MINUTES OF
ELECTRONIC WORKSHOP –
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANFORD
SANFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

The City Council met remotely through electronic connections (Office Suite HD) on Tuesday, May 12, 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:

Present:

Mayor Chet Mann
Mayor Pro Tem Byron Buckels
Council Member Sam Gaskins
Council Member Jimmy Haire
Council Member Norman Charles Post III
Council Member Rebecca Salmon
Council Member James Williams
Council Member Charles Taylor
Financial Services Director Beth Kelly
City Manager Hal Hegwer
City Attorney Susan Patterson
Deputy City Clerk Vicki Cannady
City Clerk Bonnie Davis
Fire Chief Wayne Barber
Public Works Director Vic Czar
Management Analyst Holly Marosites

Mayor Mann called the meeting to order.

Consider Spec Building #2/Central Carolina Enterprise Park – (Exhibit A)

SAGA Lee County Economic Development Director Bob Joyce updated Council on the process of Spec building #2. The first Spec building was sold to Audentes Therapeutics and we are ready to build another showroom model. The partners in the process will be the same: Central Carolina Enterprise Park LLC as the landowners; SAMET Corporation as the building contractor. The building will be the same general dimensions as the previous building; 117,000 square feet, 29-foot ceilings; 50 x 54 column spacing, 13 docks and a small parking area. The construction materials will be the same: concrete tilt-up walls or poured in place panels; 6" concrete floor; mezzanine office area pre-engineered so that if the company chooses; they can build mezzanine level offices and the building will be completed in the Shell condition-the same as Audentes building. This building will be built on Tract 2, which is the lost immediately south and adjacent to the Audentes building. There was some discussion about building Shell building #2 across the street but it was decided in the interest of time, to build on the lot next door to Audentes. The pricing for the building has changed slightly as costs have increased for construction. The proposed lease rate to an end user will increase by 5 percent and the proposed sale price per square foot to an end user would also increase by 5 percent. Their request to Council is to receive the same support as before and upon completion, there will not be a Certificate of Occupancy because the building will not be completed with electrical and plumbing. We referred to it as substantial completion, so at that point, they asking that City and County share in the cost of holding the building while they market it. They hope to have the success rate as they had before and sold the building before it was completed.

Council Member Williams asked how Audentes feels about an identical building being built next to them. Mr. Joyce replied yes; they have received a preliminary design from Audentes and those boards are up in the SAGA office and they are going to change exterior look of the building in such a way that it will not look like the Audentes building.

Council Member Taylor asked if a company locates in Shell building #2 and if they want another building beside it, would they building subsequent beside the next building or will they have the availability to choose another lot.

Mr. Joyce replied that the lot that we are building Spec #2 is being built on is just to the south of the Audentes building; the next parcel south on Enterprise Park Drive is the one parcel that the investment group does not own. The Talbot family stills owns the next parcel, and on that parcel, there is a considerable amount of floodplain, so it would be very difficult to put a building on the lot next to this one.

City Manager Hegwer reminded Council that on Tuesday, May 19, there will be a public hearing and the lease agreement will be on the agenda for Council's consideration. Attorney Patterson stated that when we would not be the carrying cost on the building, the mechanism by which we would do this is through the lease agreement and would not be signed until the building is in place. The terms of it would be in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which will on the May 19 agenda. The MOU would allow the City to enter a lease agreement and pay those costs for two years.

Council Member Williams asked if we had money left over from the last deal we did not have to spend. Attorney Patterson replied that we budgeted in FY 2020, $162,500 and we never spent it, staff will re-appropriate those funds to next year.

Consider Closure of Various Downtown Streets to Allow for Outside Dining, Retail, etc.

Downtown Sanford Executive Director Kelli Laudate explained that this process started seven to eight weeks ago when COVID-19 began and they tried to reach for the opportunity to continue to support the restaurants; however, it was not successful at that time. An idea was brought to her attention last week by a council member to look into as far as an ordinance. She met with City Attorney Patterson, Major Thomas, and the Chief, last week and basically what needs to happen is that our restaurants to apply for a premise extension with the ABC Commission. Our sidewalks are not compliant to meet ADA regulations because of the size, so we could not put tables on our sidewalks. If approved by the ABC Commission and the City closes the streets, then restaurants could extend their capacity into the streets. This does not mean they could put 50 tables in the street for Smoke and Barrel, Coopers and Local Joes. They could only extend through the full capacity of their restaurant. For example, Jeff Towson can have 84 people inside his restaurant, the Smoke and Barrel. When Phase II occurs between May 22 and May 29, it is said that he can only have 50 percent capacity inside the restaurant but if he is approved through the ABC Commission, then he could then serve the other 50 percent in the street.

Attorney Patterson advised that the process was talked about that New Bern and Wilmington had been through this matter. She called and spoke with both city attorneys. Wilmington has just approached the subject and not put anything in place yet. They are talking

about working through their Senator to see whether they could possibly have some change to their ALE regulations in order to accommodate the outdoor restaurant premise extension. New Bern is talking about it tonight at their meeting. This temporary extension of premises application with the ABC Commission is an application with the ABC Commission. The application asks if the restaurant has leased or deeded the covered area in the extension. She clarified what Mrs. Laudate said. For the building frontage on the street, you would extend the building line as far as the City grants and within those perimeters, you could have tables for the restaurant. If Council closes the street and gives permission for the use of the street to the restaurateurs, they could have food; if they want anything else, beverage-wise, it is between them and the ABC Commission. The City has an ordinance that allows consumption in the Central Business District of beer and unfortified wine, if there is a special event, function, festival or celebration where a special event permit has been issued and streets have been closed. It may take action by Council after they receive their premise application approval from the ABC Commission, then Council could consider whether to close the streets. At some point in the process, Council would have to give permission for use of the City streets by these individual businesses. We also have a city ordinance that talks about not being able to sell on City property but we would have to have some sort of temporary repeal of that for this type of sales on the streets. There are on-premise licenses for ABC and off-premise licenses for ABC. On-premises licenses says you sell and consume on the premises. The way they are looking at this is they are extending the premises and the way New Bern looked at it, if the capacity in your restaurant was 84 people, the total you could have inside and outside would be that capacity; so that would limit the number of people you could have. New Bern has an application process that would go through the city where they would have to provide insurance certificates covering general liability and liquor liability. Attorney Patterson made it clear that there is nothing that she knew of that would allow you to serve liquor on the street but the liquor liability is the type of insurance that covers alcoholic beverage sales; you want that protection in case someone gets in their car and drives off and hurts someone. Those would name the City the additional insured.

Attorney Patterson informed Council that she had spoken with our risk management officer and suggested that if Council chooses to do this, that we would want an insurance policy to name us as co-insured in the amount of $3 million for general liability and $3 million for liquor liability. The restaurant would get that application approved through ABC first. Then we would have some steps we would have to take into place. New Bern closed their streets from the hours of 5 PM to 11 PM, Friday and Saturday on the weekends which would allow these street cafes to occur on those extended premises. Mrs. Laudate added that her understanding for the reason for part of this push is because most of our restaurants have applied for Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) and they are receiving the SBA support, but there are restrictions within that SBA protocol that you spend 75 percent of what is granted to you by June 30. So, if they are not allowed to open their doors until May 27 through May 29, that leaves a short period of time for each of these restaurants to make sure they maximize the use of their 75 percent of their PPP. Mrs. Laudate stated she believes this is the reason, not just for the economy, but to help these restaurants to not incur a loan but their PPP is forgiven as a grant.

Attorney Patterson stated that for the Alcohol Beverage Commission application for extension of premises, that takes a 30-day prior to the event for that to be approved so that would

be difficult with the perimeters that Ms. Laudate mentioned. We could still allow the street café idea or the extension of tables into the street for food, if you would like to do that.

Mrs. Laudate said that Major Thomas been in touch today with Michelle Perez, our ABC agent, and she is willing to continue conversation if this is something that Council feels is necessary.

Council Member Taylor asked the following questions: Are you looking at doing this for a period of time, or is it on weekends, weekdays, etc? How about individuals who do not sell alcohol such as Java Express, Karma Café and other areas and how would that affect them if they want to close Moore Street? Could Charlie Watson Lane where you could have service for all three restaurants and have shared tables? What is the cost of the $3 million liability and what is the cost to the City for us to increase our liability on insurance?

Mrs. Laudate replied that her recommendation is if this is something Council wants to pursue that we put a time period on it. She said in her personal opinion, she does not want to sit in the middle of a street when it's 90 degrees with bugs and gnats. She recommended putting a four-week period on it if they are able to open their doors on May 22 and see what happens for four weeks; that would be for Friday and Saturday nights. The answer to the second question is that the other restaurants all close at 5 PM; Karma closes earlier in the afternoon and she did not think it is necessary that we look at extending this to Wicker Street and Moore Street. Hugger Mugger has the opportunity with outdoor seating and their food trucks and Tim Emmett has done really well with his partner David Lamb. The answer to the third question is it is not easily accessible for these restaurants to use Charlie Watson Lane. If we go to this much effort, she felt the consumer does not want to eat cold food. She fears if you move to Charlie Watson Lane, there is not as much room to service three restaurants; the distance would be too far. She reached out to Renee Fincher with La Dolce Vita and she is not looking at opening until June 1. Renee Fincher and Steve Brewer own their properties, building, and parking lots so they are not limited as to space and parking spaces.

Attorney Patterson stated that it is up to Council as to when you would like to do it. Most people are looking at just Phase II COVID. There are restaurants outside the Central Business District; however, that is the only place you have in the current ordinance to allow consumption of alcohol with a special event permit with streets closed (that is between the business owner and the ABC Commission). Regarding Charlie Watson Lane, the way this extended premises permit works is from the store frontage out straight across the street, so it would not allow you to go to extraneous area to the side. Regarding the cost of the liability insurance, she was not thinking the City would increase our liability insurance; it is for the businesses who want to do it to carry it and name the City, as co-insured. It would be a requirement on the businesses; the City would not pay for it. She questioned the risk manager about how much coverage there should be. It is because the League, with our insurance, usually tries to have a similar amount when we go into these types of events; the risk manager recommends $3 million because it is closer to our coverage of $5 million. When you have a disparity in coverage amounts, everyone looks for the deep pocket.

Mayor Pro Tem Buckels asked how does this affect those parking areas allocated to handicap or off-loading, particularly, to those residents who are living in Downtown – the Wilrik

building on Steele Street. Attorney Patterson replied that it would affect all the parking areas. The Police usually would like that you close the street from end to end so no one turns in and has to find a way back out or turn around. If you close Steele Street, it would be from Carthage to Wicker Streets. The vehicles would need to be removed from the area that is closed, or else it would be closed to vehicles at that time. The Wilrik has, in their lease, a portion of the parking lot on Steele Street across from the Board of Elections. Those streets that are not closed would still have parking but the closed streets will not be available for any parking.

Mrs. Laudate commented that in the past, for every time the streets have to be closed, it has been part of the requirement that she speaks to every single business owner on those streets. They would be notified ahead of time of the street closure and they have cooperated with her through all of their Downtown events so far. They have been wonderful to move their cars temporarily until the street closure comes to an end at night.

Council Member Salmon asked how much earlier would we need to close the streets to get the cars out of the way in time. Mrs. Laudate replied that the beauty of the 5 P.M. closure is that every business on Steele Street closes at 5 P.M. except for Super 10. She walks the streets and goes into each building to tell the owner to remind the customers to move their cars as soon as possible for the street closure. It takes her about 30 minutes to do it and it has not been a problem. Council Member Salmon asked if a space or two could be converted on a side street to make sure those residents who utilize a handicap space have a space close by; it could be a challenge. Mrs. Laudate replied that Public Works with them every time. It would be a request to be made to them.

Mrs. Laudate commented that there are stipulations and they have to be cautious as to how we open our doors and do not want this event to be thought of as a way for a large mass gathering. This is a way for our restaurants to have 100 percent capacity; this is the reason for the ordinance. Mayor Mann stated that this is a great way to help us reopen and throw a life line to those restaurants. Attorney Patterson stated that Council needs to think about whether they want to do this or not so they can draft an ordinance and take action, or wait to see whether they get ABC permits or not. Mayor Mann wants an ordinance drafted and let Council decide what they want to do and he did not want to wait for the permit; he wants to give them an option to sell food if Council votes to approve it. Council Member Gaskins added that Council needs to take action early because Phase 2 may start on May 21 and he felt we need to allow our restaurants ready. This is something that we are going to allow them to do and if it is something they are going to learn and it is going to be difficult, then they don't have to do it. He felt we need to give them the opportunity. Mayor Mann agreed with Mr. Gaskins about getting our restaurants up and running while staying within the state order by Governor Cooper.

Council Member Buckels said it could be a challenge for some of the residents who utilize the handicap space at the Wilrik. He asked are we going to address the issue if we can use the next street over from the designated handicap parking spaces to them to have at least the number of handicap spaces to the next closest parking on street.

Attorney Patterson replied there are building code type requirements for handicap space; it cannot be on a too high of a slope, so that people can get in and out of their vehicles. There is

some provision for handicap spots on Wicker Street. Public Works Director Vic Czar explained that he is not sure that you can have a handicap space that is ADA compliant; but he felt you could reserve some spaces for those people. It has to do with the way the curbs are configured and the width of the space, as a handicap space is wider than a normal space. You could make some accommodations but it may not be exactly a handicap space but you could make room for those people to park as close as they can in proximity to where they were originally.

Mrs. Laudate stated that for Downtown Alive, there is an alley that David Lamb owns right on the corner of Wicker Street and Steele Street. She ended up half way through our series last summer, pulling the stage through that alley and on the back side of that stage, they allowed people to park there. The Police were there to support them through that and knew that people need to get in and out if they were handicapped, they could ask for those spaces. She is not sure if Council would like to consider it; she knew you do not want people to turn around and that is the reason they close the street from end to end but this could be a possibility because no tables need to go past that alley. Council Member Buckels said it sounded like Mrs. Laudate was referring to the people that come to the event; he was referring to the residents that live in the Wilrik building and some of the challenges some residents may have. Mayor Mann asked Mrs. Laudate if she could speak with the people at the Wilrik to find out what the needs are and head it off by addressing the issue ahead of time; maybe we can accommodate those needs. Mayor Mann asked Council for a consensus to place an ordinance on the agenda for Tuesday night with or without ABC consent; to at least serve food. It was the consensus of Council to do so. Mrs. Laudate clarified if it was good for her to reach out to the three restaurants on Steele Street and give them the information on how to apply for a premise extension and see what happens from there. Council Member Gaskins thanked Mrs. Laudate for her efforts in trying to put this together.

Consider System Development Fees – (Exhibit B)

Financial Services Director Beth Kelly referred to the presentation (Exhibit B) Council was presented in their agenda packet and shared the information on the screen for the public. This presentation was presented by Raftelis to Council a couple of years ago and she and Vic presented this at this year's retreat. Council was supportive at that time to move forward with these fees. The presentation explains the objective of the system development fees and how they are calculated and make sure we recover costs to provide service capacity to new connections. This would connect water and wastewater systems. However, the revenue from the fees is restricted to only allowed to be used on capital purchases and capital projects. This revenue source would allow us to pay for capital needs that could help offset future rate increases because we will have this available money to help with our capital needs. Mrs. Kelly explained the background information on the fees as it recovers the cost of core system assets necessary to serve all customers (See Exhibit B). The fees that are recommended are based on what Raftelis has calculated by meter size; it has to be reviewed and updated every three to five years. As staff presented at the retreat, the timeline with the new statute requirements that the fees on Exhibit B are what Raftelis says are basically supported and the amount we could actually put in place; however, they require us to post information on the City's website for at least 45 days and we are tentatively planning to post it effective May 15 and then it would allow for the 45 days to hit close to June 30. During this time, the public can ask questions and provide feedback via an email staff will set up for this purpose (which she has listed on the slide). We would take all the feedback from the public and provide that information at a public hearing on July 7 and then, the adoption of the ordinance

would follow after the public hearing. Staff is recommending that the fee be effective no early than January 1, 2021. However, based on the feedback received from the public, we could push back that date back to be effective a little later. Council was supportive of these fees at the retreat. This would give time for those individuals who have projects to know that this fee is going to come in the future. This fee is above and beyond the tap fee for water and sewer. Public Works Director Vic Czar added that this is just the next step in the process; we need to be transparent to the public and show them the information on how they are justified. If you proceed, you can adopt the fee and implementation can be whenever Council so adopts. Fees are in line with other communities; this is something common in a lot of cities/towns.

Council Member Taylor asked if we would charge a neighborhood with one empty lot with the same type of impact fee on those individuals in a new neighborhood development such as Galvin's Ridge and Laurel Oaks. Mr. Czar replied yes, they would be charged to any connection that is made, whether water and sewer. If it is a water connection, it would be charged at the time the meter is set; if it is a sewer connection, it is charged at the time the sewer tap is made. The reason is the capacity in the system exists for those people who do that and for the other people who are paying rates now, are basically paying for the lot that is not connected to have that ability.

Consider Kendale Improvement Opportunities – (Exhibit C)

Community Development Director Marshall Downey presented an update of the proposed Jonesboro Kendale Plaza. Staff has worked closely with the owners of the Kendale Plaza from Atlanta. We were able to secure grant money and prepared a master plan for development. At council's direction, they have had two opportunities with two new property owners: Mina Charter School (backed by MORCOR) from Arizona or Utah and Par 5 Development out of West End in Moore County. They have been working with City staff on different designs and our master plan has somewhat come to fruition. The upper pod along Main Street and Lee Avenue was designed to consolidate retail, middle block for multi-family and the lower block was targeted for an institutional type space, which has turned out to be educational. The good news is that seems to have helped impact the redevelopment in that area. The project that is moving faster is the Charter School, along Lee Avenue and Industrial Avenue. He presented the basic site plan (Slide #1) and Slide #2 shows the proposed vehicular area. The lighter blue area will be restriped for parking and driveway and along Industrial Drive will be for guests, teachers and student drop off. The back area is for larger vehicles such as buses, etc. The area in white will stay existing asphalt (which is broken) with the exception of the area highlighted in green, which is a little retrofit with landscape buffers, which is required by ordinance. Mr. Downey wanted Council to visualize what it will look like by the diagram (Slide #2).

Mr. Czar stated that the developers were going to do everything they needed to do to meet the ordinances, but the point is they were quite minimal. The existing asphalt is not the best looking and essentially, they were going to put a few trees as a buffer. Given what the vision was to happen, it did not meet the intention of what we thought the vision would be. Mr. Downey stated that staff recognized that and they started having discussions to seek something better. Mayor Mann stated that this is just an effort what we can do to enhance the area and feel it will bring others to do more as well. If MINA leads the way, then others will work in conjunction with staff to do more we hope.

Council Member Taylor asked if the traditional chain- link fence will it accomplish the continuity of what we want of that project and fit the look of the school. Mr. Downey referred to Slide #3 and said yes, staff did not feel that was accomplishing the vision Council and staff would like to see. Staff reached out to McGill and Associates to come with an opportunity or vision to make the site better. Slide 3 is what staff has come back with and worked with Charter School on in terms of what could be a better product. You see some of the same elements as before but staff eliminated a lot of the older broken asphalt to give you a more attractive view and create a trail system the public can use and a feature that makes it more attractive as you come through that core. Mr. Czar and he have had numerous discussions with MORCOR and they have been very receptive to this point about working with the City and trying to get into some type of partnership for this project. Highlighted in red is what we spoke with them about donating for the City to make a public space, as well as a pedestrian element. They see this as a benefit to them and they get an opportunity to have something better than they had before. They also don't see at this point that this particular area is something they will need in the future for their growth. Mr. Czar stated that we say this as an opportunity; we did not think their first site plan submitted did not meet council's vision; it did meet all the rules. This red area could be an attractive public space and they have been very agreeable to donate it if the City would supply some improvements. It would be a great facelift to that building the way they are looking at it and Jonesboro in general. Referring to the previous slide with the adjacent piece to multi-family; there has been some discussions with them to continue the sidepath up to Main Street, so there is some real opportunity to meet Council's vision and give an economic boost to Jonesboro.

Mr. Downey displayed Slide #4 which would improve the entire Jonesboro area and would fit into a grander scheme. Mr. Czar stated that we have requested some money in this year's budget; we need a greenway system in Jonesboro and in other areas of the City. This would be a link to various other parks (Buchanan Park, Dalrymple Park), and as you go further south, the greenway would extend to Woodbridge and Gaster's Creek tributary; you could go as far as Carolina Trace, which could connect to the greenway system, which could connect to the proposed Laurel Oaks Subdivision. It is the beginning of a backbone greenway system in an area of town we do not have. The point is you are not just doing something for the school, it is a better solution to the sidepath through the urban area that just looks like a wide sidewalk along Industrial Drive. It gives it a little character and is a link in the chain that is needed to make the vision become a reality. Mr. Downey stated that these owners have been very good to work with at this point.

Council Member Taylor noted that it looks great and as we do this investment, one thing he would like to have upfront. There are 66 parking spaces available in front of school and he understands there could be buses there every weekend that might be treated a little differently, but he would like to have access for people to go to that outdoor classroom area (as long as they do not trash that area). It is important that we have an understanding that if we are going to put the investment in there, we want access to the parking lot. There are 66 parking spaces that could potentially be used by the soccer people or an event up front. He would like to have it very clear up front.

Mr. Czar stated we are talking with developer about some form of agreement between us and them to work out some of the details. Staff needs consensus to move forward and pursue it and it was unanimous to move forward. There will be several opportunities for an off-ramp if

needed. Mayor Mann added that we are not binding the City; it is just a consensus to move forward with the developer's agreement and Council will see what is brought back; it will change Kendale for the better.

Council Member Williams asked about the chain link fence and the walking trail. He asked if people would have access to the school with the walking trail because his concern is the safety of the kids on the campus. Mr. Downey replied that the design has been shared with the school and they will have some sort of fence to secure their campus and keep it separate from the public space. They felt comfortable with the fence around their parking area and around their building that would separate it and secure the site. He stated that they are trying to get something more attractive instead of a standard chain-link fence.

Council Member Buckels asked if the company was 100 percent comfortable with conveying the property in red to the City or was this something they did not see; they may need this to expand or are they just 100 percent comfortable with conveyance to the City. Mr. Downey replied that no they are not 100 percent comfortable with any of that but they are comfortable to continuing to negotiate with staff to get into those details. Mr. Downey felt they were comfortable working with staff; that the space they really don't need out front would be great for them; and it would be a great relationship between the City and them that we could come up with this public space the City could use for its citizens and at the same time, be comparable with they have. We have to work through those details.

Council Member Buckels stated he likes the idea but the idea of it being in front of the school in that area, he is struggling with it. He has a problem with the usage in front of the building with a public area in front of the school. Mr. Buckels agrees with having a green space there but he has a problem with the design for the usage; it is a safety concern. Mr. Downey replied that they are still working with them and will come back to Council to see if they are comfortable.

City Manager Hegwer said to clear up some things, we were seeing a lot of people who were interested in developing along that corridor/Kendale Plaza. Staff has worked on this project for years. We were concerned that we realized different entities owned that whole corridor. We were concerned that you would not have much continuity of everybody doing their own projects along the corridor and no one is talking with each other and that is how we became involved. When staff saw the school moving first, that they were planning to leave that area (asphalt) they thought that was an opportunity for us to consider doing some things within the right-of-way that would make that a more aesthetic-looking area.

Council Member Williams asked that we keep our "WOW" affect. Mayor Mann stated that the opportunity came and staff will bring back with a more definitive plan and we all agree something is better than we have now.

<u>Bond Assessment</u>

Mayor Mann informed Council that as of 3:30 PM today, he was informed that applicants for the assessment bond financing are moving forward with the project (Galvin's Ridge and Laurel Oaks) without that financing in place.

Consider SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) – (Exhibit D)

City Manager Hal Hegwer stated that the reason this item is on the agenda is because we have a deadline and this was discussed extensively at our retreat. As the Northview area continues to grow as we have the Central Carolina Enterprise Park, Galvin's Ridge on the horizon, so we felt the need for manpower there to provide a service that is consistent with our other citizens currently in the City. Staff's recommendation tonight is to proceed with this grant if Council is comfortable with it and the deadline is Friday. The grant would allow us to hire nine, full-time firefighters, that we would work in conjunction with the Northview Volunteer Fire Station for their placement. The grant would pay for 75 percent of the cost for the first two years and 35 percent for the third year. Fire Chief Wayne Barber is available for questions. It is our intent to apply for the grant; we need this grant and you will see this in the budget. We plan to have 3 months of compensation for those firemen in the budget for this coming budget, along with equipment, clothing, etc. to accommodate those nine additional firemen.

Mayor Mann added that the development of Galvin's Ridge and Laurel Oaks is moving forward and reminded Council to be mindful of the closed session discussion and if it is needed to be discussed further, we can do so in another closed session.

Council Member Taylor stated that we currently have some vacancies. Will those positions be filled immediately, or will we apply for those as well and how realistic is it to get nine in this grant and if we do not get nine, what is our response in fulfilling those positions and obligations?

Fire Chief Wayne Barber replied that the possibility of getting nine is very real. We would either get the grant for nine people or we would not get it at all. Nine is not an unusual number; some departments applied for 18 to 20; Fayetteville is applying for 18 to increase their manning on their engines in their city. This grant will not be awarded until the end of year. Then, we would go through the hiring process. We would anticipate, if approved for the grant, it would come back to Council to use the matching money and move forward with the hiring process at that time. At this time, we have one vacancy and it was put on hold due to not having to have candidates together with this COVID pandemic. We have only one vacant position at this point in time. We are looking forward to moving ahead as soon as we can figure out the best way to have all candidates spread out to get them through the process of testing and agility tests. This is federal money through FEMA.

Mr. Hegwer stated that if we do not get the grant it is a problem. Obviously, we will have enough funds in the budget to accommodate it. We are counting on the grant; if we do not secure the grant, then we have a different issue. We would have to come back and reassess everything we are talking about because if you have you have the paperwork in the agenda, it is quite expensive to hire nine firefighters. We have spoken with the Northview Fire Department on how we can work with them and we have a plan. We will point out the issue of how we are growing over time and hopefully, improve our chances of receiving the grant.

Council Member Taylor asked if there is there any provisions that will allow some allocation of money to help out, not just with land, or a purchase of land, but possibly some type of grant program or sponsorship with our Fire Departments. He said it is not uncommon in a lot of areas; there was a development in Clayton and they did that with their fire department. They

had some support from the development community; not in just in allocation of land but they had funding that helped fund the labor in the fire department. Is there a provision being discussed as we work through these developer agreements with these new neighborhoods? Mayor Mann replied that he is not aware of anything. Mr. Hegwer replied that he did not hear everything, and asked for clarification. Mayor Mann stated that he felt Mr. Taylor is asking if the developer is willing to do more than just donate land for that area. Mr. Hegwer stated that the developers have worked with them but the last site that was identified was a more desirable site and it was one that would connect two roadways together in that community. A lot of large-scale developments will try to do something to assist the local fire department, or rural fire department to be successful. This is something we can discuss. Mr. Gaskins added that if Mr. Taylor could get a copy of that agreement and distribute it Council Members, that would be good. It was the consensus of Council to move forward with the application.

Consider Automated Meter Reading Pilot Update

Financial Services Director Beth Kelly updated Council on the Automated Meter Infrastructure pilot update Council approved. We have completed Phase I with ordering of the meters. This is the program Council approved where we are going to place the different types of meters and transmitters off of the Spruce Street water tank site, then we will collect the data from 60 to 80 different meters electronically and then, we will see how the information comes in, the accuracy, the different types of data it provides staff, in order to make better decisions, going forward, about the different types of meters that we want to put in for infrastructure. We have completed Phase 1, which is ordering the Neptune meters, which is the first set of 20 to 30 meters that will be placed. We have received the parking sensors (because this was also included) that we will have Downtown parking sensors as part of this. This will come through the lower one enabled network for smart city devices. The target date is May 29 to enable the gateway at the top of the Spruce Street Water Tank; June 5 is their goal to install the 20 Neptune meters, which is the first part of the phase and the lower enabled transmitters; then by June 5, they hope to install 70 parking sensors at preselected locations within the Central Business Tax District area. By June 26, they are scheduled to have all the installments of the Mueller and the sets for the devices. She will bring information back to Council as staff gathers more information from those meters.

Other Business

Mr. Taylor referenced the SAFER grant. Mooresville Fire Dept has benefitted from the aviation presence and do not know how we can use leverage with the Raleigh/Exec Jetport as potential leverage for federal funding on an airport for fire protection. Mooresville has a state-of-the-art fire department and it is a little different when you have an international airport just a couple of miles down the road. It may be an opportunity that we can leverage if we have not done so.

Mr. Hegwer reminded everyone that he will be making a presentation on the FY 20-21 budget at next Council's meeting. We have become accustomed to how the electronic meetings work and hopefully we will be back to normal meetings to hold public hearings soon. We are still making preparations as to when City Hall can open back up and we are moving towards having those things in place to be safe as possible for staff and the public.

Mayor Mann stated that he feels the format is working and appreciates everyone's efforts and energy. Please let him know if he can do things better with the electronic meeting. He is

very pleased on how the Council, staff, agencies and citizens are working together and they have optimism and energy as we try to reopen. We need to continue to wear masks, and it says that you care and want people to take your health and safety seriously. We are committed to getting Sanford reopened, as long as we do it within the law and we are committed to doing this as aggressively as we can without jeopardizing public safety. If we get too carried away, he will impose orders, as much as he is allowed to, to bring us back in line. He is excited about what Kelli Laudate is trying to do with the restaurants Downtown. He said that the SAGA is working on this hashtag, "Sanford Safe" and encouraged everyone to get familiar with the program because it is a checklist endorsed by the retail federation that the Chamber works with. It lets the people know that particular business is in compliance and safety. We could reopen this community tomorrow and if you are not safe or feel safe going into it, it does not matter. There is a lot of people who will not frequent that business if that business is not safe. We want our citizens to feel safe in City Hall. There are several businesses that will close May 22 and our prayers are with these businesses. Some businesses will rebuild and make it better. Our job and role are to be that provider where we can create an environment of encouragement and do what we can to reopen slowly and safety.

Council Member Sam Gaskins made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Council Member Salmon, the meeting was adjourned unanimously by a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Chet Mann, Mayor

ATTEST:

Bonnie Davis, City Clerk