The City Council held a work session on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. in the West End Conference Room at City Hall. The following people were present:

Mayor T. Chet Mann
Council Member Byron Buckels
Council Member Charles Taylor
Council Member James Williams
City Manager Hal Hegwer
City Attorney Susan Patterson
Mayor Pro Tem Rebecca Wyhof Salmon
Council Member Jimmy Haire- arrived at 6:19 PM
Council Member Norman Charles Post, III
Council Member Sam Gaskins
City Clerk Bonnie Davis
Deputy City Clerk Vicki Cannady

Work Session
Mayor Chet Mann called the work session to order.

Consider Presentation from Planning Department Staff and Triangle J Council of Government on Affordable Housing Study – (Exhibit A)
Community Development Director Marshall Downey stated that staff and Council have discussed at several workshops the East Sanford Redevelopment Area and the need to look at housing, trend data, and an analysis of our need for housing. Staff reached out of Triangle J and they have put together a report on the housing study. He introduced Erika Brown and Aspen Romeyn, with Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG), who prepared and presented an extensive report on the need for affordable housing in Lee County.

Planner Erika Brown, with TJCOG, spoke regarding Triangle J COG services and how they strive to improve the quality of life for the citizens. They just recently started working on affordable housing projects in the region a few years ago and are working in Chatham, Wake, Durham, Orange, Johnston and Lee County. She presented an overview of the study and the purpose of it and also the strategies for opportunities to move forward to address affordable housing. Housing affordability is generally when a household pays no more than 30 percent of their gross monthly income on a mortgage/rent, as well as utilities. If they pay more than the 30 percent of their income every month, they would be considered housing cost burden. While this is not an issue for everybody, if a family makes $10,000 per month and are paying 50 percent of their income on their mortgage and utilities, they still have $5,000 left for everything else to pay. For low and moderate incomes, they have very little income left to put towards other needs. When affordable housing is talked about, it is generally focused towards providing housing for the low and moderate group. Low and median income is defined by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Traditionally, HUD provides income data, income limits on a yearly basis and they do it for all geographies across the United States. The median income for Lee County in 2018 for a family of four was $58,000. If you think about affordable housing, it is usually capped at 80 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) or $46,400 for a family of four. Some communities that have a lot higher housing cost and a lot higher income; they focus on the
moderate income 80 to 100 percent of AMI, which is called workforce housing. For purposes of this study, most of the data they looked at was related to 80 percent AMI or less.

She explained there are a couple of kinds of affordable housing; the Legally-Binding Affordable Restricted (LBAR) Housing, which is public housing, low-income housing tax credit projects that is income restricted and the Naturally Occurring Affording Housing (NOAH), which is market rate housing that tends to be affordable to people at the low and median income level. Sanford has a lot of these two kinds of housings now.

Sanford is a very diverse community and a lot of growth projected is for older adults - 65 years and older, non-white households and Hispanic households, who may or may not need different housing needs. Sanford has a lot of housing cost-burden households, which is the people who pay more than the 30 percent of their income; about one in three pay more than 30 percent and Sanford is higher. She stated there are a lot more one and two person households than there are one-and two-bedroom units. There is a lack of housing diversity in terms of types of housing and unit size.

Renter households make up 33 percent of all housing in the County and 45 percent in Sanford. Nearly 50 percent of the renter households make less than $25,000. Of the more than 25,000 people who work in Lee County, about one-third live in another county; it is unclear why but could be related to the housing cost. Housing cost more to live in Lee County than surrounding counties.

She explained the housing goals to incentivize development of a variety of housing types and price points within priority locations; provide education, resources and incentives to improve housing conditions and preserve affordable housing options and increase local funding for affordable housing initiatives; and to improve housing conditions through efficient code enforcement and community outreach. (See Exhibit A).

Consider Broadcast Options for Council Meetings

Mayor Mann wanted to approach the subject of our television coverage. He noted that the City has been moved down to Channel 191 in an old format (Spectrum Cable TV). He asked Tim Copas to come to see if Council is more interested in having a more modern, HD quality presentation on a lower channel through streaming. He expressed concern that people are not seeing Council meetings and are not reading the articles. Mr. Copas approached him with an idea and wanted to see if Council has an interest in moving forward with the streamlining.

Mr. Copas sent Mayor Mann an article from Forbes Magazine about streaming; it came out in April. Over 65 percent of Americans are watching the majority of their different media on demand through Smart TVs and about 61 percent own a Smart TV. When they started streaming live, you would see viewership go to 500 to 600 people. Mr. Copas stated that when Southern Lee High School went to Texas and played a football game there, they had over 15,000 views of that game live and over 500 people viewed it from Wild Wings. He feels the City could be ahead of the curve streaming the meetings, etc. Mr. Copas did not feel people would go to Channel 191 to watch the meetings. They started running some tests with this and they would like to produce a channel that would be all Sanford programming. They streamed about six hours of StreetFest.
They have a new option for Sanford called Sanford TV live. You can go to it on the web browser and there is an app on Smart TVs called Twitch and there is information on how to download it. You would be well ahead of Raleigh, Cary and Apex. They could partner with the City’s station Channel 191 and run them at the same time. In essence, it would be a Sanford channel that would serve Sanford and the surrounding areas where you have on-demand content and the ability to see live events as they happen in HD quality.

Mayor Mann asked how would you produce a streaming HD City Council meeting? Mr. Copas replied that he has the equipment to produce it. All he would need to stream the Council meetings is an internet connection through high-speed data. He could stream it live or on a delay basis.

City IT Director John Clayton stated that the City’s cameras now have 600 horizontal lines; HD is 700 to 1000. We are almost HD. On the website, staff converts to HD. They are using 600 lines to convert it to a better image. On our views, we are getting 300 to 400 views immediately after the meeting within the first view; a month later there are about 1,200 views; four to five months down the road, they are seeing around 2,000 views. Mr. Hegwer stated that when we were Channel 11, there were more people who watched the channel. We are limited to some degree.

Council Member Taylor stated that a lot of people are streaming now. Council has seen it at trade shows of Box Cast where we can have the meetings go on line immediately. There are ways we can enhance what we have now, technology wise, with tricaster and more cameras and you retain the rights to your viewership and metrics. This is key because we do not get metrics from Charter. He had rather retain copy because we have the tool and there are ways to get around it. The technology is there; cameras are smaller and cheaper. Mr. Copas stated that he felt four cameras would be more than adequate and he has produced Lee County’s graduation, football program, etc. To survive, you would have to monetize it unless you have someone to pay for it.

Mayor Mann added that most homes buyers are streaming now. His concern was to bring it to Council’s attention because he felt people are not finding us. People need to be informed today. Mayor Pro Tem Salmon asked do we have the capability to take the video and put it on Facebook. Mr. Clayton replied that we can do it.

Council Member Taylor stated that we do not have a tv logo on the City’s landing page of our site. You have to drill down to the agenda to find the video on-line; we need some type of logo on our landing page. Mr. Copas added that you have to have money to make it work either through advertising, pop ups, or subscriptions. Mayor Mann noted that the TDA could promote that we have a tv channel. Mr. Taylor was concerned about the advertising content because you could have political advertising on our channel and we need to control content. We have the ability to stream through you tube, etc. He had rather keep it in house because we can keep the metrics on it. Mayor Pro Tem Salmon expressed that she would like to know how Public Information Officer Kelly Miller felt about it and what new ways we can get info out to people. She felt we need to control how we deliver. Mayor Mann would like to have staff look at it from a public information office and see what we can do. Mr. Taylor suggested contacting Bill Freeman with the Central Carolina Community College, to get college students to produce a week-long program on what is going on in Sanford.
Consider Presentation by North Carolina Department of Transportation Regarding Seventh Street/Charlotte Avenue Resurfacing and Road Diet - (Exhibit B)

Senior Long-Range Planner David Montgomery was approached by the Department of Transportation (DOT) in February and they are letting out its resurfacing contract and one of the roads they are slated to resurface is Seventh Street. Seventh Street is a four-lane road running from Bragg Boulevard to Colon Road, and it bisects East Sanford. From the planning staff perspective, this would be an opportunity in our planning documents to do a road diet. Staff looked at the DOT design and asked them to look at bike lanes. The DOT worked on it and came back and said maybe we want to do improvements to Charlotte Avenue. The DOT and staff would like to receive feedback from Council to remove some traffic lights on Seventh Street and Charlotte Avenue; a decision would need to be made soon.

Chuck Dumas, Division Maintenance Engineer, for Division 8, stated that they would like to talk about the resurfacing of Charlotte Avenue and Seventh Street. He also brought staff from the DOT to answer some of the questions staff had at the last workshop they attended. He introduced Matt Kitchen, the District Engineer, whose office handles driveway permits, utility encroachment agreements, and attends the MPO and RPO meetings for the area he works in. Mr. Kitchen will present the project on Seventh Street and Charlotte Avenue.

Josh Brooks, is the County Maintenance Engineer, for Lee and Moore Counties. His office handles the resurfacing program. He plans the DOT’s five-year resurfacing program, maintenance plan for Lee County, draining, patching, hurricane recovery efforts, removing debris, snow and ice removal. His office is located on Seventh Street and Bragg Street. Mr. Brooks also brought Bradley Oldham, who is their Advanced Technician, who helps put together the resurfacing programs and maintenance plans, etc.

Anthony Bostic, is the DOT Road Maintenance Supervisor. Mr. Dumas stated that the reason they are looking at this area is because there was a crash at Charlotte Avenue and Seventh Street. The DOT did an investigation and found that there was a crash pattern there. With this investigation and the resurfacing project, they felt this was an opportunity to do the road diet. One of the things they looked at was removing the signal at First Street and Charlotte Avenue and this was incorporated into the plan (Exhibit B). We have a contract for resurfacing and need feedback from Council if they would like to move forward with this plan. The width is there to do the bike lanes.

Mr. Kitchen stated that this is strictly a resurfacing project and it will give you the opportunity to make some changes to it, which would benefit the roadway and City. Seventh Street is a four-lane undivided roadway; the traffic volume has dropped dramatically in the last ten to twelve years. It will not affect the level of service. Charlotte Avenue has also experienced a drop between 2,500/2,600 to 2,100 vehicles per day in the last ten years. They want to start at Weatherspoon Street; take the four lanes undivided highway and reduce it to three lanes; providing one through lane in each direction as well as a center turn lane. This would provide two, four-foot bike lanes on each side of the road, which is part of the City’s bike/ped plan. He stated that Seventh Street and Charlotte Avenue do not warrant a signal any more. As a policy, they look for opportunities to remove those signals as long as it provides for safe travel. Four-way stops sign
can be installed and signal lights removed at Seventh Street and Charlotte Avenue; McIver Street and Seventh Street can handle the four-way stops. The same template with three, 12-foot lanes continue down Bragg Street.

At the intersection of Hawkins Avenue and Charlotte Avenue, they will be taking the four-lane section and convert it to a three-lane section; however, they did not put the bike lanes for the first block or two in order to facilitate parking. They will remove the signal at First Street and Charlotte Avenue; once you get to First Street, they will open the bike lane passed the parallel parking. The signal at Third Street and Charlotte Avenue will remain. They would tie back in to Eighth Street with the normal pattern. It is just a matter of striping because the DOT is resurfacing the street. People will run through a stoplight. You have a higher crash rate with signals. With a four-way stop, they can run it; there is a 99 percent chance everyone else stops for the stop sign. Comfortable with removing signals because they don’t warrant a stop light. Mr. Dumas presented the crash lane document on Charlotte Avenue (Exhibit C). It was the consensus to move forward with this project. The contractor has until June 2020 to complete the project. They have a year to complete the contract. Mayor Mann noted that this is the beginning of the East Sanford revitalization.

Consider Letter of Support for Required Local Matches for Non-Highway North Carolina Department of Transportation Projects – (Exhibit D)

Long Range Planner David Montgomery informed Council that we are in the final steps of the prioritization of 5.0, biennial process of submitting projects to the DOT for funding. We have two bike/ped projects that are now on the STI; however, part of the process is that they want a commitment from the City guaranteeing a match for the bike/ped projects and also a commitment from previous projects we have had from P3 and P4. Staff needs a consensus from Council to move forward with the letter of support (See Exhibit D). Wicker Street was underestimated when the original estimate was done. He summarized the projects as listed on Exhibit D. Matching funds for the projects on Exhibit D through 2026 total an estimated match of $1.4 million. We are required with the 20 percent match. Non-highway projects are estimated at $1.875 million through 2026. Estimates can change in the future. It was the consensus of Council to sign the letter of support, understanding that it does not bind the Council if time/budgets change.

Consider Recommendations by Lee County Transportation Committee on Ranking of Lee County Transportation Projects to TARPO – (Exhibit E)

Long Range Planner David Montgomery referred to Exhibit E. This time, each county is allowed to submit eight projects per mode, then TARPO Subcommittee and staff will reduce it down to 23 total submittals for each transportation mode; that is highway, bike and ped; aviation, transit, ferry and rail. We are only submitting for three; they are highway, bike and ped and aviation projects. The Lee County Transportation Committee is composed of two members from each governing board, Bob Heuts, Bob Joyce, and Debbie Davidson with COLTS. They met in April and devised the list of highway projects. There are four new projects they are submitting for scoring at this point and time. One is making improvements at the intersection of Carolina Trace; Colon Road from US 1 to 15/501 to widen and extend to 15/501 (this was high on SAGA’s list; Signalization at 15/501 & Deep River Road intersection; new access road connection where the new potential multi-sports complex may be located from Broadway Road/421 Bypass partial
cloverleaf south to the Ashby Rd/Highway 421/87 intersection. He gave a summary of the other projects on the list and their scoring.

Discussion Regarding Lee County/Sanford Participation in Downtown Sanford Wi-Fi Project

IT Director John Clayton advised that Lee County is looking for a partner to provide free public Wi-Fi Downtown. The cost is $1,150 per month. The County is requesting a 50/50 split of the cost. It will be a good robust Wi-Fi system, similar to what you see in a hotel and it will handle hundreds of users. Mr. Hegwer added the County has received a proposal and there are certain aspects of it. Lee County is asking us to split the cost per month; Lee County will pay the capital cost of $20,000. Wi-Fi will reach Downtown Sanford from Horner Boulevard eastward to First Street. Mr. Hegwer stated that one thing staff looked at is being able to serve internet access in Depot Park and it will allow this capability. The County is looking at building the system. Mr. Clayton stated that not every kid has Wi-Fi; kids can go to the library to get it. Mr. Haire asked why would they end at Horner Boulevard and you would think they would want to service their building. Mr. Clayton replied that this is Phase I. They will sell high-speed secured circuits to businesses. Mr. Hegwer stated that the agreement would be between Lee County and the City of Sanford for three years. Staff recommends going forward. It was the consensus of Council to agree to pay 50 percent of the monthly cost.

Mayor Mann recessed the meeting for dinner and then, reconvened the meeting

Consider DSI Staffing Transition – (Exhibit F)

Vice-Chair Bob Joyce, representing the Downtown Sanford Inc. Board, stated that they met this morning to discuss the budget; almost everyone was in attendance. The job of DSI has changed over the years but is still focused on marketing and advertising Downtown, events and retail promotion; grants to improve overall appearance of Downtown, and serves as liaison with property owners and merchants. The Board of Directors consist of property owners, Carol Carlson, Tim Childress, Ophelia Livingston, Pam Gordon, Jeff Towson, Ashley Brown Whitaker, Tommy Thystrup, and others.

As Council is aware, Jennifer St. Clair announced her resignation effective June 6. The first thing we need to know is how much money DSI can spend money wise. Sharon Spence is the perfect person to be chair this year because, at one point, she was head of Downtown and is very aware of the Main Street Program. Mrs. Spence has spoken with the Main Street Program representatives and has received a salary study that was done statewide and a job description.

One of first things DSI wanted to do was to prepare and review the budget. The budget is about $145,000 - $150,000. About $65,000 of the budget comes from the Municipal Service District. The tax rate is 11 cents. The revenue neutral rate 9.2 cents and Financial Services Director Beth Kelly and DSI discussed the effect it would have on their budget. They looked at a small building on Steele Street and a large building on Carthage Street to see what the effect in the tax rate would be. The small building would go from a revenue neutral rate of 9.2 to 11 cents was about a $30 a year difference in tax; the larger building was about $300. DSI had a lengthy discussion and decided to recommend leaving the Municipal Service District rate at .11 cents. One cent is about $5,700. It would give them more cushion to hire a person to replace Jennifer St. Clair and continue to have a half-time person. The salary DSI pays has no benefits. DSI is
recommending that Council consider a 11-cent tax rate. Mr. Hegwer informed Council that his proposed budget he will be presenting Tuesday night is revenue neutral. Mr. Joyce added that Jennifer St. Clair and Kelli Laudate raised almost $40,000 in sponsorship which goes in their revenue line.

Consider Discussion Regarding Water Quality - Odor/Taste Concerns – (Exhibit G)

Water Plant Superintendent Scott Christiansen received about 100 complaint calls over a period of four to five days in April and it drew attention. In a typical calendar year, they do not receive 100 complaints. They may get two to three complaints per month and it is people that are really interested mainly in the quality of the water. The calls received were an “earthy,” pondy taste and odor problem. Within a day or two, he was notified by a distribution operator and a notice was published to inform the public that staff was aware of the complaint. Mr. Christiansen reassured everybody during this time, that staff continued to test the water and knew it was safe to drink. Staff sent the City’s operators out to taste the water and some could and some could not taste it. Three staff members publicized the notification. He sat down with the laboratory supervisory and chief operator to discuss the matter and realized the reservoir was “turning over.” Other terms used are “flipping or inverting.” “Turnover” is the physical mixing of the entire body of water until the temperature equalizes and it happens at about 58 degrees. They test for organics and a lot of different methodologies. It is typically a spring issue. When they receive taste/odor complaints, it is usually in March when the plant is switched to free chlorine or during this turnover. The reservoir is shallow and it turns over rapidly; depends on the weather. It turned over between April 18 through 25.

Council Member Taylor asked if this is something Public Information Officer Kelly Miller could be prepared for in the app and notifications could be sent out to the public. Mr. Christiansen said it is somewhat predictable and he felt it was a good suggestion. Sometimes it turns over in the fall but no one notices it. He drinks water every day and sometimes we have manganese issues. Public Works Director Vic Czar added that sometimes it turns over and you don’t know about it. Mr. Christiansen displayed a picture of the reservoir and the Cape Fear River feeds the reservoir. He explained in detail what causes the turnover. During the summer and winter months, the reservoir is layered, or stratified by the temperature. Water gets denser as it gets colder and wants to sink. As the water temp gets lower, the molecules in the water expand. Lower water wants to lift and pulls all these organics and it settles in the reservoir. The bottom layer contains an abundance of decaying matter (organics) and sulfurous gases that causes taste and odor problems.

Mr. Christiansen said that to mitigate turnover, they may increase the chemical treatment of the water to maximize the removal ratio of organics, or to oxidize the iron and manganese. This year since they had a lot of problems, they blended water directly from the river and reservoir. They tested for MIB and geosmin to rule out an algae issue. The reservoir was treated with copper sulfate; typically, they don’t do this in the winter months. Normally, they wait to see some PH fluctuations before they use copper sulfate. This year they treated it because they wanted to be sure they were not having blue-green algae problems.
Consider Employee Survey Options – (Exhibit H)

Human Resources Director Christy Pickens explained that several months ago Council asked staff to look into another employee opinion survey. The Employment Security Commission conducted two surveys in the past; however, they no longer provide this service. Staff contacted several organizations and the range was $2,200 to as high as $9,500 and more if they come on site. Most of the companies who responded will provide the same level of service. All will either have a customized survey or they have a standard survey to pull from. If you would like to maintain the level of service similar to the one provided by the Employment Security Commission in the past, the Maps Group in Cary can perform this service. They would do all the analysis and communication with employees and provide us, if Council would like, a presentation to management. They will do a customized survey for $4,000.

Council Member Gaskin suggested that if we do this, we would get the most benefit out of the duplicate survey from what we did the last time and could compare. Council Member Taylor added that he believes The Maps Group is doing the City of Chapel Hill’s survey and he agrees with consistency’s sake because we already have the benchmarks from previous years. He felt some committees should be formed among the departments to work through the top three to four critical items for the employees to build continuity. We did the survey; however, we did not take it a step forward to make it pliable and workable. Mr. Hegwer added that it will be in next year’s budget. Council was in agreement to move forward in the next fiscal year. Mr. Hegwer suggested that it might be helpful for staff and Council to possible survey the citizens to see what is important to them. They could do paper copies or complete it online. We have a lot of ways to get the public engaged by letting them know about the survey. Mrs. Pickens will come up with some creative ways to increase the participation in the survey.

Consider Establishing Commission on the Opioid Abuse Epidemic (Three At-Large Appointments)

City Attorney Susan Patterson explained that we are looking to see if council would like to establish a commission on the opioid abuse epidemic. She has started the process to create and structure a commission, and working with Council Member Post about what the commission can do for us. It was suggested that the City have its own commission and to seek out funding opportunities. The commission would consist of seven members, three at-large and four by virtue of different groups; one from the police department; one from the sheriff department; one from the treatment facility and one from the medical community. This commission would be created to address the opioid abuse epidemic and to provide education; prevention strategies; recommend treatment and rehabilitation methods; and to facilitate enforcement of laws and regulations to protect the public health safety and welfare of the residents of Sanford. She looked at the powers and duties they could have to advise the City of Sanford on the opioid epidemic; to educate the public and local officials about opioid abuse issues; to perform special studies/projects on the epidemic; to prepare a report to the City Council addressing prevention, treatment and enforcement; to facilitate citizen participation and the idea is to stand up and be modeled after S3 Housing Connect where the citizens take the issues and development information and advise the Council. This would be separate from Lee County’s Project Lazarus group. This is proposed to see if Council would like to proceed about appointing people to this commission.
Council Member Post stated that he has been working on it a long time, along with several other people. Attorney General Josh Stein came in January of 2018 with various people interested in trying to find solutions to the opioid problem in Lee County. It was a great start and thereafter, the County Health Department took it over because technically it was under their purview; they held an initial public meeting where there was a ton of people there and it was good. A month or two later, less people showed up for the meeting and they broke up into groups. Since then, the groups have dissolved over time. There is no blame on anyone. He felt the City could take the lead. The first is education and prevention; the second is enforcement and the third is treatment and rehabilitation. Project Lazarus takes care of the education and prevention; it does not talk about enforcement and treatment and rehabilitation. He felt it would be good to model it after S3 Housing Connect. Opioid epidemic is as big a problem as the homeless. He felt the easiest way to do it is to have a commission where we can appoint people. The committee does not have to last forever; it could be reviewed in five years.

Mayor Mann added that he receives calls from crying moms and upset families that say their children have died or have been stolen from them. The federal government has gone after the drug companies; the other problem is people getting heroin when they cannot get opioids. He felt there are individuals who will be willing to serve. The commission could appoint some people/committees to create their own task force.

It was the consensus of Council to set up the commission framework. Council Member Post stated that he and Council Member Taylor will be the co-liaisons (non-voting) on the committee from Council.

Consider Efforts to Create Opportunity for Fundraising Regarding Parks, Art, Etc.

Public Works Director Vic Czar stated that the evolution of the park system has gotten to the point to raise funds such as sponsorships, etc. Along the same line, the Depot building is coming up also. When people donate to a certain function, they want a tax advantage. If you write a check to the City for something, there is a question as to whether it is a tax deduction. The way to solve that problem is to create a non-profit. They looked at some opportunities to dovetail with other non-profits or create our own. There is a foundation called the North Carolina Community Foundation and part of their mission is if you don’t have a nonprofit, you can use them to be your bank. They give you receipts and you are in control of the money on how it is spent. They do charge a fee. We could create our own non-profit, which we think has its advantage. If you choose to create your own non-profit; there are articles of incorporation and bylaws and certain things to do to set it up. It can be an arm of this Council or it can be an arm’s length of this Council. There are advantages and disadvantages. An advantage of the non-profit is they do not have to abide by all the rules that a local government has to comply with in terms of expenditures. A non-profit will allow us to solicit for funds and donations and give a tax advantage for the contribution. It was the consensus of Council to create our own non-profit. Mayor Mann commented that it could be called “Friends of the City Non-Profit.” Mr. Hegwer added that there is nothing better than having home-grown people who have a real vested interest, who is willing to serve and reach out to the right people for donations and connections with industries.
**Other Business**

Mr. Hegwer stated that he will be presenting the budget Tuesday night and he will be happy to sit down with any council member either before or after the presentation to answer any questions they may have.

Financial Services Director Beth Kelly announced that the sale of $2 million GO Bonds went on sale today. There were five bidders all in at an interest rate of 2.446. The Local Government Commission was very pleased as they got 2.66 last week. Obviously, the market changed for the positive for the last days. The most recent numbers, based on the market today, will save $150,000 annually for the refunded $1.7 million for the remainder of the life of the refunding portion. The first estimate was $120,000.

Mr. Williams stated that he had a conversation with a gentleman about the new school being built and that it will be ready August 1. The gentleman’s wife is Wendy Carlyle, principal of the new school. The gentleman said that the auditorium is going to be one of the greatest to be used.

Mayor Pro Tem Wyhof commented that she was at the park yesterday and she was elated to see all the construction going on and the people standing around the sign, showing the rendering of the park and they were talking about it. Mr. Czar added that on Monday, they will start putting in the playground equipment and hopefully on Thursday, pour concrete for the splash pad.

Council Member Jimmy Haire informed Council that Julian Philpott asked him to tell the City they are doing an outstanding job. A few months ago, Mr. Taylor showed us a crosswalk that had a 3D dimension look and staff was going to tell them how much it cost. Mr. Taylor said that the crosswalk may cause more traffic with people looking at it as a novelty instead of functionality.

Mayor Mann commented that they (Byron Buckels, Sam Gaskin, Jimmy Haire and he) have been working hard with the Depot Committee, trying to put together a building design committee, funding raising capital committee, and a public relations committee. The sports park committee is working and the next meeting is at 9 AM on Friday, at the Buggy Building. The County is excited about the sports park and it may house a semi-pro soccer team. For everything we are doing in the revitalization effort, it appears to be paying off. We have had several meetings today; we have another interest in Kendale; and in the tobacco warehouses on Wicker Street. He was asked to make a presentation in Raleigh last week at 7:30 A.M. to 31 people. He put together 65 slides and they would not let him leave. They invited three mayors to hear him speak and he felt the word is getting out. This presentation was for a group of developers and capital finance people. We still have a building owned by Jim Goodnight and the old Bowen Ford building and who knows what will become of that building. Mayor Mann reminded everyone that this is why we are doing revitalization. Mayor Mann noted that Council knows what they are facing in the budget and to take Mr. Hegwer up on his offer to discuss the budget with him and staff.
Adjournment

Council Member Post made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Council Member Gaskins, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]
T. Chet Mann, Mayor

Attest:

[Signature]  
Bonnie Davis, City Clerk