

The Washington City Council met in a continued session on Monday, February 2, 2015 at 5:30pm in the City Council Chambers at the Municipal Building. Present were: Bobby Roberson, Mayor Pro tem; Doug Mercer, Councilman; William Pitt, Councilman; Richard Brooks, Councilman; Larry Beeman, Councilman; Brian M. Alligood, City Manager; and Cynthia S. Bennett, City Clerk.

Also present were: Matt Rauschenbach, Administrative Services Director/C.F.O.; Allen Lewis, Public Works Director; David Carraway, Network Administrator; and Mike Voss, Washington Daily News.

Mayor Pro tem Roberson called the meeting to order and Councilman Mercer delivered the invocation.

Mayor Hodges was absent due to the death of his mother.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mayor Pro tem Roberson made the following announcements:

- The passing of Mayor Hodges mother, Mrs. Ruth Gee Gay Hodges –funeral will be held on Tuesday February 3, at Oakdale Cemetery ~ 11:00 am in Washington.
- The passing of Councilman Pitt’s mother-in-law, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Davis Canady – funeral will be held on Tuesday, February 3, at Weeping Mary Church of Christ ~ noon in Belhaven.

**APPROVAL/AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:**

By motion of Councilman Mercer, seconded by Councilman Brooks, Council approved the agenda as presented.

Mayor Pro tem Roberson voiced the format/process for tonight’s meeting and stated that all outside agencies will be allocated 10 minutes to present their request for funding. He requested each agency introduced themselves, state the agency you are representing, the purpose of the funds requested, and the amount requested.

**DISCUSSION: FY 2015-2016 AGENCY FUNDING REQUESTS**

**ARTS COUNCIL – REQUESTED AMOUNT \$50,000**

Executive Director of Arts Council, Joey Toler, presented the request of funding for the Beaufort County Arts Council. Highlights from Mr. Toler’s presentation:

- January 2015 marks BCAC’s one-year anniversary in its new home at the historic Turnage Theatre properties
- In its first year, BCAC has presented more than 50 events at the venue
- Turnage brought more than 50,000 visitors to the City of Washington
- In addition, presented eight (8) exhibits
- Offered five (5) weeks of youth performing art camps
- Several art classes for adults

**New location changes from BCAC in doing business:**

- More of a presenting organization
- Become a rental facility for special events and corporate functions
- Expanded hours of operation
- Doubled staff
- Programming across a three-county region

**Current:**

- Major Gift Campaign to raise funds to see the organization through its first three years
- Steps taken to build donor capacity and revenue streams
- Received pledges totaling more than \$466,000

**Highlights for the Future:**

- Sustainability
- Regional Reach
- Inclusiveness
- Essential to Downtown Economic Development

The following individuals spoke on behalf of the Arts Council:

- Scott Campbell, Realtor with Century 21
- Rebecca Clark, Co-owner of Little Shoppes on Main Street
- Roger Meyland owner of properties downtown and Beaufort County
- Chris Furlough, President of WHDA.

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB – REQUESTED AMOUNT \$20,000**

Executive Director, Mal Collins, and Vice President of Operations with the Coastal Plains Boys & Girls Club, Donelle Jones, presented the request of funding for the Boys & Girls Club. Highlights from Ms. Collins & Mr. Jones presentation:

- Mission of the Boys & Girls Club is to enable all young people especially those who needs us most to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens
- Three areas of priority outcome: Academic success, healthy lifestyles, and character & citizenship
- Successful collaboration has the opportunity to partner with PAL Programs, the Pamlico Tar-River Foundation, and participated in the KABOOM playground build & Food Master Program with East Carolina University

**Five (5) Key Elements in the Program**

- Safe environment
- Supportive relationships
- Consistency
- Opportunities and Expectations
- Recognition & Fun

Mr. Jones mentioned the renovation of the Washington Gym and noted this will be a great opportunity for the Community as a whole.

Councilman Mercer inquired if the request was for both the Washington and Belhaven center and Mr. Jones stated just for the Washington location.

Ms. Collins advised that the majority of their request would cover approximately 80% of their monthly utilities. It is estimated the utilities are \$1,200 per month, which equals to \$14,400 for the year with the remaining \$5600 used for facility care, maintenance, and upgrades.

**ZION SHELTER – REQUESTED AMOUNT \$8,500**

Treasurer, Harlan Mackendrick, presented the request of funding for the Zion Shelter. Highlights from Mr. Mackendrick's presentation:

- How the shelter was started by local churches in the community
- In operation for thirty (30) years
- Safe shelter on the average of 11 homeless men every night
- The majority of the Zion Shelter's request is to cover their utility bill

**THE BLIND CENTER – REQUESTED AMOUNT \$1,500**

Executive Director, Blair Bergevin, presented the request of funding for The Blind Center. Highlights from Ms. Bergevin's presentation:

- The Blind Center originated in the late 1970's by Nancy Boyd
- The Blind Center was incorporated in 1981
- Mission of The Blind Center is to educate blind and visually impaired citizens by providing opportunities that will assist them in reaching their personal physical, mental and social goals to live a healthy and independent lifestyle
- Typically has approximately fifteen (15) clients per day
- Clients come to the facility four (4) days a week from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm
- Well balanced lunch provided two (2) days per week
- Each client is provided with transportation, recreational activities, socialization and confidence building skills
- Most of the clients have diabetes, high blood pressure or other serious conditions
- Diabetes being the most leading cause of blindness
- Goal of The Blind Center is to promote a healthy lifestyle to the clients by offering a well balanced lunch, as well as education them on the importance of making healthy food choice

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Mr. Thorton Gorham voiced that The Blind Center was built for visually impaired. The building was built for use by surrounding counties.

**EAGLE’S WINGS – REQUESTED AMOUNT \$1,000**

Executive Director, Ann-Marie Montague, presented the request for funding for Eagle’s Wings.

Highlights from Ms. Montague’s presentation:

- Entire mission is to alleviate hunger in our county
- Over 63% of their clients come from 27889 zip code with a portion being outside the City
- Neighbors suffering from food insecurity
- Request is for further expansion of our Homebound Program
- Reaching clients who are terminally ill and unable to obtain food in person at the Third Street facility
- Clients receive delivered groceries once a month
- Serving 80 clients with homebound delivery with 30 in the City of Washington
- Eagle’s Wings works with DSS Meals on Wheels, home healthcare workers, and other clients
- \$1,000 will allow Eagle’s Wings to purchase over 5000lbs of food through the Food Bank of the Albemarle

**WRIGHT FLIGHT – REQUESTED AMOUNT \$5,000**

Ms. Lydie Jennings presented the request for funding for Wright Flight of Beaufort County.

Highlights from Ms. Jennings presentation:

- Appropriation will specifically fund the opportunity for 50 5<sup>th</sup> graders at John Small School to participate in the Wright Flight Program which costs approximately \$100/student to fund. \$100 broken down as follows:
  - Wright Flight Study Manual Notebook \$20
  - Wright Flight T-Shirt, pin and certificate \$15
  - Fly Day Flight & Reward Celebration \$65
- The program uses the inherent motivational power of aviation as a stimulus for students to set and achieve higher goals in their educational and personal development
- Students realize that the attitude that ensures success is transferable to other subjects and life endeavors
- Program designed to keep children engaged and enrolled in school

**Requirement of each student**

- Sign a contract to raise a grade point in one of their weaker subjects
- Education goals through the BOLDFACE segment of the program which instills positive values in the participants
- Student must pass the test on history of flight with an 85% or better
- Set a goal for themselves to improve a subject grade by one letter grade
- Commit to being drug and alcohol free

**Meeting the goals**

- Student earns the “right to flight” ... which means the student and an adult of their choice can fly in a small aircraft with a pilot on FLY DAY

Ms. Jennings voiced that their goal is to eventually fund themselves. They are requesting funding this year from the City but they hope to be self sufficient in two (2) years. The City’s contributions helped start the program & allowed us to grow & prosper. Over 2000 students at John Small School have reaped great rewards from Wright Flight.

**PURPOSE OF GOD ANNEX – REQUESTED AMOUNT \$20,000**

Chief Executive Officer, Bishop Samuel Jones, and Chief Administrative Officer, Mother Regina Jones presented the request for Purpose of God Annex. Highlights from Bishop and Mother Jones presentation:

**Programs**

- Youth program
- Summer program for at risk youth (ages 6-15)
- Stem program
- Musical programs
- Behavior modifications

- Last year served 118 families
- This year the proposal is to serve approximately 125 families

**Adult program:**

- Project New Hope
- This year they have placed 18 individuals in the City of Washington in jobs
- Teaching
  - computer classes
  - communication classes
  - mock interviews
  - How to dress and how to conduct themselves
- Fell from staffing 13 individuals to approximately 5
- Monitor the clients every month by visiting workplaces to make sure the clients behavior is in tact

Bishop Jones voiced that over the last three years he has not received any compensation and over the last two years Mother Jones has not received any compensation.

**Funding of one staff person:**

- Staff Salary (Case Manager)
- Staff Fringe Benefits
- Other participant Services (ID cards, copies of transcripts, work tools/clothing/shoes)

Bishop Jones voiced due to the financial downfall of the Country, Purpose of God Annex lost a lot of their grant funding.

**CORNERSTONE WORSHIP CENTER – REQUESTED AMOUNT \$16,000**

Executive Director, Bishop James S. McIntyre, Sr. presented the request for funding for Cornerstone Worship Center. Highlights from Bishop McIntyre's presentation:

- Program provides nurturing skills for families in Beaufort County
- Program is designed to provide parental and sibling interaction with a nationally recognized evidenced based parenting curriculum
- Designed to help parents and children recognize destructive pattern,
- Designed to help break these habits and replace them with positive, rewarding nurturing family relationships
- Families being served from birth to 16
- Program serves 10-20 families per session averaging from 2-7 members with a total average of 65 individuals participating
- This year they have served about 52 families in total with a 90% completion rate
- The program can help break the cycle of abuse, building self-esteem, parental & child respect, and empowering family members to build positive patterns of communication
- Each class lasts between two and one-half hours generally running from 6:00 to 8:30 pm.
- Classes are twice a year, usually in April-June and August-November
- The total cost of the program is \$16,000 for one 15-week session of classes

**NC ESTUARIUM – REQUESTED AMOUNT \$25,000**

President and Chief Executive Officer, Jackie Woolard presented the request for funding for NC Estuarium. Highlights from Ms. Woolard's presentation:

- Seventeen (17) years of continued operations
- Serve the City and its citizens through the operation of the Estuarium
- Serving as an anchor for tourism and downtown activity
- Provider of science education
- Number one tourism attraction in Beaufort County
- Popular destination for school groups in the State
- Recognized by large corporate donors
- Creditable asset to our community
- Recognized by the General Assembly as a creditable asset for STEM education in this region
- Direct economic impact in Washington and Beaufort County
- Increases the profile of Washington across the State and Country

**Future Aspect**

- Ongoing operation of the Estuarium
- Local jobs
- Increases the profile of Washington across the State and Country
- Ongoing impact to Washington
- Contribution the Estuarium makes to the future of our community

**Funding request will be used towards:**

- Building maintenance
- Utilities systems

**WHDA – REQUESTED AMOUNT \$62,000**

Executive Director, Beth Byrd presented the request for funding for WHDA. Highlights from Ms. Byrd's presentation:

- Sixteen plus events that WHDA produces throughout the year gain the most notoriety, WHDA's steadfast core work plan is to facilitate the build-out of the 2009 Washington Visualization and Reinvestment Strategy
- The Washington Harbor District Alliance is a comprehensive, preservation-based economic development Main Street organization
- This help propel the central business district to its full potential
- WHDA is a non-profit, grassroots-based revitalization program which uses the proven Main Street Four-Point Approach:
  - Promotion
  - Organization
  - Design
  - Economic Restructuring

**Projects:**

- Wayfinding,
- New Streetscape Initiative
- Transformation of the City docks
- Promote Harbor District through their successful Shop, Dine, and Play program
- WHDA featured a three month TV campaign broadcasted on WITN and WNCT
- Facilitate group advertising opportunities that reach the surrounding communities
- Unique catalyst that helps create consensus and the momentum to advance the Harbor District

**Funding request**

- \$48,500 director's salary
- \$13,500 used to fund promotional advertising for the Harbor District within 50 miles radius

**NC HIGHWAY 17 ASSOCIATION – REQUESTED AMOUNT \$7,500**

Executive Director, Mr. Marc Finlayson presented the request for funding for NC Highway 17 Association. Highlights from Mr. Finlayson's presentation:

- Association continues to advocate for the completion of a fully improved four-lane US 17 from Virginia to South Carolina
- Program has shifted tens of millions of dollars from rural eastern North Carolina to the more populated Piedmont region
- Prioritized projects
- Several of the US17 projects have been dropped from the ten-year draft State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) including R-2511 (Washington to Williamston), R-2513 (Vanceboro to Chocowinity and R-3300 (Hampstead Bypass)
- Working closely with the NC Chamber of Commerce to persuade the General Assembly to pass long-term, sustainable funding for transportation

**Highway 17 Association Legislative Issues**

**Federal:**

- Reauthorize Federal Surface Transportation Act (MAP 21) and seek long-term, sustainable federal funding for transportation
- Hold North Carolina harmless in Federal Highway Trust Funds distribution

**State:**

- Restore equitable funding for Divisions 1, 2 and 3 through the Strategic Mobility Formula
- Restore all US 17 projects to the current STIP
- Participate in Project Prioritization processes at state and regional levels
- Preserve current transportation revenue streams until alternatives can be agreed upon and determine sustainable, long-term revenue streams for transportation
- Seek ways to streamline planning and permitting processes
- Support economic growth in eastern North Carolina through infrastructure investment, including: industrial development; tourism; military expansion; military business development; ports expansion

**ADJOURN:**

By motion of Councilman Mercer, seconded by Councilman Beeman, Council adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm until Monday, February 9, 2015 at 5:30 pm, in the Council Chambers.

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**Cynthia S. Bennett, CMC  
City Clerk**