

**TOWN OF SELMA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 14, 2015**

PRESENT: Mayor Cheryl Oliver, Mayor Pro-Tem Jackie Lacy, Councilmembers Tommy Holmes and William Overby, Town Manager Jon Barlow, Town Attorney Alan “Chip” Hewett, and Town Clerk Cynthia Richardson.

Councilmember Eric Sellers participated by phone.

CONVOCATION: Mayor Oliver called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Selma Jernigan Building and declared a quorum present.

Mr. Steve Reed of the Selma News offered the invocation.

PLEDGE TO FLAG: Mayor Pro-Tem Jackie Lacy led in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Councilmember William Overby stated that he would like for item 4c (Approval of Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget Amendments #9 through #18, Annual End-of-Year Revenues/Expenditures Re-Appropriation) be removed and added to the Town Manager’s Report as item 8n.

A motion was made by Councilmember William Overby and seconded by Councilmember Tommy Holmes to approve the agenda as amended. Voting Yes: Mayor Cheryl Oliver, Mayor Pro-Tem Jackie Lacy, Councilmember Tommy Holmes and Councilmember William Overby. Voting No: Councilmember Eric Sellers. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes

Regular Council Meeting – March 10, 2015

Work Session Meetings – February 23, 2015 and March 26, 2015

Consideration of Captain William Keith Batson’s Request to Receive his Service Weapon and Badge and Approval of Resolution Declaring the Service Weapon and Badge He Carried as Surplus

**RESOLUTION DECLARING THE BADGE AND SERVICE WEAPON
CARRIED BY WILLIAM KEITH BATSON AS SURPLUS AND
AWARDING THEM ON HIS RETIREMENT**

WHEREAS, G.S. 20-187.2 provides that retiring members of municipal law enforcement may receive, at the time of their retirement, the badge worn or carried by them during their service with the municipality; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 20-187.2 further provides that the governing body of the municipal law enforcement agency may, in its discretion, award to a retiring member the sidearm of such retiring members; and

WHEREAS, W. Keith Batson has served as a member of the Town of Selma Police Department for a period of 24 years and is retiring from the Town of Selma Police Department on April 30, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Selma that the badge and service weapon, a **Heckler & Koch, model number USP45, serial number 25-101970**, carried by W. Keith Batson, be declared surplus and awarded to him on the occasion of his retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that appreciation be expressed to W. Keith Batson for the dedicated service rendered by him during his employment with the Town of

Selma.

Duly adopted this 14th day of April 2015.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Jackie Lacy and seconded by Councilmember William Overby to approve the consent agenda as amended. Voting Yes: Mayor Cheryl Oliver, Mayor Pro-Tem Jackie Lacy, Councilmember Tommy Holmes, and Councilmember William Overby. Voting No: Councilmember Eric Sellers. Motion carried.

**RECOGNITIONS/
PRESENTATIONS –
Swearing in of Cynthia
Richardson, Administrative
Services Director, by Johnston
County Clerk of Court Mrs.
Michelle Ball:**

Mayor Oliver recognized the Honorable Michelle Ball, Johnston County Clerk of Superior Court who was present to administer the oath of office to the newly appointed Town Clerk.

The Honorable Michelle Ball administered the following oath to Town Clerk Cynthia Richardson.

**OATH OF TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF SELMA**

I, **CYNTHIA RICHARDSON**, do solemnly and sincerely swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States; that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; and that I will endeavor to support, maintain and defend the Constitution of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, to the best of my knowledge and ability; so help me, God.

I, **CYNTHIA RICHARDSON**, do swear that I will well and truly execute the duties of the Office of Town Clerk for the Town of Selma, North Carolina according to the best of my skill and ability; according to law; so help me, God.

**Concerned Citizens for
Successful Schools, Ms. Susan
Lassiter:**

Mayor Oliver introduced Ms. Susan Lassiter who has been the lead for Concerned Citizens for Successful Schools.

Ms. Lassiter gave the following presentation to the Selma Town Council.

I want to begin by telling you how much I greatly appreciate your mayor and the interest and support she's given to the commission. Over the past three years, I've looked to Mayor Oliver for her advice, good questions, and knowledge about public education.

Our group, originally named the "Citizen's Study Commission," was organized in January 2012 by a handful of interested citizens who wanted to study Smithfield-Selma High. Recently, we changed our name to "Concerned Citizens for Successful Schools." We wanted to study the high school to find out why the test scores were so low, why student performance had declined so badly, and why school spirit was lacking. What was going on at our high school that was once the County's flagship school?

We sought and received permission to study the high school from Superintendent Ed Croom. We also spoke with the school's principal. Both men allowed us to do our research, and provided information whenever we requested it. Over the next couple of months, we toured not only Smithfield-Selma High School, but also West Johnston High School, and Cleveland High School to see the facilities and talk with the principals.

During the first year, new members and advisors continued to be added to the commission. Our membership included parents, elected officials, civic leaders,

business and professional people, and educators. Most of our meetings were held at the Chamber of Commerce, although two were held at Smithfield-Selma High. We helped sponsor a community wide meeting in 2012 to introduce the new International Baccalaureate Programme to parents, students, and interested citizens. More than 200 people attended.

We met monthly, and over the course of three (3) years, Dr. Croom, former Principal Mike Taylor, current Principal Stephen Baker, Advisory Council Chair Landis Bullock, Johnston County School Board Members Mike Wooten and Keith Branch were invited guests to speak to us or answer questions. In mid-2013, our Commission presented findings and recommendations for Smithfield-Selma High to Principal Taylor and Superintendent Croom. We also shared recommendations with Advisory Council members and School Board members.

Last April 2014, we made a formal presentation to the Johnston County Board of Education. That presentation was followed the next day in a longer meeting by the School Board's Policy and Review Committee. What we presented was a description of the school's demographics (socio-economically and racially), student performance, test scores, and accountability reports. What we requested to the Board was that attention be given to SSS by the Central Office staff. We asked them to study the data showing poor student performance, and we asked to fix the problems.

Last September, our Commission hosted a luncheon with members of the Board of Education. We discussed advantages of offering smaller class sizes to low-performing students, expanding career and technical education programs, and establishing an early college at Smithfield-Selma High. We asked them to analyze why students were asking to transfer away from SSS.

On several occasions, we've been warned not to advocate for revised student attendance boundaries. We were told that it would not be done.

Although our monthly meetings have been privately held, it certainly can't be said that our research findings and recommendations have not been shared with the decision-makers. The only problem is, we feel they are falling on deaf ears.

Most of the data we've collected is readily accessible on the internet and from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. This is where parents and economic developers look first when they are thinking about relocation or investment in an area. More than 50% look on the internet when searching for a community or a house to buy -- way before they drive up and down streets. Do you think they are going to consider moving to a community with schools concentrated with very high percentages of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch? Where test scores are the lowest in the County?

In school year 2011/12, the percentage of students at SSS qualifying for free and reduced lunch was 55%. Two years later, it had jumped to 67%. The High School's feeder schools were worse, with percentages as high as 93% at Selma Elementary and no lower than 73.5% at Wilsons Mills Elementary. No other County high school comes close to this.

The Center for Civil Rights at the UNC Law School reports, "High poverty schools depress the academic achievement of students who attend those schools. An individual child's academic achievement is significantly impacted by two factors, (1) the child's family socio-economic status, and (2) a predominant socio-economic status of other students in the school." This continues to be pointed out over and over again in newspaper articles and editorials. As a matter of fact, it appeared today in a column in *The News & Observer*, "Low student achievement correlates closely to student poverty."

Unless something changes, we will continue to have a high concentration of low-

income students at Smithfield-Selma High. The percentage probably will increase, too, given the high percentage coming from our feeder schools. What does that mean for the future? The Center for Civil Rights says, “Poor schools short change students because it is difficult to attract new high-quality teachers, difficult to retain good teachers, and there’s usually high turnover.” In addition, curriculum is affected, as well as standardized test scores and graduation rates.

As is pointed out in your handout on pages 5 and 7, last year, Smithfield-Selma did not meet expected state growth standards, only 39% of the students were at grade level, and the school was given a grade of D. With the exception of Wilson’s Mills Elementary, all the feeder schools got a D. No other high school in the County received a D.

Far too many of our SSS students do not graduate on track for college or career training as shown on pages 6 and 8. It’s a crying shame that test scores show a majority of the SSS students do not reach a Level 3. That means they were not at grade level proficiency, they have not mastered their courses, and they’re certainly not ready for college or vocational training. Folks, we’re cheating these students out of sound educations. We’re cheating them out of opportunities for viable employment, especially when you think about their competition beyond our county’s Borders for good-paying jobs.

What about the economic health of our communities? What kind of a skilled labor force are we preparing? Are new industries, businesses, and employers going to give us consideration? Are we going to woo professionals to live among us, volunteer in our schools and civic clubs, and help build the community? No.

Economic development depends on successful schools. The future of our towns depend on successful schools.

Where is growth happening and projected to continue in Johnston County? It’s happening in the Cleveland 40-42 area, Flowers Plantation to Corinth-Holders School area, and McGee’s Crossroads area. In your handout on page 4, you’ll see a chart that shows schools that are out-of-capacity and schools that still have available room for additional students. The color red means over-capacity and the color green means under-capacity. The policy so far has been to build schools where growth is occurring without fairly adjusting attendance boundaries. Can our county continue to build new schools and add new classrooms at the over-capacity schools, when there’s room at other schools? What about socio-economic balance? Achieving socio-economic balance hasn’t been considered and that’s why we’re so lopsided and out-of-step with the other schools. We’ve seen a re-segregation in our Smithfield and Selma schools and this has been going on for too long.

Unfortunately, I don’t think this form of segregation is willingly going to change. On behalf of the Concerned Citizens for Successful Schools, I ask you as Town leaders to support us. We will be working with the UNC Center for Civil Rights at the UNC School of Law to do a preliminary investigation of potential legal remedies to address racial and socio-economic disparities in Johnston County Schools. The future of our communities rests on change and our students can’t afford to wait. Will you give us your support?

Mayor Oliver asked if anyone had any questions.

Mayor Oliver stated that she appreciated what Ms. Lassiter and the Committee has done. She said that the finding would be presented publicly once the preliminary study was complete. Mayor Oliver stated that if other groups wanted to hear this presentation, that they could contact Ms. Lassiter.

some members present and introduced Mr. John Radford, Mr. Travis Holder, Mr. Courtney Moore, and Ms. Shirley Gillette. He said that Ms. Deatha Kirkland, Ms. Majory Regan, and Mr. James Lassiter were unable to attend tonight's meeting. Mr. Carter stated that this Board works closely with the Recreation Department on many things in an advisory capacity. He said that they make recommendations to the Town Council on all matters, both future and present related to the establishment, maintenance, and operation of the Town's recreation programs. He said that they have worked closely with the Recreation Department on many special events such as Railroad Days, the All American Festival, Trunk-a-Treat, After School Bash, Easter Egg Hunt and coloring contest, and Senior Citizens' Day. Mr. Carter stated that the Board has done some outreach to the community for needy families during the holiday seasons such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. He said that they gathered gifts from area businesses, and helped with food and clothing needs for many families in the community over the past few years.

Mr. Carter stated that they were primarily ambassadors for their department to the citizens in the community. He said that they help set policies and make recommendations for policies. Mr. Carter stated that one of the greatest accomplishments that the Board helped push through was the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. He said that they have accomplished a lot in that plan, which includes funding. Mr. Carter stated that some of the significant improvements include the renovation of the Harrison Gymnasium, renovation of the Head Start building, and have added the Active Aging Center. He said that the Harrison Alumni building is also on that campus. Mr. Carter stated that the Harrison campus has been revitalized. He said that they have some outdoor facilities such as a walking trail that is one third of a mile, an outdoor basketball court, a little league baseball field, and hopefully by the end of next week some soccer goals put up on the facility.

Mr. Carter stated that was how the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board works. Mr. Carter asked if there were any questions.

Councilmember Overby stated that there was one vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and questioned if that was an ETJ or Town vacancy.

Mr. Carter stated that it was a Town vacancy position.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lacy asked if there was a place for the soccer field.

Mr. Carter stated that he has laid out a position for the soccer field, but he just needed to get the area painted as well as goals and nets in place. He said that he has all the primary boundaries marked, but it has been too wet to get anything else marked. Mr. Carter stated that the soccer field would be located between the baseball field and basketball court. He said that there is a small playground there, but it belongs to Head Start.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lacy asked if the tennis court in that area would be fixed?

Mr. Carter stated that it would be an expensive project, but James Reed, Tennis Coach at Smithfield-Selma High School, was working on raising funds to renovate the facility. He said that in the meantime, they are doing a quick start program that does not require a court. Mr. Carter stated that modifications could be made in the gym with a net to make it more like T-Ball. He said participants would start with a regulation racquet and ball. Mr. Carter stated that they are trying to get smaller racquets and bigger balls that are less bouncy so that kids can learn the game more quickly.

Councilmember Overby asked about Brack Wilson Park. He said that when the sewer line was installed, the drain line was messed up. Councilmember Overby stated that there was a lot of water there. He asked if any work had been done to make that field usable for multiple purposes, not only for baseball or soccer.

Mr. Carter stated that drainage lines have not been installed. He said that he had talked with Public Works Director Alex Fuller about trying to address the situation. Mr. Carter stated that all the rain, snow, and ice that we have had this winter have made things difficult, as well as it being in the wetlands. He said that approximately one-third of the park is wetlands. Mr. Carter stated that there are drainage issues, but they are trying to work them out. He said that he doesn't know if a wastewater line would be installed, but they may come in with a French-drain that would be a little less expensive. Mr. Carter stated that it would take some warm, dry weather to dry out the outfield.

Mayor Oliver thanked Mr. Carter for his participation in the Johnston County Parks and Recreation survey and for his presentation tonight.

**Presentation by Harbor, Inc.,
Ms. Kari Christensen:**

Mayor Oliver introduced Ms. Kari Christensen of Harbor, Inc. She said that Ms. Christensen would be leaving Harbor, Inc. on April 27, 2015, and that she appreciated all the hard work she has done at Harbor.

Ms. Christensen stated that it has been a wonderful 20 years. She said that it was a very difficult decision to leave Harbor. Ms. Christensen stated that she was recruited by Interactive Wake County. She said that she wanted to complete the campaign for the new center. Ms. Christensen stated that they raised \$1.16 million, and the campaign for hope is complete. She said that Mr. Durwood Stephenson donated the land. Ms. Christensen stated that they are now in the process of finalizing all the loans, which should be completed before she leaves. She said that Johnston County is still her home, and would continue to care about and support Harbor. Ms. Christensen thanked Council for their continued support over the years. She said that the Town of Selma has been very consistent and good to Harbor. Ms. Christensen stated that the funds go a long ways in helping with matching funds and making sure the lights stay on. She said they were able to complete their campaign without direct support from the Towns or the County. Ms. Christensen stated that they received a \$600,000 loan from the State, which would be forgiven as long as Harbor uses the facility for 20 years for which it is intended. She said that in the planning process, they looked at the growing needs to make sure they could accommodate those over the next 20 years. Ms. Christensen stated that they received \$500,000 from the State Employees' Credit Union. She said that this was the first shelter in the State that they have ever funded. Ms. Christensen stated that they raised about \$460,000 locally.

Ms. Christensen stated that as Harbor moves forward, they need the Town's support even more to keep the center operating. She said that unfortunately this center is very much needed. Ms. Christensen encouraged everyone to tour the facility to see the great need that they have. She said that their current facility has about 1,500 to 1,600 square feet of living space with 14 beds. Ms. Christensen stated that they cannot imagine how much this new facility is needed. She said that staff and residents would now be in the same facility, which would also have a training facility.

Ms. Christensen stated that she was proud of everything that they have been able to do. Ms. Christensen thanked Council and asked for their continued support.

**Presentation by Boys & Girls
Club, Mrs. Jean Kelly:**

Mrs. Jean Kelly thanked Council and Town staff for the opportunity to be here to tell them about the Boys and Girls Club. Mrs. Kelly stated that the Boys and Girls Club of Johnston County was formed in 2006 in this room by local citizens who wanted to give an opportunity to our youth. She said this club is a facility with nationally proven programs based on build self-confidence and self-esteem, while fostering a sense of belonging, confidence, usefulness, and influence. Mrs. Kelly stated that the club is a place for boys and girls to come year-round to help them develop their potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens. She said that communities that have a Boys and Girls club have statistics showing many benefits including a decrease in the number of school dropouts. Mrs. Kelly stated that many of their

members are graduating from high school now that became members when they were in the fourth grade. She said that they were proud of several having finished Early College at Johnston Community College and some being accepted to attend East Carolina. Mrs. Kelly stated that they were in the process of trying to raise the tuition to attend ECU. She said that other benefits included a decrease in the crime rate and teenage pregnancies.

Mrs. Kelly stated that their background at the Boys and Girls Club of Johnston County is that any child between the age of 6 to 14 that lives in Johnston County is eligible to be a club member for a year's membership fee of \$10. She said that they are located on the campus of Selma Elementary. Mrs. Kelly stated that they have had through their doors 265 members. She said that they were very pleased that none of their members were involved in the juvenile justice system. Mrs. Kelly stated that the club relies on the community for financial support to provide a safe and educational environment where children can flourish. Mrs. Kelly recognized Director Mamie Moore and Executive Director Mary Ann Dudley. She said that their core program areas are education and career development, character and leadership development, health and life skills, art, sports and fitness, and recreation. Mrs. Kelly stated that they participate in the Team Theme Program promoting teen service projects. She said that members have attended week-long summer camps, as well as healthy eating classes, book club, music, field trips, and weekly trips to the local library. Mrs. Kelly stated that in the past they have had a great choir club. She said that all members participate in daily Power Hour that includes homework help, one-on-one tutoring, and computer skill building. Mrs. Kelly stated that Johnston County Co-operative Extension Services sponsored lessons on how to plant a garden, and the Selma Police Department officers have made several visits to the club handing out booklets and badges, as well as the Selma Fire Department. She said that they have had a wide variety of corporate, non-profit, and individual donors since the beginning of 2006 numbering 250 donors. Mrs. Kelly stated that their annual operating expense is between \$117,000 to \$125,000. She said that one of their programs was Youth of the Year. Mrs. Kelly introduced Miss Elizabeth Lynn. She said that she was chosen from many of their outstanding club members to represent the Selma club. Mrs. Kelly stated that Miss Lynn recently competed in Goldsboro, and would represent the area's youth at the North Carolina State competition. She said that winning at the state level, she would win a \$10,000 award, and further compete at the Southeast Regional Contest, National competition, to recognition at Washington, D.C. at the White House.

Miss Elizabeth Lynn introduced herself as the Regional Youth of the Year. She said that she was present to share the experience that the Boys and Girls Club has given her. Miss Lynn stated that her mother signed her up eight years ago when the club first began. She said that going to the Club gave her an opportunity to blossom. Miss Lynn stated that she appreciated having a Boys and Girls Club in Selma. Miss Lynn thanked everyone for allowing her to be here. She said that she wanted to attend East Carolina and the \$2,000 she won locally would go towards that scholarship.

**Recognition of Retiring Police
Captain William Keith
Batson:**

Police Chief Richard Cooper stated that we are here to honor a special occasion, the retirement of Police Captain Keith Batson. He said that Captain Batson has been in law enforcement with the Town of Selma for 24 years, and is losing a very dedicated, loyal employee. Police Chief Cooper stated that he would be solely missed and hard to replace. Police Chief Cooper presented the following resolution to Captain Keith Batson.

Recognition of 24 Years of Service

WILLIAM KEITH BATSON

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, William Keith Batson is retiring from the Town of Selma, North Carolina on April 30, 2015, as Police Captain of the Patrol Division after 24 years of

faithful service; and

WHEREAS, Captain Batson came to the Town of Selma after serving as Police Officer for nearly a year from the Town of Kenly, North Carolina, and serving with the North Carolina Department of Corrections just over four years; and

WHEREAS, Captain Batson began his tenure with the Town of Selma on May 1, 1991 where he worked his way up through the ranks and was promoted to Police Captain of the Patrol Division on January 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Captain Batson is to be commended for the improvements made to our Town and for the professionalism and leadership that he brought to the Selma Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Selma express to Captain Batson, on behalf of themselves, our Town employees, and the residents of the Town of Selma, their deep appreciation and gratitude for the service rendered by him to the Town of Selma over the past 24 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Mayor Cheryl L. Oliver and the Selma Town Council, express to William Keith Batson our deepest appreciation and gratitude for the dedicated service rendered during his 24-year tenure with the Town of Selma and offer him our very best wishes for happiness, prosperity, good health, and success in his future endeavors.

ADOPTED this 14th day of April, in the year of our Lord 2015.

Captain Batson stated that without God, he would not be here. He recognized his family members that were present. Captain Batson stated that this has been a difficult decision. He said that he has gained a family that would forever be his family. Captain Batson thanked Police Chief Cooper for the opportunity to work for him. He said that it has been a pleasure and honor to work under Police Chief Cooper. Captain Batson stated that he wished his son could be here, but he is serving his country. He said that without his family, he would not have been able to do this.

Police Chief Cooper stated that Captain Batson would continue to serve Selma as an auxiliary officer. He wished Captain Batson good luck in the next adventures in his life.

Recognition of New Police Officer Justin Davis by Police Chief Richard Cooper:

Police Chief Cooper introduced new Police Officer Justin Davis. He said that Officer Davis has three years of law enforcement experience. Chief Cooper stated that Officer Davis has worked in the Towns of Dunn and Erwin. He said that he lives in the Selma area. Chief Cooper stated that his parents are Jerry and Jessica Davis and live on Pecan Drive in Selma. He said Officer Davis is married and has children. Chief Cooper stated that he comes to Selma with a two-year degree in network communications and SWAT, radar, and intoxilyzer certifications.

Senatorial Statement Congratulating the Selma Fire Department on its 100th Anniversary, Fire Chief Phillip McDaniel:

Fire Chief Phillip McDaniel stated that the Selma Fire Department is continuing to celebrate its 100th anniversary this year 2015. He said that Senator Brent Jackson passed a senatorial statement in recognition of the Selma Fire Department's 100th anniversary.

**A SENATORIAL STATEMENT
CONGRATULATING THE SELMA FIRE DEPARTMENT ON
ITS ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY**

WHEREAS, the Selma Town Council established a town fire department to serve the citizens of the Town in 1915; and

WHEREAS, since that time, the Selma Fire Department has stayed true to its

mission of providing the highest level of emergency services available to the Selma community by protecting lives and property through fire suppression, emergency medical services, disaster mitigation, rescue services, and fire and life safety education and prevention; and

WHEREAS, the Selma Fire Department operates one fire station, three engines, one ladder company, and one rescue company; and

WHEREAS, the Selma Fire Department is comprised of 27 volunteer firefighters, one full-time engineer per day, one part-time firefighter per day, and a full-time fire chief; and

WHEREAS, the firefighters of the Selma Fire Department are honest, professional, and safe and treat the residents of Selma like members of their own families; and

WHEREAS, The Selma Fire Department has received tremendous community support over the years, including volunteers from the community who have served as firefighters.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Selma Fire Department deserves recognition and congratulations on its 100 years of service to the Selma community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned certifies that the foregoing statement was read in the Senate and placed upon the Journal on the second day of April, 2015.

**OPEN FORUM/ CITIZENS'
REQUESTS –
Mr. Eric Jackson, 1103 South
Pollock Street, Proposed Fire
Department Merger Talks:**

Mr. Eric Jackson of 1103 South Pollock Street, Selma stated that he wanted to urge Council to support Councilmember Homes' proposal in ending the negotiations with Smithfield regarding reorganization of Fire Departments. He said that the proposal at this time is not in Selma's best interest. Mr. Jackson stated that due to the costs, Selma would pay a disproportionate share in relationship to the size of the Town of Smithfield. He said that any merger would cause a reduction in numbers. Mr. Jackson stated that the smaller group would be at a disadvantage. He said that the money that Selma would pay out for a new fire station would be a burden on the taxpayers of Selma. Mr. Jackson stated that any money in the millions of dollars would best be served in Selma particularly with sewer, water, sidewalks, and other infrastructure. He said that at this time, this would not be in Selma's best interest. Mr. Jackson stated that property owners in Selma would bear the brunt of this. He said that there was an existing mutual aid agreement that needs to be tweaked. Mr. Jackson stated that our Fire Department just celebrated 100 years of dedicated service in Selma. Mr. Jackson urged Council to enter into negotiations with a better concentration on what is needed in Selma.

**Leonard Spruill, 518 West
Jones Street:**

Mr. Leonard Spruill of 518 West Jones Avenue, Selma stated that he has lived in Selma for 36 years. Mr. Spruill stated that his first concern was lights. He said that he had two tenants to move out because of the lights. He said that one moved out because of the rising costs, and the other has been at his residence from September to March and never received a true bill. Mr. Spruill stated that he checked on it, and found that there was a computer problem. Mr. Spruill advised Council that he has six houses in the area.

Mr. Spruill asked Council when a tenant moves, does their deposit take care of their outstanding debt?

Town Manager Barlow stated that it depended on what the debt is. He said that when the deposit is applied to a utility account, any remainder of the deposit is sent to the account holder. Mr. Barlow stated that if the deposit was not enough, the remainder could be collected through debt set-off.

Mr. Spruill asked how long before we get Duke Power?

Mayor Oliver stated that negotiations have moved along smoothly, and are expecting a reduction in rates. She said that at this time, we do not know the amount or when to implement the changes. Mayor Oliver stated that there are a series of legal steps that have to be taken now that the Governor has signed the bill allowing this to happen. She said that Town Manager Barlow would be speaking on this later in the agenda.

Mr. Spruill stated that he has three houses on Reebe Circle and two street lights near 405 Reebe Circle barely burn.

Mr. Spruill stated that between 505 and 509 West Jones Avenue, the grass needs cutting. He said that the space was left open for a street, but it has never been paved. He said that the space was finally cut a couple months ago, but he was concerned about the Town keeping it cut.

Mr. Barlow stated that Public Works maintains all the Town's right-of-ways, and this should have been added to that list.

Mr. Spruill asked how often are the streets swept?

Town Manager Barlow stated that he did not have a schedule with him. He said that the street sweeper is out more in the summer months, and probably does not run during the winter. Mr. Barlow stated that as streets become full of debris, we will go out there and sweep them.

Mr. Spruill stated that at Massey Street and Dogwood Drive from Highway 301, there is a curve. He said that he would like to see a "Yield" street sign put there.

Mr. Spruill stated that adjacent to his property, there was about four to five acres of land just off Peedin near some apartments (705 through 800). He said that no one tends the field anymore, and it has grown up and is going to create a rodent problem. Mr. Spruill stated that he would like to see the property kept cut.

Mayor Oliver stated that the Planning/Code Enforcement Director would be speaking next. She stated that as any of these code enforcement issues come up, give Ms. Maybee a call, and she would work with you on taking care of what could be done.

**PLANNING/ZONING/CODE
ENFORCEMENT ITEMS –
Amendment to the Selma
Municipal Code, Chapter 13,
Article VI, Section 13-118 –
Enforcement and Penalties,
Subsection (1) and (4)
pertaining to referenced
ordinance text section:**

Planning Director Julie Maybee stated that numerous sections of Selma's Municipal Code were reviewed/ researched by staff during the preparation of the citation books. She said that ordinance review was an ongoing effort. Ms. Maybee stated that it was noted that the text in Chapter 13, Article IV, Section 13-118, Subsections (1) and (4) needed clarification.

Ms. Maybee stated that both subsections (1) and (4) stated; "A police officer or code enforcement officer may issue a citation as provided in [Code Section 1-7\(c\)](#)..." She said that the code section depicted in [blue](#) is outdated and inaccurate, and recommended that the referenced code sections in the first sentence of subsections (1) and (4) be deleted. Ms. Maybee presented a draft ordinance for Council's consideration.

A motion was made by Councilmember William Overby and seconded by Councilmember Tommy Holmes to approve an ordinance amending the Selma Town Code, Chapter 13, Article IV, Section 13-118, Subsections (1) and (4). Motion carried unanimously.

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE SELMA TOWN CODE,
CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE IV, SECTION 13-118**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE SELMA TOWN COUNCIL as follows:

Section 1. The Selma Municipal Code, Chapter 13, Article IV, Section 13-118 entitled “Enforcement and Penalties” is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sections 13-118(1) and (4) are amended as follows:

Any reference to Code Section 1-7(c) is deleted.

Section 2. This ordinance amendment shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Duly Adopted this the 14th day of April 2015.

Amendment to the Selma Municipal Code, Chapter 12, Article IX, Section 12-181 – Definitions, Nuisance vehicle definition, Subsection (2) pertaining to weeds and other noxious vegetation height:

Planning Director Julie Maybee stated that during community visioning sessions, Council identified goals and objectives related to the Town Code and Code Enforcement. She stated that staff continues to work towards making ordinance provisions more user-friendly, clear, consistent, and be more enforceable.

Ms. Maybee stated that in order to facilitate the above, revisions to Chapter 12, Article IX, entitled “Definitions,” be considered to the definition of nuisance vehicle, subsection (2) as follows; “(2) A point of heavy growth of weeds or other noxious vegetation over ten (10) inches in height.”

Ms. Maybee stated that at the March Planning Board meeting, the Board unanimously recommended by a 6-0 vote, that the Municipal Code be amended to have a consistent weed/noxious vegetation height of ten (10) inches throughout the Code.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tommy Holmes and seconded by Councilmember William Overby to approve the ordinance amendment to Chapter 12, Article IX, Section 12-181, subsection (2). Motion carried unanimously.

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE SELMA TOWN CODE,
CHAPTER 12, ARTICLE IX, SECTION 12-181**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE SELMA TOWN COUNCIL as follows:

Section 1. The Selma Municipal Code, Chapter 12, Article IX, Section 12-181 entitled “Definitions” is hereby amended to read as follows:

Nuisance Vehicle definition, Subsection (2) to be amended to read as follows:

(2) A point of heavy growth of weeds or other noxious vegetation over ten (10) inches in height;

Section 2. This ordinance amendment shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Duly Adopted this the 14th day of April 2015.

Amendment to the Selma Municipal Code, Chapter 17, Article XII, Section 17-323 – Description of Property Blight, Subsections (f)(1)(d) and (f)(1)(e) Pertaining to blight conditions constituting property blight:

Planning Director Julie Maybee that in reference to conditions declared to be public nuisances adversely affecting public peace and safety, Selma’s Municipal Code, Chapter 13, Article III, Section 13-53(b)(12) was amended on March 12, 2012 to read as follows:

“Weeds or vegetation allowed to grow to the height greater than ten (10) inches on average, or any accumulation of dead weeds, grass, or brush, on any occupied or unoccupied lot or land, excluding woodlands and farms that may provide safe harborage for rats, mice, snakes or other vermin.”

Ms. Maybee stated that to make the ordinance provisions more user friendly, clear, consistent, and more enforceable, revisions to Chapter 17, Article XII, entitled “Description of Property Blight,” the following revisions (deleted text in ~~strike through~~ and proposed text in *blue italics*) to subsections (f)(1)(d) and (f)(1)(e) are proposed as follows:

Subsection (f)(1)(d): “~~Is overgrown onto a public right of way at least twelve (12) inches; or~~ *Is so near to street, public right-of-way, or public utility easement as to constitute a danger to street trees, public utility services, streets, sidewalks, vehicle travel, persons, or property; or*”

Subsection (f)(1)(e): “~~Is completely dead, over twelve (12) inches in height; and covers more than fifty (50) percent of the front or side yard visible from any street.~~ *Is allowed to grown to the height of ten (10) inches on the average, or any accumulation of dead grass, or brush, or any occupied or unoccupied lot or land, excluding woodland and farms that may provide safe harborage for rats, mice, snakes, and other vermin.*”

Ms. Maybee stated that at the March 2, 2015 Planning Board meeting, the Board recommended by a 6-0 vote, that the Municipal Code be amended to have a consistent weed/noxious vegetation height of ten (10) inches throughout the Code.

Ms. Maybee stated that after consulting with Town Attorney Hewett, staff recommended that referenced code sections above to be amended. Ms. Maybee presented an ordinance amendment for their consideration.

A motion was made by Councilmember Tommy Holmes and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Jackie Lacy to approve the ordinance amendment to Selma Municipal Code, Chapter 17, Article XII, Section 17-323, subsections (f)(1)(d) and (f)(1)(e) to clarify ordinance text. Motion carried unanimously.

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE SELMA TOWN CODE
CHAPTER 17, ARTICLE XII, SECTION 17-323**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE SELMA TOWN COUNCIL as follows:

Section 1. The Selma Municipal Code, Chapter 17, Article XII, Section 17-323 entitled “Description of Property Blight” is hereby amended to read as follows:

Subsection (f)(1)(d) to be amended to read as follows:

Is so near to street, public right-of-way, or public utility easement as to constitute a danger to street trees, public utility services, streets, sidewalks, vehicle travel, persons, or property.

Subsection (f)(1)(e) to be amended to read as follows:

Is allowed to grow to the height of ten (10) inches on the average, or any accumulation of dead grass, or brush, on any occupied or unoccupied lot or land, excluding woodland and farms that may provide safe harborage for rats, mice, snakes, and other vermin.

Section 2. This ordinance amendment shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Duly Adopted this 14th Day of April 2015.

Mayor Oliver stated that one of the complaints she has received recently had to do with cracked windows in the Town’s storefronts. She said if this was something the

Planning Board could address?

Planning Director Maybee stated that they do have an ordinance regarding cracked windows. She said that she would be glad to take a look at it. Ms. Maybee stated that one thing that needed to be looked at was a property maintenance code.

Councilmember Holmes asked Ms. Maybee if she could present something next month regarding flea markets being used for yard sales.

Ms. Maybee stated that they would have further discussions on that particular property.

Wayfinding Project Update:

Planning Director Julie Maybee stated that during community visioning sessions, Council identified goals and objectives related to Economic Development. She said that to facilitate efforts in creating an inviting community for new businesses, industries, and residents, the marketing committee created a subcommittee to research and develop a signage Wayfinding Program for the Town of Selma. She said that other adjacent Towns, such as Smithfield and Clayton, have developed Wayfinding Programs. Ms. Maybee stated a Wayfinding program helps highlight a community's assets, and guides the movement of people into and through the community through signage, which could be vehicular and pedestrian.

Ms. Maybee stated that those attending the subcommittee meeting included Mayor Cheryl Oliver, Town Manager Jon Barlow, Johnston County Visitors Bureau Director Donna Bailey-Taylor, NCDOT Representative Todd Lewis, Albert Kensak, Susanne Poté, Marcia Woodall, Dina Flowers, Warren Stancil, and Planning Director Julie Maybee.

Ms. Maybee stated that the group has met and has done an inventory of existing signage. She said that the Board's recommendations would be submitted to Council for further consideration.

Councilmember Overby stated that he would like to know how they came up with the subcommittee.

Mayor Oliver stated it was a subcommittee of the Marketing Committee. She said that Donna Bailey-Taylor, who led the effort in Smithfield, asked the marketing members to be a part of the Project, and helped identify the appropriate DOT contact.

Councilmember Overby stated that he does not see a Town Councilmember on the Board.

Mayor Oliver thanked Ms. Maybee for her presentation.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT
& RECOMMENDATIONS –
Review of Financial Reports:**

Town Manager Barlow reminded Council that at last month's meeting; he advised that the February numbers would not accurately reflect the financial position of the Town. He said that there was only one due date in February, and March had three due dates. Mr. Barlow stated that there was a tremendous difference between the February and March figures.

Mr. Barlow stated that things look like they are headed in the right direction; however, there were some areas of concern that he wanted to point out as they near the fiscal year.

Mr. Barlow stated that the General Fund looks good since they were three-fourths through the fiscal year with 80% of the revenues collected. He said that they have spent about 72% of the appropriated revenues in the General Fund. Mr. Barlow stated that the General Fund was about \$400,000 to the good over expenditures. He said that the Water Fund looked great, what a turn around. He said that things are moving in the right direction based on the adjustments made in last year's water rates.

Mr. Barlow stated that the Sewer Fund continues to struggle. He said that Council made some good decisions. Mr. Barlow stated that on a cash basis, everything looks okay, but the March bill is not paid until April. He said that the Electric Fund has the same problem, with payment of March usages in April. Mr. Barlow stated that the biggest issue was the wastewater treatment expenses. He said that March was an awful month with 47 million gallons of wastewater being treated. Mr. Barlow stated that odds are that the Sewer Fund would probably end in a deficit again, and may require another loan from the Water Fund to the Sewer Fund. Mr. Barlow advised that it was better that it was a year ago.

Mr. Barlow stated that the Electric Fund has ran as a deficit over the past couple of years; however, he thinks things will improve as the asset sale of ElectriCities goes through.

Mr. Barlow asked if there were any questions?

**Strategic Plan Update –
Noble Street Interceptor
Project**

Town Manager Barlow reviewed the updated strategic plan with Council. He said that there is a large sewer project planned for this year (Noble Street Sewer Interceptor). Mr. Barlow stated that he has received the authorization to construct. He said that the engineer now could put the project out for bid. Mr. Barlow stated that they would need to seek financing for that project and would needed to go to the LGC to get their permission to take on more debt.

Mayor Oliver asked what was the anticipated timeframe for the bidding process?

Mr. Barlow stated it would be out for bid approximately a month. He said that this has to be added on the LGC agenda to meet with their staff and present the project with cost estimates. Mr. Barlow stated that the LGC meets only once a month.

IT Study:

Mr. Barlow stated that they have been having discussions with VC3 regarding the IT Study. He said that he does have their budget figures and will incorporate them into the 2015/2016 draft budget.

Mayor Oliver questioned if the pending Town Council Rules of Procedure would be discussed at the May Council meeting.

Mr. Barlow stated that he and Town Attorney Hewett have been discussing, and it would be on the May agenda.

Town Hall Project Update:

Town Manager Barlow stated that at last month's meeting, Council gave staff the authorization to instruct the architect that the floor plan draft for the new Town Hall project was acceptable, and they were to go to the final stages of designing the floor plan construction documents, and putting the project out for bid. He stated that he expected the bid opening to take place in early June and construction completion by the end of November or December.

**Fiscal Year 2016 Town of
Selma Budget Update:**

Town Manager Barlow stated that they were making good progress in putting the draft 2015/2016 Town of Selma budget together. He said that all the department heads have submitted their requests. He said the biggest thing at this point was they were waiting on some big-ticket items. Mr. Barlow stated that they did not have the health premium renewal. He said that he was meeting with them next week to get the figures from them. Mr. Barlow stated that they were still waiting on figures from the North Carolina League of Municipalities for property liability. Mr. Barlow advised that they had received the Workers' Compensation renewal; however, that comes in with a 45% rate increase.

**Longevity Plan Options for
Fiscal Year 2015-2016:**

Town Manager Barlow stated that last month, he presented three options as part of the Maps Group study regarding longevity pay for 2015-2016. He said that this was a very large item in the budget and would like to have guidance from Council.

Councilmember Holmes stated that he would like for this item to be discussed further at a work session.

Councilmember Overby stated that he liked option 2.

Mayor Oliver stated that she like option 2, and asked if they needed a governing rule on how much notice should be given to employees on any change to any facet of compensation whether it is longevity or anything else.

Mr. Barlow stated that the more lead-time you have for changes to the compensation plan would be appreciated; however, there was no statutory requirement for time given to employees.

Councilmember Sellers stated that he liked option 2.

Council agreed to discuss longevity at the next work session to decide whether to go with the percentage or flat rate for option 2 of the longevity.

**Request for “Fines for Free”
Week at the Selma Public
Library:**

Town Manager Jon Barlow stated that in conjunction with the Public Libraries of Johnston County, He would like to request that the week of April 13 – 18, 2015 be declared “Fines Free Week” in observance of National Library Week. He said that fees would be waived on items that belong to the Johnston County Public Library and the Town of Selma, and would not include items that have been lost or damaged. Mr. Barlow stated that this would allow patrons with outstanding fines to return to a fine free status and be eligible to use Johnston County and the Town of Selma’s Library system resources.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Jackie Lacy and seconded by Councilmember Tommy Holmes to approve the week of April 13 – 18, 2015 as “Fines Free Week” at the Selma Public Library. Motion carried unanimously.

**N.C. Eastern Municipal
Power Agency Sale of Assets
Legislation:**

Town Manager Barlow stated that he attended a rate committee meeting yesterday at ElectriCities in Wilson. He said the entire meeting was devoted to the sale of asset generation by ElectriCities to Duke Energy. He said that a lot of things are going to start happening fast.

Town Manager Barlow stated that the North Carolina General Assembly approved legislation that authorizes NCEMPA to borrow money to pay the remaining outstanding debt and allows Duke Energy Power to recover the costs associated with purchasing the generation power plants. He said that the Governor signed Senate Bill 305 on April 2, 2015.

Town Manager Barlow stated that once legislation had taken place, all NCEMPA members must approve the asset sale within 90 days. He said that the Town Attorney would be receiving a stack of documents during the week of the 27th that he would review. Mr. Barlow stated that they still plan to close this deal by the end of June, and we would have a new rate structure in place by the first of July.

Town Manager Barlow stated the budget would include funding for an electric rate study to reflect all the changes.

Councilmember Sellers stated that all 32 Towns have to approve. He asked if he had heard anything.

Mr. Barlow stated all 32 Towns were in agreement with the scenarios that were presented. He said the benefits that each Town would receive would vary tremendously.

Mr. Barlow stated that ElectriCities staff would be coming by visiting all 32 Towns again. He said they would be here to answer any questions.

Mayor Oliver asked about the rate study and its funding.

Mr. Barlow stated that all 32 Towns were going to have to go through this, whether it was in-house or by consultant. He said that Selma has always hired a consultant to do their rate studies. Mr. Barlow stated that there was some grant funding available through NCEMPA. He said that there was about \$5,000 available, which was about half of the costs from the rate study.

Councilmember Overby asked Town Manager Barlow to explain bullet #6.

Mr. Barlow stated that last year, North Carolina legislature changed the way you could make transfers from the electric fund to the general fund. He said that this year, you could use up to 5% of gross receipts. He said that before, you were limited to 3% of the cross capital assets. Mr. Barlow stated that the Town is still under statutory obligations to restricting the transfer of electric funds.

Fire Inspection Process Improvements:

Town Manager Barlow stated that Fire Chief Phillip McDaniel in the past year made some investments in technology for the Fire Department, and they are paying off. He said that 5 iPads were purchased for fire inspections. Mr. Barlow stated that fire inspections was now all paperless.

Senior Citizens' Day, May 15, 2015 at the Selma Fire Department:

Town Manager Jon Barlow stated that with the month of May being recognized as "Older American's Month", it has become a tradition that the Town of Selma honor its Senior Citizens with a luncheon the third Friday in May. He said the first event included entertainment from the Selma Elementary School Chorus and a catered lunch. Mr. Barlow stated that it has now grown to include a coffee hour sponsored by Johnston County Community Senior Services, music, Selma Middle School Band performance, door prizes and a catered lunch.

Town Manager Barlow stated that the Parks and Recreation Department is requesting Council and Town staff to come out on Friday, May 15th at the Selma Fire Department for Selma Senior Citizens Day to honor and pay tribute to these citizens of our Town.

Fire Department Airplane Crash Response Training at Johnston County Airport on April 18, 2015:

Town Manager Barlow stated that there would be airplane crash response training on April 18th at the Johnston County Airport in Smithfield. He said that the training would begin at about 8 a.m. Mr. Barlow stated that anyone interested in watching the training exercises is welcome to go out to the airport.

Selma Elementary 5K Fun Run on May 1, 2015:

Town Manager Barlow stated that Selma Elementary is having a 5K Fun Run on May 1, 2015. He said that each year, kids go through a reading program, and as part of their reward, they get to participate in a 5K run.

Atlantic Coast Pipeline Resolution:

Town Manager Barlow presented Council with a copy of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline Resolution. He said this project could have economic impact on Johnston County as far as jobs and investment. Mr. Barlow stated that the draft plans show the pipeline running parallel with I-95. He said that they have requested a resolution of support be approved by counties and municipalities that are affected by this pipeline.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Jackie Lacy and seconded by Mayor Oliver to approve the Resolution of support for Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Voting Yes: Mayor Cheryl Oliver, Mayor Pro-Tem Jackie Lacy, and Councilmember Eric Sellers. Voting No: Councilmembers Tommy Holmes and William Overby. Motion carried.

Attorney Hewett asked if Councilmember Sellers voted.

Councilmember Overby stated that he could not vote.

Mayor Oliver stated that the Town Council Rules of Procedure has not been

approved; therefore, he could vote.

Councilmember Holmes stated that he missed the work session, and wasn't filled in on the project.

Councilmember Overby stated that he does not have enough knowledge on the project, and was not prepared to vote tonight.

Mayor Oliver stated the draft resolution was presented at the work session with a brief conversation. She said that there were a number of work sessions throughout the county, and she attended the one at the Ag Center. Mayor Oliver stated that there was positive support. She said that in the northern part of the state, there was concern from certain landowners, but believed that they have been resolved.

Councilmember Sellers stated that he was good. He said that there has been a lot of discussion on this project, and it was not one of those things he would jump up and down about. He said that his vote was yes, but not an enthusiastic yes.

Councilmember Overby challenged Attorney Hewett that he can break a tie vote over the phone.

Attorney Hewett stated that all we can do is go by the guidance we have. Attorney Hewett read a section regarding remote participation section that was published by the UNC School of Government. He said the section states, "It concludes until the North Carolina Legislature courts explicitly addresses the questions, city and county governing boards may be vulnerable to a legal challenge if a member participates electronically, casts a deciding vote, or is necessary to establish a quorum." Attorney Hewett stated that it says until there is statutory guidance, it is up to the individual towns or counties. He said that he could not give Council a clear, definitive answer, because it has not been litigated.

Mayor Oliver stated that they allowed a member who conferenced in to vote in the same way as if they were here. She said that in the Rules of Procedure that they were thinking of adopting next month has further clarification around remote participation. Mayor Oliver stated that at that time, the rules would be in play.

Attorney Hewett stated that assuming that remote participation is legal, all or some circumstances whether members of a particular board may participate remotely is a matter for the board to decide. He said unfortunately, there is no state law on the subject, and it is up to Council.

Mayor Oliver stated that it would appear that they would act as they have acted until something different is adopted.

Councilmember Holmes stated that this has been talked about for twelve months, and they have not solved anything.

Mayor Oliver stated that the Rules of Procedure are up for adoption at next month's meeting. She said that she did a review at a work session. Mayor Oliver stated that she would be glad to fill any Councilmember in on anything they have missed.

Councilmember Holmes stated to go ahead and run it through. He said that you have the votes.

Mayor Oliver stated to let the record show that the resolution was approved.

Councilmember Overby stated to let the record show that he opposed.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Atlantic Coast Pipeline will bring new supplies of natural gas to North Carolina, helping Duke Energy Carolina and Duke Energy Progress further reduce its air emissions in the coming decades by allowing it to more cleanly meet growing power demand and replace coal power plants with cleaner-burning natural gas power plants;

WHEREAS, the pipeline will improve the reliability and geographic diversity of natural gas supplies for North Carolina consumers and businesses by bringing gas to consumers from natural gas-rich regions that are currently not accessible to Duke Energy customers;

WHEREAS, the pipeline is expected to help mitigate price increases in the fuel clause component of consumers and businesses power bills by increasing accessibility to natural gas supplies;

WHEREAS, the pipeline's new supply of natural gas will serve as a powerful engine to drive economic development and job growth by helping eight North Carolina counties attract energy-dependent businesses and industries – many of which now are not able to locate in Eastern North Carolina;

WHEREAS, the pipeline will generate new tax revenues for local government.

NOW, THEREOF, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Mayor Cheryl Oliver and the Selma Town Council fully support the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

Adopted this 14th day of April 2015.

**Economic Development
Strategic Plan Update Focus
Group Appointments:**

Town Manager Barlow stated the Town entered into a contract recently with Rocky Lane of Sanford Holshouser Group to assist with the update of the Strategic Plan for Economic Development for the Town of Selma. Mr. Barlow stated that the Town is at the point to take the next step to conduct focus group meetings. He said that it has been recommended that the Town conduct two meetings with one meeting being scheduled with community leaders, with one group being appointed and elected officials and the second with business leaders, bankers, realtors, property owners, and small business owners. He said that he was looking for guidance from Council to help identify people so communication could be forwarded to those people to see if they would be available to meet. Mr. Barlow stated that eight to twelve per group was a good number to work with.

Councilmember Overby recommended discussing at the next work session.

**Approval of Fiscal Year 2014-
2015 Budget Amendments #9
thru #18 – Annual End-of-
Year Revenues/Expenditures
Re-Appropriation:**

Town Manager Barlow stated that budget amendments were an incredible part of the budget implementation process. He said that during the year, they have a statutory obligation to make budget amendments. Mr. Barlow stated they come about when certain circumstances change during a budget year. He said that the Finance Director has a legal obligation to not over-expend the budget. Mr. Barlow stated that Council adopts the budget by department, not by line item. He said that the letter from the auditor last year recommended doing budget amendments regularly, not just at the end of the year.

Councilmember Sellers stated that he would like to see in the future a paragraph with each budget ordinance amendment that would give a better description of what was being amended.

Finance Director Kim Batten reviewed the following budget amendments with Council.

A motion was made by Councilmember William Overby and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Jackie Lacy to approve Budget Ordinance amendment 9 – 18 as presented. Voting Yes: Mayor Cheryl Oliver, Mayor Pro-tem Jackie Lacy, and Councilmembers

Tommy Holmes and William Overby. Voting No: Councilmember Eric Sellers.
Motion carried.

TOWN OF SELMA
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT # 9
FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Selma, County of Johnston, State of North Carolina, and Meeting in Budget Session this 14th day of April 2015 that the Town Budget adopted on June 24th 2014, for FY 2014/2015 is hereby amended and adopted:

Section I. To amend the General Fund (Fund 10) for unanticipated/unbudgeted revenues and expenses during FY 2015. The Town's General Fund (Fund 10) accounts are to be amended as follows:

<u>Account No.</u>		<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10-4130-3990	Contracted Services	920	
10-4190-5000	Capital Outlay	6,771	
10-4300-3250	Postage	2	
10-5700-1300	New Equipment	101	
10-4130-1910	Accounting/Auditing		900
10-4300-3800	Marketing		3,500
10-4910-4900	Condemnation & Demolition		2,820
10-5700-4990	Equipment/Not Capital		473
10-5700-5000	Capital Outlay – Equipment		101

Section II. Copies of this Budget Ordinance Amendment # 9 shall be furnished to the Town Clerk, the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer, and shall be available for public inspection and audit.

Adopted this 14th day of April 2015.

TOWN OF SELMA
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT # 10
FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Selma, County of Johnston, State of North Carolina, and Meeting in Budget Session this 14th day of April 2015 that the Town Budget adopted on June 24th 2014, for FY 2014/2015 is hereby amended and adopted:

Section I. To amend the Water/Sewer Reserves Fund (Fund 21) for unanticipated/unbudgeted revenues and expenses during FY 2015. The Town's Water/Sewer Reserves Fund (Fund 21) accounts are to be amended as follows:

<u>Account No.</u>		<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
21-3290-0000	Interest Earned		140
21-9930-0000	Reserved for Future Expenditures	140	

Section II. Copies of this Budget Ordinance Amendment # 10 shall be furnished to the Town Clerk, the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer, and shall be available for public inspection and audit.

Adopted this 14th day of April 2015.

TOWN OF SELMA
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT # 11
FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Selma, County of Johnston, State of North Carolina, and Meeting in Budget Session this 14th day of April 2015 that the Town Budget adopted on June 24th 2014, for FY 2014/2015 is hereby amended and adopted:

Section I. To amend the CDBG Fund (Fund 25) for unanticipated/unbudgeted revenues and expenses during FY 2015. The Town’s CDBG Fund (Fund 25) accounts are to be amended as follows:

<u>Account No.</u>		<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
25-8160-1990	Administration	9,225	
25-8160-5990	Construction	35,000	
25-3500-0000	Donations/Contributions		20,500
25-3980-1000	Transfer from General Fund		23,725

Section II. Copies of this Budget Ordinance Amendment # 11 shall be furnished to the Town Clerk, the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer, and shall be available for public inspection and audit.

Adopted this 14th day of April 2015.

TOWN OF SELMA
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT # 12
FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Selma, County of Johnston, State of North Carolina, and Meeting in Budget Session this 14th day of April 2015 that the Town Budget adopted on June 24th 2014, for FY 2014/2015 is hereby amended and adopted:

Section I. To amend the Fire Protection-Selma Petroleum Terminals Fund (Fund 28) for unanticipated/unbudgeted revenues and expenses during FY 2015. The Town’s Fire Protection-Selma Petroleum Terminals Fund (Fund 28) accounts are to be amended as follows:

<u>Account No.</u>		<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
28-4340-2600	Supplies	29,779	
28-3290-0000	Interest Earned		50
28-3434-0000	Contributions		5,000
28-3990-0000	Fund Balance Appropriated		24,729

Section II. Copies of this Budget Ordinance Amendment # 12 shall be furnished to the Town Clerk, the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer, and shall be available for public inspection and audit.

Adopted this 14th day of April 2015.

TOWN OF SELMA
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT # 13
FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Selma, County of Johnston, State of North Carolina, and Meeting in Budget Session this 14th day of April 2015 that the Town Budget adopted on June 24th 2014, for FY 2014/2015 is hereby amended and adopted:

Section I. To amend the Small Business Revolving Loan Fund (Fund 27) for unanticipated/unbudgeted revenues and expenses during FY 2015. The Town’s Small Business Revolving Loan Fund (Fund 27) accounts are to

be amended as follows:

<u>Account No.</u>		<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
27-4930-0000	Small Business Loan	20,000	
27-3990-0000	Fund Balance Appropriated		20,000

Section II. Copies of this Budget Ordinance Amendment # 13 shall be furnished to the Town Clerk, the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer, and shall be available for public inspection and audit.

Adopted this 14th day of April 2015.

TOWN OF SELMA
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT # 14
FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Selma, County of Johnston, State of North Carolina, and Meeting in Budget Session this 14th day of April 2015 that the Town Budget adopted on June 24th 2014, for FY 2014/2015 is hereby amended and adopted:

Section I. To amend the Water Fund (Fund 60) for unanticipated/unbudgeted revenues and expenses during FY 2015. The Town’s Water Fund (Fund 60) accounts are to be amended as follows:

<u>Account No.</u>		<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
60-7110-3990	Contracted Services	4,400	
60-7110-4501	Credit Card User Fee	57	
60-7110-5300	Dues & Subscriptions	443	
60-7110-1910	Accounting/Auditing		900
60-7110-1940	Engineering		2,000
60-7110-3310	Electricity		2,000

Section II. Copies of this Budget Ordinance Amendment # 14 shall be furnished to the Town Clerk, the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer, and shall be available for public inspection and audit.

Adopted this 14th day of April 2015.

TOWN OF SELMA
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT # 15
FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Selma, County of Johnston, State of North Carolina, and Meeting in Budget Session this 14th day of April 2015 that the Town Budget adopted on June 24th 2014, for FY 2014/2015 is hereby amended and adopted:

Section I. To amend the Sewer Fund (Fund 61) for unanticipated/unbudgeted revenues and expenses during FY 2015. The Town’s Sewer Fund (Fund 61) accounts are to be amended as follows:

<u>Account No.</u>		<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
61-7110-3510	Maintenance & Repair - Building	3,190	
61-7110-3990	Contracted Services	3,700	
61-7110-4501	Credit Card User Fee	57	
61-7110-1861	Unemployment Reserve		1,000
61-7110-1910	Accounting/Auditing		900
61-7110-1920	Legal		2,000
61-7110-1940	Engineering		430

61-7110-3250	Postage	240
61-7110-3310	Electricity	280
61-7110-3410	Printing	1,000
61-7110-4400	Software Contract	299
61-7110-4990	Equipment/Not Capital	500
61-7110-5300	Dues & Subscriptions	298

Section II. Copies of this Budget Ordinance Amendment # 15 shall be furnished to the Town Clerk, the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer, and shall be available for public inspection and audit.

Adopted this 14th day of April 2015.

TOWN OF SELMA
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT # 16
FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Selma, County of Johnston, State of North Carolina, and Meeting in Budget Session this 14th day of April 2015 that the Town Budget adopted on June 24th 2014, for FY 2014/2015 is hereby amended and adopted:

Section I. To amend the Electric Fund (Fund 63) for unanticipated/unbudgeted revenues and expenses during FY 2015. The Town’s Electric Fund (Fund 63) accounts are to be amended as follows:

<u>Account No.</u>		<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
63-7210-1220	Overtime	3,100	
63-7210-3990	Contracted Services	2,700	
63-7210-3994	Itron, Inc Lease	11,000	
63-7210-3995	Exceleron Contract Fee	2,000	
63-7210-4510	Credit Card User Fee	57	
63-7220-2512	Non-Hwy Diesel #2	203	
63-7210-1910	Accounting/Auditing		900
63-7210-1940	Engineering		8,920
63-7220-4990	Equipment/Not Capital		100
63-7220-9501	Purchases for Inventory		9,140

Section II. Copies of this Budget Ordinance Amendment # 16 shall be furnished to the Town Clerk, the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer, and shall be available for public inspection and audit.

Adopted this 14th day of April 2015.

TOWN OF SELMA
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT # 17
FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Selma, County of Johnston, State of North Carolina, and Meeting in Budget Session this 14th day of April 2015 that the Town Budget adopted on June 24th 2014, for FY 2014/2015 is hereby amended and adopted:

Section I. To amend the General Fund (Fund 10) for unanticipated/unbudgeted revenues and expenses during FY 2015. The Town’s General Fund (Fund 10) accounts are to be amended as follows:

<u>Account No.</u>		<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10-3315-0000	Solid Waste Disposal Tax		3,500
10-3350-0200	Refuse Collection Fees	3,500	

Section II. Copies of this Budget Ordinance Amendment # 17 shall be furnished to the Town Clerk, the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer, and shall be available for public inspection and audit.

Adopted this 14th day of April 2015.

TOWN OF SELMA
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT # 18
FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Selma, County of Johnston, State of North Carolina, and Meeting in Budget Session this 14th day of April 2015 that the Town Budget adopted on June 24th 2014, for FY 2014/2015 is hereby amended and adopted:

Section I. To amend the General Fund (Fund 10) for unanticipated/unbudgeted revenues and expenses during FY 2015. The Town’s General Fund (Fund 10) accounts are to be amended as follows:

<u>Account No.</u>		<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
10-3324-0000	Telecommunications Services		
	Sales Tax		55,471
10-3325-0000	Electric Power Franchise Tax		246,742
10-3326-0000	Natural Gas Excise Tax		8,787
10-3370-0000	Utility Franchise	311,000	

Section II. Copies of this Budget Ordinance Amendment # 18 shall be furnished to the Town Clerk, the Budget Officer and the Finance Officer, and shall be available for public inspection and audit.

Adopted this 14th day of April 2015.

**TOWN ATTORNEY’S
REPORT –
Request to Approve
Ordinance Amendment to
Chapter 6 – Taxicab
Franchises:**

Town Attorney Chip Hewett stated that the taxicab franchise ordinance has been amended and is being presented for their approval tonight. He said that he took the one year franchise application and changed it to be renewable in three years, as well as the permit. Attorney Hewett stated that if this was consistent with what Council wanted to change, he would recommend that they approve the following amendment to the Town’s ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilmember William Overby and seconded by Councilmember Tommy Holmes to approve an Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 6 – Taxicab Franchises. Motion carried unanimously.

An Ordinance to Amend the Selma Town Code, Chapter 6

Be it ordained by the Selma Town Council as follows:

To make it consistent with N.C.G.S. §160A-211, Chapter 6, Article I and II consisting of Sections 6-1 to 6-60 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of Selma, North Carolina, is hereby repealed in its entirety effective July 1, 2015. Article III entitled “Taxicabs” is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 6-62 entitled “Quarterly Inspection” is repealed.

Section 6-82 is repealed and replaced with the following:

Sec. 6-82 – Three-Year Franchise

Each franchise issued is for three (3) years and the owner must

make application to renew the franchise sixty (60) days before it expires.

Section 6-99 is repealed and replaced with the following:

Sec. 6-99 – Expiration, renewal.

Every permit issued under this article shall expire three (3) years following the date of issuance and shall be renewable only in the manner in which the original permit was issued.

ORDAINED, this the 14th day of April 2015.

Time Warner Cable Pole Fee Contract:

Town Attorney Chip Hewett stated that this was an update regarding Time Warner Cable's contract with the Town of Selma. He said that there has been some litigation with Time Warner Cable. Attorney Hewett stated that Council negotiated and adopted a pole attachment agreement in December 2014 with Time Warner. He said that from hind-site, it was a good idea. Attorney Hewett stated that the complaint was that they were being charged too much (\$13.00 per pole). He said that they came up with a formula, and the court stated that the use of the formula was consistent. Attorney Hewett stated that it is subject to appeal before the North Carolina Supreme Court. He said that the Town of Selma is already under an agreement at \$6.00 per pole. Attorney Hewett stated that the case discussed figures just short of \$3.00 up to \$5.56 per pole. He said that by reading the case, what the Town has is reasonable. Attorney Hewett stated that the Town has 752 poles at \$6.00 per pole for three years to be paid twice annually.

Attorney Hewett stated that what he had was for closed session unless Council had any questions.

Council had no further questions for Attorney Hewett.

MAYOR'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS – Joint Meeting of Selma and Smithfield Councilmembers:

Mayor Oliver stated that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss opportunities to reduce costs and improve services to the Town's citizens and businesses. She said that last fall, she asked Council if they would like to have that type of meeting with the Smithfield Council. Mayor Oliver stated that she wanted to get together to talk about opportunities for cost savings and improved services. She said that everyone was in favor, and gave her and Town Manager Barlow the go-ahead. Mayor Oliver stated that she and Town Manager Barlow met with Smithfield Mayor John Lampe and Smithfield Town Manager Paul Sabiston. She said that Mayor Lampe asked about a discussion starter, and he suggested the idea of the Fire Department. Mayor Oliver stated that Smithfield's Fire Chief was retiring, it is an expensive department, and the two departments work together in a mutual aid capacity. She said that the Fire Chiefs put together their thoughts on the pros and cons, and it shelved until they had this meeting. Mayor Oliver stated that it was to be one of many meetings. She said that the media has had some stories. Mayor Oliver stated that this had turned into a supposed meeting to discuss the merger of the Towns. She said that was never on the table. Mayor Oliver stated that the meeting was not designed to address that specific issue. She said that anything that any Councilmember wanted to bring to the table, they could. Mayor Oliver questioned if they should look more at bulk purchasing or equipment purchasing. She said that as Mayors, they have had quarterly meetings to talk about some of this, but it was a discussion that would be better at a Town Manager or department head level. Mayor Oliver stated that they have tried to encourage regular meetings between the Town Managers quarterly or twice a year. She said that it seems that they are still not maximizing buying opportunities. Mayor Oliver stated that the Town of Smithfield has appointed a sub-committee to participate in this meeting. She said that Selma could do the same. Mayor Oliver stated that this meeting was to discuss a variety of ways to reduce costs and improve services. Mayor Oliver stated that she was not hearing any conversation on the topic of merger. She said that if Council was willing, the talks could be profitable for both sides. Mayor Oliver asked the question, "Are you willing to sit

down and talk about such opportunities?”

Councilmember Tommy Holmes stated that he was not. He said that the merger and consolidation talks have been discussed. Councilmember Holmes stated that if Smithfield and Selma’s electric departments needed transformers, he could see ordering them together. He said that was not for the Council to decide now. Councilmember Holmes stated that Town Manager Barlow and Electric Director Donald Baker should bring this before Council to move forward. Councilmember Holmes stated that as far as sitting down on April 20th, he is not for it.

Councilmember Overby stated that there were no talk of merger, but according to the minutes of March 26, page 2, last sentence of the fourth paragraph says, “Mayor Oliver stated Smithfield has tentatively scheduled a meeting for April 20th at 6:00 p.m. to discuss department merger possibilities.”

Mayor Oliver stated that department merger was yes. She said that was the Fire Department she was talking through. Mayor Oliver stated that she was not discussing the merger of the Towns, which get muddled in the discussions.

Councilmember Overby stated that what he had heard was merger of the Fire Department and Police Department.

Councilmember Holmes stated that he was making a motion that Selma Council does not meet with Smithfield Council to discuss anything about merger, consolidation or anything else until Town Manager Barlow and the department heads sit down with the Town Manager and the Electric Supervisor in Smithfield and let them discuss what they need to buy together to see if the Towns could get it cheaper. He said that if we could get it cheaper, fine; if we can’t, we just continue on like we are. Councilmember Holmes stated that he did not think Council should get involved until they get the facts. He said that is why he is making the motion that Selma Town Council does not meet to discuss anything with the Smithfield Council until we let Town Manager Barlow and them. Councilmember Holmes stated that they do not know anything about ordering transformers. He questioned why should they discuss merger of Fire Departments or anything else.

Councilmember Overby stated that he would second that so that they could have their discussion.

Mayor Oliver stated that Town Managers look for direction from their governing bodies on whether they should pursue certain things.

Councilmember Holmes stated that they were letting the Town Manager go and have a discussion.

Mayor Oliver stated that often the governing bodies sanction that activity. She said that there were a number of ways this could go; it’s a broad discussion.

Councilmember Overby stated that it would be good to sit down and discuss buying in bulk. He said that discussions of four to five months, this Council doesn’t know anything. Councilmember Overby stated that he doesn’t know anything, but Smithfield knows everything and he was totally against it.

Mayor Oliver stated that there were no meeting in between that got into the details of the backroom meetings that have been alluded to. She said that it was unfortunate that it took that much time to arrive at a date and time.

Councilmember Overby asked how many times in the past four months what was going on between Smithfield and Selma.

Mayor Oliver stated that they were trying to arrange the meeting.

Councilmember Overby stated that Mayor Oliver knew that drafts had been done and were not shared with them.

Mayor Oliver stated that the meeting between the four of them was to say before the meeting they would give it out. She questioned what would have been done with a draft? Mayor Oliver stated that this was not a decision making document. She said that they were trying just to get a meeting. Mayor Oliver stated that she had made so many calls to the Town of Smithfield that she was becoming a nuisance, and finally got that opportunity.

Councilmember Sellers stated that he agreed that the department heads need to sit down, but what he wanted to say in response was that the Town Councils talking with each other is a good thing. He said that as leaders, this is a good first step. Councilmember Sellers stated that they have got to create structure to start that process. He said that they have to be able to give direction to the Town Manager and department heads on the things they should be talking about. Councilmember Sellers stated that one of the simplest things would be buying together. He questioned why just Smithfield and Selma, but why not the other towns in the County could not join in. Councilmember Sellers stated that not sitting down to talk about this was a disservice to the people that they serve. He said that they were here to serve the citizens and do what was in their best interest. Councilmember Sellers stated that unless they explore possibilities and talk about ways they could save money does not make sense. He said that they were not doing what they were elected to do. Mr. Sellers stated that they needed to sit down and talk with Town Council, open their minds, and look at what they could do to save money. He said that they need to start the process.

Councilmember Sellers questioned if they could also do a sub-committee.

Attorney Hewett stated that if it is decided between the Town of Selma and the Town of Smithfield that the Councils want to meet, there would have to be a special notice. He said that by statute, you have to have a different type notice in order to have a joint meeting.

Councilmember Overby stated that he would like to see the agenda for that meeting.

Mayor Oliver stated that in terms of the motion, she grows concerned when we have votes on who could talk to who, when, and what.

Councilmember Holmes stated that his motion stands. He said that he is making the motion that the Selma Council does not go with the Smithfield Council to talk merge or consolidation on no departments.

Voting Yes: Councilmembers Tommy Holmes and William Overby.

Voting No: Mayor Oliver, Councilmember Eric Sellers, and Mayor Pro-Tem Jackie Lacy.

Mayor Oliver stated that they evidently have three that are willing to attend the meeting on the 20th.

Councilmember Holmes asked Mayor Pro-Tem Lacy if she voted for or against the meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lacy stated that he was making a motion that we not meet with Smithfield on merger or consolidation. She said that her vote was no.

Mayor Oliver stated that there were three no's and two yes's.

Councilmember Holmes stated that Mayor Pro-Tem Lacy's vote is mixed up. He

said that she was against having a meeting for merger or consolidation.

Councilmember Holmes made the motion that the Selma Town Council does not meet with the Smithfield Town Council to discuss any merger or consolidation with any department, Fire, Police, Rescue, Public Works, Electric or anything, but if you want to discuss anything else, that is up to you.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lacy stated that she did not want Smithfield and Selma to meet on merging departments.

Attorney Hewett stated that the vote was 2 to 3. He said that for quorum reasons, they need to keep the meeting to two or less.

Mayor Oliver asked if anyone would be attending the meeting on the 20th. Councilmembers Holmes and Overby and Mayor Pro-Tem Lacy were in agreement that Town Manager Barlow should attend that meeting. Mayor Oliver and Councilmember Sellers stated that they would be attending.

Community Visioning Session:

Mayor Oliver stated that she has worked with the Harrison Center to set up some dates in May and should have those by work session time.

**Upper Coastal Plain Rural
Planning Organization TAC
Update:**

Mayor Oliver stated that at the last meeting of the Upper Coastal Plain Rural Planning Organization TAC, she was elected as Chair. She said that she accepted because of its importance to regional planning for transportation. Mayor Oliver stated that this group deals with highway, rail, bicycle paths, pedestrian sidewalks, etc.

Mayor Oliver stated that she also wanted to let Council know that when they were having their discussion about Eco Energy, she said that she was trying to get information from DOT on approval of any plans for the rail spur on Buffalo Road. Mayor Oliver stated that it brought her to the division known as North Carolina Rail. She said the topic of that intersection is not a dead issue with DOT. They have tied together the highway safety project and the rail safety project into one project. She said they were going to put together a plan so that it could be prioritized properly.

Triangle J Update:

Mayor Oliver stated that on June 7th to 10th, the Triangle J would be hosting the National Association of Regional Councils in Raleigh. She said that more information would be forth coming on that. Mayor Oliver stated that there would be a lot of discussion regarding key elements that impact municipalities.

Habitat for Humanity:

Mayor Oliver stated that the ground breaking ceremony for the seventh house built by Habitat for Humanity was held. She said that she asked about an eighth house, but was advised that they were out of land. Mayor Oliver requested that anyone having land to donate to call Habitat for Humanity.

Police Chief Cooper stated that there was a house on South Raiford Street that belongs to Dr. Riccobene that burned some time ago that he might consider donating to Habitat.

**April and May Work Session
Dates:**

Mayor Oliver asked Council if there was any time next week that they could meet?

Council agreed to schedule a Work Session for Monday, April 20, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in the Jernigan Building.

Mayor Oliver asked Council if they wanted to go ahead and set the May date. She said that the April session was to focus on the reports that Council wanted to see. Mayor Oliver stated that if Council was interested in seeing a demo of a reporting tool at the May meeting, this would give her time to schedule something with the vendor.

Council was in agreement to schedule a work session for Monday, May 4, 2015 in the Jernigan Building at 6:00 p.m.

General Comments:

Mayor Oliver stated that about a year ago, the Rosewood Army ROTC students came and cleaned up Wall Cemetery that is located on JR Road, Selma. She said that they intended to come back to do some more work in terms of signage; however, they stopped short of finishing the project.

Mayor Oliver stated that the ROTC was ready to come back. She also asked Mayor Pro-tem Jackie Lacy to take the lead to schedule a date and any publicity. Mayor Oliver stated that after it is cleaned up, they wanted to have a small ceremony and invite the families of those buried there.

Mayor Oliver stated that in the last issue of *The Herald*, there was an article regarding discussions by the Johnston County Commissioners regarding trash and recycling options. She said that one option that is being explored was the addition of \$5 or \$10 on each tax bill for every person in Johnston County. Mayor Oliver questioned that since the Town has its own trash and recycling, why would those municipalities have to pay. She said that they are still looking at a lot a data to see what will be fair to all. Mayor Oliver stated that she would share any date received at the next Johnston County Commissioners' Meeting that will be held on May 4th.

**COUNCILMEMBERS'
REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATIONS –
Discussion/Consideration of
Meetings of Selma and
Smithfield Councilmembers:**

Councilmember Tommy Holmes stated that there was a water leak on Bennett Drive. He said that a 2" water line has been running into a storm drain and has been running for five weeks. He said that he wanted to know the hold up in getting this fixed.

Town Manager Barlow stated that the Town has many issues with its water and sewer. He said that they have to prioritize. Mr. Barlow stated that four guys have 100 miles of infrastructure, 19 lift stations, 9 wells, and 1 water plant. He said there is limited resources; one backhoe and one service truck. Mr. Barlow stated that those requests needed to be prioritized. He said that if you have sewer issue, you have environmental issues. Mr. Barlow stated that some time back, he requested a Crew Leader to be added to that department so they could build a better team to go after the maintenance problems that they do have with the system that continues to age. Mr. Barlow stated that there were budgetary issues as well that the Town is restricted by. Mr. Barlow stated that they submitted the small diameter water line project twice last year. He said that applicants are given points by certain problems that they have. Mr. Barlow stated that the Town did not receive any points for water loss ratio.

Councilmember Holmes stated that they needed to restructure in a hurry with a water leak like that had that ran for five weeks. He said that the new employee for that department was supposed to be working on some of these problems.

Mayor Oliver asked Town Manager Barlow if he had the capability to share data around that project during that timeframe, and why it took three weeks for the locator service. Mayor Oliver also asked if there were going to be budgetary items to help them get out of this situation in the future.

Councilmember Overby stated that the appraisal system would turn that around.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jackie Lacy questioned if Council had received anything regarding passenger trains being diverted around Selma. She said that this was something that needed to be looked into.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jackie Lacy also asked about getting supplies for the Rosewood Army ROTC for their work at the Cemetery on JR Road.

Councilmember Holmes stated that he had some treated lumber and would be glad to donate enough to build a sign.

Councilmember Overby stated that he would talk with David Wright, owner of A Little This, A Little That, to see what he could do since he does signs.

CLOSED SESSION:

Town Attorney Hewett advised Council that they needed to go into closed session per N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(3), potential litigation – Selma versus Lemon condemnation, 143-318.11(4) matters related to the location or expansion of a business and 143-318.11(6) personnel issue of a specific nature. He informed everyone that no action would be taken.

A motion was made by Councilmember William Overby and seconded by Councilmember Tommy Holmes to go into closed session. Motion carried unanimously. 8:15 p.m.

Council returned to regular session at 9:40 p.m. with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilmember Tommy Holmes and seconded by Councilmember William Overby to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

BRENDA W. THORNE, DEPUTY CLERK