# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GOLDSBORO CITY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

## **WORK SESSION**

The City Council of the City of Goldsboro, North Carolina, met in a Work Session in the Large Conference Room, City Hall Addition, 200 North Center Street, at 5:00 p.m. on September 18, 2023.

<u>Call to Order</u>. Mayor Ham called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call.

Present: Mayor David Ham, Presiding

Mayor Pro Tem Brandi Matthews Councilwoman Hiawatha Jones Councilman Bill Broadaway Councilman Charles Gaylor, IV

Councilman Greg Batts

Also Present: Tim Salmon, City Manager

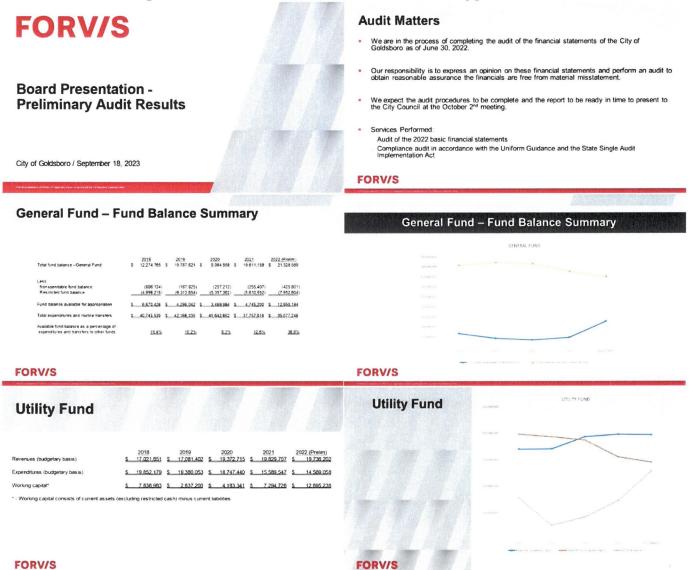
Matt Livingston, Assistant City Manager Harry Lorello, Everett, Womble & Lawrence

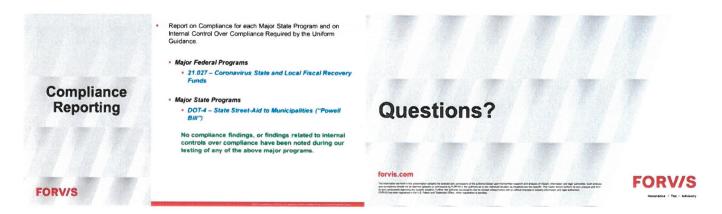
Laura Getz, City Clerk

<u>Adoption of the Agenda</u>. Mayor Ham asked that a Closed Session item for Personnel be added to the agenda. Upon motion of Councilman Broadaway, seconded by Councilwoman Jones, and unanimously carried, Council adopted the amended agenda.

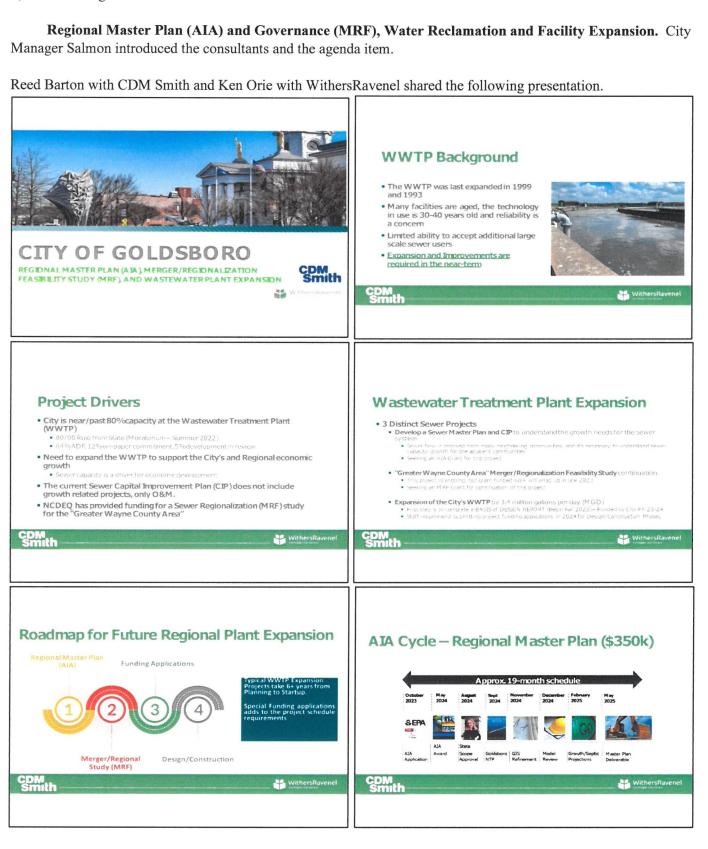
### New Business.

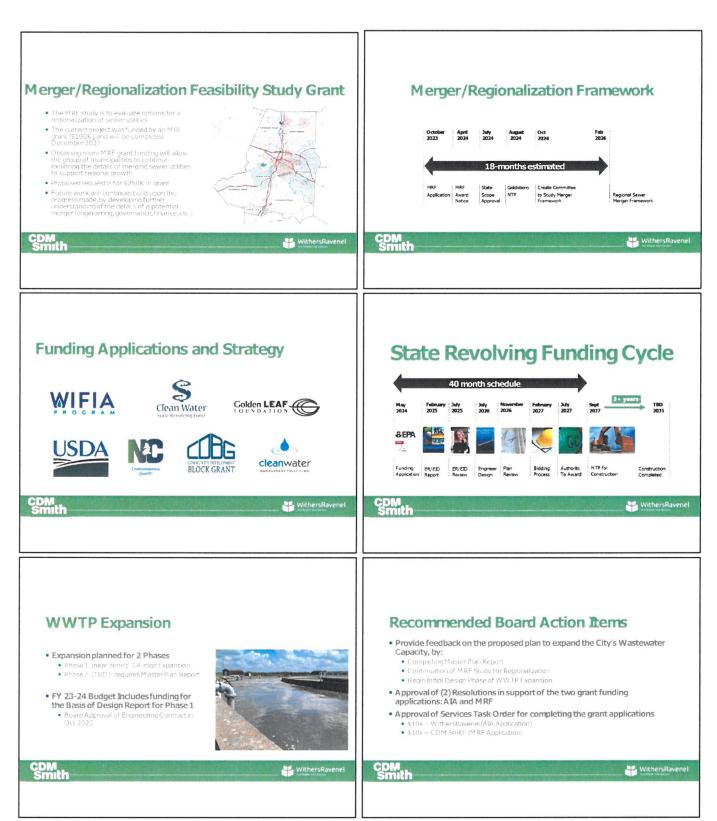
FY21-22 Audit Update. Chad Cooke with FORVIS shared the following presentation via Zoom.





Council discussed the presentation with Catherine Gwynn, Finance Director. FORVIS will present the audit at the October 2, 2023 meeting.





Mayor Ham, City Manager Salmon and Assistant City Manager Livingston discussed the presentation with the consultants in preparation of the resolutions to authorize the grants on the consent agenda (Item J). Mayor Ham asked that the feasibility study workshop be held prior to Thanksgiving.

Community Justice/NC Against Gun Violence Briefing on Community Violence Intervention Strategies. Mayor Pro Tem Matthews introduced Mr. Kendrick Cunningham, Grassroots Leader. Mr. Cunningham and Ms. Becky Ceartas, Executive Director with North Carolinians Against Gun Violence shared the following presentation via Zoom.



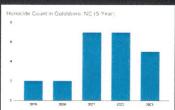
# What is Community Gun Violence?

The John Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions defines community gun violence as a term used to describe the high concentration of relationship-based gun violence that takes place between <u>non-intimately related</u> individuals in under-resourced city neighborhoods.

# Kendrick Cunningham, NC Grassroots Leader

- Grew up in an area of concentrated poverty
- Difficult access to healthy recreational activity in walking distance
- First experience with community gun violence was in high school
- Directly experienced mass community gun violence on Juneteenth 2020

#### The Community Gun Violence Epidemic in Goldsboro, NC



#### The Community Gun Violence Epidemic in Goldsboro, NC



## Cost of Gun Violence in Goldsboro

Each gun homicide directly costs North Carolina taxpayers \$681,900

Each gun injury directly costs North Carolina taxpayers

Based on the number of gun homicides (7), gun homicides cost Goldsboro taxpayers \$4.77 million

Based on the number of gun injuries (24), gun injuries cost Goldsboro taxpayers \$987,336

### Core Components of a Successful Violence Reduction Strategy

- Data-driven identification
  Respectful communication of the risk of participating in gun violence
  Make services, supports, and opportunities available that address the needs and build on the strengths

### UnitedErie: An Evidence Based Approach to Violence Prevention Collaboratives

An advisory collaborative formed in 2010 with the purpose of reducing crime and violence in Eric County, Pennsylvania.

The collaborative used metrics to determine strategy, identify funding and implement strategic government programs that decreased violent crime.

Due to the work of this collaborative, homicides in Erie County decreased from 11 to 4 over a four year period between 2013 and 2017.

### Additional Tips for Small Towns to Explore when Thinking About Implementing Violence Reduction on the Ground

Centralize data-driven identification processes within city and county governments

Start a public-community-private collaborative that focuses on reducing gun violence in your community

A successful gun violence prevention strategy will include long-term prevention, immediate intervention practices, and comprehensive victim and re-entry services.

Leverage business and municipal purchasing power in the fight to end gun violence

### FUND INVEST

# COMMON EVIDENCE BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION MODELS

FUND INVEST

# CVI STRATEGIES TARGET THOSE MOST AT RISK



60% OF GUN VIOLENCE CAN PREDICTED THROUGH A SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS

LESS THAN 2% ARE CONNECTED TO 80% OF COMMUNITY VIOLENCE

40% OF THOSE SHOT ARE KILLED OR INJURED AGAIN WITHIN 5 YEARS

THIS POPULATION IS THE HARDEST TO REACH WITHOUT TARGETED STRATEGIES

# VIOLENCE INTERVENTION

COGNITIVE BEHAVIOR THERAPY

Community and Hospital Programs focused on directly intervening interpersonal or group conflict, negotiating ceasefires and shifting neighborhood cultural norms.

Programs focused on changing the mindset mental health and ultimately the lifestyle of those most at-risk of gun violence.

# SURVIVOR SUPPORT SERVICES

Programs focused on providing social services for survivors of gun violence, including resources like housing employment, trauma therapy, etc.

# ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

Programs focused on changing the "ecology" of communities most impacted by gun violence through improving the quality of life, access to resources and overall living conditions.

# Let's talk about...

work with those at the highest risk, reducing the cycle of violence through

# Community Violence Intervention (CVI) **Programs: A Localized Approach**

### Street Outreach: Cure Violence

In these program, outreach violence interrupters mediate and prevent retaliatory violence to those who may be at risk to commit or become victims to gun violence. Street outreach programs include long-term support to people and communities impacted by gun violence, as well as immediate crisis response.

An evaluation of <u>Cure Violence</u> used in the South Bronx foun that street outreach efforts were associated with a 37% reduction in gun injuries and a 63% decline in shooting victimizations.

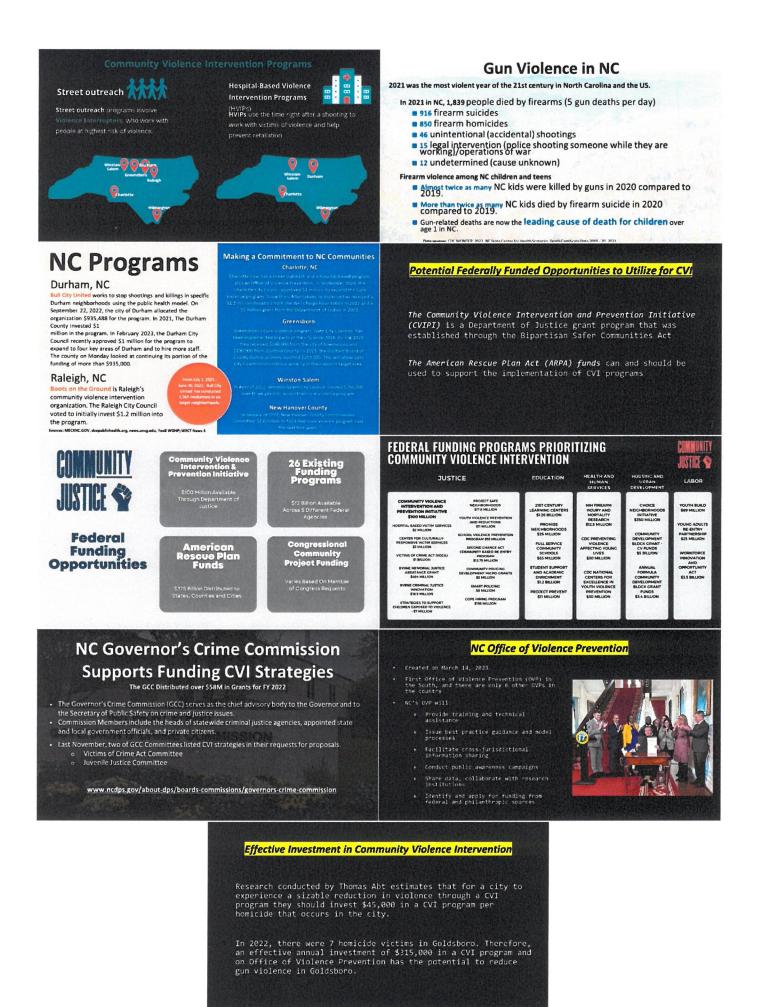
Sources: Everytown.org, thehavi.org, Cure Violence Global, Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery, Proceedi National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency

## Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs (HVIPs)



HVIPs are founded on the notion that there is a distinct window of opportunity in the aftermath of a severe trauma to actively participate with victims of violence and help prevent retaliation. HVIPs have culturally competent case managers that work with individuals in the hospital and afterwards to connect with social services, counseling, and even relocation.





Council discussed the presentation. Mayor Ham extended an invitation for Mr. Cunningham to come to Goldsboro to discuss this matter further. Mayor Pro Tem Matthews discussed the creation of a collaborative to start beginning the work. Council discussed the issue and this being a county-wide initiative. Council would like to address the issue again in the next couple of weeks.

**Boards and Commissions Vacancies Discussion.** Laura Getz, City Clerk shared information regarding current vacancies on the city's boards and commissions. She shared Barbara Baker has applied for the Recreation Advisory Commission and Edna Matthews has applied for the Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities. Council provided consensus to bring back a resolution to the next meeting appointing the members.

Ms. Getz also shared the city needs citizen participation on boards and commissions.

**Consent Agenda Review.** Items G - L on the consent agenda were reviewed. Further discussion included the following:

Item G. Ordinance Establishing a Utility Capital Reserve Fund for System Development Fees. Catherine Gwynn, Finance Director presented the item. Councilman Gaylor and Councilwoman Jones shared concerns regarding System Development Fees.

Item I. Accept or Reject Initial Bid and Authorize Finance to Advertise for Upset Bids for 200 N. Carolina Street to Norris L. Uzzell. Catherine Gwynn, Finance Director presented the item.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to accept the offer. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mathews and unanimously carried.

Item K. Resolution to Increase Police Department and Fire Department Pay. City Manager Salmon presented the item. Councilman Gaylor discussed the pay grades with City Manager Salmon and Chief Mike West. Councilman Broadaway inquired about compression.

### **Closed Session.**

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to go into Closed Session for personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Matthews and unanimously carried.

After the Closed Session was held, Council came out of Closed Session and back into Open Session.

### **Items Requiring Individual Action.**

Item M. Adoption of An Ordinance Amending Chapter 53: Water and Sewer Systems of the City of Goldsboro's Code of Ordinances. The item was presented by Assistant City Manager Livingston.

City Ordinance 53.17, last amended 8-15-83, states the conditions for making water and sewer connections for residential, commercial, and industrial property. For residential and commercial property (paragraph (A)(1)): "Access to water and sewer lines will be provided to a requesting developer or private property owner outside the city limits only upon the receipt and approval of a voluntary petition for annexation by a developer or private property owner who are deemed the same." For industrial property (paragraph (B)(3)): "An industry requesting access to water and sewer lines will be granted such access upon execution of a formal agreement with the city to file a petition for voluntary annexation on or before the expiration of seven years from the date occupancy begins."

It is a standard practice for cities to request voluntary annexation upon satisfactory provision of water and sewer services for residential, commercial, and industrial property. Changing the industrial property voluntary annexation period from seven years from the date occupancy begins to the date occupancy begins would be consistent with local government practices and treat residential, commercial, and industrial properties the same. A water and sewer agreement with an industrial customer that includes voluntary annexation may also include economic development incentives.

City management recommends City Ordinance 53.17 paragraph (B) for industrial property be modified to state:

- (2) "The city will agree to provide access to water and sewer lines to any industry requesting such extension, subject to available capacity, provided that industry locates within three miles of the city limits."
- (3) "An industry requesting access to water and sewer lines will be granted such access upon execution of a formal agreement with the city to file a petition for voluntary annexation on or before the expiration of seven years from the date occupancy begins."

Councilman Broadaway and Councilwoman Jones shared concerns regarding the proposed ordinance. Assistant City Manager Livingston shared comments regarding the proposed ordinance and the needed growth in Goldsboro. Council discussed the item. Councilman Gaylor asked for more information to be brought to a future meeting to compare rates with other municipalities.

Councilwoman Jones made a motion to table updating this ordinance for further information, research, and communication. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gaylor. Mayor Ham, Mayor Pro Tem Matthews, Councilwoman Jones, Councilman Broadaway, Councilman Gaylor voted for the motion. Councilman Batts voted against the motion. The motion passed 5:1. Mayor Ham stated the item will be brought back to the October 2, 2023 meeting.

Mayor Ham recessed the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

# **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

The City Council of the City of Goldsboro, North Carolina, met in Regular Session in Council Chambers, City Hall, 214 North Center Street, at 7:00 p.m. on September 18, 2023.

Mayor Ham called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Ben Dowden with Freedom Baptist Church provided the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Roll Call.

Present: Mayor David Ham, Presiding

Mayor Pro Tem Brandi Matthews Councilwoman Hiawatha Jones Councilman Bill Broadaway

Councilman Charles Gaylor, IV (arrived at 7:01 p.m.)

Councilman Greg Batts

Also Present: Tim Salmon, City Manager

Matt Livingston, Assistant City Manager

Harry Lorello, Everett, Womble & Lawrence, LLP

Laura Getz, City Clerk

<u>Approval of Minutes.</u> Councilman Batts made a motion to approve the minutes of the Work Session and Regular Meeting of September 5, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones and unanimously carried.

## Presentations.

Resolution Expressing Appreciation for Services Rendered by Lynn Doug Bethea, Jr. as an Employee of The City of Goldsboro for More Than 22 Years. *Resolution Adopted*. Lynn Doug Bethea, Jr. retires on October 1, 2023, as a Police Captain with more than 22 years of service with the Goldsboro Police Department. Doug began his career on January 17, 2001, as a Police Officer with the Goldsboro Police Department. On September 27, 2006, Doug was promoted to Police Investigator with the Goldsboro Police Department. On April 16, 2014, Doug was promoted to Police Seargent with the Goldsboro Police Department. On October 24, 2018, Doug was promoted to Police Captain with the Goldsboro Police Department, where he has served until his retirement. Doug has proven himself to be a dedicated and efficient public servant who has gained the admiration and respect of his fellow workers and the citizens of the City of Goldsboro. The Mayor and City Council of the City of Goldsboro are desirous, on behalf of themselves, City employees, and the citizens of the City of Goldsboro, of expressing to Doug their deep appreciation and gratitude for the service rendered by him to the City over the years and express to Doug our very best wishes for success, happiness, prosperity, and good health in his future endeavors.

This Resolution shall be incorporated into the official Minutes of the City of Goldsboro, and shall be in full force and effect from and after this 18th day of September, 2023.

Councilman Broadaway made a motion to adopt the following entitled retirement resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-61 "RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY LYNN DOUG BETHEA, JR. AS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE CITY OF GOLDSBORO FOR MORE THAN 22 YEARS"

**Kappa Epsilon Psi Military Sorority, Inc. (Goldsboro Sigma Chapter) Presentation and Proclamation.** Read by Mayor Ham: The Goldsboro City Council proclaimed September 2023 as, KAPPA EPSILON PSI MILITARY SORORITY, INC., (GOLDSBORO SIGMA CHAPTER) MONTH in Goldsboro, North Carolina and expressed our gratitude for serving those who serve.

Kappa Epsilon Psi Military Sorority, Inc. (Goldsboro Sigma Chapter) presented a plaque to Mayor Ham for his service to Wayne County, the country and for being a community partner.

# Public Hearings.

SU-13-23 Special Event Venue (POE/No ABC)—South of US 70W between Hargrove St. and Claridge Nursery Rd. —Continued from 8/21/23. *Findings Adopted*. The item was presented by Kenny Talton, Planning Director.

ADDRESS: 1316 W. Grantham St., Unit A & B

PARCEL #: 2690228003

PROPERTY OWNER: Woodmont Goldsboro, LLC.

APPLICANT: Heather Giddens

The applicant requests a Special Use Permit for the establishment of special event venues to include weddings, birthday parties, anniversaries, etc.

The proposed Place of Entertainment w/no ABC permit is located in the Shopping Center Zoning District. The Shopping Center Zoning District is established to provide for a mix of office, retail, and service establishments in one development.

The district is intended to promote high quality, unified and accessible developments serving the needs of the community and surrounding area.

According to the City's Unified Development Code, Places of Entertainment w/no ABC are permitted only after obtaining a Special Use Permit from Goldsboro City Council. In addition, the following are approval criteria for the proposed use:

- 1. Upon a finding that there has been an increase in the volume, intensity or frequency of the use or a use different than set forth in the special use permit, the reviewing authority after a public hearing may modify, suspend or revoke the special use permit.
- 2. Six copies of the floor plan, drawn to scale, shall be submitted indicating the proposed uses within the structure including the location and number of all games and amusements.
- 3. A satisfactory statement setting forth the method and frequency of litter collection and disposal shall be submitted with the site plan.

Frontage: Approx. 40 ft. Zoning: Shopping Center

Existing Use: The property currently consists of a commercial structure with individual tenant spaces occupied for business. The tenant spaces proposed for use as a special event venue were formerly occupied as a bingo hall.

The City's Land Use Plan locates this parcel within the Commercial land use designation. The Shopping Center Zoning District is a corresponding district for the Commercial land use designation.

The proposed Place of Entertainment w/no ABC permit will provide two large assembly areas, restrooms and storage area for customers of the facility. Occupancy of the facility will be determined by Goldsboro's Chief Building Inspector in accordance with the North Carolina State Building Code.

Hours of Operation

• Monday-Sunday: 12:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Employees: TBD

Due to the nature of this proposal, TRC was not asked to review. If the Special Use Permit is approved, a building permit and final inspection will be required for the upfit of the existing tenant space to ensure that all life and safety codes have been satisfied before occupancy of the facility.

At the City Council meeting on August 21, 2023, the Mayor closed the public hearing pertaining to SU-13-23. Council continued the vote until September 18, 2023. Council shall enter into deliberation, and vote on each of the four findings in order to determine whether or not the Special Use Permit shall be issued. See the attached worksheet for the four findings to be voted on and staffs comments related to each finding. Council does have the ability to continue the hearing or place conditions upon its approval as long as Council is able to conclude that evidence exists in the record to support the condition. The Mayor of Goldsboro shall sign the Order to Approve or Deny, that reflects the results of the hearing and deliberation at the September 18, 2023, City Council meeting.

City Council entered into deliberation and voted on each of the four findings in order to determine whether or not the Special Use Permit should be issued.

- 1. Councilman Broadaway made a motion that the use will not materially endanger the public health or safety. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Matthews and unanimously carried.
- 2. Mayor Pro Tem Matthews made a motion that the use will not substantially injure the beneficial use of adjoining or abutting property. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones and unanimously carried.
- 3. Mayor Pro Tem Matthews made a motion that the use will be in harmony with existing development and uses within the area in which it is located. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gaylor and unanimously carried.
- 4. Councilwoman Jones made a motion that the use will be in general conformity with the City of Goldsboro Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The motion was seconded by Councilman Broadaway and unanimously carried.

SU-14-23 R&R Body Shop, Inc./R&R Auto Sales (Automobile Sales-Used) – W. side of S. George St. between Crump St. Carver Blvd. *Public Hearing Held and Findings Adopted*. The item was presented by Kenny Talton, Planning Director, after being properly sworn in.

ADDRESS: 1011 S. George St. PARCEL #: 2599506412

PROPERTY OWNER: R&R Body Shop, Inc.

APPLICANT: Rickey Thompson

The applicant requests a Special Use Permit for the establishment of Automobile Sales-Used, located in the General Business Zoning District. The General Business Zoning District is established to accommodate the widest range of uses, providing general goods and services to the community.

According to the City's Unified Development Code, Automobile Sales-Used is permitted only after obtaining a Special Use Permit from Goldsboro City Council. In addition, the following are approval criteria for the proposed special use:

- 1. The minimum lot area is fifteen thousand square feet.
- 2. The minimum lot frontage and width shall be one hundred feet, unless the cars for sale are driven to the site or delivered by nothing larger than a two-car carrier. If either of these conditions is met, there shall be no minimum lot frontage or width.
- 3. No parking of used vehicles or customer vehicles shall be allowed within the required street yard landscape area.
- 4. No vehicles for sale shall be parked within twenty feet of residentially zoned property or any buffer area as required in Section 6.3.9.
- 5. One loading area, not less than twenty by fifty feet shall be provided unless no vehicles will be delivered by car carrier
- 6. The special use permit shall be issued for a five-year period with automatic renewal for an additional five years if the site and structures are maintained in a satisfactory manner as originally approved.
- 7. All vehicular display areas shall be improved with paving and curb and gutter.
- 8. Used automobile sales facilities shall be retrofitted to comply with the landscape requirements of Section 2.4.10 as a condition of Special Use Permit approval.

Frontage: Approx. 279.5 ft. (W. Holly St.) Approx. 405 ft. (N. James St.)

Zoning: General Industry (I-2)

Existing Use: The site was previously occupied by Prince Tire Co.

The City's Land Use Plan locates this parcel within the Commercial land use designation. The General Business Zoning District is a corresponding district for the Commercial land use designation.

According to the applicant's submitted site plan application and site plan, the proposed use is for Automobile Sales-Used and towing services with outside storage.

Hours of Operation

• M-F; 8am – 5 pm

### Employees:

• 2

Due to the nature of this proposal, the City Technical Review Committee was not asked to review. If the Special Use Permit is approved, site plan approval will be required before the issuance of building permits.

Mr. Talton stated the following: the application reflects automobile used car sales. It also reflects towing services and outside storage. In looking at the application and talking with the owner, we had a good clarification for what he wants to do. You'll see in your agenda packet, a lot of times if staff has conditions that they would like to recommend, the council has the opportunity to place those conditions on the permit going forward as long as it's reasonable with our zoning ordinances and anything else that would help to promote the standards that we vote upon at the end of the public hearing.

Planning staff is recommending that all outside storage areas associated with the towing service be located in the rear and side yards; that the entire outdoor storage area be surrounded by a six foot in height fence appropriately screened from onsite and off-site views from the public; that no loading or unloading of vehicles shall occur outside of the fenced area; that no vehicles taller than six feet in height will be allowed in the outside storage area; that nothing other than junked, totaled or inoperable automobiles shall be allowed to be stored within the outside storage area; that junked, totaled or inoperable motor vehicles shall not be parked in view of any road right-of-way or adjoining property; that no vehicle that is awaiting removal shall be stored or parked for more than 30 consecutive days and that no vehicle shall be parked or stored as a source of parts upon the property.

Mr. Talton stated the following: In speaking with Mr. Thompson, the owner and operator, 30 consecutive days may be extended up to 45-60, possibly 90 days because of the nature of the towing business. Sometimes a lot of the cars that are being evaluated, under investigation, insurance claims and things of that nature, maybe 30 days might be too tight.

Planning staff recommendations were formulated after reviewing Section 5.3.5.1 Additional Standards for the following Zoning Districts:

- Highway Business
- Neighborhood Business
- General Business
- Airport Business
- Central Business District
- Shopping Center

Automobile Repair, Service and Inspection facilities including towing are permitted by right in the General Business Zoning District. In addition, all outdoor storage areas for vehicles other than customer parking and automobile sales displays shall comply with the same set of standards as recommended by Planning staff for SU-14-23.

Mayor Ham opened the Public Hearing. The following person spoke after being properly sworn in:

Mayor Ham asked the applicant, Mr. Thompson, if he understands the conditions that were specified or spoken to by the Planning Director.

1. Rick Thompson, stated yes, I understand.

No one else spoke and the Public Hearing was closed.

Council does have the ability to continue the hearing or place conditions upon its approval as long as Council is able to conclude that evidence exists in the record to support the condition. The Mayor of Goldsboro shall sign the Order to Approve or Deny, that reflects the results of the hearing and deliberation at the September 18, 2023, City Council meeting.

After the Public Hearing was closed, City Council entered into deliberation and voted on each of the four findings in order to determine whether or not the Special Use Permit should be issued.

- 1. Councilwoman Jones made a motion that based on the conditions recommended by the Planning staff, the use will not materially endanger the public health or safety. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gaylor and unanimously carried.
- 2. Councilman Broadaway made a motion that the use will not substantially injure the beneficial use of adjoining or abutting property. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones and unanimously carried.
- 3. Councilman Gaylor made a motion that the use will be in harmony with existing development and uses within the area in which it is located. The motion was seconded by Councilman Batts and unanimously carried.
- 4. Councilman Gaylor made a motion that the use will be in general conformity with the City of Goldsboro Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The motion was seconded by Councilman Batts and unanimously carried.

SU-15-23 Red Jupiter, LLC. (Storage of Flammable Liquids and Gases) – East side of N. James St. between W. Holly St. and W. Vine St. *Public Hearing Held and Findings Adopted*. The item was presented by Kenny Talton, Planning Director, after being properly sworn in.

ADDRESS: 610 N. James St. PARCEL #: 2599984781

PROPERTY OWNER: Red Jupiter, LLC.

APPLICANT: Red Jupiter, LLC. c/o Mr. Rohit Shetty

The applicant requests a Special Use Permit for the storage of flammable liquids and gases in association with a petroleum remediation facility in the General Industry (I-2) Zoning District.

Mr. Talton stated the following: Most of you are familiar with the old Moffat Oil Company at 610 N. James Street, this is the site that they are looking at establishing their business and revamping the site, if approved by Council.

The General Industry Zoning District is established to accommodate the widest range of manufacturing, wholesale, and distribution uses.

According to the City's Unified Development Code, Storage of Flammable Liquids and Gases is permitted only after obtaining a Special Use Permit from Goldsboro City Council. In addition, the following are approval criteria for the proposed use:

- 1. The proposed facility shall conform to the requirements of the Fire Prevention Codes of the North Carolina State Building Code, National Board of Fire Underwriters and the latest edition of the "Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code, NFPA 30" of the National Fire Protection Association.
- 2. A dike that forms a basin equal to the capacity of the largest tank shall surround all tanks constructed above the ground level. All tanks shall be located at least twenty-five feet from any property line or in accordance with Section 6.3.9, whichever is greater.
- 3. A security fence at least eight feet in height and three strands of barbed or razor wire shall surround all facilities used for the storage and handling of flammable materials.
- 4. If there is a yard area between the fence and the rear and side property lines, the area not used for customer and employee parking shall be planted with grass and have landscaping composed of large trees spaced not more than forty feet apart and not less than one row of shrubs thirty inches in height, spaced so that they will form a continuous visual and opaque screen six feet in height within three growing seasons.
- 5. If there is no yard area between the fence and property line, the area within ten feet of the inside of the fence shall have landscaping composed of large trees spaced not more than forty feet apart and not less than one row of shrubs

thirty inches in height, spaced so that they will form a continuous visual and opaque screen six feet in height within three growing seasons.

- 6. If the perimeter fence is greater than five hundred linear feet in length, the required planting is waived for the sections of the fence not adjacent to residentially zoned property or not visible from the public right-of-way.
- 7. The location, size and extent of tanks, pumps and other equipment, setbacks, screening, and fencing may be modified as necessary to ensure public safety.

Frontage: Approx. 279.5 ft. (W. Holly St.)

Approx. 405 ft. (N. James St.)

Zoning: General Industry (I-2)

Existing Use: The site was previously occupied by Brewer-Hendley Oil Co. and formerly known as Moffatt Oil Co.

The City's Land Use Plan locates this parcel within the Industrial land use designation. The City of Goldsboro Comprehensive Land Use Plan emphasizes that the purpose of this sector is to establish and protect industrial areas for the use of prime industrial operations and for the distribution of products at wholesale. The General Industry (I-2) Zoning District is a corresponding district in the Industry land use designation.

According to the applicant's submitted site plan application, site plan, and supporting documentation, the proposed use is for petroleum remediation operations. The applicant intends to utilize the existing petroleum bulk plant facility to receive and remediate petroleum hydrocarbon impacted ground water generated from petroleum underground storage tank (UST)/aboveground storage tank (AST) sites.

Hours of Operation

- M-F; 8am 5 pm
- 24 hrs. (unmanned)

### Employees:

• 1-5 (estimated as necessary)

Due to the nature of this proposal, the City Technical Review Committee was not asked to review. If the Special Use Permit is approved, site plan approval will be required before the issuance of building permits.

Planning staff has recommended that applicant receive discharge approval to the City of Goldsboro Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) via the sanitary sewer system from the City of Goldsboro before site plan approval.

Mr. Talton stated the following: Staff has had preliminary consultation with members of the company, Red Jupiter LLC. We've had this with members of our TRC as well to understand the nature of what they're doing there. Again, it's for a petroleum remediation bulk plant facility. One of the things that they're going to be doing in the remediation process is they are going to be wanting to discharge the remnants of the remediation process into our sanitary sewer system. They have to have approvals not only from city but from state officials as well. We asked Mr. Bert Sherman, Public Utilities Director, to be here tonight in case you have additional questions going forward. He is also part of the process that has to vet this activity and ultimately give approval to make sure that whatever is being discharged into our system is safe and that it's not going to harm our wastewater treatment plant operations.

Planning staff recommends the following condition upon the Special Use Permit if approved by City Council: The applicant intends to utilize the existing petroleum bulk plant facility to receive and remediate petroleum hydrocarbon impacted ground water generated from petroleum underground storage tank (UST)/aboveground storage tank (AST) sites. Treated ground water from the proposed facility remediation system is proposed to be discharged into the City of Goldsboro Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) via the sanitary sewer system after receiving approval for the discharge. Planning staff recommends that applicant receive discharge approval from the City of Goldsboro before site plan approval.

Councilwoman Jones stated the following: Is there someone here that can speak to safety and monitoring the gases and liquids and petroleum and how it works because that can be dangerous.

Mayor Ham stated the following: Mr. Sherman you have heard the comments made by Mr. Talton in terms of the flow into our sewer system. Do you have any comments you want to make?

Bert Sherman, Public Utilities Director, stated the following after being properly sworn in: They would have to maintain limits that is established by the EPA and by the Department of Environmental Quality plus with the city sewer use ordinance so before they can even discharge, they have to meet those requirements. In that requirement for the sewer use ordinance, they have to show that they're testing and making sure that the water parameters are meeting what they're saying they're meeting, they can exceed those. I've got no issue with this long as they meet their parameters.

Mayor Ham: Who monitors their...

Mr. Sherman: They do, and we also do. We'll have spot checks.

Mayor Ham: They document, and you monitor.

Mr. Sherman: That's correct.

Mayor Ham: You do it on a scheduled basis?

Mr. Sherman: Yes sir, it could be biweekly or monthly, whatever needs to be established at this time.

Councilman Broadaway: After serving at Camp Lajeune, here we are reclaiming petroleum. I'd like to know how that works, so that we don't later on down the road and in our water facility we don't have some of that as what has happened at Camp Lejeune.

Mr. Sherman: I understand what you're saying but to demonstrate what they would do; I would suggest that the folks that are trying to obtain the permit.... I know what you're asking.

Councilman Broadaway: We thought we were reclaiming it all the time and we found out we weren't reclaiming it. I just want to feel better about that.

Mayor Ham opened the Public Hearing. The following people spoke after being properly sworn in:

Rohit Shetty, applicant: My name is Rohit Shetty. I'm a licensed professional engineer and I will be responsible for designing the remediation system. The questions you asked are definitely very valid questions and that's one of the requirements as a licensed engineer that I have to also uphold public health and the environment and that was one of the reasons why I actually got into this profession. One of the things that we're doing here, so the facility as such has operated as a bulk plant since the 1950s and it's changed. It has stored gasoline, diesel, kerosene in the past and now, before Red Jupiter acquired the facility, they were storing just lubricants and heavier fuels. The facility has always had storage of that kind but what we are proposing to do is actually remediate, clean up any petroleum product water that comes from underground storage tank sites like you know gas stations or like you know above ground storage tanks, so the facility actually has above ground tanks which range in size from 3,000 gallons to 10,000 gallons. There are about 24 above ground tanks right now at the plant and you know with respect to spill concerns that was the first thing that we do is that any petroleum bulk plant has to satisfy EPA's mandated requirement of having a spill prevention countermeasure and control plan, which basically means that if there is any kind of petroleum spill on site, it has to be contained on the property and one of the ways of containment is that first of all that the tanks are inspected on a pretty regular basis then the tanks are also placed in a diked area, compound, with the concrete floor so that if there is any spill, none of that gets into the groundwater or the soil. So that's the first and then it has concrete block walls so that nothing actually escapes this diked area. That's already in place, even the trucks that would come and bring in fuel, they actually have to park on a concrete pad so that nothing actually you know even during the transfer of fluids nothing gets into the soil and then gets into the groundwater so those are actually EPA requirements that already have to be in place for all petroleum bulk storage plants and so we actually helped develop a SPCC plan (spill prevention plan) so that's already been in place since 2021 and the biggest change that is going to happen now is that the pure petroleum product that used to be stored, which is the one that is the highest flammable and developed like if you have a gas, etc, that is not going to be stored on the facility anymore so it's going to be a more diluted form of petroleum product you know which is mixed with groundwater so what we're doing in effect is, a site that has had a spill, we will actually pump that water out in vacuum trucks and those trucks will come into the facility, they will have a designated area where these trucks will park, they will go through the product from the tanker will then flow into storage tanks which will then be cleaned up and so the cleaning process also is, so the only change that we will make is that we will have a treatment shed which would be also placed inside this concrete diked area so that if there is any spill from a pump or anything, everything is contained within that diked area so nothing can be released outside of the diked area even if say like when it rains, one of the requirements is, you'll see at gas stations, you have little gas bottles and all that you see right, so even that you know when it comes into contact with rainwater can actually leave the property. So typically, you would see some of that inside the diked area so even that water which collects inside has to be inspected and if there is no oil sheen only then can it be discharged and the discharge that we are proposing to do is that all this water that is received is going to be first pumped into a holding tank which is inside this diked area, it'll allow the sediments to settle down and so this product will have a mix of undissolved petroleum product and dissolved phase product so the treatment process the way it works is, it goes through what is called an oil water separator. so the petroleum which actually floats which is lighter than water it will float, that's what gets skimmed off and goes into another above ground tank and then the dissolved product then goes through a series of treatment where it passes through air stripping so that the volatiles are removed, then it goes through carbon absorption where any of the petroleum contaminants which actually constitute gasoline or any of that, those get taken off and then the treated water then goes through to another holding tank where we actually collect samples at every stage; at the influent, like in when water is actually contaminated water is brought into the facility we collect sample over there because that sample actually helps us design you know how much of carbon is needed, what kind of air flow rate we need so that all the you know the petroleum compounds are removed so what goes out will actually meet or exceed the discharge permit requirements. So, there will be the state which will be involved in it and of course the city also.

Mayor Ham: The tanks on site will be used, right, and those tanks have been there for a number of years.

Mr. Shetty: Right.

Mayor Ham: I'm assuming that a good inspection of those tanks have been made to make sure they are in good state of condition.

Mr. Shetty: Yes, so the inspections have been ongoing through the life of the facility. Some of the older tanks have been replaced with new ones and you know the concrete dikes have also been upgraded so as a requirement of the SPCC (spill prevention plan) we have to inspect the tanks too but before we do any of the treatment stuff we're going to have to inspect the tanks and make sure that the tanks that are good, in good condition are the ones that we will use. Like I said there are about 24 above ground tanks right now. We don't intend to use all of them. Some of those will be just empty as spare but yes definitely, to answer your question, yes, we do have to inspect the tanks before we do any storage.

Mr. Talton: The site has to meet building and fire code requirements as well, so when you hear about the dike being built around (again what's existing is good) it still has to meet building and fire code requirements as well so there's additional scrutiny involved with this as well as state, federal, and local regulations.

Mayor Ham: I knew Mr. Dick Moffat who operated that company for years and years and probably was always in compliance with whatever fire safety and other ordinances but it's reassuring to hear that inspection is going to be made and everything is ready to go.

No one else spoke and the Public Hearing was closed.

Council does have the ability to continue the hearing or place conditions upon its approval as long as Council is able to conclude that evidence exists in the record to support the condition. The Mayor of Goldsboro shall sign the Order to Approve or Deny, that reflects the results of the hearing and deliberation at the September 18, 2023, City Council meeting.

After the Public Hearing was closed, City Council entered into deliberation and voted on each of the four findings in order to determine whether or not the Special Use Permit should be issued.

- 1. Mayor Pro Tem Matthews made a motion that based on the conditions recommended by the Planning staff, the use will not materially endanger the public health or safety. The motion was seconded by Councilman Batts and unanimously carried.
- 2. Councilwoman Jones made a motion that the use will not substantially injure the beneficial use of adjoining or abutting property. The motion was seconded by Councilman Broadaway and unanimously carried.
- 3. Councilman Gaylor made a motion that the use will be in harmony with existing development and uses within the area in which it is located. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones and unanimously carried.
- 4. Councilman Broadaway made a motion that the use will be in general conformity with the City of Goldsboro Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones and unanimously carried.

**Public Comment Period.** Mayor Ham opened the public comment period. The following people spoke:

- 1. Tenisha Saylor shared concerns regarding lack of shelters for the homeless.
- 2. Esther Isler Johnson shared concerns regarding accommodations for the homeless.

No one else spoke and the public comment period was closed.

<u>Consent Agenda</u> – Approved as Recommended. City Manager Salmon presented the Consent Agenda. All items were considered to be routine and could be enacted simultaneously with one motion and a roll call vote. If a Councilmember so requested, any item(s) could be removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed and considered separately. In that event, the remaining item(s) on the Consent Agenda would be acted on with one motion and roll call vote. Councilman Broadaway moved the items on the Consent Agenda, Items G - L be approved as recommended by the City Manager and staff. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Jones and a roll call vote resulted in all members voting in favor of the motion.

The items on the Consent Agenda were as follows:

Ordinance Establishing a Utility Capital Reserve Fund for System Development Fees (6111). Ordinance Adopted. The item was presented by Catherine Gwynn, Finance Director.

North Carolina General Statute §159-18 authorizes any local government to establish and maintain a capital reserve fund for any purpose for which it may issue bonds.

North Carolina General Statute §159-48 outlines the purposes for which bonds may be issued.

North Carolina General Statute §162A, Article 8 requires that all system development fee proceeds be accounted for in a capital reserve fund.

The Assistant City Manager, Matthew Livingston, presented the ordinance to amend Chapter 53, Water and Sewer Systems at the July 17, 2023 meeting. At that time Council adopted the system development fees.

North Carolina General Statute requires that system development fees be held in a capital reserve fund where the projects and estimated cost are stated in a resolution or ordinance. The project(s) and costs may be added, changed or removed at the discretion of the Council at any time. At least annually, it must be amended for the annual revenue appropriations from the utility fund for the amount collected or expected to be collected. Capital reserve funds are not a separate fund for financial statement purposes, but rather a savings account where the Council may set aside amounts for specific projects.

The system development fees will be transferred from the Utility Fund into this Capital Reserve as they are collected each fiscal year. When it is time to fund projects with the Capital Reserve, a budget ordinance amendment will be prepared to transfer out from the Capital Reserve Fund to a capital project fund or back to the Utility Fund depending on where the capital project is budgeted. To establish the Capital Reserve current year appropriations, Planning, Inspections, Engineering and the Assistant City Manager were consulted and collectively they have agreed on the following estimated amount of \$449,600.00 for the FY24 fiscal year.

It was recommended that City Council adopt the following entitled ordinance to establish and maintain a Utility Capital Reserve Fund for System Development Fees (6111). Consent Agenda Approval. Broadaway/Jones (6 Ayes)

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-52 "AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A UTILITY CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT FEES FOR THE CITY OF GOLDSBORO (6111)"

Operating Budget Amendment FY23-24 – System Development Fees. *Ordinance Adopted*. The item was presented by Catherine Gwynn, Finance Director.

Council adopted the FY23-24 annual operating budget on June 20, 2023.

System Development Fees - Utility Fund

City Council adopted an amendment to Chapter 53, Water and Sewer Systems at the July 17, 2023 meeting to implement system development fees.

At this time, it is necessary to appropriate the estimated fee revenue to the Utility Fund. The appropriated expenditures will be a Transfer to Capital Reserve Fund established for the System Development Fees as required by general statute. Planning, Inspections, Engineering directors, and the Assistant City Manager discussed the estimate, and collectively have offered the amount for the FY24 budget as \$449,600.00.

It was recommended that Council adopt the following entitled ordinance to amend the FY23-24 Operating Budget for the Utility Fund to appropriate revenues and expenditures for the System Development Fees. Consent Agenda Approval. Broadaway/Jones (6 Ayes)

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-53 "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GOLDSBORO FOR THE 2023-24 FISCAL YEAR"

Accept or Reject Initial Bid and Authorize Finance to Advertise for Upset Bids for 200 N. Carolina Street to Norris L. Uzzell. Resolution Adopted. The item was presented by Catherine Gwynn, Finance Director.

Staff has received an offer to purchase city/county owned property. Council must either accept or reject the offer, and if accepted authorize advertisement for upset bids (G.S. 160A-266 and 160A-269).

The following offer has been received for the sale of surplus real property under Negotiated offer, advertisement, and upset bid process (G.S. §160A-266(a) (3))

200 N. Carolina Street Offeror: Norris L. Uzzell

Offer: \$1,800.00

Bid Deposit: \$1,800.00 Pin #: 2599773020

Tax Value: \$3,320.00

Zoning: R-6

The offer is at least 50% of the tax value of the property. The bid deposit of 5% has been received in the form of a cashier's check. The Planning Department shall notify the adjoining property owners via mail that the property is available for sale via upset bid.

It was recommended that Council accept or reject the offer on 200 N. Carolina Street and if accepted, adopt following entitled resolution authorizing Finance to advertise for upset bids. Consent Agenda Approval. Broadaway/Jones (6 Ayes)

**Supplemental AIA and MRF Grant Applications.** *Resolutions Adopted.* The item was presented by City Manager Salmon.

The current City Asset Inventory and Assessment (AIA) and Merger/Regionalization Feasibility (MRF) grants funded by the NC Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) Division of Water Infrastructure (DWI), focus on maintaining current water and sewer systems and the potential to regionalize local water and sewer systems to make them more viable.

The City Water and Sewer AIAs presented to Council on February 22, 2023, by Ken Orie from WithersRavenel, recommend Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects greater than \$62M for sewer and \$29M for water systems over the next ten (10) years. The MRF is scheduled to be presented to Council by CDM Smith in December 2023.

NCDEQ DWI, has made supplemental "No Match" AIA and MRF grants available this fall. Applications are due October 2, 2023, and need Council approval via resolution.

City staff have discussed with our on-call engineering firms, WithersRavenel and CDM Smith, and DWI representatives, AIA Wastewater Master Plan and MRF Governance and Funding Study grants that would support regionalization opportunities.

The City's current Wastewater Master Plan was done in 2009 and should be updated to address current and expected system requirements. The City was under a NCDEQ Division of Water Resources (DWR), Sewer Line Moratorium in 2022 for exceeding 80% of our permitted Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF) 14.2 MGD capacity. The moratorium was quickly lifted due to the tremendous efforts to remedy sewer inflow and infiltration (I&I), and the fact that the City has been permitted to expand the WRF capacity to 17.6 MGD upon an Authorization to Construct permit.

A MRF Governance and Funding Study would provide options for Wayne County local governments to consider, regarding the ownership, costs, and financing of a regional water and sewer system.

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached resolutions authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to sign for NCDEQ DWI AIA Wastewater Master Plan and MRF Governance and Funding grant applications, as well as the contractual agreements with on-call engineering firms should the grants be approved. Consent Agenda Approval. Broadaway/Jones (6 Ayes)

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-63 "RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR STATE GRANT ASSISTANCE TO CONDUCT AN ASSET INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT (AIA) WASTEWATER MASTER PLAN"

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-64 "RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR STATE GRANT ASSISTANCE TO CONDUCT A MERGER/REGIONALIZATION FEASIBILITY (MRF) GOVERNANCE AND FUNDING STUDY"

Resolution to Increase Police Department and Fire Department Pay. Resolution Adopted. The item was presented by City Manager Salmon.

The Goldsboro Police Department and Fire Department currently have several position vacancies; salaries have been a contributing factor for voluntary separations. The City of Goldsboro desires to retain the police officers and firefighters currently employed and provide incentive for future hires.

Council agreed at the September 5, 2023, Council Meeting to implement Police Department and Fire Department Proposal B pay plans starting the first pay period in October 2023.

Police Department sworn officer pay will increase 10% or the minimum of the new pay grade as follows: Officer Trainee 72 to 75; Officer 73 to 76-79; Corporal 76 to 79; Sergeant 77 to 81; Captain 80 to 83; Major 85 to 86; and the Chief of Police will remain at 89 and not receive a pay increase.

Fire Department pay will increase 5% or the minimum of the new pay grade as follows: Firefighter Trainee 70 to 72; Firefighter 71 to 73; Senior Firefighter 71 to 74; Fire Engineer 74 to 76; Fire Engineer II 74 to 77; Fire Captain 78 to 79; Fire Captain II 78 to 80; Battalion Chief 81 to 82; Assistant Fire Chief will remain at 85; the Deputy Fire Chief will remain at 88; and the Fire Chief will remain at 89. The Fire Chief, Executive Assistant, Administrative Assistant, and part-time personnel will receive no additional pay raise.

It was recommended that Council approve the following entitled Resolution to increase Police Department and Fire Department Pay. Consent Agenda Approval. Broadaway/Jones (6 Ayes)

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-65 "RESOLUTION TO INCREASE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND FIRE DEPARTMENT PAY"

**Departmental Monthly Reports**. *Accepted as Information*. The various departmental reports for August 2023 were submitted for Council approval. It was recommended that Council accept the reports as information. Consent Agenda Approval. Broadaway/Jones (6 Ayes)

### **Items Requiring Individual Action.**

Adoption of An Ordinance Amending Chapter 53: Water and Sewer Systems of the City of Goldsboro's Code of Ordinances. The item was presented by Assistant City Manager Livingston during the work session and tabled until the October 2, 2023 Council meeting.

### City Manager's Report.

City Manager Salmon shared the draft FY22 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) is available for public review and comment from Sep 14-28 at public access sites. He also thanked everyone that participated in the NC Freedom Fest.

### Ceremonial Documents.

**Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation.** Read by Mayor Pro Tem Matthews: The Goldsboro City Council proclaimed September 15 through October 15, 2023 as HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH in Goldsboro, North Carolina and extended best wishes to all of our communities as they hold appropriate ceremonies to commemorate this observance.

**Constitution Week Proclamation.** Read by Councilwoman Jones: The Goldsboro City Council proclaimed the week of September 17–23, 2023 as CONSTITUTION WEEK in Goldsboro, North Carolina and asked our citizens to reaffirm the ideals that the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties, remembering that lost rights may never be regained.

# Mayor and Councilmembers' Comments.

Councilwoman Jones shared the following comments: District one, Cluster one, Crime Prevention Group, as well as myself, (I'm part of that), we would like to thank our Goldsboro Fire Department, they are our heroes. The fire that happened Thursday night was just really awful and the explosions, the houses nearby and the way you maneuvered those fire trucks and getting in there and out and those men, it was just awesome it really was and then again, this week on 301 Virginia Street. I am just so thankful that no one was injured but that the family did lose everything. I'm asking the young lady, I did try to contact her, and I did call, so if you're listening tonight wherever you are, please do try to contact me, I did leave the number. We want to thank you and we're so proud of you and thank you for what you did this weekend for District one.

Councilman Broadaway had no comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Matthews shared the following comments: I just want to encourage everybody to go vote and use your voice by way of the ballots. Thank you.

Councilman Gaylor shared the following comments: This is going to be a little bit of an echo of a couple things you've already heard but if you ever want to know the value of significant fire apparatus, go look at what Tower One was able to do during the fire that Councilwoman Jones was referring to, the warehouse fire. With the explosions that were going on, we would have lost an entire block of our city if it were not for, of course the men and women who were actually doing it, I'm taking nothing away, but I'm saying having the right technology and the right tools to be able to do it safely and effectively, we saved an entire block of our city that night and I'm not exaggerating because we've seen it happen at other times. When the community building burned here in Goldsboro, that's another time where without the right equipment we would have lost an entire block and so I have a huge appreciation and respect for what they did and what they were able to do with the training and the tools and want to make sure that we emphasize how much that matters and that we stand behind and we stand committed to making sure they have the tools and the people that they need to be able to continue providing that service to our city. And then of course with Freedom Fest, we saw members of Public Works, Fire, Police, Downtown Development, Parks and Rec, that was an all-hands event and then an absolute mud bath and some of the pictures were absolutely fantastic and I appreciate all of them being willing to stand out there and get soaking wet with me.

Councilman Batts had no comments.

Mayor Ham shared the following comments: I'm going to take a moment to speak to a couple of things that have been mentioned before. I also want to commend our Fire Department for the great job they did Thursday night. I didn't go down to the fire, I went near the fire Thursday night, but I didn't go down and they didn't need the mayor down there, but I did go back on Friday morning, and I walked down to the site, and I talked to the firemen that were on site there. I also talked to the business owner, that poor, sad business owner of that garage, who was just devastated by that. He's been here in the city for 6 years, came here as a spouse of an airman (airwoman) at the base. He's been in business for two years. Tears rolled down his cheek as he looked there and talked about what he had lost. Sad situation. I then went over to the fire department and spoke to those firemen that were still around. Some had come in from off duty the night before and there was a sense of accomplishment on their part, a sense of pride. This was a big fire as has been mentioned. They employed fire departments from the surrounding areas and as Councilman Gaylor said and Councilwoman Jones, this thing could have escalated to a major fire. Those cars that were inside the garage, their fuel tanks were exploding, sending fire elements up in the air above the tree line and I'm talking about 40-50 foot trees. They did a great job, and they should be commended by everyone for that. I want to also speak about the Arts Council. Our Arts Council held its ribbon cutting on Friday night. Our Arts Council here in Goldsboro is called the Wayne County Arts Council, it's not called the Goldsboro Arts Council but it's been here in Goldsboro all of my memory of it but they had a ribbon cutting Friday night and it was a great turnout of the public for that event and that inspired me to see the people come out for that event and some of them had a real appreciation for art. I think all of them had some degree of appreciation of the arts but some of them were just curious to see what's

happened, has this Arts Council been reborn, is somebody giving birth to it again, and it has. It's a fantastic organization, the volunteers, the board, the whole bit, and they're expanding. It's going to be the Wayne County Arts Council because they are going into Mount Olive, Pikeville, and Fremont. But anyway, I wanted to commend the leadership of that organization for what they have done to turn this program around. I also want to mention the Constitution. I had the pleasure of going over to the DAR meeting on Saturday and reading the Constitution as I have many times now and I spoke about the fact that I actually had read the Constitution at home before I went there. I also read the 27 amendments and the fact that it refreshed my mind as to really what this Constitution stands for. Judge Will Bland was there and gave a history on the Constitution. He presented some facts, ladies, and gentlemen, that I had never even thought about. That's how the Constitution came about and the number of Constitutions that we've had. We've actually had more than one Constitution, so I encourage our citizens to find time to look through the Constitution especially the fact now that in this time that we're here, we turn on the TV and everybody's talking about, well that's not in the Constitution or this is in violation of the Constitution, or the Constitution says we can do that and so forth. You hear that all the time. Take some time to go read the Constitution. Look at the 27 amendments. Some of them are more important than others, as so far as our daily lives are concerned, but really everyone should know a little bit about the Constitution. I asked someone there, "In our public schools, is the Constitution taught anymore?" and this one teacher said, "Well, in my 5th grade class we address the Constitution.", I don't know if she said they teach it, but they get exposed to the Constitution and that was comforting to hear. I wish all of our school aged children would have an opportunity to be exposed to the Constitution because it means so much to us.

There being no further business, Mayor Ham adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

David Ham

Mayor

Laura Getz City Clerk