on the property
- Stated beside it is Metro Maintenance and he would build basically the same type of structure

Motion was made by Councilmember Blackwell, seconded by Councilmember Joyner and unanimously carried that **Ordinance No. O-2024-11** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE AND MAP OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT** was adopted.

PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Council received the minutes and recommendations from a Planning Board meeting held March 12, 2024.

The following action was taken upon the recommendations of the Planning Board:

PUBLIC HEARING/REZONING REQUEST

The Mayor Pro Tem opened up a public hearing relative to the following rezoning request recommended for approval and found in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan by the Planning Board:

- Request by Michael Casey (MWC Property, LLC) to rezone property having an area of + 8.36 acres at 3941 S. Church Street, from A-1 (Agricultural District) to B-5 (Commercial Services District)

Emilie Pinkston, Director of Development Services, gave an overview of the request.

The Mayor Pro Tem recognized the following who wished to speak on the item:

Janice Brinkley

- Stated she is the Realtor that is trying to hold together the contract for the seller and the buyer which is dependent upon if they can get it rezoned as he does plan to put a warehouse on the property
- Stated she is an advocate for yes

Terrence Harris

- Stated he represents Tarheel Contractor Supply and they intend on putting a building up to help supply directional boring services

Councilmember Blackwell asked if the house on the property is occupied or if it is just a structure.

Mr. Harris responded it was just a structure.

Mrs. Brinkley added the contract does say that it can be torn down at the buyer's discretion so more than likely it will be torn down.

Mr. Joyner stated this will be a plus for that area along South Church Street.

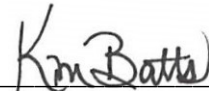
Motion was made by Councilmember Joyner, seconded by Councilmember Knight and unanimously carried that **Ordinance No. O-2024-12** entitled **ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE AND MAP OF THE CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT** was approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Daughtridge stated going back to the reevaluations, he had just heard from the County Commissioner that April 15th is the deadline for Nash County, but he is not sure about Edgecombe County. He also thanked the City Clerk for assisting him with the meeting tonight.

Councilmember Knight thanked staff for bringing the Energy Efficiency program to the Council as it was approved tonight, and he is happy to see that it has been adopted and soon will be launched. He explained that this program will be very helpful to the citizens, improve the quality of life, and hopefully lower utility bills. He stated it has been a long time coming but he glad that it has been approved and he is sure a lot of citizens will benefit from a new HVAC, windows, doors and insulation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, by consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.



Kim Batts
City Clerk