

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
NOVEMBER 1, 2022**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a joint meeting with the City Council of Elizabeth City on Monday, November 1, 2022 at EC-PC Senior Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lloyd E. Griffin, III, Chairman
Charles H. Jordan, Vice-Chairman
Cecil Perry
Jonathan Meads
Barry Overman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sean Lavin

OTHERS PRESENT: Sparty Hammett, County Manager
John Shannon, Assistant County Manager
Mike Barclift, Management Fellow
Shatoria Reid, Deputy Clerk to the Board

Also present were the Mayor, Council Members, City Manager, and City staff. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Lloyd Griffin and Mayor Pro Temp Kem Spence. Following the invocation, everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Griffin and Mayor Rivers provided brief opening statements.

1. PRESENTATION/UPDATE – ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

Chairman Griffin welcomed Dr. Parker, Superintendent of ECPPS to present on the school system. Dr. Parker reported on the progress of the school buses, he noted that there are 50 bus drivers and 3,300 students riding the bus daily. Dr. Parker stated there has been a significant increase in enrollment compared to this time last year and the goal is to get 5,000 students enrolled. Dr. Parker also reported on a \$300,000 grant received to add school resource officers to public schools. He went on to report that Elizabeth City Middle School and Sheep Harney Elementary School exceeded growth. These two schools outperformed the majority of the schools in the region. Dr. Parker invited Sheep Harney Principal and ECPPS Principal of the Year 22-23, Katina Waples to give a few words.

Mrs. Waples thanked the Board of Commissioners and City Council for all they do for the community and schools. She went on to report that Sheep Harney has the highest poverty rate, as well as English as the second language, but that has never stopped the staff, parents or community from keeping the students as the number one priority. She praised the students, staff and parents of Sheep Harney for showing up every day ready to learn. Students grew six years in math in one calendar year; they grew two years in reading in one calendar year. This year at Sheep Harney the goal is to let their hard work and commitment speak for itself.

Dr. Parker introduced Pasquotank County High School senior Hollie, Pasquotank County High School junior Tyon, Northeastern High School senior Gracie and PW Moore Elementary School Eric. These students each presented on their experiences and the things they liked the most about their respective school as well as their future plans. Dr. Parker closed with stating, our Public Schools are a national treasure.

2. PRESENTATION/ UPDATE - SENTARA HOSPITAL:

Chairman Griffin welcomed Beth Delaney, Sentara Director, Facilities and Plant Operations to provide an update on Sentara Hospital. Ms. Delaney reported that the entire Sentara campus will sit on 135 acres; the medical offices will be 83,000 sq. ft.; and the hospital will be 235,000 sq. ft. with construction starting on that portion later in the month. She then went on to explain the order of which tenants will begin occupying the building. Phase 1 tenants, consisting of radiation oncology, family practice, cardiac rehab and digital hub will be able to begin utilizing the building in spring 2023. Phase 1A tenants, consisting of central testing and women's imaging

and AIC will be able to begin utilizing the building in fall 2023. Lastly, Phase 2 tenants consisting of general and vascular surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, wound care and orthopedics will be able to begin utilizing the building in winter 2024. The new facility will have 10 ICU beds, 24 step down/IMC beds, 48 med surg/short stay beds, eight LDRP/ women's health beds, seven infusion bays and four dialysis bays with a host of more flexible space to ensure quality care. Ms. Delaney continued to inform about the partnerships with the community, as well as grants that have been given to the community from Sentara.

3. PRESENTATION/ UPDATE – PARKS AND RECREATION – NORTHERN/NEWLAND PARK:

County Manager Sparty Hammett reported that Pasquotank County had discussions regarding a Northern Park for 20-years. A system-wide parks and recreation master plan for Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County was prepared in 2016. Within that plan, the need to provide the first recreation facility in the northern part of Pasquotank County was in the forefront of the plan's strategic goals. Newland citizens attended Parks and Recreation Board meetings and Board of Commissioners meeting to voice support of the Northern Park. The Board directed the County Manager to identify property for a potential Northern park.

With the assistance of former Parks and Recreation Director Harris and GIS Coordinator Julie Stamper, parcels were identified suitable for a community park in northern Pasquotank County. The County was able to purchase the former Tractor Pull property located at US 158 and Mill Pond Road. The 52-acre parcel provides space for the requested community park, space for potential future phases, and a public safety substation as Newland grows. On January 11, 2021, the Board approved an offer to purchase the parcel at \$12,000 per acre and it was accepted by the owner, and the offer was contingent on receiving PARTF grant funding to assist with purchase. The County received a \$288,000 PARTF grant for half of the 40 acres associated with the park; the sale closed on January 31, 2021. Mr. Hammett thanked Elizabeth City grant coordinator Jon Hawley, as that was the first of three successful grant applications that Jon submitted on behalf of the County.

Benesch was obtained to complete the master plan, which was needed to apply for the next round of PARTF grant funding, which was PARTF grant funds for construction. That master plan was approved by the Board and the PARTF application was submitted in April 2022. At the community meeting, over 65 citizens attended and were asked to prioritize what they each considered to be the most important aspects of the park. The most important elements were identified as play equipment, walking loops, large picnic shelter pavilion, restrooms, basketball court and open green space. Some components from the original master plan had to be taken out due to the rising construction costs. 2016 figures were around \$750,000. The initial cost was over three million dollars, decreasing to approximately two million two hundred thousand. Even with some components removed from the original master plan, the elements identified by citizens remained. On August 29, 2022, the county was made aware that a \$500,000 PARTF grant for construction was received. On October 12, 2022, the third grant of \$175,000 was received towards the purchase of the former tractor pull. The county will receive \$463,000 of the \$588,00 cost of the 48 acres purchased of the park.

At the end of the presentation of the Northern/Newland park, Mayor pro Temp Kem Spence asked if there was any consideration of naming the park after General Hawthorne "Peet" Proctor. County Manager Hammett stated that the name Newland Park was suggested at the community meeting and was supported by those in attendance. Commissioner Cecil Perry also voiced support on naming the park after General Hawthorne "Peet" Proctor. Chairman Griffin stated that there is a naming policy that has been in the works for about 3 months that will be presented to the Board at the next Finance meeting.

4. PRESENTATION/UPDATE – PARKS AND RECREATION PROJECT – FORMER ELIZABETH CITY MIDDLE SCHOOL GYMNASIUM:

Parks and Rec Director Sean Clark explained that some of the major components of renovations include:

- Demolition of the existing locker rooms, boiler room, and incidentals rooms

- Construction of new locker room and bathroom facilities, kitchen, and office
- Demolition of existing roof and installation of TPO (Thermoplastic Polyolefin) roof
- Installing concentric units for heat and air conditioning
- Painting of all interior painted surfaces

The lease does not include constructing access to the gym from Martin Luther King Drive and parking. Staff will work on getting those costs to present to the Parks and Rec Board, Board of Commissioners and City Council during the FY 2023-24 budget process.

Mr. Clark reviewed furnishings and equipment costs, totaling approximately \$54,695. He also informed the Board and Council of staffing needs and reviewed the annual operating cost for this project.

There being nothing further to come before the Board; the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM.

CHAIRMAN

DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD