

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE REIDSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
HELD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017 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
Newly Elected Councilwoman
Terresia Scoble

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Preston W. Mitchell, City Manager
Angela G. Stadler, CMC, City Clerk
William F. McLeod Jr., City Attorney

Mayor Donecker called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION.

Reverend Ralph Clayton of Covington Memorial Wesleyan Church, 3218 Vance Street, Reidsville, provided the invocation. Reverend Clayton thanked the Council for the proclamation from the City celebrating his 50 years as a pastor.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Council led in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2017 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Walker and unanimously approved in a 7-0 vote, to approve the November 14, 2017 minutes as submitted.

RECOGNATION OF OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBER TOM BALSLEY.

Mayor Donecker came forward to recognize outgoing Councilman Tom Balsley, who he asked to join him at the front of the dais. The Mayor read and presented Balsley with a Certificate of Recognition. (A COPY OF THE PROCLAMATION IS HEREIN INCORPORATED AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.)

Councilman Balsley said he recently heard someone say that when you are elected, you are as popular as you will ever be and when you finish your term, you are not as popular but at least you have learned a few things and accomplished a few things. He

complimented the employees of Reidsville, as well as the City Council members, who he said he considers his really good friends. He also said he felt very fortunate to have served with three really great City Managers: Kelly Almond, Michael Pearce and Preston Mitchell.

Mayor Donecker presented Balsley with a book of memories from the years he served on the Council and a rendering of the Reidsville City Seal created by local sculptor Brad Spencer. The back of the sculpture depicted the St. Louis Cardinals emblem, which holds special meaning to Balsley since he has been a fan since childhood.

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MAYOR.

Councilmember Terresia Scoble.

Judge Fred Wilkins came forward and administered the oath of office to newly elected Councilmember Terresia Scoble. Councilmember Scoble said everyone knows how much she loves Reidsville. She promised that she would work to the best of her ability and that she hoped next year by this time, everyone will still be as proud of her as they are now.

Councilman Harry Brown.

Judge Wilkins came forward and administered the oath of office to Councilman-Elect Harry Brown. Brown thanked everyone for coming out on a chilly evening and said it is an honor and a privilege again to serve as a representative on the Reidsville City Council. He said he had a conversation with Councilman Willie Hairston regarding how it felt to be re-elected. Brown stated the first time he was elected, he felt extremely excited and this time when he was re-elected, he felt excited and humble that the citizens showed their confidence and trust in him to re-elect him to a second term. He stressed that he is even more committed to serving the citizens of Reidsville, working with the Mayor and City Council, as well as the City Manager, than ever before.

Mayor Jay Donecker.

Judge Wilkins came forward and administered the oath of office to Mayor Jay Donecker. Mayor Donecker added his remarks building on what Councilman Brown had shared. He commented that there is a certain amount of trust the citizens of Reidsville place in us when we are elected, which is very humbling and honoring. He added that also includes a large responsibility to carry out the will and wishes of those citizens. He stressed that it is a two-way street and challenged the citizens of Reidsville to participate locally in government. He reiterated that when the community is involved, those values that began at home can be spread throughout the community, and it pushes up and can affect matters on a State and Federal level.

ELECTION OF THE MAYOR PRO TEM.

Mayor Donecker said the next thing on the agenda is to select the Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilman Gorham said four years ago he made the motion to select Harry Brown as Mayor Pro Tem and would like to make the motion to retain Harry Brown as Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Reidsville. Councilman Hairston seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved in a 7-0 vote.

COUNCIL MEMBER LIAISONS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

Mayor Donecker said he had asked Council members to submit their requests for Board and Commission liaison appointments. He stated those appointments will not be announced tonight, but will be announced at the January City Council meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Downtown Parking Violations Discussed.

Vernon Gammon of 1201 South Park Drive, Reidsville, came forward and congratulated those newly elected members of Council and acknowledged that it was good to see Councilman Festerman in attendance tonight. He said Festerman had been in his prayers.

Mr. Gammon said he also owns a business in Reidsville, Sacred Art Tattoo, which his stepson runs. He listed the business address as 238 S. Scales Street. Mr. Gammon said he would like to know the policy on parking in the downtown. He then gave a detailed summary of events regarding the ticketing of his stepson's vehicle. He stated his stepson had received in excess of 15 tickets over the course of the past few months, and said it appears Officer Charles Fagg with the Reidsville Police Department is targeting his stepson. Gammon said he had taken a few days off work to observe Officer Fagg for numerous hours, documenting the enforcement of parking violations with detailed notes and pictures. He stressed there are other people parked illegally that do not receive tickets. Gammon reiterated he would like the matter addressed.

Mayor Donecker said the issue will be reviewed and that parking in the downtown area will be addressed at the upcoming Council retreat. Mr. Gammon said the tickets have been paid and he does not expect any money back, but he just wants to know why the officer is zeroing in on this business and his stepson. City Manager Mitchell asked that Mr. Gammon leave the dates and times of the occurrences with Chief Hassell since the officers assigned to enforce parking wear body cameras.

Citizen thanks Police for Professionalism during Difficult Time.

Ms. Catherine Wilson of 615 Maple Avenue, Reidsville, accompanied by her brother Johnny Totten of 407 Cypress Drive, came forward to express their heartfelt appreciation for the way the Reidsville Police Department and the Fire Department handled the call on November 1, 2017 when unexpectedly their brother passed away. She said they treated the entire family with dignity and respect. She especially cited the professionalism of Lt. Cathy Osborne and Detective C.R. Curry. Ms. Wilson gave a detailed account of the evening and reiterated what a blessing it is to live in a town where unity is expressed. She thanked Reverend William Hairston for his phone call the next morning offering assistance in any way possible. Ms. Wilson said she is grateful she lives here and loves Reidsville.

Councilman shares Mayor's appointment to NCLM Board of Directors.

Mayor Donecker said before the Council goes into a brief closed session he would like to turn the time over to Councilman Festerman for a few words. Councilman Festerman shared that Mayor Jay Donecker was recently elected to the North Carolina League of

Municipalities' Board of Directors, which is an extreme honor. He stressed he knows the Mayor will do a fantastic job, just like he does for the City of Reidsville.

A BRIEF CLOSED SESSION UNDER G.S. 143-318.11 (A)(5) REGARDING REAL ESTATE ACQUISITION

Councilman Gorham made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Walker and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote, to go into closed session. (COUNCIL MEMBERS, CITY MANAGER, CITY CLERK, CITY ATTORNEY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER LEFT COUNCIL CHAMBERS FOR A BRIEF CLOSED SESSION.)

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Upon the return of Council and staff, Councilman Gorham made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Walker and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote, to come back into session.

Councilman Festerman made the motion, seconded by Councilman Gorham, and unanimously approved in a 7-0 vote, to accept a 40-plus acre plot, containing two parcels of land adjacent to Lake Reidsville from the Murray family.

Mayor Donecker clarified that the Murray family had decided to generously donate this property, which is adjacent to Lake Reidsville with right of access from Water Works Road. The family has requested the property be called "Murray's Point" and that a bench be placed at a spot to be called "Margaret's Bluff" where the family used to go and view the lake. The Mayor shared Councilmember Scoble's comment at learning the news, "There really is a Santa Claus."

MOTION TO ADJOURN.

Councilman Gorham made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown and unanimously approved by Council in a 7-0 vote, to adjourn.

Mayor Donecker invited those present to the first-floor conference room for a reception honoring the newly elected members of Council.

John M. "Jay" Donecker, Mayor

ATTEST:

Angela G. Stadler, CMC/NCCMC, City Clerk