

**City Council Regular Session  
January 28, 2019**

The City Council of the City of Elizabeth City met in regular session on Monday, January 28, 2019 in Council Chambers, located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Municipal Administration Building, 306 E. Colonial Avenue, Elizabeth City, NC.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Bettie Parker  
Councilman Kem Spence  
Councilman Johnnie Walton  
Councilman Billy Caudle  
Mayor Pro Tem Rickey King  
Councilwoman Anita Hummer  
Councilman Darius Horton  
Councilwoman Jeannie Young  
Councilman Gabriel Adkins

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Rich Olson  
City Attorney Bill Morgan  
Chief of Police Eddie Buffaloe  
Deputy Chief of Police James Avens  
Electric Department Superintendent Andy Pollard  
Assistant City Manager Angela Cole  
Human Resources Director Montique McClary  
Fire Chief Corey Mercer  
ECDI Director Debbie Malenfant  
Public Utilities Director Amanda Boone  
Parks and Recreation Director Dexter Harris  
Community Development Director Matt Schelly  
IT Director Matthew Simpson  
Interim City Clerk Doris Walton

The City Council regular session was called to order by Mayor Bettie Parker at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Parker welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized Councilman Darius Horton to give the invocation, after which Mayor Parker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Agenda Adjustments and Approval:**

Mayor Parker requested the Council's pleasure regarding approval of the prepared agenda.

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem King, seconded by Councilman Horton to approve the agenda with any necessary changes. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Spence, Walton, Caudle, King, Hummer, Horton, Young and Adkins. Against: None. Motion carried.**

**2. Statement of Disclosure:**

The City Clerk read the Statement of Disclosure. No conflict of interest disclosures regarding items listed on the agenda were made.

**3. Presentation – Award of Plaque – Terry Thornton:**

As Mr. Thornton has not yet arrived, the City Manager asked that the Mayor proceed to receiving comments from the public.

**4. Comments from the Public:**

**Gina Askew – 1290 Halstead Boulevard, Elizabeth City, NC** – Ms. Askew greeted the Council and advised that she was the owner and operator of Platinum Logistics, Inc. in Elizabeth City. She stated that her company was minority-owned and that she was a disabled veteran. Ms. Askew advised that in April 2018 a representative from Enviro-Tech contacted her company about doing subcontracting work for the City's Parkview Interceptor Project. She added that after she submitted a quote, she was notified by Enviro-Tech that Platinum Logistics would be awarded the subcontracting work. Ms. Askew continued that she was never contacted again following Enviro-Tech's original communication. She stated that she was concerned whether or not minority or disabled/disadvantaged companies were given a proper chance at

funding by the City for projects. She added that she was appearing before the Council following an article she read in the Daily Advance, which said that Enviro-Tech was being awarded a bid for a new project.

**Richard Good – 505 Continental Drive, Elizabeth City, NC** - Mr. Good passed several photos to the Council depicting derelict boats in both the Pelican Marina and behind Groupers' Restaurant. He expressed concern that the City "does not seem to have a method to deal with all of the boats that become derelict." He urged the Council to "find a better way to deal with these, because these boats are going to keep cropping up, and then it's the taxpayers' problem."

**Nita Coleman – 111 Dances Bay Trail, Elizabeth City, NC** – Ms. Coleman greeted the Council and thanked them on behalf of the Green Saves Save corporation. She applauded the Council for their vision and support of environmental stability. She urged the Council to vote in favor of the electric vehicle charging station, which was slated to appear later on the evening's agenda.

## **5. Public Hearings:**

*(Clerk's Notation: Terry Thornton arrived at this point; the Public Hearings were delayed momentarily while Mr. Thornton received his retirement plaque for 29 years of service to the City.)*

### **a. Hold a Public Hearing – Septage Fee Increase;**

The Mayor recognized City Manager Olson to present the item prior to opening the Public Hearing. Mr. Olson stated that it had been more than 10 years since the City had increased its septage fee, which had led to an imbalance in the charges versus revenue. Under the current schedule, septic haulers pay \$0.0247 per gallon of septage to discharge at the City of Elizabeth City Wastewater Treatment Plant; the City pays \$0.0285 to have sludge hauled. City Manager Olson stated that staff analyzed the fees of numerous facilities; they determined that our current fees are out of balance, as they are insufficient. He stated that staff would like to charge an annual fee of \$100 for septic haulers to obtain an Authorization to Discharge permit; additionally, the price for septage would be increased to \$0.0570 per gallon, based on truck size. This fee would double outside the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. He added that the increase, if adopted, would generate an additional \$100,000 in revenue.

Mayor Parker declared the Public Hearing open, and inquired of the City Clerk if there were any persons present who wished to be heard. Upon the Clerk's response that there were none, the Mayor declared the hearing closed.

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Rickey King, seconded by Councilman Kem Spence, to adopt Ordinance #2019-1-02 to increase the septage fee and amend the fee schedule to reflect as such. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Spence, Walton, Caudle, King, Hummer, Horton, Young, and Adkins. Against: None. Motion carried.**

### **Ordinance #2019-1-02 An Ordinance Amending the FY 2018-2019 Fee Schedule of the City of Elizabeth City**

**WHEREAS**, each year, the City of Elizabeth City adopts a Fee Schedule, which corresponds to the annual budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council adopted the FY 2018-2019 Budget and Fee Schedule on June 26, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, within the FY 2018-2019 Budget, the Fee Schedule reported that septic haulers pay fees were \$0.0247 per gallon of septage to discharge at the Elizabeth City Wastewater Plant; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Elizabeth City pays \$0.0285 per gallon to have sludge hauled; and

**WHEREAS**, after conducting a survey of area facilities for comparable septage fees, it was determined that the City of Elizabeth City is out of balance with our cost to treat and dispose of residuals, as well as experiencing increasing costs due to our aging infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, during the January 14, 2019 City Council meeting, the Council called for a Public Hearing, which was subsequently held during the January 28, 2019 Regular Session, at which time a quorum of the membership was present.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED** that the City of Elizabeth City Fee Schedule for FY 2018-2019 is hereby amended to include the following:

- I. Inclusion of an Authorization to Discharge Permit - \$100 Annual Fee; and
- II. Septage Disposal Fee - \$0.0570 Per Gallon based on truck size for Monday through Friday disposal between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.; and
- III. Septage Disposal Fee -\$0.1140 Per Gallon based on truck size for disposal during hours **other** than 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding City Holidays.
- IV. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.
- V. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed severable and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.
- VI. The enactment of this ordinance shall in no way affect the running of any amortization provisions or enforcement actions, or otherwise cure any existing municipal code violations.
- VII. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect and included in the City of Elizabeth City's fee schedule from and after the date of its adoption. This ordinance may be amended from time to time with the consideration of the City Council of the City of Elizabeth and with the requisite Public Hearings associated with such decisions.

**ADOPTED** this the 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2019.

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Bettie J. Parker  
Mayor

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April D. Onley  
Interim City Clerk

**b. Hold a Public Hearing – Grant Submission for Chesapeake Regional Hospital Reuse Grant;**

Mayor Parker requested that City Manager Olson provide a brief overview of the item before declaring the Public Hearing Open. City Manager Olson advised the Council that the item presented for Public Hearing was a grant submission on behalf of Chesapeake Regional Hospital for the Department of Commerce's Building Reuse Grant. He stated that Chesapeake Regional Hospital was seeking \$70,000, which was the allowable amount as a result of the

creation of seven new jobs at \$10,000 each. He added that part of the requirement of the grant would be a local match on the part of the City of 5%; a total of \$3,500. He noted that the final project cost was estimated at more than \$900,000.

Mayor Parker declared the Public Hearing open and inquired of the City Clerk if there were persons present who wished to be heard. The Clerk responded that there were three, and called the first to the podium for comment.

**Rob Powell – 2082 Rivershore Road, Elizabeth City, NC** – Mr. Powell greeted the Council and thanked them for the opportunity to express his opinion on the grant. Mr. Powell stated that he had practiced internal medicine for more than 40 years, although he was never an employee of either Sentara or Chesapeake. He urged the Council to support Chesapeake Regional's grant application in order to support more healthcare options in the City. Mr. Powell stated "competition is good." He opined that "Sentara may not always be acting in your best interest. Sentara does not want any healthcare providers working in this area unless they work for Sentara." He shared a list of physicians that he believed Sentara had "run out of town."

**Lynn Butler – 1138 North Road Street, Elizabeth City, NC** – Ms. Butler greeted the Council and advised that she worked with Internal Medicine of Elizabeth City. She stated that she was one of the providers that Chesapeake Regional was working with in an attempt to get the Reuse Grant. Ms. Butler reiterated concerns about the shortage of healthcare providers within the area.

**Lindsay Stevenson – 1012 Rivershore Road, Elizabeth City, NC** – Mr. Stevenson greeted the Council and advised that he was on OB-Gyn working for Sentara; and that he was committed to helping members of the community. He stated that "had Chesapeake won the bid for medical services in the hospital, I'd be working for Chesapeake. They didn't. I'm working for Sentara. You can take my comments in that context tonight." He urged the Council not to approve the grant submission on behalf of Chesapeake Regional Hospital. Mr. Stevenson opined that it was in the best interest of the patients in the community that the City "stay the course with Sentara." He added that he believed that allowing Chesapeake to come into the community and provide services would "splinter" the services. He stated that he felt it would not be any easier for Chesapeake to recruit primary care physicians than it was for Sentara; he furthered that he believed Sentara would send patients back to Norfolk or Chesapeake, Virginia, resulting in fewer healthcare dollars being spent in the City. He added that he did not believe that Chesapeake would see low-income patients, which was a service offered by Sentara.

*(Clerk's Notation: Upon Mr. Stevenson's conclusion, Councilman Horton stated that he was under the impression that although public comments received only three minutes, public hearings were not timed. City Attorney Morgan responded that his understanding of the Rules of Procedure indicated that all comments from the public, including those during hearings, were to be held at three minutes; however, he noted that the Council could vote to suspend the rules. **Motion was made by Councilman Horton, seconded by Councilman Spence to suspend the Rules of Procedure to allow commenters to speak as long as they wished. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Spence, Walton, Caudle, King, Hummer, Horton, Young, and Adkins. Against: None. Motion Carried.** Councilman Horton asked if any speaker would like to return to the podium and elaborate further.)*

**Lindsay Stevenson (Cont.)** – Mr. Stevenson opined that he did not believe that Chesapeake Regional would hire from within the community, in spite of their promise to do so. He reiterated his belief that the dollars from any healthcare performed by Chesapeake Regional would be "syphoned back to Virginia." He added that he believed that Sentara was invested in the community in a way that he did not believe Chesapeake would be. He asked that the Council consider offering Sentara the same grants it was considering offering Chesapeake.

**Tony Ruiz – 94 Small Drive, Elizabeth City, NC** – Mr. Ruiz greeted the Council and advised that he had worked with the hospital in Elizabeth for 25 years; and he was now employed with Chesapeake Regional. Mr. Ruiz expressed the importance of primary care, even though it was at an all-time low due to number of providers and difficulty of recruitment. He reminded the Council that Sentara was also based in Virginia, and that there were many large hospitals within driving distance of the City. He pointed out that Chesapeake Regional had a different model that attracted different people. He added that he believed there was room in town for both companies to thrive. He furthered that working for Chesapeake, he had worked with many

patients who were low-income or who had no insurance, and he had offered them the same level of service as any other patient.

Having no more speakers, Mayor Parker declared the Public Hearing closed. She asked if members of the Council had any further comments.

Councilman Spence asked if there was a way to give Sentara an equal grant to the amount requested by Chesapeake Regional. City Manager Olson advised that the grant being sought was for building reuse, and it was through the Department of Commerce, not the City; the City was only the sponsor. He stated that if Sentara would like to readapt a building, the City would be equally as obliged to sponsor their grant application, as well.

Councilman Horton stated that “we as a Council have been told ... that they’re coming, regardless of whether we do this or not. But, as Councilors, I think it would be a smack in the face of Sentara, who has come to our community to invest this money, and then to support an entity that, in my opinion, would be some sort of patch center, to suffice for persons to spend their money and their dollars to go to Virginia. That hurts our economy here. My mind is that we shouldn’t take any position on this, because they’re coming anyway.” He reiterated that Sentara had quality services, as shown by them winning the bid for the hospital in the City. He stated that he refused to vote in favor of supporting the grant, as Chesapeake has “let me know that my money doesn’t matter. I would rather give that money to another entity that needs it.”

Councilwoman Young stated that she felt that she, as a Councilperson, needed to look out for the best interest of the City. She added that competition is good and “the more that we can have in our community to service our community, I think the better that the City is going to be. I think that we are going to prosper by having Sentara and Chesapeake in our community.” She added that she understood the difficulty in recruiting primary and family care physicians, and it was important to offer more services to satisfy the wants and needs of the community.

Councilman Caudle reminded his fellow Councilors that Chesapeake Regional already has establishments within the City. He pointed out that Chesapeake was bringing more of an urgent care facility rather than a hospital, which would be of great benefit to the community. He continued, “I don’t see why we would want to limit access to healthcare for our citizens. Why would we not want another place? We want other opportunities for people and to not put all our eggs in one basket.” He noted that seven new jobs would be created as a requirement of the grant, and Chesapeake had committed to hiring locally.

Councilman Walton asked whether it was a fact that Chesapeake Regional would not accept Medicaid. City Manager Olson stated he did not believe that was the case; to his knowledge, both companies accepted the program. Councilman Walton stated “you’re not going to be doing anything but duplicating what the rest of them are doing. They’re going to send me to Chesapeake. We’ve got to challenge Sentara to bring us some qualified primary care physicians and not reach out to other entities.” He referenced an email written by Sentara’s President, Colleen Santa Ana, which described zoning allegedly put in place by Chesapeake, which would not allow other facilities within certain areas. City Manager Olson stated that he was not in a position to discuss those details. City Attorney Morgan stated that occurrences in Chesapeake would be legally irrelevant to happenings in North Carolina.

Councilman Horton asked what would it take for Sentara to be eligible for the same grant that Chesapeake Regional was requesting. City Manager Olson stated that the building reuse grant must be used for a building that has been vacant for a period of time; as the hospital Sentara occupied was never vacant, they did not qualify for the grant when they came. Mr. Olson noted that should Sentara seek to open another facility, or an urgent care, which might utilize an uninhabited building, the City could sponsor their application. Councilman Horton reiterated that he did not feel that giving Chesapeake Regional money that they say they do not need is a waste. He urged the Council to not act in favor of supporting the grant.

Councilman Caudle asked for clarification, as several members of the Council kept referring to the grant as “our money.” City Manager Olson stated that \$70,000 was the total of the reuse grant; the City was only obligated to match 5%, which was \$3,500. He reminded his fellow Councilors that the business would bring new jobs, which the City always needed. Mayor Pro Tem King concurred with Councilman Caudle’s statements. He offered his support for the application, stating, “It’s about bringing jobs to the City. People need to work.”

Councilman Adkins stated, "We are a Sentara-based community ... With or without this grant, they're here and they're going to stay here."

**Motion was made by Councilman Gabriel Adkins, seconded by Councilman Darius Horton, to deny support for the building reuse grant application for Chesapeake Regional Hospital.**

Councilwoman Hummer asked if the building reuse grant funds would go back to Virginia. City Manager Olson stated he was unsure where the building supplies would be bought; if they were bought locally, the revenue would stay here. He added that under state law, they would be required to use a North Carolina contractor.

Councilman Walton stated that the information the Council was receiving was "second-hand." He added that the CEO's for both organizations should have to come before the Council, so they could get all of their questions answered. "If they meet the challenge of influencing us, that's the route that we should go."

Councilman Horton asked whether Chesapeake intended to hire locally; and City Manager Olson responded that the Finance Committee had asked it to be mandated that they did. He added that during his conversations with Chesapeake Regional, they had noted that they had already received multiple local applications, which they intended to choose from to fill the positions.

Mayor Parker stated that the letter she had received from Chesapeake indicated that they were coming with or without the City's support, but that they would like to have the blessing. She stated that she posed two questions "would you hire locally? He said yes." And "would you help the indigent? He said yes." She added that the CEO also stated that he would put it in writing for her the following day.

Councilman Spence questioned whether it might be best to table to motion for the time being, as they were not privy to the conversation the Mayor had with the CEO about the letter. Councilman Adkins stated that he would not be willing to amend his motion.

**Those voting in favor of not supporting the motion were: Adkins, Horton, Hummer, and Walton. Against: Young, King, Caudle, and Spence. The vote was tied.**

Mayor Parker asked City Attorney Morgan if she could vote "yes" but have it contingent upon receiving the correspondence from Chesapeake Regional stating that they would hire locally and serve the indigent. City Attorney Morgan advised against it, stating that she should either vote yes or no, or ask to have it tabled. Mayor Parker asked if there was a Councilor present who would agree to make the motion to table the matter. Councilman Horton stated that he was against tabling it. Councilman Caudle concurred with Councilman Horton, stating that "we as a Council as expected to vote."

Mayor Parker responded that she did not appreciate anyone "pushing her to vote."

Councilman Walton stated that "as a Councilmember, all of us are owners. We've got our own life to live. No one can show another person how to live their life, as long as we do it legally and do it right."

City Manager Olson reminded the Council that all that they were doing at this point was submitting the grant to the state; there was no guarantee that it would even score well enough to be accepted. He added, "it's something that we don't control." He pointed out that "the City Council has never denied supporting an application for building reuse to the state."

**Mayor Parker voted to break the tie; She voted against supporting Chesapeake's Application. Motion fails.**

**6. Consent Agenda:** *(Items "a" through "e" recommended for approval by the Finance Committee during their January 24, 2019 meeting.)*

Mayor Parker requested that City Manager Olson read the Consent Agenda items into the record, as follows:

- a. **Consideration – Approve Budget Amendment for Sailboat Purchase from TDA Funding;**

**BUDGET AMENDMENT**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Elizabeth City that the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for fiscal year ending June 30, 2019:

**SECTION I.** That the General Fund Department Tourism Development Authority (TDA) Grant (103180.0000) be increased by \$7,800,

That the General Fund Parks & Recreation Dept. Departmental Supplies (106200.3300) be increased by \$7,800,

(To increase budgeted revenue for Grant received from Tourism Development Authority, and to increase the Departmental Supplies expense item for the purchase of 2 Topaz boats.)

**ADOPTED**, this 28th day of January 2019.

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**Bettie J. Parker**  
Mayor

**Attest:**

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**April Onley**  
Interim City Clerk

- b. **Consideration – Approve Budget Amendment for Dome Repair at Waterfront Park Pavilion from TDA Funding;**

**BUDGET AMENDMENT**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Elizabeth City that the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for fiscal year ending June 30, 2019:

**SECTION I.** That the General Fund Department Tourism Development Authority (TDA) Grant (103180.0000) be increased by \$11,300,

That the General Fund Parks & Recreation Dept. Maintenance and Repairs - Grounds (106200.1510) be increased by \$11,300,

(To increase budgeted revenue for Grant received from Tourism Development Authority, and to increase the Maintenance and Repair - Grounds expense item for the repair of the Waterfront Park Pavilion Dome.)

**ADOPTED**, this 28th day of January 2019.

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**Bettie J. Parker**  
Mayor

**Attest:**

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**April Onley**  
Interim City Clerk

- c. **Consideration – Approve Budget Amendment for Governor’s Crime Commission Grant;**

**BUDGET AMENDMENT**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the City Council of the City of Elizabeth City that the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for fiscal year ending June 30, 2019:

**SECTION I. That the General Fund Police Department Governor’s Crime Commission Grant (103490.5144) be increased by \$66,791**

**That the General Fund Police Dept. Departmental Supplies (105100.3300) be increased by \$66,791,**

**(To increase budgeted revenue for Grant received from Governor’s Crime Commission, and to increase the Departmental Supplies expense item for the purchase of in-car cameras and body worn cameras.)**

**ADOPTED, this 28th day of January 2019.**

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**Bettie J. Parker**  
**Mayor**

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**April Onley**  
**Interim City Clerk**

- d. **Consideration – Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Station;**
- e. **Consideration – Call for a Public Hearing – BG for Center Square Development;**

Mayor Parker requested the Council’s pleasure regarding the Consent Agenda.

**Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem King, seconded by Councilwoman Young, to approve the Consent Agenda as present. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Spence, Walton, Caudle, King, Hummer, Horton, Young and Adkins. Against: None. Motion carried.**

**7. Regular Agenda:**

- a. **Any Item Pulled from the Consent Agenda**

No items were pulled from the Consent Agenda.

- b. **Consideration – Appointment to Community Relations Commission;**

**Motion was made by Councilman Darius Horton, seconded by Councilwoman Jeannie Young, to appoint Don Mercer to the Community Relations Commission. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Spence, Walton, Caudle, King, Hummer, Horton, Young, and Adkins. Against: None. A roll call motion followed, which yielded the same results. Motion carried.**

- c. **Consideration – Re-Appointment to Alcoholic Beverage Control Board;**

**Motion was made by Councilman Darius Horton, seconded by Councilwoman Jeannie Young, to re-appoint William Allen to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Spence, Walton, Caudle, King,**



Hummer, Horton, Young, and Adkins. Against: None. A roll call motion followed, which yielded the same results. Motion carried.

**d. Consideration – Call for a Public Hearing – Limitation of Taxicab Permits and Termination of Taxicab Lottery Ordinance;**

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem King, seconded by Councilwoman Young, to call for the public hearing. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Spence, Walton, Caudle, King, Hummer, Horton, Young, and Adkins. Against: None. Motion carried.

**e. Consideration – Accept Results of Taxicab Lottery;**

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem King, seconded by Councilwoman Young to accept the results of the Taxicab Lottery. Those voting in favor of the motion were: Spence, Walton, Caudle, King, Hummer, Horton, Young, and Adkins. Against: None. Motion carried.

**f. Award of Bids for Water and Sewer Projects;**

Mayor Parker recognized City Manager Olson to present the item. Mr. Olson listed each project title and associated cost, as shown below:

<b>Water Line Replacement Projects</b>	<b>Cost</b>
18-006 Carolina Avenue	\$ 63,585.50
18-007 Wareham Street	\$ 70,697.00
18-008 Hunter Street	\$ 64,641.50
18-009 Morgan Street	\$ 69,294.50
18-010 Dance Street	\$ 57,250.60
18-011 Lincoln Street	\$ 92,822.40
18-012 Butler Lane	\$116,210.60
<b>Total Water Line Replacement Projects</b>	<b>\$429,913.10</b>
<b>Sewer Line Replacement Projects</b>	
18-013 Burgess Street	\$296,624.90
18-014 Main Street	\$139,739.60
18-015 Shirley Street	\$115,570.40
18-016 Park Street	\$182,437.20
<b>Total Sewer Line Replacement Projects</b>	<b>\$734,372.10</b>

He noted that staff recommended awarding all projects to Enviro-Tech.

Councilman Walton expressed concern regarding awarding bids to Enviro-Tech when someone had just come forward earlier in the evening after having problems with them. He added, "I'm part owner of the City; I think we need to have equal opportunity for people."

Councilman Horton asked if Enviro-Tech subcontracted; Mr. Olson stated that he was sure they did on certain jobs, and they were required to submit a list. Mr. Olson stated that of the three bids that the City received for this project, Enviro-Tech was the low bidder.

**Motion was made by Councilwoman Jeannie Young, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem King to award the water and sewer projects to Enviro-Tech. Those voting in favor**

**of the motion were: Young, Hummer, King, Caudle and Spence. Against: Adkins, Horton, and Walton. Motion carries.**

**g. Approval of 2019 Budget Meetings Calendar;**

Mayor Parker asked City Manager Olson introduce the item to the Council. Mr. Olson stated that, as requested, staff had created an expedited, aggressive budget calendar in hopes of adopting the budget earlier this year. He pointed out another change, which would include an additional public hearing at the beginning of the budget process, as well as the usual one toward the end. He added that this was done in light of the difficulties last year with needing to find additional funding after the budget was nearly complete.

Date	Action
January 28, 2019	Approval of Budget Calendar
February 15, 2019	Distribute budget materials to departments
February 18, 2019	Pre-budget work session with Public Hearing (call for hearing 1/28)
March 8, 2019	Budget information submitted to Finance Department
April 1, 2019	Present staff budget and begin review of General Fund
April 4, 2019	Finance Committee meeting and complete General Fund review
April 15, 2019	Review Enterprise Funds
April 18, 2019	Finance Committee meeting and further discussion on budget
May 6, 2019	Review City Council Changes
May 20, 2019	Open for budget discussion
May 28, 2019	Work session and Council Meeting – Hold Public Hearing
June 3, 2019	Open for budget discussion
June 10, 2019	Council Meeting – Adopt fiscal year 2019-2020 Budget

**Motion was made by Councilwoman Jeannie Young, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Rickey King, to adopt the budget calendar as presented.**

Councilman Walton expressed concern about having a public hearing during their initial budget session. He stated, “We don’t need to include anymore than nine people to make suggestions. People got public comment time to come up and talk about things they want in the community. We do not need a public hearing to hear what they have to say and then it becomes more and more complicated. We are the owners, not them. That’s why they selected us to represent them. Let them talk to their representatives about that. Why’s it so important that we have one now at the beginning? Now, all of a sudden, we want people from the outside to come in and tell us what we need to do. They don’t need to come up here and tell us what to do.”

City Manager Olson stated the purpose of the hearing at the beginning was to “front-end load the process.”

**Those voting in favor of the motion were: Spence, Caudle, King, Hummer, and Young. Against: Adkins, Horton, and Walton. Motion carried.**

**8. Comments and Inquiries on Non-Agenda Items:**

Councilman Adkins thanked the members who came to represent Sentara during the meeting. He stated, “We are in full support of Sentara. We voted not to support the reuse grant for Chesapeake.” He thanked Chief Buffalo and the Elizabeth City Police Department for all that they do.

*(Clerk’s Notation – The City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and City Attorney briefly stepped out of chambers. The Mayor called for a three minute recess, beginning at 8:53 p.m. and ending at 8:56 p.m. When the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and City Attorney returned, they asked the Mayor to clarify her earlier motion regarding Chesapeake Regional’s Reuse Grant, as she had voted “no” on a negative motion. The Mayor clarified that she meant that she did not support the grant, and the motion failed, as recorded.)*

Councilwoman Young thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem King had no comments.

Councilman Horton had no comments.

Councilwoman Young thanked the City staff for their hard work. She stated that she was very supportive and proud of the individuals working for the City.

Mayor Parker thanked everyone for attending the meeting and gave an update on several events she had attended.

**Motion was made by Councilwoman to enter Closed Session, as allowed by NCGS 143-318-11(a)(5) at 9:20**

**9. CLOSED SESSION – As Allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) – Acquisition of Property:**

**10. Adjournment:**

There being no further business to be discussed, Mayor Parker adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

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Bettie J. Parker  
Mayor

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April D. Onley  
Interim City Clerk

