MINUTES ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL

Greenville, NC
January 14, 2010

The Greenville City Council met in a regular meeting on the above date at 7:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, third floor of City Hall, with Mayor Patricia C. Dunn presiding. The meeting was called to order, followed by the invocation by Council Member Kittrell and the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The following were present.

Mayor Patricia C. Dunn
Mayor Pro-Tem J. Bryant Kittrell III
Council Member Max R. Joyner, Jr.
Council Member Marion Blackburn
Council Member Rose H. Glover
Council Member Calvin R. Mercer
Council Member Kandie Smith
Wayne Bowers, City Manager
Wanda T. Elks, City Clerk
David A. Holec, City Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

City Manager Wayne Bowers reminded the City Council that two changes were approved by City Council on January 11, 2010. Council also added an item, between items 1 and 2, which is an appointment of co-chairs for the Special Task Force on Public Safety and Item 9, which is the Drew Steel Fund Offer of Gift. Council has already added the motions and will only need to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion was made by Council Member Joyner and seconded by Council Member Mercer to approve the agenda with the changes noted by City Manager Bowers. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion occurred regarding the Council moving forward with a public hearing on the amendment to the zoning regulations to include a five hundred foot separation requirement on public or private clubs.

Motion was made by Council Member Mercer and seconded by Council Member Blackburn to go forward with the public hearing on the amendment to the zoning regulations to include a 500 foot separation requirement on public or private clubs.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Carol Clark was recognized with a plaque upon her retirement with 18 years and 6 months of service in the Police Department.
Mr. John Fisher was recognized with a plaque upon his retirement with 30 years of service in the Fire Rescue Department.

Ms. Theresa Holley was recognized with a plaque upon her retirement with 21 years of service in the Recreation and Parks Department.

**APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**Community Appearance Commission**

Motion was made by Council Member Kittrell and seconded by Council Member Joyner to appoint LaRonda Hodges to fill an unexpired term expiring April 2011, replacing Katherine Wetherington, and to continue the appointment of Evon Zell until February. Motion carried unanimously.

**Environmental Advisory Commission**

Motion was made by Council Member Blackburn and seconded by Council Member Joyner to continue the appointment of a replacement for Stephen Janowski who has resigned. Motion carried unanimously.

**Firefighters’ Relief Fund Committee**

Motion was made by Council Member Joyner and seconded by Council Member Glover to appoint George Powell to a first two-year term that will expire January 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

**Greenville Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission**

Motion was made by Council Member Mercer and seconded by Council Member Joyner to appoint Brad Beggs, Brian Glover, Donald McGlohon and Orren Ward to serve an initial one-year term that will expire January 2011 and to appoint Walter Council, Jerry Hopfengardner, and J. P. Walsh to serve an initial two-year term to expire January 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

**Historic Preservation Commission**

Motion was made by Council Member Mercer and seconded by Council Member Joyner to reappoint Roger Kammerer, Ann Schwarzmann and Ryan Webb for a first three-year term that will expire January 2013; and to continue the replacement for Ashley Wetherington who resigned. Motion carried unanimously.

**Human Relations Council**
Motion was made by Council Member Joyner and seconded by Council Member Blackburn to appoint Kimberly Boyd-Mohammad to fill an unexpired term that will expire September 2011, replacing Tawanda Boone who resigned; and to continue the replacements for James Cox who resigned, Franchise Pena who is ineligible for reappointment, and Shane Martin who has moved out-of-state. Motion carried unanimously.

**Pitt Greenville Convention and Visitors Authority**

Council Member Glover stated that she would like to continue the Pitt Greenville Convention and Visitors Authority appointment until the February 11th meeting.

**Public Transportation and Parking Commission**

Motion was made by Council Member Kittrell who spoke on behalf of Kandie Smith to reappoint Ronald Dunbar for a second three-year term which expires January 2013; to reappoint Lisa Faison-Simmons to serve a first three-year term to expire January 2013; and to appoint Calvin Garris to fill an unexpired term to expire January 2011, replacing Shannon White who resigned. Motion carried unanimously.

**Youth Council**

Council Member Glover requested to continue the appointments for the Youth Council.

**APPOINTMENT TO THE SPECIAL TASK FORCE ON PUBLIC SAFETY**

City Manager Bowers informed the Council that this is the item that was added, which is the appointment of co-chairs for the Special Task Force on Public Safety. The City Attorney has sent information regarding the options that Council would need to change what was approved in November that City Council appoint the co-chairs, and instead have the co-chairs appointed by the members of the Task Force.

Motion was made by Council Member Kittrell and seconded by Council Member Joyner to not make appointments of the co-chairs, but to allow the Task Force to elect the co-chairs. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE SPECIAL TASK FORCE**

City Manager Bowers reminded the Council that the 8 members were selected by different groups. Greenville Pitt County Chamber of Commerce appointed Tony Cannon, Assistant General Manager for Greenville Utilities Commission, Citizens United Against Violence appointed their President, Retired Captain C.J. Hardee, East Carolina University appointed Associate Vice Chancellor for Environmental Health and Campus Safety, Bill Coke, East Carolina Student Government Association appointed their President, Brad Congleton. The Police Community Relations Committee appointed Chair-person Diane Kulik, the Faith Community
received from the Ministerial Association Jay White and from the Black Ministerial Association, Mary Faircloth, the Neighborhood Advisory Board appointed Citizen Member Richard Crisp.

City Manager Bowers informed the Council that to complete the Task Force, Council must officially appoint their members. Council Member Joyner appointed George Thomas McCullough, Council Member Kittrell appointed Spence Cosby, Council Member Dunn appointed Ann Briley, Council Member Mercer appointed Buddy Zincone, Council Member Blackburn appointed Maury York, Council Member Glover appointed Howard Conner, and Council Member Smith appointed Alton Woods.

**ORDINANCE GRANTING A TAXICAB FRANCHISE TO VALENTINE LONG PERKINS d/b/a EARLYBIRDS TRANSPORTATION AND TAXI SERVICE - ADOPTED**

City Clerk Wanda Elks informed the Council that Valentine Perkins d/b/a Earlybirds Transportation has requested a taxicab franchise to operate within the City of Greenville. In order for a taxicab franchise to be approved, City Council has to consider it at two meetings. The ordinance was considered on first reading on January 11, 2010, and is scheduled for the public hearing and second reading tonight. The Police, Financial Services, and Community Development Departments have reviewed the application and have recommended approval of the request. If approved by Council, the applicant’s use of the property will need to be approved by the Community Development Department as an incidental use prior to beginning operation. Advertisement of the public hearing was run in The Daily Reflector on January 4 and 11, 2010. In accordance with the City Code, letters have been submitted to other taxicab owners in the City of Greenville informing them of the request and of the public hearing scheduled for January 14, 2010.

Mayor Dunn declared the public hearing open and solicited comments from the audience. There being none, the public hearing was closed.

Motion was made by Council Member Blackburn and seconded by Council Member Joyner to adopt on second reading of the ordinance granting a taxicab franchise to Valentine Long Perkins d/b/a Earlybirds Transportation and Taxi Service. Motion carried unanimously. (Ordinance No. 10-05)

**ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING REGULATIONS TO INCLUDE A FIVE-HUNDRED FOOT MINIMUM SEPARATION REQUIREMENT BETWEEN “PUBLIC OR PRIVATE CLUBS” – CONTINUED**

Director of Community Development Merrill Flood stated that this item will also be co-presented with Chief of Police Anderson following up. This item was brought up as a result of action by the City Council on November 9, 2009 to begin the process and consideration of various options to improve public safety within the downtown and other areas wherein entertainment establishments are permitted. The City Council determined to proceed with consideration of an amendment to the zoning regulations that will require all new public or
private clubs to be separated by not less than 500 feet as measured between the closest property line.

The original proposed spacing requirement will apply to all public or private clubs located within the downtown and within the outlying areas of the City’s jurisdiction.

The Planning and Zoning Commission at their December 15, 2009 meeting recommended a substitute ordinance, summarized as follows:

In lieu of a spacing requirement between public or private clubs in all districts the Commission recommends a 500 foot spacing requirement between clubs located within the CD (downtown commercial district).

Other public safety ordinances, not involving the amendment of the zoning regulations which the City Council has recently approved (12/10/09), related to the qualification of club bouncers. It provided prohibition of a club employing a person as a bouncer who has been convicted of certain crimes and prohibition of a club employing a person as a bouncer who has not completed an annual training program for bouncers conducted by the police department.

On November 20, 2009 the City Attorney’s office mailed notice of City Council’s determination to proceed with consideration of ordinances that apply to all public or private clubs to the owners and managers of all clubs operating in Greenville’s jurisdiction.

The notice invited the club owners and managers to attend the scheduled public meetings and voice their opinion on the proposed regulations if they so desired.

On December 18, 2009 the City Attorney’s office also mailed like notices of tonight’s meeting to the owners/managers and property owners of all clubs operating in Greenville’s jurisdiction.

Planner Merrill Flood summarized the proposed spacing requirement as follows:

No new club and no addition to an existing club will be allowed unless the club meets the minimum 500 foot separation requirement (between clubs), and existing clubs in their current location and size are “grandfathered” and may continue operation indefinitely provided that the club activity does not cease for a period of six (6) months. A change in ownership does not impact the “grandfather” protection.

Other land uses that are subject to spacing requirements are family care homes which require ¼ mile (1,320) feet between family care homes. Adult uses require a 500 foot separation between residential zones or uses, church, school, park playground, synagogue, convent, library or other adult use. Dining and entertainment establishments located in a CN district must be 200 feet between other dining and entertainment establishment in the CN district. Off-premise signs are required to have 1,000 feet between signs.
Staff conducted a survey of 11 cities and found a variety of spacing requirements or no spacing requirements. The following 11 cities were surveyed: Cary, Raleigh, Chapel Hill, Fayetteville, Garner, Jacksonville, Kinston, Rocky Mount, Washington, Wilmington and Wilson. There were six cities that did have some sort of spacing requirements and they were Jacksonville, Kinston, Rocky Mount, Washington, Wilmington and Wilson. Staff found spacing requirements of 100 to 500 feet.

There are currently 25 public or private clubs operating within Greenville’s jurisdiction. A public or private club is defined as an establishment whose principal use is entertainment. A club does not have a minimum food sales requirement as is required for dining and entertainment establishments (30%) and restaurant use (51%). There are 16 clubs in the downtown area.

Police Chief William Anderson informed the Council that the Greenville Police Department supports the planning staff’s recommendation to adopt the zoning ordinance with a separation requirement for public and private clubs. Police Chief Anderson stated that it was his opinion that the primary issue concerning safety in the downtown area during the nightlife activities is the fact that our downtown is a major attraction in eastern North Carolina. The concentration of nightclubs in a four block area that sell alcohol and it is adjacent to a major university particularly on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday night creates a party type atmosphere that requires enormous amounts of law enforcement resources to control. Police Chief Anderson further stated that while it was his opinion the adoption of the ordinance as written will not have any immediate impact on the current downtown situation, it could have an effect on the future by restricting the number of clubs in the downtown area. One of the other concerns expressed in the Planning and Zoning meeting was the adoption of the ordinance, because other clubs could be located in other areas of the City and would this have a negative impact on police services. He stated he did not feel that the existence of other clubs in the City would have a negative impact on police services. He stated he did not feel that the existence of other clubs in the City would have a negative impact on services as long as those clubs are held accountable for their actions. There are 25 public and private clubs in the City.

The Police Chief stated that they receive little or no calls for service from the eight clubs located outside of the downtown area, and for the most part the clubs police themselves, have parking lots for their customers and it is clear that their customers are patronizing a particular location. Should there be a problem the Police can easily identify the source of the problem, hold the individual business accountable and seek legal action if necessary to obtain compliance. This type of enforcement is very difficult in the down area due to the concentration of existing establishments and the volume of patrons that frequent the business on a regular basis. Therefore, the police department will support the adoption of the original ordinance.

Council Member Joyner asked if a police officer could be placed at the bar, Club Faces, in case there was a problem with the clubs downtown.

Chief Anderson replied that Club Faces could hire an off duty officer, but the Greenville Police Department does not have the resources to station an officer at a particular business.
Council Member Kittrell discussed the differences between property lines to property lines and store front to store front measurements.

Mr. Flood informed the City Council that from a practical standpoint the measuring of the distance of the property line would probably be more effective because it is more of a defined location. Either ordinance accomplishes the objective set out. The 500 foot minimum separation requirement would probably have a greater level of disbursement of clubs from each other.

Council Member Kittrell asked if any of the clubs other than in the downtown area would be in violation or have to be grandfathered because there are two clubs that are close together at Fire Tower.

Mr. Merrill Flood responded that the two property lines are actually further apart than 500 feet, property line to property line. There are no existing problems in the Fire Tower area, but there are issues in the downtown area where there is a greater concentration.

Upon being asked if there was an ordinance up until 1992 requiring a 500 foot spacing requirement, Director of Community Development Merrill Flood replied that during that time the North Carolina ABC Commission changed some of the requirements or based on a court case there was some concern that an applicant wanted to locate a public/private club within a 500 foot radius and because of the court case there was concern that not allowing some relaxation standard may be a problem for the City’s ordinance long term so at that time the spacing requirement was eliminated from the ordinance.

Council Member Blackburn requested staff to quantify the change in terms of public and private clubs since the ordinance was rescinded and also measure what kind of growth the City had in clubs in the absence of that ordinance.

Council Member Joyner stated that this item is a zoning change and asked why staff did not notify the bar owners or those that would be affected in the area.

City Attorney Dave Holec stated that the City sent notices to the owners of the clubs, managers of the clubs and all the owners of the property upon which the clubs were located and there is no requirement to send these notices. The reason additional notice was not sent was a question of expense. If you started notifying all persons either within 500 feet of the clubs or within the zones where those clubs are located then it would be a great expense. Additionally, the notice sent did comply with the requirements of the statutes by publishing notice of the public hearing in the newspaper.

Council Member Joyner stated that the whole purpose of the ordinance was to reduce crime at East Carolina University because of a tragic accident. It was an unfortunate accident, but he did not think any amount of planning would have prevented the accident downtown.

Council Member Joyner further stated that based on City Staff’s research no other college town in North Carolina has a spacing requirement. Council Member Joyner stated that he had not
been provided with the 2007 and 2008 figures that he requested on August 22nd to show where the figures were coming from.

Council Member Mercer stated that since one of the Council Members is absent that the Council wait and take a vote in February. Council Member Blackburn agreed.

Mayor Dunn declared the public hearing open and solicited comments from the audience.

Mr. George Saieed, a Night Club Operator, displayed pictures to give everyone an idea of the clientele that the City is dealing with. Mr. Saieed stated that the ordinance started out as a safety subject for downtown Greenville. The properties that are being spoken about are not just the clubs, it is the adjoining properties and other properties that have nothing to do with clubs, but someone in the future may want to be a Night Club Operator or rent to night clubs. These are the people whose rights are being restricted.

Mr. Saieed stated that he totally objected to the process taken at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. None of the property owners were invited to the meeting and the meeting letters went out only to property owners that owned properties that are now public or private clubs. Mr. Saieed discussed the rights that citizens have when they take possession of real estate property and develop the property. These people have the right to use all the “Bundle of Rights” that came with their property. The proposal takes away those rights. Mr. Saieed further stated that at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, one of the commissioners objected to the clubs downtown, because he was instructed by his employer to pick up bottles on the street next morning. This is not a valid reason for a commissioner to vote or not vote on any proposal. Another commissioner stated that he had property which was close to the downtown area and he did not like looking at the downtown activity. This commissioner is voting on the rights of other people who took advantage of his own property and Mr. Saieed did not believe this was a valid vote. Mr. Saieed also informed the Council that when an attorney showed up at this meeting talking about the “Bundle of Rights” and the transfer of property rights, the commissioners immediately took off the shopping centers and made the proposal only for the downtown area because of this “Bundle of Rights” issue. Certainly the City Council does not expect the rights to be more for the shopping centers than for the downtown area. Mr. Saieed informed the Council that he had never heard of any crime inside the private or public clubs since all this started. Statistics also show that downtown is not one of the highest crime areas and Mr. Saieed thought that downtown looked safe and he had not seen that much crime in the area. There needs to be more control of the blight downtown. There are some nonprofit organizations downtown that have been taking advantage of the situation by picking up properties and are saying that they are trying to help downtown. Mr. Saieed stated that he objected to the ordinance at this time because it did not make good sense and he would be willing to open any conversation with anybody regarding the crimes or anything that the clubs have done.

There being no further comments, the public hearing was closed.
Council Member Bryant Kittrell stated that Mr. Saieed is the only club owner that he knew who was against the proposal and the other club owners were for the proposal for the same reasons that Mr. Saieed has stated.

Mr. Saieed stated that if you give a person one right and you take away another. This is not what should be happening. You are making this a real estate right instead of a safety right and that is why the City should switch their thinking to real estate and the rights of real estate property.

Council Member Joyner said that was his point, the City did a bad job of notifying people who will be affected by this. Staff just notified bar owners instead of the property owners. If we are going to make a change that will affect the bar owners ability to sell or rent their property and will affect the price of the property, they should be notified.

Motion was made by Council Member Kittrell and seconded by Council Member Blackburn to carry the item over to the February 11\textsuperscript{th} meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Blackburn asked if City staff could look into some future discussion of a similar ordinance that would set a separation between residential areas and public and private club.

City Attorney Dave Holec informed Council Member Blackburn that if the intent was to ask staff to investigate the request and report back to City Council, and that would require a motion and approval by Council.

Council Member Calvin Mercer asked that since this request by Council Member Marion Blackburn is almost like a separate ordinance, would it be required to then go through Planning and Zoning or would it be possible in February to add this as an amendment to the ordinance that is currently on the table.

City Attorney Holec advised that Council could not accomplish this as an amendment, Council is restricted to what Council can act on based upon what was advertised and what was the subject of the public hearing. What was advertised subject to the public hearing related to a separation requirement between clubs and 500 feet was the distance. Council could not without going through an additional advertisement and public hearing, increase the distance to a larger distance but could have a lesser distance than 500 feet that would be acceptable because that would be within the parameters of what was advertised. Also, Council could not add spacing separation requirement for other locations such as residential uses or residentially zoned property. The intent of Ms Blackburn’s motion then would be for staff to look at the issue and make a report back to the City Council and then it would be up to City Council to determine if they want to proceed with consideration of that. With consideration of it being through the same process as this ordinance would have to initiate an amendment and refer it to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review and recommendation.

Council Member Calvin Mercer asked the City Attorney why the Council could not address the amendment to the ordinance during Council comments and why the Council needed a motion.
City Attorney Holec informed the Council that the best approach is that it is a Council action and it is consistent with what Council’s practices are and a lot of times if it does not involve a lot of staff effort receiving information then that is something that can get accomplished. It is better to have the Council as a body opposed to individually making that request. It is a question of practice. The better practice is to ask Council because you are asking for some staff time to devote to this.

Council Member Blackburn advised that she would withdraw her motion at this time, and requested that staff investigate and report back information regarding separation between residential areas and public and private clubs.

ORDINANCE AMENDING HORIZONS: GREENVILLE’S COMMUNITY PLAN TO INCORPORATE BY REFERENCE THE CAROLINA HEIGHTS, GREENBRIER, HILLSDALE AND TUCKER CIRCLE SUBDIVISIONS NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT AND PLAN - ADOPTED

Planner Chantae Gooby stated as part of the Task Force on Preservation of Neighborhoods and Housing's recommendations, City Council's 2006-2007 Goals, and Horizons: Greenville's Community Plan recommendations, the Community Development Department has prepared the Carolina Heights, Greenbrier, Hillsdale and Tucker Circle Subdivisions Neighborhood Report and Plan. This plan is intended to guide policy and investment decisions for the Carolina Heights, Greenbrier, Hillsdale and Tucker Circle Subdivisions.

The development of these reports and plans are a joint effort between the City Departments, Community Development, Greenville Police Department, Fire Rescue, Public Works Department, Recreation and Parks and Greenville Utilities Commission and also to the neighborhoods. At the very beginning of this process we mailed surveys to each property owner and household. A neighborhood information meeting was held on July 28, 2009. This year staff had a public meeting in July and presented the statistical information from the survey staff received and also took any questions and comments. Since that time City Staff has worked on developing the plan and finishing the report. This item went before the Planning and Zoning Commission and was approved last month.

Planner Gooby delineated the property on a map, stating that the property is located in the central area of the City and it is specifically located between Memorial Drive and Hooker Road. These reports and plans take a major microscopic view of the neighborhood. Staff looks at all the different aspects, and run the gamut from environment, transportation, quality of life and various different aspects. For example, some of the things that staff looks at are to make sure that someone from the fire department goes out and assesses the neighborhood, to have someone look at the different accesses into the neighborhood making sure that the response times are in accordance with standards, and to check fire hydrants making sure they are within distances and that the water flow is adequate. Planner Gooby informed the Council that staff had 422 different properties and received 104 surveys back.
For the actual plan this contains the items for the strategies in the neighborhood. The goal is to create, maintain and enhance a sustainable neighborhood. The objective is for staff and citizens to identify the strengths and weaknesses within their neighborhood and to come up with issues on ways to improve it. There are two kinds of strategies, policy strategies and Capital Improvement strategies. Some of these strategies are city wide, some are relative to the neighborhood itself and a few are repeats from prior plans.

Planner Gooby informed the Council that according to policy, if Council votes to approve the plan it will be incorporated into Horizons: Greenville’s Community Plan and it would be used to guide public policy decisions within the neighborhood.

Staff will periodically conduct a review of the neighborhood report and plan, and to adopt implementation and improvement strategies and to evaluate plan progress toward the goal of continued neighborhood sustainability. Also, staff would prepare cost estimates and project schedules for capital improvement and implementation strategies included in the plan and investigate options for neighborhood identification signage to be located at neighborhood entrances. There will also be increased neighborhood-wide code enforcement efforts through the allocation of additional resources and staff-directed patrols.

For under Capital Improvement and implementation strategies the City Council and the City Staff will take such actions as necessary for the support and implementation of the neighborhood plan as follows: The City will investigate the creation of a home improvement matching grant fund for older-site built single-family owner occupied dwellings to be awarded on an annual basis, to encourage qualified home improvement/upgrades that will increase the tax value and marketability of older dwellings. Such grant to be secured by an owner occupancy condition for a determined period. This neighborhood does not have a neighborhood homeowners association for design and construction of neighborhood (subdivision) entrance signs. The neighborhood has several GREAT bus stops. Most of those bus stops only have a sign and staff will look at that for additional improvements that could be made such as a bench or a shelter. Staff will also look at the existing crosswalks in the neighborhood, assess street lighting levels throughout the neighborhood, install additional lamps as determined necessary by the City Engineer, and monitor Green Mill Run, and institute bank stabilization as necessary to minimize sedimentation/erosion and land loss as determined to be necessary by the City Engineer. Staff has also encouraged area residents to become involved with the Neighborhood Association and the Neighborhood Watch Program. (Ordinance No. 10-06)

ORDINANCE TO ANNEX FIRETOWER COMMERCIAL VILLAGE, LOT 2, INVOLVING 0.9120 ACRES LOCATED NORTH OF FIRE TOWER ROAD AND APPROXIMATELY 760 FEET EAST OF SOUTH MEMORIAL DRIVE - ADOPTED

Director of Community Development Merrill Flood explained that advertisement was run in The Daily Reflector on January 4, 2010 setting this time, date and place for a public hearing for a request by Firetower Commercial Village, Lot 2. This property is contiguous to the corporate limits of the City and contains 0.9120 acres. It is located in Voting District 5. The property is currently vacant and it is anticipated that there will be a 9,000 square feet commercial building
on the property. The current and anticipated population is 0. The property will be served by Station 5, which is 1.9 miles from the location. If approved, the effective date of annexation will be June 30, 2010.

Mayor Dunn declared the public hearing open and solicited comments from the audience. There being none, the public hearing was closed.

Motion was made by Council Member Joyner and seconded by Council Member Glover to adopt the ordinance to annex Firetower Commercial Village, Lot 2. Motion carried unanimously. (Ordinance No. 10-07)

NAMING THE CITY’S OUTDOOR POOL THE GREENVILLE COMMUNITY POOL – APPROVED

Director of Recreation and Parks Gary Fenton informed the City Council that Recreation and Parks Department Supervisor Mike Godwin is in charge of the City’s aquatics programs at the Greenville Aquatics and Fitness Center and also at the outdoor pool. Mr. Godwin has only been on staff for two years but the impact that he has had in the short time he has been with the City has been phenomenal. Mr. Fenton stated that when he came to Greenville he asked the staff what the name of the city pool was and got the response “The City Pool”. Mr. Fenton stated that tonight he is asking the City Council to change it by giving the pool a new name which staff thinks it deserves.

Mr. Godwin stated that over the past two years the aquatics staff has worked to increase activity at the aquatics facility and to increase the quality of service to its patrons. Staff has intensified training efforts in order to increase safety and preparedness and devoted off duty time to conversing with patrons and helping kids with their swimming skills. Staff established this facility as the home field for the City’s summer swim team for the first time, and hosted three competitive swim meets at the Aquatics Center. For the second year in a row staff has also provided a free cookout for pool patrons on July 4th. These are just a brief sample of things happening at the City pool. The City Pool is yielding results. For the past two years there have been no major incidence at the aquatics facility, and there have been days that recorded the facility at capacity.

City staff has received positive feedback from Windsor, Cherry Oaks, and the Brook Valley Swim teams during the swim meets that were hosted at the City pool. Staff has also earned the honor of hosting the 2010 Greenville Area Summer Swim Week Championship at the City pool an event that featured more than 300 individual swimmers. But most of all City staff received positive supportive feedback from the patrons many of whom were warned against visiting the pool and was told that it is unsafe and dangerous. They thanked staff for proving that description to be incorrect. It has been the help of the aquatics staff, parks maintenance, Greenville Police and Fire/Rescue, public works, recreation and parks administration and numerous others that this pool has regained some prominence in that community. With this in mind, staff is requesting that this facility be changed to Greenville Community Pool. Mr. Godwin stated that staff believes that by renaming the facility, staff can renew interest in the community and truly make
The City Pool the centerpiece for summer aquatics in Greenville.

Mayor Dunn declared the public hearing opened and solicited comments from the audience about the naming of The City Pool to the Greenville Community Pool. There being none, the public hearing was closed.

Motion was made by Council Member Joyner and seconded by Council Member Kittrell to name the City pool the Greenville Community Pool. Motion carried unanimously.

DREW STEELE FUND OFFER OF GIFT

City Attorney Holec informed the City Council that the Drew Steele Fund is offering a gift in the sum of $460,000 to the City of Greenville with certain conditions. The offer and conditions are contained in a letter dated January 7, 2010 from Mike Steele on behalf of the Drew Steele Fund, and that letter was delivered to the Mayor’s office on January 7, 2010. A copy of the letter was previously provided to the City Council. City Attorney Holec highlighted two conditions that were contained in the letter. One is that the sum shall only be used for the purpose of funding the renovation of the existing Elm Street Gym facility into a multi-use accessible recreation facility that serves as a focal point for the services that are offered by the Recreation and Parks Department of the City of Greenville for persons with special needs. The second is if the City of Greenville does not commence the first phase of the renovation, which is estimated to cost approximately $1 million, no later than two years after the sum is received, then the City shall return the sum to the Drew Steele Fund upon request. This $460,000 gift would be utilized as part of the $500,000 local match required for the application for the 2010 North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant, which City Council approved at its December 10, 2009 meeting. The application requested a grant in the amount of $500,000 in support of the first phase of the renovation of the Elm Street Gym into the Drew Steele Center. The Recreation and Parks Commission considered this gift with the conditions at its meeting on January 14, 2010, and the Commission voted to recommend to City Council to accept the gift. If the City is successful with the grant application, the $500,000 local match would consist of the $460,000 gift from the Drew Steele Fund, and $40,000 to be provided by City funds unless the City receives another gift. A budget amendment will be necessary, but that would occur after the award of the grant and if that does occur it would be recommended that those funds come from the Capital Reserve. The recommendation to City Council was to accept the gift in the amount of $460,000 from the Drew Steele Fund with the conditions stated in the January 7, 2010 letter from Mike Steele.

Motion was made by Council Member Joyner and seconded by Council Member Blackburn to accept the gift in the amount of $460,000 from the Drew Steele Fund with the conditions stated in the January 7, 2010, letter from Mike Steele. Motion carried unanimously.

ELM STREET PARK MASTER PLAN – ADOPTED

Recreation and Parks Director Gary Fenton informed the City Council that they had been in the process of completing the third application for the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund to support
the first phase of the Drew Steele Center Project. Mr. Fenton stated that staff would be traveling to the regional office of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources to meet with the PARTF representative and review the draft application. The application must be submitted in its final form by the end of January. Staff has been trying to generate as many points as possible for the application. Scores are not the only factor considered in awarding PARTF grants, but are essential in getting Greenville the grant. There are various areas where points can be generated and having a specific Master Plan is one of them and having City Council adopt that plan is another. While the development of this Master Plan was triggered by the PARTF process, staff will be working to develop other Park Master Plans to assure that any future development is appropriate, well planned, and in the right spot within the park. Staff has given this particular plan precedence because of the PARTF process. A copy of the Master Plan for Elm Street Park with map was previously provided to City Council. A key component of this Master Plan was the Capital Needs Assessment (CNA) developed for Elm Street Park and all other parks in Greenville’s park system. This CNA represents the input from neighborhood associations, stakeholders, a Master Plan development meeting and park staff. Elm Street Park is the first and is therefore the oldest park in the system. It was determined through this process to be a park that is fully developed so that the plan does not propose any additional facilities, other than those associated with the Drew Steele Center Project. There is not any space to add anything else without negatively impacting the remaining natural aspects of the park. Future capital work should focus only on renovation of the existing facilities. Mr. Fenton advised that at its January 13, 2010, meeting, the Recreation and Parks Commission recommended that City Council adopt the Master Plan for Elm Street Park.

Motion was made by Council Member Joyner and seconded by Council Member Kittrell to adopt the Master Plan for Elm Street Park. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

The Mayor and City Council gave general comments.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

City Manager Bowers reminded the City Council that there is a meeting scheduled for January 25, 2010, and on that same week there is a planning session at 2:00 p.m. on January 29 at the Bradford Creek Golf Course Club House and will start back on the January 30, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. until adjournment. The facilitator for this year’s Planning Session will be Time Ware, Executive Director of the Mid-East Commission.

Mr. Flood informed the City Council that the Community Development Department is currently working with the U.S. Census Bureau. This Census effort’s theme is “It is in our Hands”. The first U.S. Census was completed in 1790, and has been completed every 10 years since that time. The Census is significant because it is used to determine how more than $400 billion dollars in federal and state funding are allocated back to local communities. It is very important that everyone is counted. The census also determines how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. Last year North Carolina gained a seat. The census is also used to
determine State Legislature, Municipal and County voting districts. The official day is April 1st, and there will be a number of events taking place leading up to the census. Census forms will be mailed out March 15th through the 17th to every physical address. The form is very easy to use and it only takes about 10 minutes to complete. Staff will do everything it can to help get the word about the census out.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council Member Kittrell and seconded by Council Member Joyner to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Sugg

Patricia A. Sugg
Deputy City Clerk