

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE REIDSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016 AT 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL**

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor John M. “Jay” Donecker
Mayor Pro Tem Harry L. Brown
Councilman Tom Balsley
Councilman James K. Festerman
Councilman Donald L. Gorham
Councilman William Hairston
Councilwoman Sherri G. Walker

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Preston W. Mitchell, City Manager
Angela G. Stadler, CMC, City Clerk
William F. McLeod Jr., City Attorney
Robert Hassell, Police Chief
Donna Setliff, Community
Development Manager

Mayor Donecker called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION.

The Mayor called upon Major Leona O’Bryant of the Salvation Army of Rockingham and Caswell Counties, to provide the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Council members led in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATIONS:

MARCH AS “NATIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS MONTH”.

Mayor Donecker then read aloud a proclamation for National Social Workers Month requested by Aging, Disability & Transit Services (ADTS). (A COPY OF THE PROCLAMATION IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) Accepting the proclamation were case management and social workers Loretta Galloway, Julia Gentry and Pam Perkins. Ms. Galloway thanked the Council and offered their appreciation for the proclamation. Also recognized in the audience were Cathy Powers, Interim Director of ADTS, Catherine Slade, Rosa McCollum and ADTS Board member Eugene Russell, who offered a few words about the importance of these case workers and social workers as well as highlighting the work of ADTS and its collaborative relationship with the City on projects such as the new Senior Center/Adult

Day Care and operation of the skat buses. He noted such relationships make this a better place to live.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA.

Mayor Donecker asked Council members if there were any items they wanted pulled individually for consideration? Councilman Festerman asked that the fourth item, Approval Of The Use Of \$4,000 In Special Project Funds For A Salvation Army Project, be pulled.

Councilman Gorham then made the motion, seconded by Councilman Balsley and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote, to approve Consent Agenda Items 1, 2 and 3.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 - APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 30, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING (RETREAT) MINUTES, INCLUDING THE RECESSED MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2016, THE FEBRUARY 9 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND THE FEBRUARY 18, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES FROM THE JOINT MEETING WITH THE REIDSVILLE DOWNTOWN CORPORATION.

With the approval of the Consent Agenda in a 7-0 vote, the Council approved the January 30, 2016 Special Meeting (Retreat) Minutes, including the Recessed Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2016, the February 9 Regular Meeting Minutes and the February 18, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes with the RDC.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 - APPROVAL OF BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT NO. 9, WHICH APPROPRIATES FUNDS FOR THE BRIARWOOD CURB AND GUTTER ASSESSMENT PROJECT.

With the approval of the Consent Agenda in a 7-0 vote, the Council approved the following Budget Ordinance Amendment:

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT NO. 9

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Reidsville adopted a budget ordinance on June 9, 2015 which established revenues and authorized expenditures for fiscal year 2015-2016; and

WHEREAS, since the time of the adoption of said ordinance, it has become necessary to make certain changes in the City's budget to appropriate funds for the Briarwood curb and gutter assessment project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Reidsville that the budget ordinance as adopted on June 9, 2015 is hereby amended as follows;

Section 1. That revenue account number 10-3985-6200, Curb and Gutter Assessment, be increased by \$27,360.00; that revenue account number 10-3991-

0000, General Fund Appropriated Fund Balance, be increased by \$32,040.00.

Section 2. That expense account number 10-4510-6004, Curb and Gutter, be increased by \$59,400.00.

This the 8th day of March, 2016.

/s/ _____
John M. "Jay" Donecker
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ _____
Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC
City Clerk

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 - APPROVAL OF BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT NO. 10, WHICH APPROPRIATES FUNDS BETWEEN THE GENERAL FUND AND COMBINED ENTERPRISE FUND FOR A PERSONNEL MOVE AND A CAPITAL PURCHASE.

With the approval of the Consent Agenda in a 7-0 vote, the Council approved the following Budget Ordinance Amendment:

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT NO. 10

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of the City of Reidsville adopted a budget ordinance on June 9, 2015 which established revenues and authorized expenditures for fiscal year 2015-2016; and

WHEREAS, since the time of the adoption of said ordinance, it has become necessary to make certain changes in the City's budget to appropriate funds between the General Fund and the Combined Enterprise Fund for a personnel move and a capital purchase;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Reidsville that the budget ordinance as adopted on June 9, 2015 is hereby amended as follows;

Section 1. That revenue account number 10-3986-0000, Reimbursement from the Water Fund, be increased by \$5,000.00; that revenue account number 10-3991-0000, General Fund Appropriated Fund Balance, be decreased by \$25,000.00; that revenue account number 61-3991-0000, Water Fund Reserves, be increased by \$25,000.00.

Section 2. That expense account number 10-7113-1200, Engineering Salaries, be decreased by \$21,500.00; that expense account number 10-7113-1810, FICA, be decreased by \$1,600.00; that expense account number 10-7113-1820, Retirement, be decreased by \$1,500.00; that expense account number 10-7113-1821, 401K, be

decreased by \$1,000.00; that expense account number 10-7113-1830, Group Health, be decreased by \$3,200.00; that expense account number 10-7113-1860, Workers Compensation, be decreased by \$400.00; that expense account number 61-7120-1200, Water Plant Salaries, be increased by \$13,500.00; that expense account number 61-7120-1810, FICA, be increased by \$1,100.00; that expense account number 61-7120-1820, Retirement, be increased by \$1,000.00; that expense account number 61-7120-1821, 401K, be increased by \$700.00; that expense account number 61-7120-1830, Group Health, be increased by \$3,400.00; that expense account number 61-7120-1860, Workers Compensation, be increased by \$300.00; that expense account number 61-4120-0000, Reimbursement to the General Fund, be decreased by \$20,000.00; that expense account number 61-4120-0000, Reimbursement to the General Fund, be increased by \$25,000.00; that expense account number 10-4120-9910, Administration Contingency, be increased by \$9,200.00;

This the 8th day of March, 2016.

/s/ _____
John M. "Jay" Donecker
Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ _____
Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC
City Clerk

- End of Consent Agenda -

Council members then turned to the pulled Consent Agenda Item.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 - APPROVAL OF THE USE OF \$4,000 IN SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDS FOR A SALVATION ARMY PROJECT.

Councilman Festerman expressed concern about voting on this item due to his role as an active member of the Salvation Army's Board of Directors. He questioned whether any of the other Council members had any concerns about his voting. Councilman Gorham said he thought Councilman Festerman should be able to vote on this issue. (A COPY OF THE MEMO BY ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER/FINANCE DIRECTOR CHRIS PHILLIPS EXPLAINING THIS SPECIAL PROJECT IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)

City Attorney Bill McLeod Jr. noted that since the Councilman doesn't have a direct pecuniary interest in the organization, whereby his pocketbook is directly affected, he doesn't see a reason he could be excused from the vote. The City Attorney said he thought it would be in order for Councilman Festerman to go ahead and vote. Councilman Festerman said he respects that but he is always concerned about the appearance of it.

Councilman Festerman then made the motion, seconded by Councilman Gorham and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote, to award the \$4,000 as requested.

Mayor Donecker thanked Councilman Festerman for raising this because transparency is all about helping people understand, the City Attorney for his interpretation and Councilman Gorham for his remarks.

PUBLIC HEARING:

CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL PROJECTS FOR WHICH FUNDING MAY BE APPLIED UNDER THE CDBG HOUSING, PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

City Manager Preston Mitchell introduced Bill Cowan of Martin-McGill, Inc., who will go over the Community Development Block Grants process for Council.

Bill Cowan noted that the consulting firm of Martin-McGill is based in Asheville, NC, with regional offices from Knoxville, Tennessee, to the Cary/Pinehurst area. He noted his purpose tonight was to talk in general terms about the CDBG program in North Carolina. Anytime you anticipate applying for CDBG funds, you must have two public hearings, he stated, with the first one allowing the public to talk about the CDBG program statewide. If you apply for a grant, a specific public hearing is required at that time to talk about that project, but tonight, we are just talking generally, he said.

Mr. Cowan referenced in the agenda packets a summary handout on Community Development Block Grants from the NC Commerce Department website. (A COPY OF THE HANDOUT IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) All HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) funds flow through the Department of Commerce, he explained. Three years ago the State General Assembly chose to put approximately \$26 million in the fund. Mr. Cowan pointed out that \$43 million is available for this fiscal year, which he noted is different from the \$45 million listed in the handout. The General Assembly earmarked \$26 million of that for infrastructure projects handled by what was formerly known as DENR and is now the Department of Environmental Quality while the Department of Commerce got \$15 million to do economic development grants, he said.

Mr. Cowan explained that the primary purpose of the CDBG program is to develop viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment by expanding economic opportunities. At least 70% of all CDBG funds have to go to serve low to moderate individuals in the State, he said. The balance of the monies from the State go into administration on the State level for CDBG programs, he added. Mr. Cowan also noted that there are 23 entitlement cities that get funds over and above the \$43 million being mentioned here tonight.

One of the things the City will be required to do is to put several policies and procedures in place, including one whereby citizens will have the opportunity to resolve any

complaints regarding CDBG funds, Mr. Cowan said. He also noted that, according to City staff, Reidsville has not received any CDBG funds in recent past history.

With no questions for Mr. Cowan from Council, Mayor Donecker opened the public hearing at approximately 6:13 p.m. He asked if anyone would like to come forward and offer questions about this program? No one came forward, and the Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:14 p.m.

It was indicated that nothing else needed to be done at this time until a specific project is brought before Council.

On a personal note, Mayor Pro Tem Brown noted that Mr. Cowan was one of his first employers some 35 years or more ago when Cowan was the Parks & Recreation Director for Cabarrus County.

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION NAMING A STREET WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF REIDSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA AS E.V. WILKINS WAY.

In making the staff report, Community Development Manager Donna Setliff reminded Council members that the City is naming several new service streets due to the Freeway Drive widening and this one is located off of Ashcroft Drive. At Council's February meeting, staff recommended the name of Waterford Way, but a substitute name of E.V. Wilkins Way was suggested by a citizen. Setliff said she has investigated, comparing the name to our GIS and the 911 databases, and there are none specifically named E.V. Wilkins Way. Setliff noted that there is a Wilkins Road and a Wilkins Street within the County in the Madison exchanges, adding that she has to bring that to Council's attention since we are part of a consolidated 911 system and our Street Naming and Addressing policy says we won't have duplications or similar names.

If Council believes there are enough differences and approves the Resolution, the change would be effectively immediately, the Community Development Manager said. City Manager Mitchell noted that Setliff had contacted Mrs. Wilkins per Councilwoman Walker's request. Setliff said Mrs. Wilkins was contacted and seemed very pleased by the suggestion.

Mayor Donecker opened the public hearing at 6:17 p.m. by asking if anyone was for or against the name? No one came forward, and the public hearing was closed at 6:18 p.m.

Councilwoman Walker made the motion, seconded by Councilman Balsley and unanimously approved by Council to approve the Resolution Naming the Street within the Corporate Limits as E.V. Wilkins Way.

The Resolution as approved follows:

**A RESOLUTION NAMING A STREET WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS
OF THE CITY OF REIDSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
TO E.V. WILKINS WAY**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Reidsville, North Carolina hereby finds that the widening of Freeway Drive by the North Carolina Department of Transportation has changed the street pattern and created service street(s); and

WHEREAS, the naming of the service street(s) is required to better allow adequate public safety and emergency response services, and to minimize difficulty in locating buildings for the general public; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Reidsville has notified the adjoining property owners of this street naming and held a public hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Reidsville, North Carolina that it hereby names the service street which generally north off Ashcroft Drive for approximately 1,300' to the dead end to E.V. Wilkins Way.

BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED, that the naming shall be effective upon the adoption of this resolution.

RESOLVED, this the 8th day of March, 2016.

/s/ _____
John M. Donecker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ _____
Angela G. Stadler, City Clerk

**CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION NAMING A STREET WITHIN THE
CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF REIDSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
AS JAMES COX LANE.**

Community Development Manager Donna Setliff, in providing the staff report, noted that due to the Freeway Drive widening, a service street on the northern end that runs between Tar Heel Towing and Sparks & Sons Service Station needs to be named. At the February Council meeting, staff had recommended Northridge Court, but a substitute name of James Cox Lane was offered, she said.

During her investigation, no James Cox Lane was found but comparing the suggested street name to the GIS and 911 databases, the following street names with Cox or James in them were found, she noted:

- Cox Street exists at the City of Reidsville City Limits at Moss Street and Wentworth Street and is within the Reidsville exchange and our Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction.
- Cox Road exists off Strawberry Road between Reidsville and Eden in the Reidsville exchange.
- Cox Street exists within Eden on the Eden exchange.
- James Circle is outside the Eden city limits and within the Eden exchange.
- James Street is within Eden's city limit and has an Eden exchange.
- James Motley Drive is off of Chandler Mill Road in the Pelham Community.

Setliff said she only brings these streets up because of our Addressing Ordinance and these streets which, she wouldn't say are similar, but have at least one of the names involved. The Community Development Manager stated that a Resolution has been prepared.

Councilman Festerman asked Setliff to describe the character of Cox Street in Reidsville since he is not familiar with it at all. She said it is a dirt road just outside the City limits. Two houses are located on that street, she said. Given that, he asked if she has any concerns. Setliff said she felt there is enough of a difference in the names, but noted that the concern is always that when people are calling into 911, what they might say when they are in a panic. She said you can't be totally sure but feels it will be okay. Councilman Festerman asked if other houses could be built on that street? Setliff said there could because there is additional land back there, referencing the current Cox Street. During the discussion, Setliff noted that with the street being considered today, the fronts Highway Business with residential back behind it. The Mayor noted that if someone is calling 911, they will probably say they are close to Sparks or Tar Heel Towing. Councilman Festerman asked if there is a sign on Wentworth Street indicating the current Cox Street? Setliff responded in the affirmative, but said the street is more off of Moss Street than Wentworth Street.

Mayor Donecker opened the public hearing at 6:23 p.m. by asking if anyone wished to speak for or against? No one came forward, and the public hearing was closed at 6:24 p.m.

Councilman Hairston then made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown, to approve the Resolution naming the Street James Cox Lane. The motion passed in a 6-1 vote with Councilman Festerman voting against it.

The Resolution as approved follows:

**A RESOLUTION NAMING A STREET WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS
OF THE CITY OF REIDSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
TO JAMES COX LANE**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Reidsville, North Carolina hereby finds that the widening of Freeway Drive by the North Carolina Department of Transportation has changed the street pattern and created service street(s); and

WHEREAS, the naming of the service street(s) is required to better allow adequate public safety and emergency response services, and to minimize difficulty in locating buildings for the general public; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Reidsville has notified the adjoining property owners of this street naming and held a public hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Reidsville, North Carolina that it hereby names the service street which runs between Tar Heel Towing and Sparks & Sons Service Station and parallel to Freeway Drive to James Cox Lane. This street being approximately 775' long.

BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED, that the naming shall be effective upon the adoption of this resolution.

RESOLVED, this the 8th day of March, 2016.

/s/ _____
John M. Donecker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ _____
Angela G. Stadler, City Clerk

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION RENAMING A PORTION OF NORTHWEST AND SOUTHWEST MARKET STREETS FROM GILMER STREET TO MADISON STREET AS MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. STREET.

In making the staff report, Community Development Manager Donna Setliff noted that during a recent meeting, Councilman Gorham recommended changing a part of NW and SW Market Streets to Martin Luther King Jr. Street. It was pointed out that this area was where a majority of minority businesses had been located, she said, and that most of the larger cities have named a street after the civil rights leader.

Setliff said that abutting property owners were sent a courtesy notice in January explaining the Council's desire to change the street from Gilmer Street to Madison Street to Martin Luther King Jr. Street. Two property owners called staff, expressing concerns about the difficulty in changing their addresses, she stated. Council members should have before them an affidavit or letter from one property owner expressing his concerns. (A COPY OF THE AFFIDAVIT IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)

Comparing the named to the GIS and 911 databases, Setliff said there is no other street in Rockingham County named Martin Luther King Jr. Street, but there is a Martin Street and a King Street within the Reidsville City Limits. She added that there are other Martin Streets/Roads within the County, a Kings Street in Stoneville, a Kings Court in Stokesdale and a Kings Drive in Eden.

The Community Development Manager said that if Council is comfortable with the name change, there is a Resolution in their packets. She stressed that the resolution makes the name change effective July 1, 2016 instead of immediately to allow staff and the property owners time to process this name change, including notices of address changes. Unlike the other two streets, this is a renaming, she said.

Councilman Gorham said he would like to see the name change to “Drive” instead of “Street.” Setliff said the Resolution can be changed to reflect that.

Mayor Donecker asked about the concerns raised by Mr. Seher and Mr. Connor regarding the changing of addresses for residents, etc. He noted that these residences were located between Roanoke and Madison Streets. The Mayor said if the change is made from Roanoke to Gilmer, that way the residents wouldn't have to be put through an address change. He asked if Council would consider that? Councilwoman Walker said she liked that idea. Councilman Gorham said he could deal with that adjustment as long as there is something at the Madison Street intersection designating the street name change coming up ahead. The Mayor questioned what would be at Madison? Councilman Gorham said some type of signage saying it is coming up ahead. The Councilman said he noted that he had chosen that area because of the very productive African-American community in the past. He said it wouldn't be an imposition to anyone there. The Mayor asked Councilman Gorham if he supported the suggested change, to which he replied in the affirmative.

Councilman Festerman asked how many residences would be affected if it continued onto Madison? Setliff said there are five residences there between Carter/Roanoke and Madison. While he said he felt the pain of those affected, Councilman Festerman said he didn't feel the shortened area named for one of all of our heroes would give it the visibility needed. He said it has been a long time coming, and he would like to see it come all the way from Madison Street. Mayor Donecker indicated that the sign suggested by Councilman Gorham at Madison Street would help with the underlying issue of visibility. Councilman Festerman said that by cutting it off, he didn't feel like Council had done a whole lot. He said it is not fully recognizing what this Council really wants to do. He said he would be voting against it if remains like that.

Mayor Donecker said most of the recognition comes from those on Market Street and the 100-200 block of Scales. He said that is where the real visibility is going to be. This is on the other side of Commonwealth, he said, where not many people drive. Councilman Festerman said the intersection of Market and Madison gets a tremendous amount of traffic and that's where the sign needs to be. After the Mayor noted that is where Councilman Gorham had recommended the signage, Councilman Festerman indicated he could live with that.

Thanking everyone for the opinions expressed, Mayor Donecker opened the public hearing at 6:30 p.m., stressing it would be for the part of NW and SW Market Streets from Gilmer to Madison Street.

Ms. Catherine Wilson of 615 Maple Avenue, Reidsville, came forward. Noting she agreed with both sides and was “caught in the middle,” she said she agreed with Councilman Festerman that this had been a long time coming. However, she noted that when people have to change addresses, they have to change everything. Her main focus right now is “The Block” area, and she discussed her vision for that area, including a memorial, landscaping, etc. She expressed concern that the trees there had been taken down. She noted that she has been working for years to get this area recognized, and she was okay with whichever road they decided to stop at, but she wants to make sure that honor is given to those whom honor is due.

Mayor Donecker asked Ms. Wilson what part of Market Street she believes comprised “The Block” and where were the boundary cross streets? She replied that it is the area from Gilmer Street to at one point in time, a crossing at Pennsylvania Street, which Councilman Festerman said was, in fact, Oaks Alley. Again, she said she was okay with anywhere that wouldn’t affect addresses, again adding that she wanted recognition for “The Block” and the businesses that were once along there. Councilman Gorham reminded Council members his first suggestion was to Carter, but other Council members, based on traffic concerns, changed it.

Mayor Donecker noted that there is the possibility of funds to fix that area so that the memory of both “The Block” and Dr. Martin Luther King can be honored.

The public hearing was closed at 6:35 p.m.

Councilman Gorham then made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown, to name SW and NW Market Streets Martin Luther King Jr. Drive from Gilmer Street to Carter Street. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown.

During the discussion phase, Councilman Gorham reiterated that he didn’t want to put anyone out in terms of changing their addresses. Councilman Festerman said that if you look across the country, there have been many people inconvenienced by such decisions, and sometimes you have to suffer, to gain something. He said that’s the way he sees it, and this is the perfect opportunity to recognize someone we all admire and has done a tremendous amount of good. He said he felt Council would be “shortchanging” this but added that he would support Council’s decision but that he would like to see it go all the way to Madison Street. If left like it is, Councilman Festerman said not that many people will see it but they will if it goes to Madison. Again, he said he would support Council’s decision although he would vote against it.

Councilman Hairston said he agreed that it should go all the way to Madison Street because that is the main thoroughfare even though it would inconvenience some people. Mayor Donecker said he heard what was being said, but as one who has lived through an address change, he said it is a real pain and the people in that area are the ones who could least afford or take the time to get all of that done. The other issue, in addition to changing your address for bills, etc., the Mayor said is that it is easier to talk about the pain when it is someone else’s pain other than ourselves. He said he understood there

would be more visibility due to the traffic, but all things considered, he truly believes that the renaming, especially with all of the commercial activity already occurring on Gilmer Street, will achieve their purpose of recognizing Dr. King here in the City of Reidsville. Councilman Gorham noted that there can be directional signage going from east to west.

The motion then passed in a 6-1 vote with Councilman Festerman voting against.

The Resolution as approved follows:

**RESOLUTION
RENAMING A PORTION OF
NW AND SW MARKET STREETS TO
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DRIVE**

WHEREAS, Reidsville City Councilman Donald Gorham has recommended that a portion of Northwest and Southwest Market Streets in Reidsville be renamed to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a long-time civil rights leader; and,

WHEREAS, the renaming of a portion of NW and SW Market Streets will be from Gilmer Street to Carter Street; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Reidsville has notified the adjoining property owners of this street renaming and held a public hearing,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Reidsville City Council does hereby rename a portion of NW and SW Market Streets specifically between the streets of Gilmer Street and Carter Street to

Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive

thereby remembering and honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and citing his contributions to the civil rights movement.

This name change is to become effective on July 1, 2016.

This the 8th day of March, 2016.

/s/ _____
John M. "Jay" Donecker, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ _____
Angela G. Stadler, City Clerk

Mayor Donecker thanked Catherine Wilson for her comments and noted that we are still in the process of developing what will go in that area there but will include parking and landscaping. He noted that was the reason the trees had to go down.

- End of Public Hearings -

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION ON BODY CAMERA DATA.

As Police Chief Robert Hassell came forward to present, Mayor Donecker noted that Hassell was the newly elected President of the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police, and that he should be congratulated personally and also for bringing visibility to Reidsville by taking up this position. The Mayor also talked of Chief Hassell's impact on the Police Department and the City by coming here as Police Chief.

After thanking the Mayor for his remarks, Chief Hassell launched into his presentation. (A COPY OF HIS MEMO DATED FEBRUARY 29, AN "OVERVIEW OF BODY WORN & IN-CAR CAMERA DIRECTIVE" IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) He noted that several weeks ago, information was shared between police chiefs about body worn cameras. An article came out in Asheville that noted one of its commissioners agreed with police that the data should not be public record, he said. Chief Hassell said that he discussed with his fellow police chiefs that they might want to have a discussion with their Councils about what could become a very public issue in the future if an incident occurs and the data is requested. Now is a better time than after some incident occurs, he noted, to discuss it with our Councils in case the departments need to look at their policies and procedures, etc.

Chief Hassell noted that tomorrow, the NCACP will be meeting with the Body Camera Subcommittee of the Joint Legislative Justice and Public Safety Study Committee to discuss their views on such cameras. He noted that there may be some legislation going forward shaping how body camera video will be viewed in North Carolina. The Association's viewpoint, Chief Hassell noted, is that the body worn data is not public for the following reasons: 1) it is partly criminal investigative in nature; 2) there are privacy issues, noting the wide range of populations, from young children to the elderly, that the police come into contact with and should not be made public and 3) personnel. If a complaint is made, then it would fall under personnel law, the Chief continued.

Chief Hassell gave Council members a little history, noting that the Reidsville Police Department was the first in the Triad to have body worn cameras due to the foresight of the Council. He said the department got them in early 2013 so when everything came up last year about the cameras, we already had a policy in place, which took effect in March of 2014. He noted that it has been the department's policy that, at his discretion, citizens who have been involved in the videos have been allowed to come and view the footage. Oftentimes, that solves the problem once they see what action was taken, he explained.

Discussion then turned briefly to what involvement, if any, the School of Government or the NC League of Municipalities, has had in this issue. Staff was not sure if either SOG or NCLM has been involved. City Manager Mitchell said he did not know whether the NCLM has taken a stance on this, but often follows the lead of its municipal counterpart, in this case, the NCACP. He noted that in the past, the NCLM and the NCACP may not have always agreed on other issues, but he was not aware of any League stance on this issue. Mitchell added that he didn't think the General Assembly was going to take up this issue during Short Session but added that several bills regarding body worn cameras and video have been introduced, both for making the data public record and for not making it public record. City Manager Mitchell said he thought the General Assembly would use this study committee to determine how this plays into such things as personnel law, etc. He said he thought there were at least 2-3 laws that would have to be looked at to see if General Assembly action would be needed to supersede those laws. Again, the Mayor noted the possible need to get the best legal minds in this state, the SOG involved, and should that be requested? Manager Mitchell said they could follow up with the League to see what has been done. The Mayor noted that the SOG would be the best to give an unbiased legal opinion. The City Manager also stated that there appears to be the interpretation that personnel and active criminal investigative laws would supersede any local policies making cameras open to the public.

The Mayor questioned whether our policy provides enough guidance that you haven't had any issues. Chief Hassell said there have been no issues and that when the Association was drafting a model policy, that our local policy was in keeping with that model policy. Councilwoman Walker thanked the Chief for bringing this to Council's attention and for planning ahead because while no instances have happened, they could happen so they are keeping ahead of the game, which she said she appreciates. Councilman Gorham noted concerns about transparency and that while he understands personnel issues, he doesn't want to see us get stuck in a situation like those in Chicago, etc. Manager Mitchell noted that the Council can, in cases of personnel, release information to maintain public trust if needed although he noted that avenue is seldom used. He said he didn't know if it has ever been used but again, he pointed out that citizens have been allowed to review video they have been involved in. Chief Hassell noted that has been done and added that it can also be released if there is a court order or released if the Council thinks it is needed for public trust.

The Mayor thanked Chief Hassell, noting he really appreciates this level of communication. Manager Mitchell added that another reason he wanted Chief Hassell to come tonight was that sometimes, Chief will be speaking on behalf of the State Association but he also wants to get Council's opinions on issues as well. Manager Mitchell noted that Chief Hassell's new State position is a great honor but with it come some dual roles at times.

DISCUSSION OF A CITY ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A TWO-YEAR MORATORIUM ON FRACKING WITH A PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE TO BE SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 12, 2016.

City Attorney Bill McLeod Jr. came forward to discuss a proposed ordinance he has drafted establishing a two-year moratorium on fracking within Reidsville and its extra-territorial jurisdiction. He stated that it basically provides a “timeout” while the potential adverse effects of fracking can be considered here in Reidsville and in its ETJ. He said it gives the City the opportunity to see if there is litigation that ensues that might lay some type of roadmap about what municipalities might do. He noted that the State is trying to supersede municipalities’ ability to do this with a bill that has been passed, but the moratorium may address that although the bill itself has not been challenged.

McLeod stated that this “timeout” would allow time to look into any adverse effects and see if there is another kind of ordinance that can be created that more specifically addresses some of these issues. This ordinance, if approved in April, would include penalties for violations of the ordinance if someone engages in fracking. Using the County ordinance as template, he said he used the factual findings that seemed to apply to the City of Reidsville. (A COPY OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.) He noted that with our recreational activities and economic development could be adversely affected but added that no one knows what is coming. He said if a moratorium is passed and then challenged, so be it, but by not passing one, we could be laying ourselves bare to any kind of fracking activity that come along.

Mayor Donecker thanked the City Attorney for doing such a thorough job. The Council will consider the proposed ordinance following a public hearing in April.

PUBLIC COMMENTS.

“Stop the Violence” Unity March.

Rev. Rosetta Badgett of 159 Massey Road, Reidsville, came forward to speak about the “Stop the Violence” Unity March planned for 10 a.m. on Saturday. The event is being hosted by United Ministers and the Reidsville Ministerial Alliance. She stressed that this was not a protest march and that the Police Chief and department would be taking part in it. Other upcoming events were noted, including a third community meeting, that are attempts to establish dialogue, etc. between the police and citizens.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT.

City Manager Mitchell referenced several items from his written report, including the joint meeting with the Reidsville Downtown Corporation to hear recommendations from the State Main Street Director. (A COPY OF THE CITY MANAGER’S REPORT AND THE LISTED DOWNTOWN RECOMMENDATIONS ARE HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THIS REPORT.) He also reminded Council members of the budget work session planned for 5:30 p.m. on March 14 as well as upcoming events planned throughout the City.

In addition to his written report, Manager Mitchell noted that the Reidsville Appearance Commission will be holding “Clean Sweep” during the month of April, which will include a free week of dumping at the County Landfill. The information will be included in Council members’ mailboxes, he said.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' REPORTS.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown -- The Councilman noted that he had attended the previous two community meetings, which have been very informative and is good PR for the Police Department, creating good conversations between the department and the citizens. He said it is a very positive thing. He said he also attended youth ballgames at the Rec Center, noting that participation seems to be up this year. He said he also attended as many of the Black History Month programs over the past month that he could, representing the City of Reidsville.

Councilman Hairston – The Councilman briefly discussed a new venture he and his wife had established, Success Warriors Digital, Inc. in January, the goal of which is to bring digital app technology into the County. The project attempts to get young people involved in technology, he said. He also talked of how they were partnering with the Robotics program at Reidsville High School, bringing in students ages 8-13 on Saturdays to work with technology, video, apps, etc. He also noted other partnerships with RCC, Remmsco House and Project Safe using technology. He added that he would be missing the “Stop the Violence March” because of this endeavor. He also thanked the Chamber for helping them as they utilize space in the Chamber offices. The Councilman said he also attended the Human Relations Commission meeting, which is still seeking a youth representative for the commission and a mascot. They are also trying to involve Chief Hassell and Councilman Gorham due to their work with youth.

Councilman Gorham – The Councilman listed the events he had attended in February and March, including the Feb. 13th NCAAP community meeting/voter registration drive at St. Paul; the Feb. 16th Economic Development 101 Workshop; the Feb. 17th CED Board meeting; the Feb. 18th ribbon cutting at Halikierra Health Care and the Council/RDC special meeting; Feb. 20th NAACP Youth Division to discuss voter registration; Feb. 28th he was the keynote speaker at Elm Grove Baptist Church for its Black History Month program; March 1st Community Watch meeting at McLaurin Park; and March 7th the swearing in ceremony of Reidsville Police Department’s new officers.

Councilwoman Walker – The Councilwoman said she attended on Feb. 10th, the Chamber Luncheon; the Feb. 18th Halikierra ribbon cutting and the joint Council-RDC meeting that night. She thanked the Reidsville Area Foundation for providing the accommodations for that meeting. She also attended the Feb. 23rd ABC Board meeting; Feb. 25th RAC meeting and that evening toured Annie Penn’s new cancer research center; March 1, worked the City’s blood drive at Fire Station #1, noting she didn’t see anyone other than Mr. Balsley; March 7th attended the ceremony for the new police officers.

Councilman Balsley – The Councilman turned his time over to Chamber President Diane Sawyer, who recognized four new members: Orion Photography, Camille Phillips, Triad Driving School and Back Alley Archery, which is having a ribbon cutting and grand opening on Saturday, March 12. She also noted an upcoming Lunch N Learn regarding Google applications next week; a ribbon cutting at Alcova Mortgage on March 24; the Easter Bunny at Mural Park from 12 noon until 2 p.m. on March 26 with the

Chamber as a “rain backup” location; April 7th Coffee at the Partnership for Children; April 8th Downtown Cruise In; and April 9th, Casino Night at the Events Center. Having the NC Retirement Community designation at the Visitor Center has been a great talking point for them, she said, as people have asked what it means, etc. She thanked the City for allowing them to display it. Foot traffic has increased at the Chamber, etc., she noted, and thanked Council for their support. She and Preston will be working on traffic-type statistics, etc. soon, she indicated. Councilman Balsley said he had discussed the ribbon cutting on Saturday with Diane, and she is taking care of it for those who will be going to the march.

Councilman Festerman – The Councilman said he has had some conversations with the City Manager about the State-controlled intersection at Main Street and Richardson Drive. It is a high traffic volume intersection, and there have been a lot of wrecks there. He said he thinks it would be a perfect location for a roundabout, which seem to be the wave of the future, taking less energy and less space. He said it would be a DOT project, but he’d like Council to get behind it. He said there’s no action at this time, but he wanted Council to know he was working on it. The Mayor asked if Councilman Festerman has talked with David Harrill? Councilman Festerman said it was Harrill who contacted him. When asked by the Mayor, he said he had not seen the surveys done when Harrill worked for the NCDOT. The Mayor said he understood that it would involve two roundabouts because of Pennrose coming in so near, but he encouraged Councilman Festerman to ask Harrill for those surveys. The Mayor said he felt a roundabout could handle the traffic, but he said the State had indicated it would take two roundabouts in a “figure eight” pattern, which he said doesn’t usually seem to work. The Mayor agreed that a roundabout with multiple entrances would work.

Mayor Donecker – No report.

MOVE TO THE FIRST-FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM FOR A CLOSED SESSION TO CONSULT WITH THE CITY ATTORNEY, DISCUSS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ESTABLISH AND/OR INSTRUCT STAFF OR NEGOTIATING AGENTS REGARDING PROPERTY PURSUANT TO G.S. 143-318.11(A)3, (4) AND (5).

Councilman Gorham made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Walker and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote, to go into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3), (4) and (5).

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Upon return to open session, Councilman Gorham made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote, to adjourn at approximately 8:22 p.m.

John M. “Jay” Donecker, Mayor

ATTEST:

Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC, City Clerk