

**MINUTES**  
**King City Council**  
**Regular Session**  
**July 6, 2020**

The King City Council met in regular session remotely via Zoom on Monday, July 6, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. Present on the call were: Councilman Charles Allen, Councilman Wesley Carter, Councilwoman Terri Fowler, Mayor Pro Tempore Rick McCraw, Mayor Jack Warren, City Manager Homer Dearmin, City Clerk Nicole Branshaw, City Engineer Scott Barrow, Director of Finance and Personnel Susan O'Brien, Planning Director Todd Cox, Water Plant Superintendent Ben Marion, Police Chief Jordan Boyette, Fire Chief Steven Roberson, Senior Center Director Paula Hall, Parks, and Recreation Director Olivia Smith, Police Captain Ian Tedder, Fire Captain Jonathan Lane, Superintendent of Public Utilities Robert Pettitt and Chaplain Donald Davis.

Mayor Warren called the meeting to order and led the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Chaplain Donald Davis offered the invocation.

Chaplain Donald Davis left the meeting.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- King Planning Board, Regular Meeting: August 24, 2020, 7:00 p.m., City Hall, Virtual for public
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, Regular Meeting: Thursday, August 13, 2020, 7:00 p.m., Held Virtually via Zoom
- NC Cooperative Extension Farm to Families Farmers Market: Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Parking lot across from City Hall.

### **ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA**

Mayor Pro Tempore Rick McCraw made a motion to remove the executive session from the agenda and postpone it until next month. Councilwoman Terri Fowler seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

It was the consensus of the Council to add to the agenda to make a resolution for the protection of our monuments that was suggested by Stokes County as requested by Mayor Pro Tempore Rick McCraw.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Warren opened the floor to receive public comment.

Mr. Kevin Cole of 123 Glenn Ave, King, NC; Cynthia Morgan of 414 Felts Dr, King, NC; Marci Shore of 413 Felts Dr, King, NC; Brenda Morgan of 414 Felts Dr, King, NC addressed the Mayor and Council.

Being no one else gave written or verbal requests wishing to speak, Mayor Warren closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilman Carter moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilwoman Fowler seconded the motion which carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0. Items approved were: (A) Approval of Minutes from June 1, 2020, Regular Meeting; June 18, 2020, Budget Workshop Meeting and June 29, 2020, Special Meeting, Budget Public Hearing. (B) Set public hearing for August 3, 2020, at 7 p.m. for rezoning by Triad Builders of King, Inc. (C) Set public hearing for August 3, 2020, at 7 p.m. for rezoning by Jack Wellburn. (D) Set public hearing for August 3, 2020, at 7 p.m. for financing agreement for PD vehicles.

## **PUBLIC HEARING FOR PARKS ORDINANCE REVISIONS**

Presented by Olivia Smith, Parks/Rec Director

Proposed revisions to City Ordinance Chapter 20 were presented, included in the proposed ordinance revisions are changes to the Special Events Permit process, and updated Park Event Permit application, new protocols regarding citizens using park space or facilities to hold classes for personal gain. Included in the presentation was a proposal form and an Independent Contract Instructor Agreement, which would create a protocol to be followed in these situations.

## **MOTION**

Councilman Carter made a motion to table the Public Hearing until the next meeting so that the Parks/Rec Director can make suggested corrections and updates made by City Council pertaining to the presented documents. Mayor Pro Tempore McCraw seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

## **LETTER TO NCDOT CONCERNING BROWN ROAD REPAIRS**

Presented by Homer Dearmin, City Manager

The drain tile beneath Brown Road was compromised due to stormwater and old age on January 24, 2020. The Tile was scheduled to be replaced during the summer of 2020; however, the emergency closure moved the project up. Since that time, budgetary constraints resulting from COVID-19, among other factors, have seemingly delayed the project. Elected Officials and City Staff are receiving multiple inquires on the project status, with the most recent written update provided on 05/28/2020.

If approved, the letter will be sent to Division Engineer Pat Ivey with copies to other NCDOT Officials and our local legislative delegation.

# CITY OF KING

The Honorable Jack Warren, Mayor  
Homer Dearmin, City Manager

P.O. Drawer 1132  
King, NC 27021-1132

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Telephone (336) 983-8265  
Fax (336) 983-4675

July 6, 2020

Mr. Pat Ivey, PE  
NCDOT Division Engineer  
375 Silas Creek Parkway  
Winston-Salem, NC 27127

Re.: Brown Road Project, 17BP.9.C.12 – Stokes 290

Dear Mr. Ivey:

By a vote of the King City Council on today's date, the City of King submits this letter to request that NCDOT make every reasonable effort to expedite the repair work necessary to reopen Brown Road, which has been closed due to a compromised drain tile since late January, 2020.

The closure of Brown Road has resulted in some of our largest subdivisions being affected by travel delays and damage to yards, rights-of-way, and City-maintained streets due to higher traffic volume on detour routes. Brown Road is a main thoroughfare between the City of King and Chestnut Grove Road, a highly travelled route that connects the City of King with other rural areas in Stokes County.

An email communication from Bridge Maintenance Engineer Chuck White on May 28 providing a status update was greatly appreciated, but also very concerning. Mr. White stated that

"...budget constraints due to COVID-19 impacts and other long term spending issues...have resulted in the DOT prioritizing all spending request[s]. The Division has submitted a request to purchase the 20'-6"x7'-3" Aluminum Box Culvert to make the repair on Brown Road and we are waiting on that approval from upper management in Raleigh. Once approval is received we will order the aluminum box culvert and make the repairs..."

While we can understand and appreciate budgetary constraints, we are compelled to point out that this is an EMERGENCY REPAIR that is continuing to fall behind and impact our citizens. We believe that budgetary constraints should be addressed by delaying new construction projects, and not at the expense of continuing to delay emergency repairs and high priority projects that will provide relief to citizens. Of particular concern to our citizens is the increased emergency response time as a result of this closure. Our Public Safety leadership estimates that this closure results in delays of at least three minutes to some of our more populated subdivisions; as you know, such a delay can mean a significant difference in positive patient or property emergency response outcomes.

We respectfully and earnestly request that you expedite this project to the utmost practical extent, and alleviate the negative ramifications that our citizens, business patrons, and community members have continually endured since the collapse of a portion of Brown Road in January, 2020. We understand the hardships every level of government is facing, however this project is of extremely high priority to our community, and an expedited effort will reflect most positively among King area citizens on the State's road maintenance efforts. Any assistance you can provide is greatly appreciated by our Mayor, City Council, and our citizens.

Respectfully Submitted,

Homer Dearmin, City Manager

Cc: Transportation Secretary Eric Boyette, Senator Phil Berger, Representative Kyle Hall

**Homer T. Dearmin**

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**From:** Homer T. Dearmin  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 30, 2020 1:25 PM  
**To:** Mayor and Council  
**Cc:** Department Heads  
**Subject:** Fwd: [External] Brown Road Bridge  
**Attachments:** image002.png

**Subject: Fw: [External] Brown Road Bridge**

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FYI

**From:** White, Chuck <crwhite@ncdot.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 28, 2020 2:08 PM  
**To:** Scott Barrow; Basinger, Lynn  
**Cc:** Trantham, Randall D; Sizemore, Richard C; Rhyne, John P  
**Subject:** RE: [External] Brown Road Bridge

Scott,

We have incurred budget constraints due to COVID-19 impacts and other long term spending issues which have resulted in the DOT prioritizing all spending request. The Division has submitted a request to purchase the 20'-6"x7'-3" Aluminum Box Culvert to make the repair on Brown Road and we are waiting on that approval from upper management in Raleigh. Once approval is received we will order the aluminum box culvert and make the repairs once the supplier delivers the culvert.

Thanks,

**Chuck White**

Division Bridge Maintenance Engineer

Division 9 Bridge Maintenance

North Carolina Department of Transportation

704 630 3260 office

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## **MOTION**

Councilman Carter moved a motion to forward the letter concerning Brown Road repairs to NCDOT Division Engineer Pat Ivey with copies to other NCDOT Officials and local legislative delegations listed with signatures from City Manager Homer Dearmin and Mayor Jack Warren. Councilwoman Fowler and Mayor Pro Tempore seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

## **RESOLUTION CONCERNING PROTECTING MONUMENTS AND BUILDINGS AS COUNTY RECOMMENDED**

Mayor Pro Tempore McCraw made a motion to table the discussion until next month to see what Stokes County has on their Resolution and to consult with our City Attorney. Councilman Carter seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

## **EMERGENCY OPERATIONS UPDATE**

Incident Commanders Steven Roberson and Jordan Boyette gave updates regarding the ongoing State of Emergency and the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic.

Incident Commander Steven Roberson stated that the Governor had extended Phase II until July 17, 2020, at this time. The City of King has extended its Emergency Incident Action Plan until July 20, 2020. Stokes County Health Department is planning to conduct another mass testing event on July 10, 2020, in Danbury. We are still waiting to hear about Stokes County School's reopening plans.

## **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

There were no questions concerning the departmental reports.

## **ITEMS OF GENERAL CONCERN**

Mayor Pro Tempore McCraw:

- I want to thank City Clerk Nicole Branshaw for all her hard work on putting these meetings together.
- I want to echo what Councilwoman Fowler said concerning the Fireworks because he has heard many great responses to them.
- Everyone is doing a great job. Thank you all.
- Asked for an update on the Veteran's Fountain.

City Manager Homer Dearmin responded that the 2020-21 FY Budget had only been approved one week ago, and we have not had a chance to move forward with this yet. Dearmin states we would be on top of this as soon as we can.

- Asked about the new software that was approved for Parks and Recreation and the Senior Center Parks/Rec Director Olivia Smith responded that they are still setting this up and receiving training. Smith also states the software is not live for the public to use yet, but it is about 60% set up at this time.
- Asked when the last time the City completed an inventory.

Finance Director Susan O'Brien responded that each department does this each year at Property Insurance Renewal with the vehicles, buildings, and those types of things.

City Manager Homer Dearmin also states that we do this annually through the League of Municipalities. Any capital equipment that is purchased is tracked through purchase orders, and we track anything that we surplus or get rid of.

Mayor Pro Tempore states he would personally like to see a report on it.

Councilman Carter:

- None at this time.

Councilman Allen:

- None at this time.

Councilwoman Fowler:

- I just wanted to say that the fireworks were beautiful, and I have had a lot of positive comments. I am glad that the Council decided to go through with having the fireworks this year.

Mayor Warren:

- Thanked everyone of our staff and stated our employees are doing a great job.

A discussion was held concerning financing for the Veteran’s Memorial and road paving being combined. It was the consensus of the Council to keep these two items combined to save money when getting approval from the LGC. The current plan is to have everything ready to go to LGC in October.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Pro Tempore McCraw moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Fowler seconded the motion which carried by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

Approved by:

Attest:

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Jack Warren  
Mayor

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Nicole Branshaw  
City Clerk