

D-27304

Summary of Minutes

June 18, 2007

Regular Meeting of the Winston-Salem City Council was held on Monday, June 18, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall, Mayor Allen Joines presiding and the following members present:

Council Members	Molly Leight	Vivian H. Burke
	Robert C. Clark	Nelson L. Malloy, Jr.
	Dan Besse	Wanda Merschel
	Joycelyn V. Johnson	Evelyn A. Terry

Secretaries: Renée P. Henderson, City Secretary and Melanie Johnson, Recording Secretary

Pledge of Allegiance

Sergeant at Arms: Lieutenant David Perry

Invocation: Imam Irshad Hasan of Masjid Al-Mu-Minum

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR NANOTECHNOLOGY AND MOLECULAR MATERIALS

Council Member Clark: Motion for approval.

Council Member Burke: Second. Unanimous.

Council Member Malloy presented the resolution to Dr. David Carroll of the Wake Forest University Center for Nanotechnology and Molecular Materials. He noted that this type of research represents cutting edge technology and the city is fortunate to have the Center located within the community.

Dr. Carroll thanked City Council on behalf of the 45 members of the Center and expressed their gratitude for the warm welcome received from the community.

Mayor Joines stated that, without objection, City Council would now consider the Consent Agenda. No items were pulled for discussion.

Council Member Johnson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Council Member Clark: Second.

Council Member Burke inquired about the status of permanent signage for the James Shaw honorary street renaming recently approved by City Council.

Council Member Johnson indicated that staff has reviewed all of the honorary street renamings that are currently up for removal and those are the signs listed in Item G-11, and she noted the sign for "Juneteenth Street" was added due to the fact that the event is held on an annual basis. She stated the Jim Shaw renaming will be considered when the temporary sign is due for removal.

The motion for approval of the Consent Agenda was unanimously carried.

C-1. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS RELATING TO THE ACQUISITION/SALE OF PROPERTY: *[Recommended by Finance Committee.]*

- a. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1300 WOODRUFF GLEN DRIVE THROUGH A PUBLIC AUCTION AS PERMITTED IN N.C.G.S. 160A-270 AND AUTHORIZATION FOR ACCEPTANCE OF A FLAT \$500 BID DEPOSIT - *Lot 001 of Block 6380 located on Woodruff Glen Drive.*
- b. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES FOR OLD LEXINGTON ROAD WIDENING BY DEED OR CONDEMNATION - *Lot 001 of Block 0819 and Lot 019B of Block 0770 located on Old Lexington Road.*
- c. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY OWNED BY PAUL, CHRIS, AND JOHN STRATES PARTNERSHIP RELATING TO COUNTRY CLUB ROAD WIDENING THROUGH A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT - *Lot 017B of Block 3976 located on Country Club Road.*

C-2. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS RELATING TO SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES: *[Recommended by Community Development/Housing/General Government Committee.]*

ORDINANCE ORDERING THE DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL OF A STRUCTURE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE V, SECTION 10-203(f)(1) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM: *[Repairs less than 50% of value of structure (-50)]*

	<u>Property Owner</u>	<u>Location</u>
a.	Resto Properties LLC	2540 Ansonia Street
b.	Roberto Gonzalez Garduno	2551 Ansonia Street
c.	William & Patricia Crews	2609 Ansonia Street
d.	Milia Dubose & Barry Sales	2820 Ansonia Street
e.	Ronnie Ayers	2617 Manchester Street
f.	Geneva Hill, heirs	2813 Manchester Street
g.	McLouis Clayton & Lawrence Allen	2507 Machine Street

ORDINANCE ORDERING THE DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL OF A STRUCTURE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE V, SECTION 10-203(f)(2) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM: *[Repairs more than 50% of value of structure (+50)]*

h.	Fred Henry Whitlock, heirs	1609 N. Cherry Street
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ORDINANCE ORDERING THE HOUSING SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM TO REMOVE OR DEMOLISH STRUCTURE UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION AND, OTHERWISE, TO EFFECTUATE THE PURPOSE OF CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE V OF THE WINSTON-SALEM CITY CODE: *[Repairs more than 65% of value of structure (+65)]*

i.	Raiford Leon Hairston	3002 N. Glenn Avenue
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C-3. ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 42-122(f) OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO 25 MILES PER HOUR SPEED LIMITS ON CITY STREETS - *Hemingway Street; Novella Road; Neighborhood Limits: Hannaford Road and Fentriss Drive. [Recommended by Public Safety Committee.]*

- C-4. ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 42-97 OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO WEIGHT LIMITATIONS ON THRU TRAFFIC ON CERTAIN CITY STREETS - *Bethlehem Lane between Cleveland Avenue and the dead end (West)*. *[Recommended by Public Safety Committee.]*
- C-5. ADOPTION OF AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT AUTHORIZING SHARING OF FUNDS WITH FORSYTH COUNTY UNDER THE 2007 BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM AWARD. *[Recommended by Public Safety Committee.]*
- C-6. ORDINANCE NAMING A CERTAIN PRIVATE ROAD IN FORSYTH COUNTY - "SCOTT HINE PARK DRIVE". *[Recommended by Public Works Committee.]*
- C-7. RESOLUTION AWARDED CONTRACT FOR QUARRY PRODUCTS - *Vulcan Construction Materials* - \$1,139,670 (*Estimated Amount*). *[Recommended by Finance Committee.]*
- C-8. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO AMEND THE CONTRACT TO COMPLETE A STORMWATER MASTERPLAN PILOT PROJECT IN INDUSTRIAL AREAS OF THE CITY. *[Recommended by Finance and Public Works Committees.]*
- C-9. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS RELATED TO THE BATH BRANCH STORMWATER ENGINEERING DESIGN: *[Recommended by Finance and Public Works Committees.]*
- a. RESOLUTION AMENDING THE RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT TO OBTAIN GRANT FUNDING FROM THE CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND.
 - b. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007 TO COMPLETE THE BATH BRANCH STORMWATER ENGINEERING DESIGN IN COOPERATION WITH THE PIEDMONT TRIAD RESEARCH PARK.
- C-10. RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ALTERNATIVE RESIDENTIAL MEDIATION PROGRAM TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE HUMAN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT. *[Recommended by Community Development/Housing/General Government Committee.]*

- C-11. RESOLUTION FIXING DATE AND AUTHORIZING PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE QUESTION OF ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY - *Petition of the City of Winston-Salem for 3.51 acres located off of Old Greensboro Road (Northeast Ward) - Public Hearing: July 16, 2007. [Recommended by Public Works Committee.]*
- C-12. RESOLUTION APPROVING ABANDONMENT OF A WATER LINE EASEMENT LOCATED OFF OF ZIGLAR ROAD ACROSS TAX BLOCK 4947 LOT 203 (NORTH WARD) - *Petition of Barringer Leasing, LLC. [Recommended by Public Works Committee.]*
- C-13. ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 74 OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO PAVING STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND DRIVEWAYS. *[Recommended by Public Works Committee.]*
- C-14. ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 70 OF THE CITY CODE RELATING TO SIGNS. *[Recommended by Community Development/Housing/General Government Committee.]*

CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS RELATING TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM

Mrs. Ann Jones, Budget and Evaluation Director, presented a brief summary of the proposal and process up to this point. She noted that the proposal contains a half cent property tax rate increase to generate approximately \$900,000 for increases in sworn public safety personnel, street resurfacing budget, as well as funding to bring sworn public safety personnel to market rate.

- G-1. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM.

Mr. Willard Tanner, 1880 Northwinds Drive, Coordinator, Forsyth County Healthy Community Coalition, spoke in support funding for greenways to promote active lifestyles. He also expressed support for the proposed funding of a full-time bike pedestrian coordinator and noted this position will be able to focus solely on cycling

activity throughout the city. Mr. Tanner thanked City Council for its support of healthy individuals.

Mr. Bob Whaling, 520 South Main Street, Old Salem, expressed his appreciation to City Council for its support of the Arts Council and noted the funds will be spent wisely to support the arts in Winston-Salem.

Captain Ed Duffield, 712 South Broad Street, President, Winston-Salem Professional Firefighters Association (WSPFA), thanked City Council, City staff and in particular, Fire Chief John Gist for engaging in budget discussions with representatives of the WSPFA. He asked for continued consideration of increases in salary for firefighters and noted that he looks forward to continuing efforts to maintain the best sworn fire personnel in the area.

Mr. Charles Honeycutt, 1656 Ebert Street, American Red Cross Disaster Services, expressed his support for proposed salary increases for sworn public safety personnel. He encouraged the City to use tax revenue more wisely and apply it towards salaries as opposed to projects such as the proposed baseball stadium. He pointed out that a proposed road project near his home for \$1 million could be cheaper by simply installing a traffic light.

Mayor Joines noted that no tax dollars are proposed for use in the baseball stadium project.

Mr. Charles Humphrey, 3525 Hemlock Drive, stated that the proposed salary increase for sworn public safety personnel is long overdue. He asked that the City spend its money wisely and expressed concern about its support of economic development

projects, noting that these funds could have been used to increase public safety salaries years ago. Mr. Humphrey noted that Dell is having problems and will be cutting jobs.

Council Member Burke noted that many taxpayers have expressed concern about Dell and asked staff for an update on their operations.

Mr. Lee Garrity, City Manager, stated that the Winston-Salem location is the most efficient Dell plant and no downsizing will occur here. He noted that their loan contract with the City is tied to jobs and Dell does pay City property tax.

Mr. John Hopkins, 1635 Brightleaf Road, stated that he had enrolled in the Citizens Police Academy and pointed out the importance of in-car video for assisting with efficient public safety of citizens. He stated that it was his understanding funding for this item was cut from this budget and noted that if funds could be located for items such as the baseball stadium, this is the type of item that needs to be funded.

At the request of Council Member Burke, Mr. Garrity explained the project is being phased in with a nominal amount of funding included in this budget and additional funding is being sought.

Council Member Burke asked staff to research possible federal funding for the program.

Council Member Clark inquired about the cost of the in-car video systems.

Assistant Police Chief Barry Rountree indicated that the 35 cameras already purchased cost approximately \$6,300 each and five have been installed and are being used.

Council Member Burke pointed out that concerned organizations and citizens are welcome to donate funds for purchase of the cameras.

Mayor Joines asked if anyone else wished to be heard. Seeing no one, he declared the public hearing closed.

At the request of Council Member Johnson, Mrs. Jones presented a chart noting the history of property tax rate increases by the City and Forsyth County.

G-2. ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 75-44 OF THE CITY CODE REGARDING STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM USER FEES.

Council Member Merschel: Motion for approval.

Council Member Johnson: Second. Unanimous.

G-3. RESOLUTION TO IMPLEMENT NEW FEES FOR THE ZONING REVIEW AND SITE INSPECTION OF LAND USES DEVELOPED IN A SPECIAL USE LIMITED ZONING DISTRICT.

Council Member Merschel: Motion for approval.

Council Member Clark: Second. Unanimous.

G-4. ANNUAL APPROPRIATION AND TAX LEVY ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008.

Council Member Merschel: Motion for approval.

Council Member Clark: Second.

At the request of Council Member Johnson, Mrs. Jones explained that resources are included in the proposed budget to allow for Salem Lake to be accessible seven days a week, replacement of all Winston Lake golf carts, construction of Fourteenth Street Park which will include a walking trail along Fourteenth Street and Jackson Avenue. She noted that although conversion of Fourth and Fifth Streets up to Martin Luther King, Jr.

Boulevard were not originally included, the Finance Committee had recommended their inclusion utilizing the motor vehicle licensing fee for Fiscal Years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. All employees will also be brought up to the livable wage of \$9 per hour minimum.

Council Member Besse commended the Finance Committee and staff for their efforts on the proposed budget, but expressed his concern with the proposed property tax rate increase. He made a substitute motion to adopt the budget as proposed by the Finance Committee, with the following changes: 1) retain the present property tax rate of 48.5 cents per \$100 of value (deletes the proposed half cent tax rate increase); 2) remove the proposed additional \$500,000 in street resurfacing funds (returns the street resurfacing project budget to the \$1.65 million recommended in the City Manager's proposed budget); 3) make the additional 1.5 percent market pay adjustment for sworn position staff in the Police and Fire departments effective January 1, 2008 instead of April 2, 2008 (increases 2007-2008 budget costs by \$176,000); and 4) reduce the projected General Fund Balance as of June 30, 2008, by \$352,000 (reduces unappropriated balance to the 10% reserve slightly less than \$17 million plus approximately \$4 million for an appropriated amount of fund balance totaling approximately \$2.5 million).

The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Leight and she requested staff to elaborate on the use of fund balance money for proposed expenditures.

Mrs. Jones explained that although the City would possibly continue to experience growth in its fund balance, there is no way to be assured of the growth and she

pointed out it is a nonrecurring source of revenue. She noted there is always a risk involved in the use of fund balance revenue before it is in hand and pointed out that year end 2006-2007 revenue is not in reserve yet because it is forthcoming from the levy of annexed areas.

Council Member Merschel requested staff show the tax rate increase chart again, as well as explain the proposed public safety market adjustment affects on the budget.

Mrs. Jones explained that the public safety market increase proposed to become effective in January and the 1.5% increase effective in April would have to be funded throughout the entire Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and the proposed half cent property tax rate increase would provide continual coverage for those increases in the future.

Council Member Clark indicated that Dell's presence in the Triad is generating revenue for the City and is a large part of the reason property tax rate growth is the highest it has been in years. In addition to increases in pay, the proposed budget includes ten additional Police detectives and three Fire inspectors to take the pressure off of higher used stations. There is also an additional \$500,000 for road paving to cover the increase in gas prices and he noted that the City must stay on top of these needs and without the increase, the resurfacing cycle will approach an average of 60 years.

In response to Council Member Clark, Mrs. Jones noted that no money is included in the budget for the proposed baseball stadium.

Council Member Clark expressed concern with the substitute motion for taking money from the General Fund which is not available. He noted that the General Fund has suffered due to changes in tax revenue returns made by the State several years ago

and expressed his support for the property tax rate increase which is less than the 3% inflation rate.

Council Member Besse pointed out that the repaving cycle as proposed would only be increased to every 50 years.

Council Member Terry expressed concern regarding the street resurfacing schedule and noted that the City must move forward to serve citizens and keep up with resurfacing needs.

Council Member Burke noted that the City is faced with growing public safety needs and must provide comparable wages and sufficient equipment to allow those needs to be served. She pointed out that Forsyth County is proposing a 3% property tax increase compared to the City's request for .5% increase, and encouraged citizens to address the County regarding their proposal.

Mayor Joines called for the vote on the substitute motion. The motion failed with one in favor and seven opposed. Voting in favor of the motion was Council Member Besse, with Council Members Leight, Clark, Johnson, Burke, Malloy, Merschel and Terry voting in opposition.

The vote on the original motion for approval of the item carried on a vote of seven in favor and one opposed. Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members Leight, Clark, Johnson, Burke, Malloy, Merschel and Terry, with Council Member Besse voting in opposition.

G-5. PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008.

Council Member Merschel: Motion for approval.

The motion was duly seconded by Council Member Johnson and she asked for staff input on swimming pools maintenance cost and the cost to provide a new pool.

Mrs. Jones indicated that the budget includes funding for routine maintenance of pools and there is an unfunded allowance for new pools at Happy Hill Gardens and Reynolds Park. She noted there will be a special meeting scheduled for future discussion of Capital Needs at which time options for funding those projects could be discussed.

Council Member Johnson stated that there are currently eight functional pools in the city and inquired about efforts to restore an agreement regarding City use of the Winston Lake YMCA Pool.

Mr. Garrity indicated that staff is currently in negotiations for use of the Winston Lake YMCA Pool.

The motion for approval of the item was unanimously carried.

G-6. RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CAPITAL PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2007-2008 THROUGH 2012-2013 AS A FINANCIAL PLANNING GUIDE.

Council Member Merschel: Motion for approval.

Council Member Johnson: Second.

Mayor Joines expressed support for the 70/30 program in the proposed budget.

The motion for approval was unanimously carried.

G-7. CONSIDERATION OF PERSONNEL ITEMS:

- a. RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM PERSONNEL RESOLUTION MAKING CHANGES TO THE PAY PLAN AND MAKING CHANGES TO LANGUAGE FOR CLARITY.
- b. ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE CITY CODE ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION".

Council Member Merschel: Motion for approval.

Council Member Besse: Second. Unanimous.

G-8. ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 75-35 OF THE CITY CODE REGARDING CITY PARTICIPATION IN DRAINAGE PROJECTS ACROSS PRIVATE PROPERTY.

Council Member Merschel pointed out that the Public Works Committee has put forth much effort on this item.

Council Member Johnson made a motion for approval of the item. She explained that the Public Works Committee has learned of many stormwater issues over the years and hoped to address many more of those issues in the future. She asked for a staff description of the procedure a citizen could follow to request assistance through the 70/30 program.

Council Member Clark: Second.

Mr. Gregory M. Turner, Assistant City Manager/Public Works, explained that under the proposal, property owners can request assistance from the City up to 70% of the cost for drainage issues, with the owner bearing 30% of the cost for qualifying programs up to \$50,000. He noted that vegetative debris had been added to the program as a qualifying event.

Council Member Johnson pointed out that further work will be put into the various issues including the formation of a Stormwater Task Force and she encouraged interested citizens to notify the City Manger's office of their interest in becoming a member of the Task Force.

The motion for approval of the item was unanimously carried.

Council Member Merschel thanked citizens for their participation in the budget process including the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee, City staff, members of the Finance Committee, as well as other Council Committee members and the Mayor for their meeting attendance and input.

G-9. PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION CONSIDERING AND ADOPTING APPROPRIATE AND VERIFIABLE PERCENTAGE GOALS FOR PARTICIPATION BY MINORITY AND WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MUDDY CREEK GREENWAY, PHASE 1B BETWEEN MEADOWLARK SCHOOL AND ROBINHOOD ROAD. *[Recommended by Community Development/Housing/General Government Committee.]*

No one heard.

Council Member Malloy: Motion for approval.

Council Member Burke: Second.

Council Member Besse noted that this item is setting goals for construction of the section of greenway referred to earlier by Mr. Tanner and it is for the first phase of the Muddy Creek Greenway up to Robinhood Road.

The motion for approval was unanimously carried.

G-10. ORDINANCE RENAMING "BIGELOW STREET" TO "BENBOW STREET." *[Public Works Committee forwarded this item to Council with two in favor and two opposed.]*

Mayor Joines recognized that several citizens were present who may want to be heard and stated that, without objection, they would be allowed to comment on the item.

Mr. Adam Powers, 99 Bigelow Street, resident at this address for ten years, explained that he was informed of the proposed name change with no option to comment but later received notice that there would be a public hearing. He expressed his

opposition of the change and noted there were no past issues with street name and he was not clear on the reason for the change. Mr. Powers pointed out that there have been several issues with police complaints on Benbow Street and stated that he does not wish to be associated with the street name.

Ms. Cheryl Drew, 90 Bigelow Street, expressed opposition to the change and noted that the letter sent proposed the change to lessen confusion in the event of public safety emergencies. She pointed out that a vehicle must access Bigelow Street to get to Benbow Street, and the fact that Benbow Street is a dead-end street with no intersections.

Mr. Barry Parks, 101 Bigelow Street (1451 Benbow Street), expressed his support for the change due to the amount of time and money he has expended on making changes in response to the first letter received from City staff advising of the need to accomplish changes by June 15, 2007. He explained that he received word of the mistake three weeks into the process for which he was told he had five weeks to complete.

Council Member Merschel requested a staff explanation for the proposed change and any notifications of responsive agencies that may have already been pursued.

Mr. Paul Norby, City/County Planning Director, explained that with a continuous street that changes names mid-block, confusion can become an issue for emergency service providers. He noted that Bigelow Street was chosen for the proposed change due to the smaller number of affected individuals compared to those residents along Benbow Street. In response to the problems with erroneous notifications being mailed to residents, departmental process changes have been made to give 30-day advance notice of an intent to change a street name and follow up with a second letter of notice regarding

the public hearing at Public Works Committee. If the change is adopted tonight, Mr. Norby stated that both addresses will be on record and all agencies will be understanding of the needs of all affected residents.

Council Member Merschel expressed her sincere apology for the confusion and noted that she understands the needs for E-911 reasons. She thanked residents for attending and she made a motion for approval of the name change.

Council Member Terry: Second.

In response to Council Member Burke's question, Council Member Merschel indicated that there are ten residents on Bigelow Street and thirty along Benbow Street.

The motion for approval was carried with six in favor and two opposed. Those voting in favor of the motion were Council Members Leight, Besse, Burke, Malloy, Merschel and Terry, with Council Members Clark and Johnson voting in opposition.

G-11. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PERMANENCY OF HONORARY STREET NAME SIGNS. *[Public Works Committee forwarded this item to Council with three in favor, none opposed, one abstaining.]*

Council Member Johnson: Motion for approval.

Council Member Leight: Second. Unanimous.

G-12. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN CITY-OWNED PROPERTY ON NORTH LIBERTY STREET UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF N.C.G.S. 160A-269 - Lots 108 and 110 of Block 0013 located on N. Liberty Street. *[This item was continued from the May 21, 2007 City Council meeting.]*

Mayor Joines pointed out the letter from staff recommending a delay in action on the item to allow time to work out some issues.

Council Member Burke made a motion to delay action on the item.

Council Member Terry: Second. Unanimous.

G-13. CONSIDERATION OF JULY 2007 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE.

Council Member Merschel: Motion for approval.

Council Member Johnson noted there were past issues with meeting delays and inquired if there were any foreseeable problems in delaying this meeting.

Mr. Garrity explained that staff had checked and are unaware of any issues. He noted that petitioners with items continued to the July 2nd meeting would be notified of the date change.

The motion for approval was unanimously carried.

G-14. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.

Mr. Charles Humphrey, 3525 Hemlock Drive, expressed his support for this budget, but pointed out that Dell along with 19 other companies is currently being investigated by the Federal Communications Commission and the Justice Department. He expressed concern in the way the Council Members address citizens, noting that Council Member Clark had made a disparaging remark to citizens that if they were concerned that their property taxes may be raised, they should be willing to bring their garbage to the curb. Mr. Humphrey pointed out that he suggested a central call center to handle public complaints and he noted that even a small amount of tax increase is important to residents.

In response to Mr. Humphrey, Council Member Clark commented that having residents bring their garbage to the curb has proven to save money for the City and thus will lower taxes for residents.

Mr. Calvin Patterson, 2273 Windsong Lane, thanked Council for its support of the Arts Council and noted the importance of the support of the arts and its affect on the community.

Council Member Burke noted that City Council does recognize the economic impact of the arts on Winston-Salem.

Council Member Johnson stated that concerns had been expressed by residents concerning Public Comment Period procedures and she requested staff investigate the feasibility of an interactive Public Comment Period such as a call-in procedure.

Mr. Garrity stated that the City does have the technology to pursue that option and staff will investigate and report back to the City Council.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:00 p.m.