

MINUTES OF SPECIAL 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, August 5, 2014, at 1:00 P.M., in the Council Chambers. The change in the time was due to National Night Out activities that evening. The following people were present:

Mayor T. Chet Mann	Mayor Pro Tem James Williams
Council Member Byron Buckels	Council Member Sam Gaskins
Council Member Jimmy Haire	Council Member Norman Charles Post, III
Council Member Rebecca Wyhof	City Manager Hal Hegwer
City Attorney Susan Patterson	City Clerk Bonnie Davis

Absent: Council Member Charles Taylor

Mayor Chet Mann called the meeting to order. Council Member Haire gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one requested to speak.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Gaskins made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Council Member Haire, the motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of City Council Minutes Dated May 30, 2014 (Filed in Minute Book 81)

Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Advertising of an Electronic Auction to Sell Certain Personal Property of the City of Sanford (Exhibit A)

Approval of Entering Into a Revised Lease Agreement with U.S. Cellular for the Spruce Street Water Tank (Exhibit B)

Approval of Awarding Street Resurfacing and Rehabilitation 2014 Contract to S.T. Wooten (Exhibit C)

Approval of Ordinance Amending the Annual Operating Budget of the City of Sanford FY 2014-2015 (Acquisition of Real Estate) (Exhibit D)

Approval of Ordinance Amending the Annual Operating Budget of the City of Sanford FY 2014-2015 (2014 Urgent Repair Program) (Exhibit E)

Approval of Grant Project Ordinance – NC Housing Finance Agency (Exhibit F)

Approval of Commitment to Provide Local Funding Match for the NCDOT Strategic Transportation Investment (STI) of West Lee Middle School Sidepath (Project B140582) – (Exhibit G)

Approval of Resolution Authorizing Sanford ABC Board’s Adoption of the Travel Policy of the City of Sanford as the Travel Policy of the Sanford ABC Board – (Exhibit H)

Approval of Commercial Maintenance Code – (Exhibit I)

Council Member Gaskins made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Council Member Byron Buckels, the motion carried unanimously.

SPECIAL AGENDA

Presentation of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award to Billie McNeil on Behalf of the Late Walter H. McNeil, Jr.

Mayor Mann noted that the Council had the great distinction and honor of making one of the greatest presentations in the State of North Carolina to one of our beloved citizens and friend of this Council, Walter H. McNeil, Jr. Mayor Mann introduced the presenter of the prestigious Long Leaf Pine Award, Representative Robert Reives II of Sanford, who is a practicing attorney with the law firm Wilson & Reives, former Assistant District Attorney and current North Carolina House Representative for District 54.

Representative Reives explained how prestigious the Long Leaf Pine Award is by noting that Maya Angelou, Coretta Scott King and Michael Jordan were among the recipients. Mr. Reives went on to explain that Walter McNeil cared very much about the community, devoting much of his time to improvement projects. A graduate of Winston-Salem State Teachers College who was with the Lee County Public School System for more than 30 years, his service on the Sanford City Council of 33 years was the longest term ever served. He also was the driving force behind the “National Night Out” Event which is being held tonight and also ran a florist business. Mr. Reives emphasized that Mr. McNeil was a trailblazer as the first African-American City Council member and also served as Mayor Pro Tem. Mr. Reives remarked that Mr. McNeil was a gentleman who served as an example and role model to many and that Mrs. McNeil continues to serve the community. Mr. Reives then presented the Order of the Long Leaf Pine to Mrs. Billie McNeil, on behalf of the late Mr. McNeil.

Mrs. McNeil thanked everyone on behalf of Mr. McNeil as she received the award. After photos were taken, Mayor Mann noted that the City of Sanford had the honor of awarding two Long Leaf Pines awards two days in a row, with today’s award presentation to Mr. McNeil and a presentation yesterday to Herbert Hincks, former Lee County Commissioner. Mayor Mann stated that less than 0.2% of North Carolina citizens have ever received this award and that there was no one more deserving of the honor than Mr. Walter McNeil and that it was very fitting for the award to be presented on National Night Out since it was a day very important to him.

Late councilman Walter McNeil honored with Order of the Long Leaf Pine award

Zach Potter
Sanford Herald
Aug 6 , 2014

The city of Sanford celebrated its second recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award in two days when former Sanford City Councilman Walter McNeil Jr. received the award posthumously Tuesday.

Rep. Robert Reives II (D-Lee) presented the award to McNeil's wife, Billie G. McNeil, during the Sanford City Council's Tuesday meeting.

"Mr. McNeil cared about this community like no other," Reives said. "He spent all of his time doing things to make all of us better, and we are all better for his service."

McNeil worked as a teacher and assistant principal for 31 years in the Lee County School system and served on the Sanford City Council for 33 years.

"It's a privilege and an honor for many reasons," Reives said. "I'm involved in politics now, but long before it ever crossed my mind and long before it ever crossed my father's mind, Walter McNeil was a trailblazer."

Sanford Mayor Chet Mann said he was pleased that the presentation took place on the day of National Night Out, a nationwide community event that McNeil was instrumental in bringing to Sanford.

On Monday, Herbert A. Hincks, a former chairman of the Lee County Commissioners, received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award as well.

"In both cases," Councilman Sam Gaskins said of Hincks and McNeil, "they gave so much to Sanford and to Lee County."

Billie G. McNeil expressed her gratitude to the council, the city and the friends and family who came out to show support.

"I would like to say thank you on behalf of my husband," she said. "Thank you once, thank you twice, thank you for everything."