MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANFORD
SANFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

The City Council met at the Sanford Municipal Center, 225 E. Weatherspoon Street, on Tuesday, June 18, 2019, at 6 p.m., in Council Chambers. The following people were present:

Mayor T. Chet Mann
Council Member Byron Buckels
Council Member Jimmy Haie
Council Member Charles Taylor
City Manager Hal Hegwer
Deputy City Clerk Vicki Cannady

Mayor Pro Tem Rebecca Wyhof Salmon
Council Member Sam Gaskins
Council Member Norman Charles Post, III
Council Member James Williams
City Attorney Susan Patterson

Absent:
City Clerk Bonnie Davis

CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Mann called the meeting to order. Council Member Buckels led the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENT
There were no requests for public comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Council Member Gaskins made the motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Council Member Buckels, the motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA
Closed Session Minutes dated August 29, 2018 – Item #2 (filed in Released Closed Session Minute Book)
Closed Session Minutes dated October 30, 2018 – Item #2 (filed in Released Closed Session Minute Book)
Closed Session Minutes dated November 6, 2018 – Item #1 (filed in Released Closed Session Minute Book)

Council Member Gaskins made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Salmon, the motion carried unanimously.

SPECIAL AGENDA
Recognition of 2019 Lee County 4-H Young Commissioners
Dr. Bill Stone, County Extension Director, stated that this is the seventh year of the Young Commissioners 4-H Leadership program, designed to provide training for leadership, life skills and work force development. He recognized Lee County Commissioner Kirk Smith who helped establish the program and Cindy Howenstein who serves as volunteer leader. Angel Oy, a rising senior from
Lee Early College and current president of the Young Commissioners, thanked Council members for the opportunity to speak with them and learn more about the City. She explained that the program provides an opportunity for youth to grow, become more engaged, speak with confidence and hone their leadership skills. The 2019 class of Young Commissioners were Annie Tart; Avery Tart, Sidney Retama; Vanessa Hernandez; Aracely Guerrero; Oscar Sanchez; Crystal Kohli, and Noemi Perez.

Presentation of Sanford’s Black Historical Entrepreneurs (Exhibit A)

Carol Chalmers Deese (of 2240 Chalmers Drive, Sanford and 10446 Council, Chapel Hill) presented information on Sanford’s African-American entrepreneurs and people of color who made significant contributions to Sanford and Lee County, along with historically black churches, schools, and landmarks. She encouraged citizens to share memories and special black history moments that helped make Sanford what it is today and hopes to engage students who are interested in interviewing senior citizens and family members. The project will provide skills in communication, graphic arts, computer technology and research, and help keep this history preserved. She will continue doing research and wants to run black history segments on radio, television and in schools; create a website to share information and collaborate; publish brochures (such as the sample included in the exhibit); and offer guided tours of points of interest throughout the city.

CASES FOR PUBLIC HEARING
Public Hearing on Municipal Service District Expenditures

Financial Services Director Beth Kelly reviewed a detailed list of Municipal Service District (“MSD”) expenditures for the first half of the upcoming fiscal year. She explained that this information was included in the recently approved City budget and must be approved at a public hearing.

Mayor Mann opened the public hearing and with no one speaking in favor or opposition, closed the public hearing.

• Approval of Expenditures (Exhibit B)

Council Member Gaskins made a motion to approve the MSD expenditures; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Salmon, the motion carried unanimously.

DECISIONS ON PUBLIC HEARINGS
There were no decisions on public hearings.

REGULAR AGENDA
Resolution Creating the Commission on the Opioid Epidemic (Exhibit C)

City Attorney Susan Patterson explained that the opioid abuse epidemic is a serious national crisis that affects public health, as well as social and economic welfare, and it has taken the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans. If approved, this resolution would create a commission to address this epidemic and provide education and prevention strategies; recommend treatment and rehabilitation methods; and facilitate enforcement of laws and regulations to protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Sanford. The commission is designed to be an advisory commission for the City and would consist of seven members: three At-Large members; one representing the Sheriff’s Department; one representing the Police Department; one representing a treatment facility; and one representing the medical community. She reviewed duties and explained that staff will
advertise for positions on the commission and applications will be presented to Council for appointments at a subsequent meeting. She explained that Council Member Post requested that a committee be formed to address this issue. Mr. Post confirmed that he had been working on this project for about two years and thanked everyone involved in helping it come to fruition.

Council Member Post made a motion to approve the Resolution Creating the Commission on the Opioid Epidemic; seconded by Council Member Taylor, the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS (Items for discussion and action will only be taken if necessary. Otherwise, these items will be placed on the next agenda for approval.)

2009-2014 Tax Bill Write-Off for Registered Motor Vehicles (Exhibit D)

Financial Services Director Beth Kelly explained that the County Commissioners approved a request from Mary Yow (previous Lee County Tax Collector) to write-off all outstanding motor vehicle tax bills from 2009 through 2014. The County is now requesting Council approval for delinquent motor vehicle taxes from the City and Municipal Service District (MSD) for the same period. The amount of delinquent motor vehicle taxes for the City during that period is $48,089.23 and the delinquent amount for the MSD is $88.95. The County provided a detailed list of these amounts and they are on file in the City Clerk’s office.

Council Member Haire questioned whether these delinquent taxes were incurred prior to the current system through which taxes are paid when tags are purchased or renewed. Michael Brown, current Lee County Tax Administrator, explained that these taxes are from the prior system, before the “tax and tag” system was implemented in 2013. He confirmed that collections under the old system were around 80 percent and collections through the new system are nearly 100 percent.

Council Member Gaskins made a motion to approve the 2009-2014 Tax Bill Write-Off for Registered Motor Vehicles; seconded by Council Member Post, the motion carried unanimously.

Award of Professional Consultant Grant Administration Services for the 2018 Community Development Block Grant – Neighborhood Revitalization (CDBG-NR) Linden Avenue Project (Exhibit E)

Community Development Manager Karen Kennedy explained that a request for consultant grant administrative services for the 2018 CDBG-NR Linden Avenue Project was emailed to six firms; advertised in The Sanford Herald; and posted on the Interactive Purchasing System through the federal government (as required by state guidelines). Five responses were received and after evaluation as itemized on the exhibit, staff recommends that the contract for services be awarded to The Wooten Company from Raleigh. She reminded Council that this project is a joint effort between the City and the Sanford Housing Authority (“SHA”) to convert the old Head Start facility on Linden Avenue into five units for the homeless that will be managed by the SHA. Mrs. Kennedy explained that she partnered with Shannon Judd, Executive Director of the SHA, on grant opportunities and $750,000 was received in CDBG funds, with $350,000 going toward rehabilitation of this facility, and the SHA received $440,000 from the Housing Finance Agency for the project.

Council Member Taylor made a motion to award the Professional Consultant Grant Administration Services for the 2018 Community Development Block Grant- Neighborhood
Revitalization (CDBG-NR) Linden Avenue Project to The Wooten Company; seconded by Council Member Buckels, the motion carried unanimously.

**Capital Project Ordinance Amendment – Parks and Recreation Project #B1602 (Exhibit F)**

Financial Services Director Beth Kelly explained that this item transfers the issuance cost for Parks and Recreation project #B1602 bonds between two accounts and into the General Fund.

Council Member Buckels made a motion to approve the Capital Project Ordinance Amendment – Parks and Recreation Project #B1602; seconded by Council Member Gaskins, the motion carried unanimously.

**Ordinance Amending the Annual Operating Budget of the City of Sanford FY 2018-2019 – Parks and Recreation Project #B1602 (Exhibit G)**

Financial Services Director Beth Kelly explained that this item transfers $96,000 from the capital project into the operating budget so that costs can be paid.

Council Member Buckels made a motion to approve the Ordinance Amending the Annual Operating Budget of the City of Sanford FY 2018-2019 – Parks and Recreation Project #B1602; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Salmon, the motion carried unanimously.

**Capital Project Ordinance Amendment – Moncure Megasite Wastewater Project No. S1703 (Exhibit H)**

Financial Services Director Beth Kelly explained that this item documents $3,669,372 in bond proceeds; transfers $3.5 million advanced from the Utility Fund; and transfers funds between line items.

Council Member Gaskins made a motion to approve the Capital Project Ordinance Amendment – Moncure Megasite Wastewater Project No. S1703; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Salmon, the motion carried unanimously.

**Ordinance Amending the Annual Operating Budget of the City of Sanford FY 2018-2019 – Reimbursement from the Moncure Megasite Wastewater Project (Exhibit I)**

Financial Services Director Beth Kelly explained that this item transfers the $3.5 million advanced for the Moncure Megasite Wastewater project back into the operating budget.

Council Member Gaskins made a motion to approve the Ordinance Amending the Annual Operating Budget of the City of Sanford FY 2018-2019 – Reimbursement from the Moncure Megasite Wastewater Project; seconded by Council Member Williams, the motion carried unanimously.

**Grant Project Ordinance Amendment – Sanford/Lee County Regional Airport Sewer Extension Project No. S1801 (Exhibit J)**

Financial Services Director Beth Kelly explained that this item appropriates $500,000 in bond proceeds and transfers those funds back to the Utility Fund.

Mayor Pro Tem Salmon made a motion to approve the Grant Project Ordinance Amendment– Sanford/Lee County Regional Airport Sewer Extension Project No. S1801; seconded by Council Member Post, the motion carried unanimously.
Ordinance Amending the Annual Operating Budget for the City of Sanford FY 2018-2019 — Reimbursement from the Sanford/Lee County Regional Airport Sewer Extension Project (Exhibit K)

Financial Services Director Beth Kelly explained that this item transfers the $500,000 advanced for the Airport Sewer Extension Project back into the operating budget.

Council Member Gaskins made a motion to approve the Ordinance Amending the Annual Operating Budget for the City of Sanford FY 2018-2019 — Reimbursement from the Sanford/Lee County Regional Airport Sewer Extension Project; seconded by Council Member Post, the motion carried unanimously.

Capital Project Ordinance Amendment — Amos Bridges Water Main Project No. W1803 (Exhibit L)

Financial Services Director Beth Kelly explained that this item documents the $1 million in bond proceeds and the transfer to the Utility Fund.

Council Member Gaskins made a motion to approve the Capital Project Ordinance Amendment — Amos Bridges Water Main Project No. W1803; seconded by Council Member Post, the motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance Amending the Annual Operating Budget of the City of Sanford FY 2018-2019 — Reimbursement from the Amos Bridges Water Main Project (Exhibit M)

Financial Services Director Beth Kelly explained that this item documents the $1 million reimbursement from the capital project into the operating budget.

Council Member Gaskins made a motion to approve the Ordinance Amending the Annual Operating Budget of the City of Sanford FY 2018-2019 — Reimbursement from the Amos Bridges Water Main Project; seconded by Council Member Post, the motion carried unanimously.

Capital Project Ordinance Amendment — Hawkins Avenue Waterline Improvements Project No. W1803 (Exhibit N)

Financial Services Director Beth Kelly explained that this item documents the $5 million in bond proceeds and transfer to the Utility Fund.

Council Member Post made a motion to approve the Capital Project Ordinance Amendment — Hawkins Avenue Waterline Improvements Project No. W1803; seconded by Council Member Gaskins, the motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance Amending the Annual Operating Budget of the City of Sanford FY 2018-2019 — Reimbursement from the Hawkins Avenue Waterline Improvements Project No. W1803 (Exhibit O)

Financial Services Director Beth Kelly explained that this item documents the $5 million reimbursement from the capital project to the operating budget.

Council Member Post made a motion to approve the Ordinance Amending the Annual Operating Budget of the City of Sanford FY 2018-2019 — Reimbursements from the Hawkins Avenue Waterline Improvements Project No. W1803; seconded by Council Member Gaskins, the motion carried unanimously.
Ordinance Amending the Annual Operating Budget of the City of Sanford FY 2018-2019 – Bond Issuance Series 2019 (Exhibit P)

Financial Services Director Beth Kelly explained that this item addresses the prior budget items and projects related to the revenue bond proceeds totaling $13.5 million. The balance of the funds issued for the revenue bonds was refunding the outstanding balance of the bonds issued in 2010 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade and expansion. This item appropriates the refunding portion of the recent issuance, $25,095,000 bond proceeds and $5,564,280 bond premium. Expenditures were $29,005,000 to pay the outstanding principal on the previously issued bonds; issuance costs, underwriter’s discount and interest. She explained that this refunding portion of the new bond issuance will save the City more than $200,000 annually or nearly $2 million over the remaining life of the prior bond issuance.

Council Member Gaskins made a motion to approve the Ordinance Amending the Annual Operating Budget of the City of Sanford FY 2018-2019 – Bond Issuance Series 2019; seconded by Council Member Post, the motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance Amending the Annual Operating Budget of the City of Sanford FY 2018-2019 – Cleanup Amendment (Exhibit Q)

Financial Services Director Beth Kelly explained that this is the budget amendment done annually at the end of each fiscal year and reviewed transfers as shown on the attached exhibit.

Council Member Gaskins made a motion to approve the Ordinance Amending the Annual Operating Budget of the City of Sanford FY 2018-2019 – Cleanup Amendment; seconded by Council Member Buckels, the motion carried unanimously.

Resolution in Support of the Temporary Closure of a Portion of S. Steele Street for the Purpose of the Restoration of the Lee Furniture Ghost Sign, Sponsored by the City of Sanford Appearance Commission and the Public Arts Sub-Committee (Exhibit R)

Community Development Planner II, Historic Preservation Liz Whitmore explained that a portion of Steele Street must be closed to accommodate a lift on a level spot in the middle of Steele Street. The old Lee Furniture sign, which is being restored, is 35 feet above grade and the left edge extends 100 feet; it is the last project covered through funding from the state grant received through Representative John Sauls. The Police Department is aware of the closure and a certificate of insurance has been approved by Risk Manager Van Dowdy. The equipment will be delivered on Saturday, June 22, and eight or nine parking spaces will be closed (in front of The Hobby Shop, Books at Steele, Shoppes on Steele) when the street is closed at midnight on Sunday, June 23. Representatives of the three stores have been notified and support the project. The only business in the immediate area open on Sunday is Cooper’s Restaurant and their representative also supports the project. Shop owners in the area have been notified that more time may be needed but Mrs. Whitmore explained that the entire project should be completed no later than noon on Monday, June 24, and that she has worked closely with city staff to ensure that the process will run smoothly. She also explained that the muralist told her that the project can be completed during a light rain but not during a thunderstorm (weather reports indicate there is only a small chance for thunderstorms). He also indicated to Ms. Whitmore that he is willing to do “whatever it takes” to complete the project.
Mayor Pro Tem Salmon made a motion to approve the Resolution in Support of the Temporary Closure of a Portion of S. Steele Street for the Purpose of the Restoration of the Lee Furniture Ghost Sign Sponsored by the City of Sanford Appearance Commission and the Public Arts Sub-Committee; seconded by Council Member Buckels, the motion carried unanimously.

Elected Official Health and Life Coverage Policy (Exhibit S)

City Manager Hegwer explained that the City currently provides paid health insurance to Council members who request it while holding office. In order to create a smooth transition for Council members who no longer hold office, a change in policy has been proposed to grant one year of health insurance eligibility for members for each term of office fulfilled, for a maximum of five years of eligibility.

Council Member Gaskins made a motion to approve the Elected Official Health and Life Coverage Policy; seconded by Council Member Haire, the motion carried unanimously.

Contract with Sanford Area Growth Alliance (SAGA) for Economic Development (Exhibit T)

City Attorney Susan Patterson explained that this contract with SAGA is proposed to provide a program of economic development services for the City in exchange for $209,000. The contract sets out services to be provided and would allow SAGA to conduct these services on behalf of the City; it is very similar to the contract approved by Council last year. She noted that the prior contract included a provision for an annual audit and this contract includes a provision for an annual audit or review (with a review every other year). Mr. Hegwer explained that this is consistent with the County’s contract and keeps the City on the same schedule as the County. Council Member Haire noted that we are certainly seeing results from SAGA’s economic development efforts. Mayor Mann agreed that our tax base has expanded greatly, in large part due to their efforts.

Council Member Post made a motion to approve the Contract with Sanford Area Growth Alliance (SAGA) for Economic Development; seconded by Council Member Buckels, the motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance to Erect Stop Signs Within the City of Sanford (Piedmont Drive and Canterbury Road)—Chapter 36, Traffic Code of Ordinances (Exhibit U)

City Manager Hal Hegwer explained that this request for additional signage was received over the weekend. Council Member Taylor elaborated that many people from this area are familiar with “Tickle Hill”, where many accidents have occurred. This ordinance would authorize erecting a stop sign at that intersection and eliminate problems turning onto Piedmont Drive from Canterbury Drive. Mayor Mann agreed that slowing traffic at this location is a wise decision.

Council Member Haire made a motion to approve the Ordinance to Erect Stop Signs Within the City of Sanford at Piedmont Drive and Canterbury Road; seconded by Council Member Taylor, the motion carried unanimously.

Appointments to Various Boards, Commissions, and Committees (Exhibit V)

City Attorney Susan Patterson explained that there are two methods of making appointments: nominations, which do not require a second, or motions to appoint.
ABC Board

Council Member Gaskins nominated Louis “Bobby” Powell. Council Member Buckels nominated Jan Tart. Council Member Post moved to close the nominations; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Salmon, the motion to close nominations carried unanimously.

Council Members Williams, Gaskins, Haire, Post and Mayor Pro Tem Salmon voted for Louis “Bobby” Powell, who was re-appointed to the ABC Board for a term expiring June 30, 2022.

Americans with Disability (ADA) Compliance Committee

Council Member Gaskins nominated Nancy Whalen. Council Member Taylor made a motion to close nominations and appoint Nancy Whalen for a term expiring June 30, 2022; seconded by Council Member Post, the motion to close nominations and appoint Nancy Whalen to the ADA Committee for a term expiring June 20, 2022, carried unanimously.

Airport Authority

Council Member Gaskins nominated William Wayne Staton, Jr. Council Member Haire made a motion to close nominations and appoint William Wayne Staton, Jr. to a term expiring June 30, 2022; seconded by Council Member Buckels, the motion to close nominations and appoint William Wayne Staton, Jr. to the Airport Authority for a term ending June 30, 2022, carried unanimously.

Appearance Committee

Mayor Pro Tem Salmon nominated Nancy Kimble and Linda Ware. Council Member Post made a motion to close nominations and appoint Nancy Kimble and Linda Ware for terms expiring June 30, 2022; seconded by Council Member Gaskins, the motion to close nominations and appoint Nancy Kimble and Linda Ware to the Appearance Commission for terms expiring June 30, 2022, carried unanimously.

Board of Adjustments/Housing Board of Appeals

Council Member Post made a motion to appoint Ann Barkley, Gordon Anderson and Van Groce, Jr. Seconded by Council Member Haire, the motion to appoint Ann Barkley, Gordon Anderson and Van Groce, Jr. to the Board of Adjustments/Housing Board of Appeals for terms expiring June 30, 2022, carried unanimously.

Historic Preservation Commission

Council Member Gaskins nominated Greg Stoch and Allen Gordon. Council Member Taylor nominated Kevin Stone. Council Member Post made a motion to close nominations; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Salmon, the motion to close nominations carried unanimously.

Council Members Williams, Gaskins, Haire, Post, Buckels and Mayor Pro Tem Salmon voted for Greg Stoch. All Council members and Mayor Pro Tem Salmon voted for Allen Gordon. Council Member Taylor voted for Kevin Stone; therefore, Greg Stoch and Allen Gordon were re-appointed for terms expiring June 30, 2022, to the Historic Preservation Commission.

Joint Environmental Affairs Board

Mayor Pro Tem Salmon made a motion to nominate and appoint Brooks Gage and Denise Roethlisberger; the motion was seconded by Council Member Post and the motion to appoint Brooks
Gage and Denise Roethlisberger to the Joint Environmental Affairs Board for terms expiring June 30, 2022, carried unanimously.

**Planning Board**

Council Member Gaskins nominated Tom Joyner and Jane Smith for the two regular appointments to the Planning Board. Council Member Taylor made a motion to close nominations and appoint Tom Joyner and Jane Smith for the two regular appointments to the Planning Board for terms expiring June 30, 2022; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Salmon, the motion carried unanimously.

**Sanford Housing Authority**

Council Member Buckels made a motion to appoint Lucinda McLean; Council Member Taylor seconded the motion. Council Member Post made a motion to appoint William Newby; Mayor Pro Tem Salmon seconded the motion. The motion to appoint Lucinda McLean to the Sanford Housing Authority for a term expiring June 30, 2022, carried unanimously. The motion to appoint William Newby to the Sanford Housing Authority for a term expiring June 30, 2022, carried unanimously.

**Sanford Tourism Development Authority (TDA)**

Council Member Gaskins made a motion to appoint P.J. Patel to serve as the TDA board member affiliated with the lodging business for a term expiring June 30, 2022. The motion was seconded by Council Member Post and carried unanimously.

Council Member Gaskins nominated Tim Emmert and Tina Gross to serve as TDA board members active in the promotion of travel and tourism in the City. He also made a motion to close nominations; seconded by Council Member Post, the motion to close nominations carried unanimously. Council Member Gaskins made a motion to appoint Tim Emmert to serve the term expiring June 20, 2022; the motion was seconded by Council Member Post and carried unanimously. Council Member Gaskins made a motion to appoint Tina Gross to serve the term expiring June 30, 2021; the motion was seconded by Council Member Post and carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Salmon nominated Janet Harrington to serve as the At-Large member of the TDA. Council Member Post nominated Ed Strickland to serve as the At-Large member of the TDA. Council Member Taylor made a motion to close nominations; seconded by Council Member Gaskins, the motion to close nominations carried unanimously. Votes in favor of appointing Janet Harrington were cast by Council Members Taylor, Gaskins, Haire and Mayor Pro Tem Salmon and votes in favor of Ed Strickland were cast by Council Members Williams, Post and Buckels; therefore, Janet Harrington was appointed as the At-Large member of the TDA for a term expiring June 30, 2022.

Mayor Mann explained that Council appoints the Chairman of the TDA annually from all members of the TDA. He reminded them that Kevin Brown currently serves as Chairman, filling the position when former Chairman Steve Brewer resigned. Council Member Gaskins moved to appoint Kevin Brown as Chairman of the TDA for the upcoming fiscal year; seconded by Byron Buckels, the motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Gaskins noted that many outstanding candidates applied for these positions and unfortunately, Council was not able to appoint them all. He encouraged them to apply for other
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vacant positions. City Attorney Susan Patterson suggested the Clerk advertise for the remaining vacant positions and those on the new Opioid Commission. Mayor Mann thanked everyone who applied, congratulated appointees and encouraged applicants to re-apply.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Council Member Taylor thanked the Fire and Code Enforcement Departments, along with the Lee County Animal Control and Sheriff’s Department for their prompt response to the recent fire in the Temple Terrace community. Many of the dogs located at the home were placed with caregivers within 24 hours of the fire thanks for their efforts. He noted that the Feindel family donated funds for animal respirators and they were used in this incident. Mr. Taylor stated that he recently attended the auction of a small home off McNeill Road with a $175,000 minimum bid requirement that ultimately sold for $225,000. He also attended an S3 Housing Task Force meeting last week with new Chairman Sherry Sudra, where updates were provided from a recent conference attended by staff from S3, Bread of Life and Outreach Missions. Stan Holt (who replaced Terry Allebaugh in providing management and administrative services) is doing an outstanding job, meeting directly with agencies, conducting organizational meetings, and preparing for community fundraising. Recent changes at The Outreach Mission and updates at The Bread of Life (several local churches have helped paint the building and planted shrubbery) indicate that local public/private partnerships are having a positive impact.

Mayor Mann stated that he has received several inquiries from the public on how they can help and he has directed them to volunteer or donate at one of the shelters. He reminded everyone that a contract was approved tonight for administrative services on the Linden Avenue project, a big win for S3 since more space is needed for those who are homeless in our area. He noted that we are not building more shelters and there is no increase in our homeless population; we are merely trying to accommodate them in a better way. He reminded everyone that S3, a public/private partnership composed of community members, is being replicated as a model in other cities to help people reestablish themselves and become productive taxpayers. He also thanked the Fire Department and employees in the public safety sector.

Mr. Taylor explained that Lee Christian School needs unscreened mulch (two to three inches over a six-foot wide area on a one-mile trail) for a cross country trail built behind the school and since the City currently has an overabundance, he requested that we consider donating it. City Manager Hal Hegwer confirmed there is an abundance of unscreened mulch and suggested that we make it available to Lee Christian School and any other non-profit agencies in the area for the next week and consider transporting it to them, subject to Council approval. Consensus was reached among Council members to move forward on this suggestion.

Council Member Gaskins expressed appreciation to the Young Commissioners and to Lee County Commissioner Kirk Smith for helping establish that program. He noted the value of feedback they provide Council. He commented that when he asked Dr. Bill Stone in the past how those youth feel about returning to Sanford after moving away, none wanted to return; however, for the past few years, the vast majority say they want to return, an indication that we must be doing something right.

Mayor Pro Tem Salmon thanked Carol Deese for her presentation on Sanford’s black entrepreneurs. She noted that one of the things they spoke with the Young Commissioners about the importance of capturing the things that make Sanford unique. She expressed hope that people would
respond to Ms. Deese’s requests for more information on the project. She agreed that the Young Commissioners are an incredible group and thanked Commissioner Smith for helping create a program that will have a lasting impact on the community and provide an opportunity for these youth to embrace leadership.

Council Member Buckels thanked the Young Commissioners and Commissioner Smith for their work. He also thanked Carol Deese for her presentation and outstanding work on the project.

City Manager Hegwer explained that the regularly scheduled Council meeting for July 2 had been cancelled. Council will meet next on July 9 for a workshop that will include a presentation on East Sanford from the UNC School of Government. Council will hold its next regular meeting on July 16.

City Engineer Paul Weeks informed everyone that there will be a traffic disruption on Horner Boulevard from Third Street to Main Street beginning Sunday night, June 23, for work by Atlantic and Western Railroad on their two crossings (one near Taco Bell, the other near Blossman Gas). Businesses in the area will remain open but there will be traffic disruptions. Work on the northern tracks will begin on Monday morning, June 24, and should be complete by Wednesday, June 26. Work on the southern track will begin on Wednesday and should be complete by Friday, June 28. This information will also be posted on the City website.

Mayor Mann stated that 22 percent of the population in Sanford and Lee County are of Latino origin. He suggested that we have done a great job integrating this community, particularly with the “Building Integrated Communities” program (the Latino immigration project) from four years ago. He explained that our Rotary Clubs have a great connection with the city of Atizapan de Zeragoza, a large urban city located about 45 minutes north of Mexico City, and through that connection, we are establishing a Sister City relationship with them. He explained that a 13-member delegation will be leaving on Friday, June 21, to reconnect with visitors who came to Sanford in May. He, along with three Council members, private business representatives, the Sister City Committee Chairperson, Alex Collazo from our Fire Department, and members from El Refugio (a family resource center for community development through cultural sharing) will be going to share training, educational opportunities, and ideas to bring automation here and to share ours with them. Of all the benefits that could come from this relationship, he suggested that the overarching theme is total integration of our Latino community. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed on June 24 at their City Hall during their International Art Festival (with representatives from twelve countries).

He informed everyone that the Depot Committee is working to create a welcome center at the Depot building. He, along with Council Members Haire, Gaskins and Buckels and other committee members, will soon begin a public/private fundraising effort to fully restore the building for use by our Tourism Development Authority and Downtown Sanford, Inc., to promote area hotels, restaurants and continue fostering tourism.

Mayor Mann agreed with Council Member Gaskins’ prior comments that more youth are returning to Sanford and suggested that recent redevelopment efforts have created an atmosphere that draws them back. He also stated that the real estate market is heating up: he met today with a large developer who is moving forward on plans for a new neighborhood and another development that
will be our first signature community is in the works. Values are increasing, with an average appreciation rate of about four and one-half percent annually for the past four years. Sellers are seeing multiple offers and buyers from Wake County who want to relocate here but we have little inventory. Changes to our UDO and development standards will help create neighborhoods that will be cost-effective to serve, while providing attractive amenities that buyers seek. As we recruit industries, we also want the employees to live here, with Sanford being a desirable place to live, work and play. He encouraged Council to complete UDO updates and associated ordinances so that we can uphold standards for the type of development we want to see. As previously discussed with the Young Commissioners, growth provides tax base expansion, with industrial and commercial businesses paying the majority of taxes. With the recent tax revaluation, we had an average three to four percent increase in residential tax values and an average increase of 25 to 30 percent in commercial values. He commended Council and County representatives for their hard work.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**ALL EXHIBITS CONTAINED HEREIN ARE HEREBY INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.**

Respectfully Submitted,

T. CHET MANN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BONNIE DAVIS, CITY CLERK