

**MINUTES OF  
SPECIAL CALLED ELECTRONIC MEETING –  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANFORD  
SANFORD, NORTH CAROLINA**

The City Council met remotely through electronic connections (Office Suite HD) on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at 6 p.m., with the Mayor presiding from the Council Chambers of the Sanford Municipal Center, 225 E. Weatherspoon Street. The following people were connected (“present”) and participated remotely in the meeting:

Mayor T. Chet Mann  
Council Member Sam Gaskins  
Council Member Charles Taylor  
Council Member Rebecca Wyhof Salmon  
City Attorney Susan Patterson  
Management Analyst Holly Marosites

Mayor Pro Tem Byron Buckels  
Council Member Jimmy Haire  
Council Member Norman Charles Post, III  
City Manager Hal Hegwer  
Deputy City Clerk Vicki Cannady

**Absent:**

Council Member James Williams  
City Clerk Bonnie Davis

**Call to Order**

Mayor Mann called the meeting to order (held electronically due to precautions related to the COVID-19 pandemic).

**Termination of a Developer’s Agreement for Triassic, LLC; Hobert D. Wicker and Sandra P. Wicker, Trustees; Linda Ball Wicker; Jimmie Lee Thomas and Judith S. Thomas (Exhibit A)**

City Attorney Susan Patterson explained that this agreement covers property located at southwest quadrant of US Highway #1 and Colon Road. The owners are selling it to developers who want to reimburse the City for the sewer line installed on the property and have requested that the agreement be terminated. No action is required tonight but a public hearing will be held (scheduled for July 7) and notice of the hearing must be advertised for two weeks prior to the hearing. The sellers have also requested a letter confirming that the agreement will be terminated after reimbursement is received. If there are no objections, she will prepare the letter and advertise notice of the public hearing. Council Member Taylor requested clarification that the cost for installing the sewer line was less than anticipated. Mayor Mann requested that more detailed information be provided at the public hearing on July 7 and confirmed there was consensus among Council to advertise the public hearing.

**ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Control) Contract (Exhibit B)**

City Attorney Susan Patterson explained that this contract addresses an increase of \$20,000 paid to the City for law enforcement services provided to the Sanford Board of Alcoholic Beverage Control (“ABC Board”). A total of \$60,000 will be paid for the services and an additional \$50,000 will be paid for internal and external theft, store security and protection of store deposits. She also confirmed that there were no revisions to the contract other than the amounts paid for the services described above and an address change for the ABC Board (they no longer have a post office box and use a street address for mail).

Mayor Pro Tem Buckels made a motion to approve the ABC Contract; the motion was seconded by Council Member Gaskins; and Mayor Mann conducted a roll call vote on the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Resolution Requesting Local Government Commission (“LGC”) Approval of Extension of Issuance of Greenway Bonds (Exhibit C)**

Financial Services Director Beth Kelly explained that this resolution authorizes staff to request an extension from the LGC for the \$4 million greenway project General Obligation (“GO”) bond issuance to provide three additional years to that debt, through September 2023. There was consensus among Council at the annual budget retreat in February to move forward with the project; however, because the annual debt service would require a tax rate increase, as well as economic uncertainty related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Council decided against a tax increase. She explained that the LGC provides seven years to issue debt after bonds are authorized, so the deadline to issue the bonds for the greenway project (the last of four GO bond packages approved by voters in September 2013) would be November 2020 but they will grant a three-year extension upon request. If Council approves this request, the LGC would consider it at their July 7 afternoon meeting. Council would then hold a public hearing at its July 7 meeting followed by a thirty-day waiting period and adjustment of the bond order prior to September 1. Mayor Mann noted that this action is being taken not because of a desire not to move forward with the greenway project but a desire to be fiscally cautious this year and avoid a tax increase, particularly in light of uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and expressed hope that Council can authorize the bonds when the time is right over the next three years.

Council Member Gaskins made a motion to approve the Resolution Requesting Local Government Commission Approval of Extension of Issuance of Greenway Bonds; the motion was seconded by Council Member Haire; and Mayor Mann conducted a roll call vote on the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Other Business**

Council Member Haire informed Council that there is continued interest in downtown buildings. He will be meeting with a gentleman who is buying the property formerly used as the Artists’ Colony on Moore Street and an office building on Carthage Street, across from the old post office.

Council Member Gaskins encouraged everyone to wear face masks and noted that Lee County is among the top eight COVID-19 “hot spots” in the state.

City Manager Hegwer stated that with the number of COVID-19 cases recently accelerating in Lee County, it was prudent to revert to at least one electronic meeting monthly. Plans call for a second Council meeting to be held at the Civic Center, since it will allow more physical distancing for holding joint public hearings with the Planning Board; they will also hold a separate meeting to hear cases after those joint hearings. Many property owners, developers and other interested parties have expressed a desire to move forward with public hearings required for rezoning requests and other related issues that have been delayed since March. Mr. Hegwer noted that staff will continue to monitor the situation and make adjustments as necessary.

Mayor Mann expressed support for the Manager’s decision to revert to electronic meetings and encouraged everyone to do everything possible to keep our environments safe. He stated that he made a public service announcement video asking all citizens and residents in Lee County over 12 years of

age to wear masks in public, particularly in areas where it is difficult to practice social distancing, in order to prevent spreading the coronavirus and to ask their neighbors, friends and family to do the same. He noted that our infection and hospitalization numbers are alarmingly high and continue to increase, partially due to increased testing but also because the virus is still spreading. Cases have been reported in all areas of Lee County and many businesses have staff with confirmed cases; many are asymptomatic and can spread it without even knowing they are infected or contagious. He stressed that wearing face masks is not a political issue and science supports the recommendation to wear masks to help reduce the spread, along with using hand sanitizer, thorough hand washing and social distancing. He suggested that everyone on camera tonight wants the City, County, State and Country to reopen but it can't be done safely if everyone doesn't do their part now and encouraged everyone to be as compliant as possible with orders and requests to wear masks and practice social distancing. A program, "#SafeSanfordNC", has been adopted by area businesses as part of a Main Street America and Retail Federation initiative, that provides detailed information on how to protect employees and customers. He encouraged local business to comply with these guidelines and suggested that many citizens would not like to enter an establishment (restaurant or business) where these standards are not being followed and noted that it would create confidence in consumers who would be more likely to frequent those businesses. Since Lee County is not as isolated as some counties (with a food processing facility, many people coming and going for work, business and tourism-related events), this could prevent spreading the virus. He urged Council members to share information covered in the "#SafeSanfordNC" campaign to create as much awareness as possible since education will help spread the message.

**ADJOURNMENT**

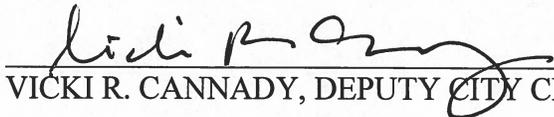
Council Member Taylor made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Council Member Salmon, the motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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T. CHET MANN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
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VICKI R. CANNADY, DEPUTY CITY CLERK