

**HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2015 – 5:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – HIGH POINT MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

MINUTES

ROLL CALL and MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Bencini called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon call of the roll, the following Council Members were present.

Mayor William S. Bencini, Jr., Mayor Pro Tem James C. Davis (Ward 5); and Council Members Cynthia Y. Davis (At-Large), Latimer Alexander (At-Large); Jeffrey Golden (Ward 1), Christopher Williams (Ward 2); Alyce Hill (Ward 3); Jay Wagner (Ward 4); and Jason Ewing (Ward 6)

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Mayor Pro Tem Davis, Chair

*Committee Members: Council Members C. Davis, Hill and Williams
(all were present)*

150001 Filter Plant Substation Upgrade

Council is requested to approve contract award for electric improvements for the Filter Plant Substation Upgrade in the amount of \$467,594.61.

Chairman J. Davis recognized Garey Edwards, Director of Electric Utilities. He noted that these improvements are needed for the Filter Plant Substation Upgrade on Kivett. A second transformer will be added to pick up additional load in the area. The city will do the work, but the transformers will be bid out separately. Council Member C. Davis pointed out there may be an error/discrepancy on the cover sheet compared to the information in schedules 1 and 2 regarding the names of the companies. Mr. Edwards noted that these companies are one in the same and explained that S & C is the actual manufacturer which goes through a middle man (R. W. Chapman- a local representative).

Approved the contract award for electric improvements for the Filter Plant Substation Upgrade in the amount of \$467,594.61.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Davis, seconded by Council Member Ewing, that this Contract be approved. The motion PASSED by a 9-0 unanimous vote.

150002 Resolutions - Authorizing Signatories for City Depositories & Investments

Council is requested to adopt resolutions with financial institutions with which the city conducts deposits, disbursement and/or investment relationships to update signatories for the city effective January 12, 2015.

Jeff Moore, Director of Financial Services, explained this action is necessary to update the city's signatories at the financial institutions with which the city conducts deposits, disbursement and/or investment relationships to be effective January 12, 2015. Council Member C. Davis shared that the Finance Committee met briefly prior to this meeting and asked if it might be necessary to rescind the other seven resolutions with banking institutions that the city no longer conducts business with, but that have already been adopted by Council (i.e. High Point Bank & Trust, First Tennessee, First Citizens Bank, First Bank, Bank of North Carolina, US Bank & Trust, and Sun Trust Bank). Mr. Moore noted that staff did conduct a review and determined the only three current active financial institutions that the city does business with is BB&T, Bank of America and Wells Fargo. He further stated at the point where the city might have an investment opportunity or enters into another lease agreement, the City Council could authorize a resolution and name the signatories at that time. Mr. Moore explained that staff actually has destroyed the resolutions for the seven financial institutions that the city is no longer conducting any business with and noted that the minutes do contain the resolutions as were adopted. City Attorney JoAnne Carlyle recommended that if the minutes don't accurately reflect that these have dissolved, that something should be done on record to reflect that. Mayor Bencini suggested Council follow through and take the action necessary tonight and any reversal of previously adopted resolutions could be done at a later date.

Council Member C. Davis then MOVED THAT CITY COUNCIL RESCIND THE RESOLUTIONS WITH THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS THAT THE CITY IS NO LONGER CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH AND FOLLOW UP WITH DOCUMENTATION AT A LATER DATE.

City Attorney JoAnne Carlyle explained this action may be a little premature and that it may not be necessary to rescind these. She recommended that the city attorney and city clerk review the minutes before any action is taken. Council Member C. Davis then withdrew her motion.

Chairman J. Davis asked if there were any additional questions. There were none.

Adopted resolutions with financial institutions (i.e. Bank of America, BB & T, and Wells Fargo) with which the city conducts deposits, disbursement and/or investment relationships to update signatories for same to be effective January 12, 2015.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem J. Davis, seconded by Council Member Hill, to adopt the resolutions with financial institutions with which the city conducts

deposits, disbursement and/or investment relationships to update signatories for the city effective January 12, 2015. The motion PASSED by a 9-0 unanimous vote.

Resolution No. 1430/15-01

Resolution No. 1430/15-02

Resolution No. 1430/15-03

Introduced 1/5/2015; Adopted 1/5/2015

Resolution Book, Volume XIX, Pages 1, 2 and 3

Pending Items

140387 Lease Agreement - SECU for CashPoints ATM Machine

Council is requested to authorize the City Manager to execute a Lease Agreement with the State Employees Credit Union (SECU) allowing for the installation of a CashPoints ATM on City property in the Commerce Street parking lot.

Note: This matter has been pending since December 5, 2014. At that time, Council directed staff to provide additional information regarding other possible sites/locations.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - Council Member Wagner, Chair

Committee Members C. Davis, J. Davis, Williams

(all were present)

150003 Proposed Street Renaming

Discussion regarding the City Council initiating the renaming an existing street, Kivett Drive, to Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive.

Mayor Bencini: Next up on the agenda is Planning & Development Committee-Mr. Wagner.

_____ Transcript _____

Chairman Wagner: *Okay, there's only one item on the Planning & Development Committee agenda tonight. It is the possible renaming of two existing streets: Kivett Drive and North and South College Drive. One thing that I'll say mainly for the benefit of the public is that the decision to rename a street...our statutes in High Point state that that power rests entirely with the Planning & Zoning Commission. There are a number of ways to begin a street renaming. One which is for Council to initiate that street renaming. So at best, the only thing that happened tonight is that we either choose to initiate a street renaming or we don't. The actual power to change the name of the street rests entirely with the Planning & Zoning Commission. With that, I'll open the floor for discussion of this topic.*

Mayor Bencini: *Any comments by council members?*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *I have a question for JoAnne. Being on Council for just two years, is it normal that we get resolutions of support for items like this? I've never seen this before.*

City Attorney JoAnne Carlyle: *Outside organizations?*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *Outside organizations.*

City Attorney JoAnne Carlyle: *It just depends on how passionate they feel about it.*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *I just thought it was strange that we never received any before and now all of a sudden, you know, we have them this time.*

Mayor Bencini: *Actually along those lines, Mr. Wagner, what resolutions do we have that we have received? What outside groups have.....*

Chairman Wagner: *I believe they're listed under your attachments. There's one from High Point Chamber of Commerce, High Point University, High Point Convention & Visitors Bureau, High Point Partners, February 11th Association, City Project, Minister's Conference of High Point and Vicinity, High Point NAACP, Southwest Renewal Foundation, Hayden-Harmon Foundation, High Point Community Foundation, Washington Street Business Association. I think that is it unless I have left one out. There's actually two sets on here.*

Council Member C. Davis: *Based on the printed version, that's all.*

Chairman Wagner: *I think that's it. There actually were other times that we got resolutions of support. I know when we had discussion of the IGNITE High Point Plan, there were quite a few resolutions of support from local groups that came in for that about eight months ago. I don't find that out of the ordinary really.*

City Attorney JoAnne Carlyle: *For the record and the minutes, for clarification purposes, the discussion at this point is in regard to Kivett Drive because you have two listed on there.*

Chairman Wagner: *Well, if you like and if you rather that we just discuss one and then the other, would that be preferable?*

City Attorney JoAnne Carlyle: *I just want to make sure that they're clear in the minutes.*

Chairman Wagner: *Since I'm chairing this part, we'll discuss Kivett Drive first.*

Council Member Golden: *This item has been talked about several times over several years and I think us not doing this says a lot about our community and gives a segment of our community the feeling that they don't matter and it becomes bigger than a street. I just don't think we're in a position where we can just ignore a whole demographic and the way they feel about certain things. I can relate to what the Kivett family may be feeling as it relates to this issue, but we've discussed Kivett, we've discussed Centennial, we've discussed College, we've discussed Green and it doesn't seem to matter what street we discuss-there's always opposition. I hear more excuses than reasons and I'm not real big on excuses, so I just feel like this is the right time to do the right thing.*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *I'd like to ask, you know, the past two years that I've been on Council it's always been Green Street was the street that was chosen to glorify Dr. King and in the media, until recently in the last week, it was Green Street and all of a sudden it's on our agenda as Kivett Drive. Rev. Thomas, you made a comment in the paper that you decided this was the best street that you've chosen to glorify Dr. King, but for two years you told me it was Green Street. So I would like to ask how Kivett Drive was chosen in the last week to be the street that we glorify Dr. King?*

Council Member Golden: *Let me speak on that a little bit too. We did discuss Green, but Green was just a compromise because we had opposition to another street. So Green was never the street of choice.*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *Kivett was our first street that we discussed, then it went to Green Street because we had some roadblocks about E. and W. Kivett and the State. Then it became Green Street. What I want to know and what I was led to believe from the meeting at the University also...which occurred the week of Thanksgiving...the University brought us all in as small groups of Council, that they endorsed Green Street. Rev. Thomas, you were in that meeting and it was Green Street. The first I'd heard of Kivett Drive was when it was on my agenda. So we get our agendas on Friday and here it is Monday. So I want to know....because this is a question that people are asking me....how was Kivett Drive chosen when it went from Green Street to Kivett Drive? Because there's 414 business owners, or property owners on Kivett Drive that's asking those questions.*

Mayor Bencini: *I can give you a partial answer. One of my conversations...I did determine that it was the preferred route and as you indicated, Mr. Davis, there were problems with E. Kivett and W. Kivett because what had been proposed in the past, it was proposed that there was a section of Kivett where W. Kivett would be left as it was to the west and E. Kivett, east of the section that would be proposed to have the street changed. In checking with staff, they checked with State Transportation and they said as long as they weren't going to quote, unquote orphan a section of either ends of those streets, that the State would have no problem supporting Kivett and that's when the conversation came back to Kivett.*

Chairman Wagner: *I think that since the question has been asked of Rev. Thomas even though this is not a public hearing, I think it would only be fair to have him respond if he chooses.*

Rev. Frank Thomas: *Thank you, Mr. Wagner. When I became the President of the Ministers Conference a little over two years ago, this was a hot topic that I decided I would address. If you recall, Mr. Davis, when I first approached Council I just asked Council to rename a street to honor, not glorify, Dr. King for his contribution to our nation and our world. After a couple of meetings with no response from Council on naming a street, I believe I came back and proposed Kivett or Green at the time. With many discussions with many people in the community and members of Council, like Mr. Golden said, we just settled for Green. We said okay if Council can't make a decision, let's just go with Green. There was no rhyme or reason for the selection aside from we just wanted a prominent street in our city that would honor Dr. King. As we discussed in the meeting at High Point University, there will never be the right street. You pick a street, there will be someone that will oppose it. And as I mentioned on several occasions, whether it's Green, Kivett, College, Centennial,*

Main. Pick a street. I believe it speaks volumes, not just for High Pointers, but to folks outside High Point. The absence of an MLK in this city. I've spoken to people and they've told me that they have, they've had reservations about coming to either visit High Point, invest in High Point because of the absence of an MLK street. And that speaks volumes about a community, a city that will not honor Dr. King as over 900 cities have.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *Mr. Thomas, have you lobbied the community you live in for a street named after Dr. King?*

Rev. Frank Thomas: *I have not.*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *Okay. You know I've been accused of having a memory like an elephant. I don't forget a lot of things and I was in those conversations with you with our former Mayor Bernita Sims when all this was brought about. College Drive was the street of choice and we got some push back from the University. College Drive was the street of choice because it connected the south end of town to the north end of town and that was the criteria to determine a street that would dignify his name because you wanted to cross both ends of the city, also socio-economic boundaries. Then, from that pushback it became Kivett Drive and the Kivett family showed up in force and talked about their family history and then we found out from the State that you couldn't divide the road and have east and west. So Green Street because the street of choice because Green Street was not named after a prominent family. We did our research and we could not find why Green Street was not named after Nathaniel Greene like a lot of people think. We talked about this before. I'm just really surprised that it went from Green to Kivett Drive and at the University I talked about the 1,675 businesses and the 900 residences that were on Green Street.*

There have been two arguments made here tonight that, to me, stand out because I'm a common sense type of guy. Cam brought up the property rights and I noticed the Chamber of Commerce, which is supposed to support our small business did a resolution tonight. I've heard from business owners that are part of the Chamber that said they were never contacted by the Chamber. They voted for them and did a resolution in support without getting any kind of input from them. So in a comment that you made at the university, you said when I asked you have you reached out to the business owners and property owners on Green Street and you said we don't need to because we found a loop hole and we intend on using it. And that's what you're doing here at Kivett Drive. You said that.

Rev. Frank Thomas: *I don't think I said that.*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *You said that.*

Rev. Frank Thomas: *Well, I beg to differ.*

Council Member C. Davis: *It was said in our meeting as well.*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *But nobody has given any thought to the 414 business owners on Kivett Drive. So if this Council initiates a street renaming tonight, then we're sending a clear message to the business owners and the property owners in this city that we're going to bow down to the special interest groups. We don't care what they have as rights as property*

owners. We value the special interest more than those people and that's not fair to those people. This would be an easy cut and dried situation if you come to me and you had 50% of the people in favor on any street. The other thing that stuck out to me tonight was Al Campbell. He's a very well-respected member of our community-a former council member. For 25 years this city, as I understand it, has tried to name a street after Dr. King and it's not been successful. I think it's not been successful because of the method that you're trying to use. Other Councils....there's never been a street renaming by a City Council in the history of this city and I think they understood that. You know, we're setting a precedent for what we're doing. You know we try to be transparent and we try to be fair. I don't think this right here has been very transparent.

Rev. Frank Thomas: I had nothing to do with what agenda you received.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: Well I disagree because you were at that meeting at High Point University...

Rev. Frank Thomas: I've got that, but what I'm saying is...

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: That's what we were told and Chris Dudley is sitting here and were having to meet in small groups of council members to discuss the needs of the university moving forward. When I got there, you were there and the whole conversation was about renaming these streets. That's all the conversation was about until the very end and you said, by the way High Point Partners has asked me to talk about Montlieu Avenue. We want to build support in the community and this and that. That's what the conversation was about. So from day one, you've been involved in this. So you can't sit there and tell me that you have not because I did not know what the meeting at the university was going to be about, but you did because you were there and you were there before I was. So you knew what that meeting was going to be about. So let's talk about transparency.

I think Al Campbell made the best argument. The best street in this city to name for Dr. King and the reason I say that is I've said it before, is I said I would not support a street renaming if you're going to go this route because it's not fair to the property owners not having any kind of input. But I look at College Drive. There's 24 rent houses I believe, a church, university property and city-owned property. The impact is so little. If we're going to name one, Al Campbell was right and I think there's other members on this Council that will agree. That is the street. If you want to connect S. Main to the north end of town, that's the street. I just think that the way you're going about this and especially switching gears, you have no information. You've not talked to nobody on Kivett Drive. You've not talked to anybody on Green Street that owns property. They're not here in support. Me and the Mayor had a conversation today. All the conversations that I've had and I've talked to hundreds since this article first came out in the paper. I've not had one in support and he said the same thing to me today. Not one. So that's what I'm telling you.

Mayor Bencini: That's not exactly what I said. I didn't say I hadn't had people....

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: I'm not going to throw you under the bus....

Mayor Bencini:that I know call me on the phone. I had plenty of people that....

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *Okay, people that he didn't know that were calling.*

Rev. Frank Thomas: *Let me just say this, Mr. Davis. I have never championed any particular street for any particular reason. I have only asked that we rename a street here in High Point. Let me finish, please. I've only asked that we name a street that meant something that would honor Dr. King's memory. Again, I would say, that if you don't support it, fine. But to not rename a street here in High Point speaks volumes about what our city is and where it is not. [applause]*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *Let me ask you this. Since I've come out publicly and said I don't support changing the name of a street without property owners input, if I were to switch gears and say that I will publicly tonight support renaming College Drive from S. Main Street to 68 after Dr. King, would you support me? You just said that you would support any street in High Point.*

Rev. Frank Thomas: *I'm thinking the streets through. From where to where?*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *From S. Main Street down there at Snow Lumber Company all the way to 68. You said any street and I'm saying that tonight publicly, I will support that against my better judgment, but I'll do that.*

Rev. Frank Thomas: *What's the length of the street?*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *You said any street. Don't put a mileage on it. It's one of our longer streets. It connects both socio-economic....*

Council Member Alexander: *The University is already asking for that street to be renamed University.....*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *Yeah, but we can consider....*

Council Member Alexander: *You can vote any way you like. I propose we call the question, Mr. Mayor.*

Chairman Wagner: *I think that maybe we're getting a little bit off track. Mr. Davis, has Rev. Thomas answered your question that you initially had? Because I think we're getting into a Jim versus Rev. Thomas thing and really the discussion needs to be between the nine of us.*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *I agree.*

Chairman Wagner: *Do you think he answered your question?*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *Just answer that and then I'm done.*

Rev. Frank Thomas: *I can't answer that. I can't without the information. Without the proper information.*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *So you're asking Council to rename Kivett Drive without any information. Same thing that you just said to me.*

Rev. Frank Thomas: *Mr. Davis, there have been 25 years of no action. You said that. There have been 25 years.*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *I gave you an action tonight.*

Rev. Frank Thomas: *Twenty-five years of no action. Okay. And you gave me a what if. I'm just saying, the information that we had is why we initially selected Kivett.*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *You don't have any information. You can't provide any. That's what I'm telling you. You're not providing one ounce of information to this Council.*

Council Member Golden: *Call the question.*

Rev. Frank Thomas: *It's not me asking.*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *Rev. Thomas....*

Chairman Wagner: *Okay, let's move on.*

Rev. Frank Thomas: *And it's supported by the community and the leadership of the city. You have several resolutions supporting this initiative. This is not Rev. Thomas. This is not Rev. Thomas speaking.*

Chairman Wagner: *Thank you Rev. Thomas. Okay, the point of discussion right now is the Kivett Drive issue. We'll get to College next.*

Mayor Bencini: *It's on our agenda as an item for discussion. We're going to need a motion to make an action item out of this. Do I have a motion.*

Chairman Wagner: *I don't know that we need to do that. I've looked at prior agendas and we've listed things on there for discussion that we ended up taking action on.*

City Attorney JoAnne Carlyle: *It has to do with action that this Council took at the organizational meeting.*

Mayor Bencini: *It's an interpretation of the action that we took at the organizational meeting.*

Council Member C. Davis: *We have to have a 2/3 vote. I'm confused. Have we closed the discussion for the Council? Because that's what it sounds like to me. I have some more comments.*

Mayor Bencini: *Discussion hasn't been closed, but we have no motions on the floor. So there will be discussion after any motions may be made.*

Council Member C. Davis: *Because I heard the call for the question from that end and I just wanted to....*

Mayor Bencini: *Well, there needs to be a motion before we can call for the question. So, do we have a motion to turn this discussion item into an action item?*

Council Member Alexander: **So moved.**

Mayor Bencini: *Is there a second?*

Chairman Wagner: **Second.**

Mayor Bencini: *All in favor, say Aye.*

Mayor Bencini; and Council Members Alexander, Golden, Williams, Hill, Wagner and Ewing: **Aye.**

Mayor Bencini: *Opposed?*

Mayor Pro Tem J. Davis and Council Member C. Davis: **No.**

Mayor Bencini: *How many? Raise your hands on the Noes. That's 6-2. That motion carries. I'm sorry, it's 7-2.*

Chairman Wagner: *Okay, this is still on for action then. The floor is still open for discussion regarding Kivett Drive or for a motion.*

Mayor Bencini: *Or you can have a motion, then discuss the motion.*

Chairman Wagner: *Okay, either way. Either way y'all want to do it.*

Council Member Golden: **I MOVE THAT THE HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL INITIATE ACTION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF EAST AND WEST KIVETT DRIVE TO EAST AND WEST MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE; RENAMING OF THIS ROADWAY WILL RUN FROM W. ENGLISH ROAD ON THE WEST AND HIGHWAY BUSINESS I-85 ON THE EAST.**

Mayor Bencini: *Is there a second?*

Council Member Williams: **SECOND.**

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *Can I make a substitute motion?*

Chairman Wagner: *You may.*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: **TO RENAME COLLEGE DRIVE FROM S. MAIN TO HIGHWAY 68 AFTER DR. KING.**

Mayor Bencini: *Is there a second?*

Council Member C. Davis: **I'LL SECOND THAT.**

Council Member Alexander: *I call the question.*

Mayor Bencini: *The question has been called. All in favor, say Aye.*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis and Council Member C. Davis: *Aye.*

Mayor Bencini: *Two. All opposed?*

Mayor Bencini; and Council Members Alexander, Golden, Williams, Hill, Wagner, and Ewing: *No.*

Mayor Bencini: *That motion fails. [2-7 vote]*

Now back to the original motion. We have a motion and a second. Are we ready to vote?

Council Member C. Davis: *No, I thought it was open for discussion.*

Mayor Bencini: *It is. Go ahead.*

Council Member C. Davis: *Because College was the least amount of impact as Mr. Davis pointed out, I was willing to go that way; however, with Kivett, Green or any street that has a considerable amount of business and/or residents impacted, I believe that circumventing policy is creating or has the potential to create further discord within the city because we want to do things the right way. So if we do the petition and 66.67% of those people that are impacted, who live along that roadway, then we're hearing their voice as well. And then we have something of substance that we can say as an elected official and a leader of this community, I have done my job to the constituents who voted me into office. Otherwise, I'm doing them a disservice by saying to them, it doesn't matter what you think, I'm going to do what I'm going to do and don't worry about it. I don't think that's how we build bridges. I think that's how we destroy bridges if we circumvent and we go around and say, hear our voice but ignore them because they don't matter either. If we're going to build bridges and do away with division, then we have to work with each other and that means knocking on some doors and working with each other, trying to get the task done. I'll go with you and knock on doors if you want to take up the task with a petition. I will volunteer my time to do that thing, but I cannot in good conscience do this thing that's before us today without considering those people that are impacted. We do not live there. They do. We do not own a business there. They do. They deserve the same consideration.*

Now, as a side note, that's the Council hat. As a citizen of the City of High Point, as a Christian woman, I have to say there have been over 900+ streets named for Dr. King. For me, as an individual, not as a Councilwoman, my comment from that podium at any meeting would be do not do this thing because I honor Dr. King by being a forerunner and continuing the things that he began. As he continued the things of the forerunners before him began. So

as a Christian woman, I am charged to pick up that charge and drive that forward and that's how I live my life. That's me as an individual. The Councilwoman says we have to follow policy. I have to represent those people who elected me to office.

Council Member Golden: *Just to speak on why we are at this place at this time, yeah, it does make a lot of sense to go out and get 66% of the people on a street for renaming. But what you have to understand, a lot of the owner of all the businesses there do not live in the City of High Point and are not able to be contacted. This brings us to this place. A lot of the tenants that live on these streets are not owners, so they are not able to vote, which brings us to this place. That's why it's in our ordinance to do it this way in the first place. When we can't reach out to people and we don't know where they are at and we don't know how to contact them. It would be virtually impossible to get their approval. Thus, we're sitting here 25 years later trying to get something accomplished. If we try to contact 66% of the owners and residents, we'll be here another 25 years.*

Council Member C. Davis: *Well, I guess.....*

Council Member Golden: *Let me finish.*

Council Member C. Davis: *I'm sorry.*

Council Member Golden: *And you also said as a Christian, you believe that Dr. King wouldn't want you to honor him in this way and therefore you would vote it down. No matter what we do in life, it has to be a way to measure progress. So when we've got a city of 109,000-110,000 people and I only know of two streets in this whole city named after an African-American and we get this much resistance, it is a yell to this community. I think this is the right thing to do and we need to do it now.*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *Jeff, you know you're my buddy and my friend and I respect what you've got to say. I just want to ask one question. Has anybody made any effort to contact anybody on Kivett Drive or College Drive to see.....*

Council Member Golden: *Absolutely.*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *Okay, that's all I wanted to know.*

Council Member Golden: *Absolutely. In fact, I participated in a door-to-door maybe six or seven months ago. The first twenty houses that we went to, the people didn't own the house and didn't even know who the owners were. They were dealing with realtors, who refused to give you the information because of property rights and things like that, which makes the other route impossible for this action to take place. But what's going to happen is this Council is going to have to initiate it, send it to Planning & Zoning and let the chips fall where they may.*

Council Member C. Davis: *Councilman Golden, I'd like to address what you said. I think that if we send out those that are willing to do the work. To put the plow in the hand and do the work, if we sent letters to the owners that do not live in the city return registered receipt or just return mail, when they come back it will show that good effort had been made. I can*

live with good effort being made. What I cannot live with is no effort to a degree that says I have really done due diligence. That's what I cannot do. I cannot do that to the citizens of High Point and you know to say there's no progress, I beg to differ in regards to the fact that I break bread with you, with Chris, with whomever is willing to meet me. That diversity is gone. If we choose it to be gone amongst ourselves, diversity is amiss-it's gone. It's can't hit us. It's up to us as individuals to work on the diversity. It's up to us to reach out to each other and get to know one another. You know, I just think that beyond anything that as elected officials, we are here to be the voice of the people of the city and anything short of due diligence in this matter where it impacts so many is just wrong.

Council Member Alexander: *I call the question.*

Mayor Bencini: *Any further comments?*

Council Member Williams: *Only that I think that if we don't take this action, we are looking at Kivett Drive which funds have been spent on it to beautify it. What is a better street? It feeds right from the neighborhoods going off from 85 going into the city, which is one of the city's biggest successes during Furniture Market. That bridges a gap. That shows diversity and I think that when we take no action, again, because of somethingI believe he explained it pretty clearly, that it's going to be virtually impossible to do. Then we're right back where we started. Believe me, the people in the African-American community are seeing this and they feel it. The groups that I have talked with, the community groups that I have talked with, this is something that was big during my campaign. If we don't take action, then what are we telling them?*

Council Member C. Davis: *Seeing I live in an African-American neighborhood, if you'll come down my street, the majority of my neighbors are African-American citizens. I took care of a woman next door to me who was African-American. The lady on the other side of me is still alive, but the other one died. I took care of her when she was dealing with cancer. She wouldn't want this because she understood that Dr. King was a man of faith, who put Christ first and foremost and he would not want to be idolized in the manner that we're idolizing him. He would want us to pick up and run forward with what he perceived because that's where he laid his hope, his trust and everything and that's Dr. King's testimony. If we want to honor him, we should be carrying the torch and doing the things that he would have us do instead of debating year after year after year whether or not he is worthy of a street naming. Because there are other people in our history, some who have died and resurrected themselves, that aren't on one sign.*

City Attorney Joanne Carlyle: *You guys know that you're kind of teetering on the religion area here. I understand, Ms. Davis, that you've already made a statement that that's not going to be part of the decision.*

Council Member Alexander: *Call the question.*

Mayor Bencini: *Okay, we're going to call the question, but before I do I just want to remind everybody of one thing. This is the beginning of a process. We're not renaming any street here tonight. This is being....if it passes....sent to Planning & Zoning for their consideration. A process starts at that point, which does notify all neighbors within 300 feet of the street and*

every attempt is made to contact renters who are living along that roadway. So there is a process where an effort is made to make sure that the public is brought in. And there will also be public hearings, unlike this consideration tonight. So this is the beginning, not the end. Regardless of how this vote comes out, I want to thank all the Council members. It's been a very difficult process for a lot of us to discuss and search our souls....well I don't want to sound religious....but we've all had to give it a lot of thought and we've had leadership groups within our city stand up and want to be counted. So I appreciate all that and I'm going to go ahead and call the question. All those in favor, say Aye.

Mayor Bencini; and Council Members Alexander, Golden, Williams, Hill, and Wagner: Aye.

Mayor Bencini: Those opposed?

Mayor Pro Tem Davis; and Council Members C. Davis and Ewing: No.

Mayor Bencini: Okay, can we see a show of hands on the Noes? 6-3. That motion carries. Thank you. [6-3 vote]

[end of transcript]

150009

Proposed Street Renaming

Discussion and consideration regarding the City Council initiating the renaming of North/South College Drive.

Chairman Wagner: *I'll open the floor for discussion of that item. Or if someone would like to make a motion, then we can discuss it.*

Council Member Golden: **I MOVE THE HIGH POINT CITY COUNCIL INITIATE ACTION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF NORTH AND SOUTH COLLEGE DRIVE TO NORTH AND SOUTH UNIVERSITY PARKWAY. THE RENAMING OF THIS ROADWAY WILL RUN FROM EASTCHESTER DRIVE ON THE NORTH TO SOUTH MAIN STREET ON THE SOUTH.**

Council Member Alexander: **SECOND.**

Mayor Bencini: *We have a motion and a second. It's open for discussion.*

Council Member C. Davis: *I guess because of my stand on the first, I'll take the same stand because the University does not own that street and it's not within their boundaries on campus, that I request that we follow procedure. There are 24 rental houses and whatever number of businesses, that small number on a petition should not be difficult for the University to achieve.*

Chairman Wagner: *I want to make something clear. There's been a statement that we're not following procedure.*

Council Member Golden: And we are.

Chairman Wagner: I mean we are following procedure. There's two ways to initiate a street renaming.

Council Member C. Davis: I stand corrected. My terminology is incorrect. Instead of circumventing those individuals that reside and do business on that street as well, I would rather see us do a different avenue which requires participation on the High Point University's part to obtain 66.67% of those who reside and/or do business on that street.

Council Member Ewing: I'll make a comment on that. I didn't support the last one because there were over 400 affected property owners. This one, while I don't like sidestepping the primary process....

Mayor Bencini: Excuse me, there's not a primary or secondary. Both processes are equal.

Council Member Ewing: The petition process....this one, though, there's 38 affected addresses versus 414. And there's a flaw in the process I believe. We've had the conversation in past committees when we had this discussion before. The way the petition process is it is based on individual owners, so if one owner owns 90% of the street frontage, there's still only one vote. I think there's some policy issues here that we need to clean up maybe down the road after the fact that potentially Council Member Wagner can take on in his committee to reevaluate some of these policies and procedures. While I feel that College was named for a college that was there, it is now a university and it is certainly one of the economic engines in our city.

Council Member C. Davis: I agree.

Council Member Ewing: The amount of impact to the businesses and residences on the map that we've been given is very minimal compared to the impact that they've had financially on our community. I will be supporting this one.

Council Member C. Davis: I will agree with that statement.

Council Member Golden: This is a little bit different than the first one. It's a street that's already named after an institution that lies along that street. I will support it, but those people that lie along that street are going to have to go through the same things that people that lie along the other street go through. There's no difference and I know that we can do it for this one and we can do it for the other one. So I will support it.

Mayor Bencini: Any other comments?

Chairman Wagner: I think it's already been said that this street was named for the college and now the college is no longer a college, but a university-a collection of colleges in essence. We're really upgrading the profile of the street to match that of the university by renaming it. So I'll support it.

Mayor Bencini: *I'm going to ask the city attorney something. We turned the other street renaming into an action item, do we need to make....*

City Attorney JoAnne Carlyle: *That's what I was just asking the clerk. They didn't do both at the same time.*

Council Member Alexander: **MOTION TO MAKE THIS AN ACTION ITEM.**

Council Member Golden: **SECOND.**

Mayor Bencini: *All in favor, say Aye.*

Mayor Bencini; and Council Members Alexander, Golden, Williams, Hill, Wagner and Ewing: *Aye. [7]*

Mayor Bencini: *Opposed?*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis and Council Member C. Davis: *No. [2]*

Mayor Bencini: **7-2. Motion PASSES.**

Okay, any further comments on the motion for renaming College? Seeing none, let's vote. All those in favor, say Aye.

Mayor Bencini; and Council Members Alexander, Golden, Williams, Hill, Wagner and Ewing: *Aye. [7]*

Mayor Bencini: *Any opposed?*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis and Council Member C. Davis: *No. [2]*

Mayor Bencini: **7-2. Motion PASSES.**

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Bencini: *We will move to the Public Comment Period. I have a list of folks that have signed up. You don't have to sign up to speak, but we'll start first with those folks that did sign up. The first one on our list tonight is Cam Cridlebaugh. When you come to the microphone, please identify yourself and you have three minutes to speak.*

Cam Cridlebaugh: *I'm Cam Cridlebaugh. I'm a resident of 1314 Westminster Drive in High Point. I'm also the owner and the President of Atlantic Insurance & Realty Company at 600 N. Main. I come to you tonight as a representative and President of the High Point Regional Realtors Association. First of all, thank you for your service to the community. I know you all make some very hard decisions and some unpopular decisions and that's a tough position to be in and also residents of High Point. I come tonight with great concern about the agenda item of approving the naming of any street without a majority of the owner's consent. I believe that's it's a wrong move for Council to participate in that type of*

approval. Just to simply side step the rules and regulations that are in place and send it down to P & Z is effectively telling the property owners, the people that have recently put you in your seats, that their opinion and their majority does not matter.

The two streets that are on the agenda tonight-College and Kivett-the renaming of those are particularly important, both for the University and Martin Luther King and what he stood for and what he still stands for. So you're sending this down to P & Z without obtaining proper consensus among the property owners. I believe it will set a very unfortunate undertone of how this Council intends to handle taxpaying citizens. A lot of what's been discussed has been owner based issues on particular corridors and I don't think the tenant's positions have been taken into account. Tenants, of course, have to change identification cards, legal status cards, credit cards, there's a whole host of things that tenants may not be aware of that they have to change. I want to make it very clear, Council, that our position does not.....it should not be confused with the actual naming of the streets. It's the process in which Council is intending on doing this. To send it down to P & Z without proper owner consent, again, is wrong. Thank you all for your service to the community and I admire and respect each and every one of you.

Jody Kearns: *Mr. Cridlebaugh pretty much summed up what I was going to say except for a few things.*

Mayor Bencini: *Mr. Kearns, could you give us your name and address?*

Jody Kearns: *Jody Whitman Kearns, 518 W. Parkway.*

Mayor Bencini: *Thank you.*

Jody Kearns: *There's six signs up and down Kivett Drive. To me a cheaper way of doing all this.....you also have one on northbound and southbound on I-85 is to glorify the signs. I mean just glorify the shrubs, flowers, trees, you name it. It's the cheapest way out. It still honors the gentleman. That man has done so much for the community. I mean he really did. The other part that I had is....and this is my ignorance on this, isn't Kivett not a state maintained road?*

Mayor Bencini: *Yes, it is a state road.*

Jody Kearns: *I have a few friends that are asking how you can change a state road. How?*

Mayor Bencini: *It's allowed in the state statutes.*

Jody Kearns: *Okay. That's my ignorance on that. I'm just asking. Pretty much other than that, I mean if you change the name, you're going to be dishonoring the Kivett family. The Kivett family has done so much for the City of High Point. So much commerce. They helped found and keep up High Point. If you change the name, you take that away. You take away High Point. Let's take Martin Luther King Boulevard and make it where you live. Make it where I live on W. Parkway. Make it Hillcrest. You're not going to make a lot of people happy that way. Take that into consideration too. That's all I have.*

Ross Lackey: *How's it going? Good evening. My name is Ross Lackey. I'm owner and operator of Kapuka Farms located on the historic Lindell Dairy here in High Point. So I'm here tonight to kind of share with you guys an idea to help out High Point. In the planning of my business and the growth of it, I run into some kind of limits as far as the structure that it might take in the future. For example, with the zoning restrictions such as animal use and fence requirements. Not to get into the details, but there are certain....there's an infrastructure that's being built for my business based on the zoning restrictions that are going to impede me in the future. For example, the lack of the inability to have a rooster. It affects my sustainability. No rooster, no chicks. We're 130-acre farm. We can handle a rooster. So there's some common sense approaches that we need to approach. So I think there's room for a larger discussion with this idea. So I'm proposing something...maybe a green zone. We talk about pink zones and relaxing regulations, but call it a green zone so the 350 lots that the city owns that y'all don't have a plan for, this could be my property where I'm farming at now. This could be a public park that could become a green zone. This could be a public orchard. It could be a park. It could be a farm. It could be a zoning that allows for entrepreneurs for different people to kind of grow and share their ideas. So why do we need this?*

We need to solve urban blight. We need to solve our local food insecurities and we need to provide an avenue for local people to invest in their communities. So what would this look like? It could be an old showroom, an old furniture factory converted into an indoor hydroponic growing system, it could be a farm, it could be a public orchard, it could be a public park, it could be a rain park collecting and filtering water before it goes to our City Lake. So it could allow the local people to decide what they need and approach this from a holistic standpoint without the old restrictions in place that I'm sure at some time made great framework for the growth of High Point. But currently my understanding from the food production aspect of this and from the ecology and for the resources that we can provide for the Triad. High Point, we're the headwaters of the Triad. We have amazing water resources, so there's some avenue for growth that we can look at. If this idea or something like it fails, all are left is people investing in the land around them with planting trees possibly, with planting gardens.

This can be community gardens. This can be local entrepreneurs starting farms. So, yeah, lots of things. This is an idea and I just wanted to put it out there and I would hope that we all can talk about it as a community and get something going to turn some of these areas and land inside of High Point and get something going. Get something investing in the future of High Point.

Council Member Alexander: *Do you have a phone number Mr. Lackey?*

Ross Lackey: *Yes. 336-847-2898.*

Mayor Bencini: *Mr. Lackey, I see applicability to two of our committees here. I think it could overlap from Planning & Development because of some of the zoning issues you're running up against, but also I think the Prosperity & Livability Committee could also use some of your ideas. So I'm going to ask Jay if you and Jason both would stay in touch with Mr. Lackey and see if we can help him and have him help us.*

Council Member Ewing: *Do you know what your land right now is zoned?*

Ross Lackey: *We are, I believe, RS-12. I think and that basically has the same agricultural restrictions as far as livestock and chickens as even the agricultural zoning. Some of these rules prevent certain age restrictions. You couldn't have young animals. It would prevent you from raising young and having a sustainable farm and also some of the fencing requirements could be changed to allow somebody with a small lot to have more of their acreage inside their lot. Access for chickens or livestock. High Point's a large area. We have some rural areas that could be preserved as green, agricultural spaces that can help solve the food desert problem that we do have in town.*

Ralph Soviero: *Good evening. My name is Ralph Soviero. I live at 3912 Johnson Street here in High Point. I've lived here pretty much all my life. My family owns and operates a garden center here in High Point. We've been here for about 27 years helping people such as Ross do local farming, community gardens. That's one reason I'm here today is because I want to piggyback on something that Ross was saying on the ideas of community gardening. I think that could really help High Point. There's a lot going on in High Point. Little groups that are trying to improve the community. Ms. Jackie is here today. She is the owner of Jackie's Place and she is really doing a lot out there on Washington Street trying to invest in the area and bring the community together. She had me start a garden there and I'd like to do similar things in similar parts of the city and encourage the City Council to do more as far as community gardening and growing food for the community because it helps to build a lot of skills that a lot of people in High Point could use as far as, you know, hard work and just building skills that could last a lifetime. I'd like to see from the Council....Ross mentioned those 300 some odd city properties....if there were any properties or if there's a list that the public has access to that we could possibly look at using for city-owned community gardens.*

Also another thing that I think is important that I'd like to see in High Point is a skateboard park. It's something I see a lot of people doing in High Point. There's a lot of little kids skateboarding. I used to do it when I was in school. I think that would be great. I was told by a former council member that there was a plan that was in place at one point. I don't know if it was an independent group that was going to put a park in, but there were some logistics that never happened. I don't know the specifics, but I'd like to see, again, from the Council what that plan was and if, in fact, there was one. And possibly if there would be any encouragement from the Council or the city in general for maybe a privately owned park or what we could do there. I'm willing to do whatever I can on both of those fronts as far as gardening or getting a skate park started in High Point. Kernersville has one. Thomasville has one. So what's up? Thank you.

Mayor Bencini: *Thanks Mr. Soviero. I don't know that Mr. Alexander ever actually was a skateboarder, but in his former stint as a city councilman, he worked really hard to establish a city skate park facility.*

Council Member Alexander: *I did. I'm not going to be the first one down the half pipe, but I would like to see one. Most of the time we don't comment during Public Comment period, but are you familiar with what Ward Street Mission is doing with respect to individual household gardens?*

Ralph Soviero: *I have heard a little bit about them, but I haven't gotten directly involved with them. I know that they are doing a lot.*

Council Member Alexander: *I think it would be great....and I don't want to take away from this, but I think it would be great if you could contact Ward Street Ministries. The city's been providing mulch and they have labor and they're making a small pocket garden in people's yards and helping them to learn how to be more sustainable. So it sounds like we've got several people that could coordinate together along with whatever support we could offer that could be positive.*

Ralph Soviero: *Thank you.*

Al Campbell: *My name is Al Campbell and I live here in High Point for the last 22 years. I'm here to talk about the renaming of streets or renaming of streets. Mr. Mayor and City Council, thank you for the opportunity. After reading the article in the Sunday's High Point Enterprise, I couldn't help but feel a closeness for what is being done or what is attempted to be done. I joked about my lifetime here. I've been in High Point eighty years and I have not seen the kind of things that are being done here and has been done in the past. I'd like to say that there are streets in High Point that have never been changed and they have no real reason for being where they are. For whatever reason, our Council.... our Planning & Zoning Commission, I believe, has often ignored the streets and the requests from the community for renaming one street. That street has been advanced several times. Of course, I'm not for that street and I'll say in the beginning now that I am for changing E. College Drive.*

The reason is E. College once was....a little history....was once just named College Drive. Those of you who don't remember. It was just College Drive and it was only two blocks, from Motlieu Avenue to Lexington Avenue. Today it's still two blocks, but it wants to be named something else. At the time that it was two blocks, there was some portion of that street that was named something else and those portions were: Thissell Street, which used to have eight blocks and it runs into E. College Drive now; and the other street I'm trying to think of. But at any rate, those streets had seven and eight blocks and College Drive only had two blocks. [timer beeped] May I have an extension please?

Mayor Bencini: *We'll grant you an extension Mr. Campbell.*

Al Campbell: *Thank you. So what I'm saying now is once those streets were attached to what was originally E. College Drive or College Drive at that time, that's where the streets are now...from Main Street to Main Street with Thissell Street over on the side of it with a fence there. When we start talking about naming a street after someone, we want that street to be renamed because of their achievement or their acquisitions or whatever it is that they are noted for. I say the same thing about naming Martin Luther King Street. He represented dignity and if we are going to name a street in his honor, that street should be a street of dignity. When we look at streets that are infested with crime, violence and then we want to name that street after Martin Luther King, a man of non-violence, that's why I'm here. I'd like for us to reconsider what is being talked and possibly discussed because we owe him the respect that he gave us as he did with all citizens in this country. With that, I'd like to say that if your choice is to change or to rename a street in his honor, if that is to be done and the*

Council authority with the Planning & Zoning Commission, please consider what we call a rezoned phase of naming or renaming streets. We want to do it with an honor. We want it to represent what the City of High Point represents. Thank you.

Mayor Bencini: *Thank you Mr. Campbell. Reverend Thomas.*

Rev. Frank Thomas: *Good afternoon. I'm Frank Thomas, Pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church here in High Point. I reside at 693 Mallard Lane Boulevard in Clemmons. The purpose of my greeting you today is, first, to say Happy New Year to all members of Council. As President of the Minister's Conference, I just wanted to remind you and invite you to our MLK Celebrations that will be held on January 19th. We'll start with a breakfast at the Oak Hollow Mall, the old J.C. Penney space. I believe the City has purchased a table. I'll also invite you to join us, the community, for the parade that will commence at 2:00 p.m., I believe. And then at 6:00 p.m. at the Williams Memorial CME Church, we'll have a traditional worship service where we will award scholarships-over \$5,000 in scholarships-to deserving students. I just wanted to publicly invite you all. You'll be receiving something in the mail, but I wanted to make sure that you had ample time to mark your calendars for January 19th. Eight a.m. for the breakfast; either 2:00 p.m. or 3:00 p.m., I'm not sure, for the parade; and 6:00 p.m. for the evening worship service at Williams Memorial CME Church. God bless you. [Note: The Parade honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will actually be held on Saturday, January 17, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.]*

David Rosen: *Mr. Mayor, Council, I'm David Rosen at 4309 Hardin Court. I apologize, I did arrive a little bit late. I'm just going to be off the cuff. I wasn't planning on speaking, but I'm going to and it's about MLK, Jr. Drive. All we have to do is look throughout this room and see the make-up of your city-our city. This has been a hotly contested item for many years. Our city, whether you want to hear it or not, there is division. There's divisiveness on a socio-economic level, on a race issue. It's critical. It's important that we make this happen. The location that Mr. Campbell mentioned, I can hear his points and understand that, but to deny for any reason all the positive things that Martin Luther King, Jr. did would be a step backwards for the growth of our city in many different ways. As I ran for office, many of you know in this room, I got very involved in a lot of different committees. I'm very involved in the Washington Street Homeowner's Association. I continue to stay involved with them, although when I came to them initially a lot of them said, "well, David, you're here because you're running for office." I said yeah, but I'm going to stick around. Patrick Harmon, who is back there in the room, knows that I've been involved and continue to stay involved. I'm not walking away. A lot of you know that and have heard from me. We have to come together and you guys are doing some great things. I've been watching the paper three times a day on line with the Enterprise, speaking to a few of you individually, but it's time for you and for Planning & Zoning to do the right thing. Let's take baby steps, okay, to bridge this gap of racial divisiveness in our city and let's come together. Let the whole city come together and do the right thing. Thank you.*

Sheila Sims: *Good afternoon. My name is Sheila Sims and I live at 2205 Copperstone Drive in High Point. When I moved here I was impressed by the beauty of the city, the places close by that I could go and shop, but when I started listening to and reading in the newspapers about what was going on in the city, when I heard the debate last year about naming Martin*

Luther King, Jr....naming a street after him, I was very saddened that in this day, we are not recognizing those people who have done so great to make the world a better place for all of us. Dr. King strove for all people. He died helping garbage men. He went to fight for garbage men to know that they were important. Our country now is forced with all these young people who are fighting to let the world know that we all matter. I would like to see the city working close together to honor a man who meant so much to the world and our country. I sang in the first choir that was organized when the date was set to respect and honor Dr. Martin Luther King. So come on High Point. Get on the train. Be sure that you let people know in the world that you are progressing. As one of the council members said in the newspaper and I don't remember the name, that he wanted to make....change race relations. It's a matter of respect-respect to each other and each other's accomplishments. Thank you.

Mayor Bencini then asked if there were any additional comments. There being none, the Public Comment Period was closed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - 6:15 P.M.

PROSPERITY & LIVABILITY COMMITTEE - Council Member Ewing, Chair

150004 Public Hearing - Vault Enclosures Expansion Project

Monday, January 5th, 2015 at 6:15 p.m. in the date and time established for a public hearing for the Vault Enclosures expansion project.

Chairman Ewing: *Our first public hearing is for Vault Enclosures and it is to hear and potentially approve a \$4,500 incentive as our portion of a City/County match for a State of North Carolina Building Reuse Grant for Vault Enclosures. I will open the public hearing. Is there anyone here to speak for?*

Loren Hill: *Good evening Council Members. Loren Hill of the High Point Economic Development Corporation. Vault is a leading manufacturer of high quality enclosures for tablets like you've got in front of you today. They use it for commercial and industrial purposes. The company expects to expand at 1004 Old Thomasville Road in the Randolph County part of High Point. The company proposes to create 40 full-time jobs, to invest \$1,000,000 to purchase the building, renovate it and equip the building. On behalf of the company, Randolph County will apply for a State of North Carolina Building Reuse Grant. That grant would be for up to \$180,000. If the grant is approved, the company will buy that building on Old Thomasville Road and move in. The State requires a 5% local match, which would be \$9,000. Randolph County has had many of these types of things in the past, these types of grants, and they require that any municipality involved split that local match in half with them. Therefore, they propose, and our office proposes, that the City of High Point consider \$4,500 as our part of the local match. At this very hour, the Randolph County Commissioners are in a meeting and having a public hearing as well and they are considering the same thing.*

The Building Re-Use Grant, as I say, is something very familiar with Randolph County and the State of North Carolina. It is, however, new to us. It's not something that we've done before in this office. That's why you're hearing it. Those of you who are new Council

Members it's new to you, but it's also new to everyone else. We've not had that here before, although it's been a State program for some years. As said, the staff of the High Point EDC recommends that you favorably consider this.

Now to tell you about the company and what they make and they can give you a sneak preview of some of their products soon to come on-line. We have Mr. James Cagle.

James Cagle: *Good evening. I'm going to show you two products here because I was listening to the news this morning and realized that everybody knows what an iPad is, but people don't realize what we are doing. The Groupon-everybody knows who they are-they are one of our largest customers. The unit that you're looking at right there is actually an iPad encased in aluminum, manufactures, credit card processing. We are right now the number one company in the US with this and the table market is taking it by storm. Everything that you see is manufactured between Greensboro and our company in Kernersville, Thomasville and some in the High Point market. We are currently renting space on Burton-a small 5,000 square foot building. To be honest with you, we've outgrown it and we're looking for new space that we can go into and add additional employment. The company was founded in 2013. You're looking at the first employee. You're looking at the only employee for a long time and we've been blessed this last year with some pretty...I don't want to use the word impressive....but some pretty fascinating growth to be honest with you. We're here today asking for your help to help us partner with you and continue to kind of bring some stuff back to this area instead of sending it back overseas. This is made in the USA and better than that, it's made in the Triad. If there's any questions I can try to answer them for you.*

Mayor Pro Tem Davis: *Can I get one of those? It looks easier to use than what I've got.*

James Cagle: *Well it's funny you say that. You can go to Flint, Michigan and the City of Dearborn, our enclosures are actually in their council meetings and they pull them out and use them. So maybe we can talk to you about that too.*

One thing that I did bring, it's mobile.....any of the restaurants that you visit in the Triad, you've going to start seeing this on the table side. Credit Card fraud....this is a biggie for us. Again, this is recycled milk jugs. It's cool technology. I hope you'll be a part of it.

Mayor Bencini: *Thank you.*

Council Member Ewing: *Is there anyone else who would like to speak? Is there anyone that has come that would like to speak on the at specific topic? Seeing none, I will close that public hearing.*

I WILL MAKE A MOTION THAT WE APPROVE THE \$4,500 INCENTIVE PART OF HIGH POINT'S PORTION OF THE CITY/COUNTY MATCH FOR THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA BUILDING REUSE GRANT FOR VAULT ENCLOSURES.

Mayor Bencini: *Is there a second?*

Council Member Golden: **SECOND.**

Mayor Bencini: Any further discussion? No further discussion, all those in favor, say Aye. Aye. Opposed? [none] **That motion carries. 9-0 VOTE**

[end of transcript]

150005 Performance-Based Incentives Public Hearing - Packrite

Monday, January 5th, 2015 at 6:15 p.m. the date and time established for a public-based incentives public hearing authorizing up to \$152,450 for the Packrite expansion project at 1650 Packrite Court.

Mayor Pro Tem J. Davis: Mr. Chairman, if you don't mind, I'll need a motion to recuse me for this one.

Mayor Bencini: Do we have a motion to recuse Mr. Davis?

Council Member Wagner: So moved.

Council Member Ewing: Second.

Mayor Bencini: All in favor, say Aye. Aye. Opposed? [none] You are recused.

Council Member Ewing: our second public hearing is for a performance based incentive for Packrite and I believe Ms. Sandy Dunbeck will be presenting.

Sandy Dunbeck: Good evening Mayor Bencini and members of the City Council. I am Sandy Dunbeck, Senior Vice President of the High Point Economic Development Corporation and I'm pleased to bring you a project tonight. It's a Southeast High Point manufacturing project from a locally owned and operated High Point company. This is a company that started here in High Point in 2008 during a down economy and they've grown to a position of excellence in the manufacturing design of high-end packaging. This is a company that took a vacant, a 125,000 sq. ft. Wood-Armfield building, and filled it with technical equipment and employs with well-paying jobs. This company is Packrite and they are considering an expansion in Southeast High Point at Packrite Court off of E. Kivett Drive. This is also a competitive project as our projects require. High Point is being considered for the project along with an out-of-state Ohio location that is actively recruiting Packrite to grow their business there. With us tonight from the company are Mary Drummond, CEO; Michael Drummond COO; Lavon Boone, CFO and Manager; and also Michael's son who is here with us, Clark, a student at UNC-W and the consultant for the company, David Benford with Compass Group. We appreciate all of you being here tonight.

Just a little bit more introduction about the project. Should the company pick High Point for their project, they would add 100 full-time jobs over the next five years. The average wage of those new jobs will be approximately \$34,825. Approximately 91 of the jobs would be those technical machine operators and helpers. It would be shipping positions, scheduling positions and maintenance positions. Nine of those jobs would be supervisors and managers and along with those 100 jobs, if High Point is selected, the increase to the local tax base

would be approximately \$9.5 million for High Point and Guilford County. That's \$2.6 million in real property involved in the construction of approximately 68,000 square foot and \$6.9 million in new equipment. The approximate new revenue based on our tax rate is approximately \$64,000 a year at full value of the building and the equipment. That would decline slightly as the machinery depreciates.

We are asking you, the High Point City Council, to consider authorizing up to \$152,450 in performance based financial incentives for the project. Any such incentives would be subject to the company meeting the benchmarks spelled out in a performance agreement and would be paid post performance. State incentives have also been requested for this project and if granted, would require a local match. The company also understands that if performance based incentives are authorized by the High Point City Council for our incentive guidelines, it would need to hold a job fair in Central High Point to help with the city's goal to employ as many High Pointers as possible. Such a job fair would be coordinated through our office, the High Point EDC, and will be held at Morehead Recreation Center where we have held other job fairs. Working on the job fair with us and the company would be our local JobLink, the Guilford Workforce Board and the State Employment Security staff.

After today's public hearing, we would expect that the company would make its location decision by January 31st. I'm pleased now to introduce and to turn the presentation over to Michael Drummond with Packrite.

Michael Drummond: Thank you City Council and Mayor for considering us for some incentives to help Packrite grow and High Point grow. Our company is a family business. My wife, she's hiding from me, is the CEO and Lavon, who is my mother, is a CPA and is also our CFO. And hopefully someday my son back there will be part of Packrite. So it's a family-grown business. We started in 2008 with 18 people. Six years later, we're 78 strong. We've invested \$8 million to start. Everything that we could scrounge, borrow; Mary and I put our lives on the line to establish a business here in High Point. That's passion. That's what we represent is a passionate business that's growing inside of High Point and helping High Point grow. We did this in the southeast part of the city, which at the time didn't seem like the in place, but it is. It's a great part of the city and we feel like that is a special part of the city that needs to continue to grow.

We're a manufacturer of packaging. It doesn't seem very glamorous, but we are. We create packaging for Disney. We create packaging for soccer balls and liquor. So we're servicing a lot of the needs in the United States-yeah, especially the liquor boxes. [laughter] What does it do for High Point? It provides jobs. We also buy from the community. We don't just create jobs. We create jobs that.....we buy locally \$2 million worth of printing that's in Burlington. There's a tremendous amount of money that goes back into the community and then we ship these to Kentucky. We ship these to South Carolina and these are bought right here in High Point. We support across the United States so that we can have packaging everywhere.

This is our niche. High graphic, microflute packaging. These packages are very unique. The machine that produces this is an asitrade. An asitrade is a very unique machine. There's only 47 of them in the United States. It's 212 feet long. What we're proposing is to put a second one on site. The new one would be the state-of-the-art machine in the world. It

would be 300 feet long—a football field. It would be managed around the clock and would provide jobs that are highly skilled and high paying to support High Point. We would start the process by immediately building a building. The machine would be available later in the year and as we progress through, we'd be hiring people along to train. As the machine gets up and running, people will be coming on board. So sometime towards the end of the year, we would be fully staffed. We would start with 63 new jobs and then we would add each year as we continue to expand. Expansion, when we talk about that....three years ago, Inc. Magazine recognized Packrite as the fastest growing manufacturing company in the United States. We were 205th fastest growing company in the country right here in High Point. That's the type of explosive growth we're talking about. So we not only think that we're going to hit this, I think we're going to exceed it. Our taxes....we paid just to the City of High Point \$91,000 a year in taxes and the county is the same. So we paid \$200,000. When we get through the expansion and everything else, we'll pay over \$300,000 in taxes every year. When we start talking about \$150,000 to help us offset that, it's huge for us and the tax burden is tremendous on a very capital intensive company.

Another thing that we're involved in is the community. When we start talking about that. Mary and I are members of Wesleyan Memorial. We also support a school that's next door to us. The Union Hill principal affectionately calls Mary the box lady. We try to support the schools around us and the communities around us so that we can help High Point grow. This is where we live. This is where we'd like to expand is here in High Point. Please help us help High Point.

Chairman Ewing: Thank you Mr. Drummond. Does anyone have any questions for Mr. Drummond? [none] Is there anyone else here who would like to speak on this item?

Council Member C. Davis: I do have a question. When would you be breaking ground with the construction project?

Michael Drummond: We'd break ground as fast as we can possibly do it.

Council Member C. Davis: So once you make up your mind whether it's us or the other?

Michael Drummond: Once we make up our mind, we're going to proceed forward full guns.

Council Member C. Davis: Thank you.

Chairman Ewing: Anyone else? [none] I'll close the public hearing and I'd like to make a motion, Mr. Mayor, that we authorize a performance based incentive of up to \$152,450 for the Packrite expansion project at 1650 Packrite Court in High Point.

Mayor Bencini: We have a motion. Is there a second?

Council Member Golden: Second.

Mayor Bencini: Any further discussion?

Council Member C. Davis: *I would like to say something because there are several people here that know I'm not big on incentives so I wanted to make sure that those who voted for me that are in this room know that I'm not big on incentives, but this an investment that we get our money back in two years. Not ten, not twenty. So it is something that I can support. So I will be voting for this.*

Mayor Bencini: *Any other discussion?*

Council Member Williams: *I have also visited the facility. It's a very green place, very innovative. It's really top notch. That's why I will support it.*

Mayor Bencini: *Any further comments?*

Chairman Ewing: *I'd just like to reiterate that it is performance base, which is based on the creation of 100 full-time jobs and adding \$9.5 million to the tax base in High Point.*

Mayor Bencini: *Thank you. If there's no further comment, we'll vote. All those in favor, say Aye.*

Mayor Bencini; and Council Members C. Davis, Alexander, Golden, Williams, Hill, Wagner, and Ewing: *Aye.*

Mayor Bencini: *Any opposed? [none] That motion carries. [8-0 vote] [Mayor Pro Tem Davis was recused]*

[end of transcript]

MISCELLANEOUS

150007 Proposed Change in Meeting Schedule - MLK Day - January 19, 2015

Consideration of change in meeting scheduled for January 19, 2015 due to the MLK Holiday. Suggested meeting date is Tuesday, January 20TH at 5:30 p.m.

Rescheduled the January 19, 2015 Regular meeting to Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday and rescheduled the January 19, 2015 Finance Committee Meeting to Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 3:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Council Member Ewing, seconded by Council Member Alexander, to change the time and date for the January 19th Regular Meeting to Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. and to change the date and time of the Finance Committee to Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 3:30 p.m.. The motion PASSED by a 9-0 unanimous vote.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS VACANCY REPORT

150008 Boards and Commissions - Vacancy Report

Attached is the current list of vacancies for all Boards and Commissions.

Mayor Bencini pointed out there were several vacancies on the various boards and commissions and encouraged Council Members to review the vacancy report. Council Member Golden noted there are quite a few vacancies and terms that have expired on the Human Relations Commission and he did speak with Al Heggins, Director of Human Relations about this and he was awaiting recommendations from her to possibly move forward with some of these appointments. Mayor Pro Tem Davis advised that he was having difficulty finding someone from Ward 5 to serve on the Library Board of Trustees and asked if any other Council Members had any suggestions on anyone that might like to serve. Council Member C. Davis mentioned Christina Prentzas and Council Member Alexander suggested David Ruden.

Council Comments

Council Member Alexander brought three items to Council's attention to gauge whether or not there is any interest in pursuing these. He asked if staff could evaluate these and return the information back to Council.

Return of Two-Way on Long Street

Council Member Alexander noted that due to a major cruising problem years ago, a short section on Long Street (from Rockspring to State) was converted to one-way which was restricted from 8:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Since cruising is no longer an issue, he asked Council if there was any interest in asking staff (Transportation and Police Departments) if there is any reason to leave this in place.

Council Member Wagner recalled part of this, too, was to ban left turns from Rockspring onto Main Street and felt it would also be wise to look at this as well.

Council Member C. Davis expressed interest in having staff look into this and report back. Mayor Bencini agreed with Council Member Wagner and felt staff should also look at the left turn off Rockspring onto Main Street.

Tractor Trailer Parking on City Streets

Council Member Alexander shared that this is a problem city-wide and many times on the weekends and holiday weekends, tractor trailer drivers tend to park these vehicles on city streets in residential areas. He advised that although there is an ordinance that prohibits this, it is difficult to enforce because most of these incidents happen during the weekend. He felt the Police Department and Transportation staff should take a look and see what other cities do and how they handle these issues in an effective way. He asked for staff to also look into this and report back to Council.

Grant Monies for Pedestrian Improvements

Council Member Alexander understood that there are grant funds or money from other programs that would allow pedestrian improvements along North Main, especially in the Lexington Avenue area. He explained these funds have been in escrow for about two years and he would hate to jeopardize losing these dollars. He asked staff to provide a report back to Council that would offer an explanation of what dollars are there, why they are there and why the city has not moved forward.

Council Member Wagner asked Council Member Alexander if he was referring to the \$150,000 that the City Project worked with NCDOT to get. Council Member Alexander noted that he has heard all kinds of numbers between \$150,00-\$200,000 and he has also heard that there were some intersection improvement dollars left from the 2004 Transportation bonds and there were also small amounts of monies that were left. Since City Project has talked about improving pedestrian safety in the North Main Street area, he asked staff if they could prepare information so that the entire Council could have knowledge of the information so Council can move forward.

Accolades to Interim City Manager Randy McCaslin

Council Member Wagner noted the new city manager would be arriving in about a week and felt it would be very appropriate to thank Mr. McCaslin for his service to the City as the Interim City Manager. [applause and standing ovation]

He commended Mr. McCaslin for doing a fine job when he took over due to the retirement of former City Manager Strib Boynton.

Meeting Reminder: Prosperity & Livability Committee

Chairman Ewing reminded Council that the Prosperity & Livability Committee would meet on Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

150006 Minutes to be Approved:

- Regular Council Meeting: Monday, December 8th @ 5:30 p.m.
- Installation/Organizational Meeting of 2014-2017 City Council: Monday, December 8th @ 6:00 p.m.
- Finance Committee Meeting: Monday, December 15th @ 4:30 p.m.
- Regular City Council Meeting: Monday, December 15th @ 5:30 p.m.
- Briefing Session (Mass Transit Report) Thursday, December 18th @ 4:00 p.m

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Davis, seconded by Council Member Ewing, that preceding minutes be approved. The motion PASSED by a 9-0 unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m. upon motion duly made by Council Member Alexander and second by Council Member Ewing.

Respectfully Submitted,

William S. Bencini, Jr.

Attest:

Lisa B. Vierling, MMC
City Clerk