

**LENOIR CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

- PRESENT:** Mayor Joe Gibbons presiding. Councilmembers present were Mayor Pro-Tem Crissy Thomas, Jonathan Beal, Todd Perdue, Ike Perkins, Ralph Prestwood, David Stevens, City Manager Scott Hildebran, and City Clerk Shirley Cannon.
- ABSENT:** Councilmember Kent Greer, Economic Development Director Kaylynn Horn and Planning Director Hannah Williams.
- VIA ZOOM:** City Attorney Timothy Rohr participated in the Council meeting and closed session via Zoom.
- CITY STAFF:** In attendance was Finance Director Donna Bean, Fire Chief Norman Staines, Deputy Fire Chief Kenny Nelson, Police Chief Brent Phelps, Interim Planning Director Ed Evans, Parks & Recreation Director Phil Harper, Public Services Director Radford Thomas, Public Utilities Operations Manager Jeff Church, Public Works Operations Manager Jon Hogan, Downtown Event Coordinator Matthew Anthony and Communications Director Joshua Harris.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. The meeting was opened by a moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance as led by Mayor Gibbons.
- B. Mayor Gibbons asked everyone to keep Genoise Greer, Mother of Councilman Kent Greer, in their thoughts and prayers as Mrs. Greer is currently in hospital.

**CONGRATULATIONS; GARRETT
& HANNAH WILLIAMS:**

- C. On behalf of City Council, Mayor Gibbons extended congratulations to Hannah Williams, Planning Director and her husband Garrett upon the birth of their daughter Maris Rose Williams.

**COMMENDED; PARKS &
RECREATION STAFF:**

- D. On behalf of City Council, Mayor Gibbons, commended Lester Whittington, MLK Center Director, Robin Scott, Assistant MLK Director, Phillip Harper, Recreation Director along with other City Staff for all of their hard work in planning the successful Harambee Festival that was held from August 5 through August 11 at the MLK Center. Mayor Gibbons stated it was a great week with different events scheduled throughout the week. The Harambee Festival is the longest running festival in Lenoir and will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2024.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION; FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR
& POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR:**

E. The Dysart Kendall American Legion Post 29 recognized the Firefighter of the Year and the Police Officer of the Year as selected by their peers. Mr. Irv Eurto, Historian and Past Commander, stated he was honored to present these awards and to express the American Legion's gratitude not only to these individuals for their selfless service, but also to the Departments for their general excellence and all they do to make the community a safer place. Other Post 29 members in attendance were First Vice-Commander Wesley Woods, Commander Joe Osborne, and NC American Legion Division 5 Commander and Chaplain Wayne Mihelich. Mr. Eurto stated he was pleased to give the Fire and Police departments the opportunity to select an individual that meets the criteria for the award. Mr. Eurto stated the Emergency Management System is our first line of defense and this recognition helps create awareness in the community.

In addition, Mr. Eurto stated the four pillars of the American Legion are Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children & Youth. He remarked that national security begins with local security.

**FIREFIGHTER OF THE
YEAR:**

F. Fire Chief Norman Staines introduced Roger Whisnant as Firefighter of the Year and shared they attended high school together and completed their fire training together. Chief Staines stated Roger began his career as a volunteer firefighter in 1995 and was employed by the City of Lenoir in 2001. Chief Staines stated Roger currently serves as a Captain at Station No. 2 and is a mentor to his co-workers. Chief Staines reported Captain Whisnant constantly strives to improve himself and the department. He also works as one of the fire investigators for the City and helps with training and procedures to improve not only his skills, but also those he leads. He stated that Captain Whisnant is currently pursuing his degree from Catawba Valley Community College in Fire Protection Technology.

Chief Staines also shared that community service plays a vital role in Captain Whisnant's life and commented he works with the younger members of the department to help them improve their skills not only as firefighters, but to be better people and future leaders themselves. In addition, he helps teach emergency training at various fire departments in Caldwell and Wilkes Counties.

Chief Staines pointed out Captain Whisnant is involved in sports and enjoys coaching. He currently helps coach the basketball team for the Happy Valley Optimist and is a bus driver for the Hibriten High School sports teams as well as an announcer for the Hibriten High Schools girls' softball team. He and his wife Paula have two children Hayden and Savannah, and live in the Yadkin Valley community. They attend Piney Grove Baptist Church where he serves as a Sunday school teacher.

Captain Whisnant thanked his family, City Council, Chief Staines and his co-workers for all of their support. He remarked he thinks highly of them and always tries to do his best.

POLICE OFFICER OF**THE YEAR:**

- G. Police Chief Brent Phelps thanked the American Legion for helping our agencies and for the support from the community. Chief Phelps accepted the Police Officer of the Year award on behalf of Senior Detective Jason Parker who was unable to attend due to a recent health issue.

Chief Phelps stated Officer Parker served in the Navy for eight years and began his career with the Police Department in 2003 and has worked in various positions. Chief Phelps stated Officer Parker's current position is Senior Detective and noted he works on white collar crimes and has served on two task forces.

Chief Phelps stated that Officer Parker will be recognized at a later day.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION; NAMING OF
PORTION OF GREENWAY:**

- H. On behalf of City Council, Mayor Gibbons read and presented a proclamation to Mrs. Kaye Rash naming a portion of the Lenoir Greenway in memory of her spouse and former City of Lenoir employee, Rick Rash. Mr. Rash was employed with the City of Lenoir for 36 years in the Parks and Recreation Department as a Recreation Specialist.

Mayor Gibbons stated the greenway loop beginning at the northernmost parking lot on Zacks Fork Road running south to Powell Road and returning north along the gravel path by the Lenoir Aquatic & Fitness Center will be officially named as the "Rick Rash Trail."

Mayor Gibbons shared Rick loved children and taught numerous kids how to swim and about nature. Mayor Gibbons remarked Rick would be greatly missed by everyone and City Council was proud to honor him.

In addition, Mayor Gibbons recognized Sam Sturgis, retired City of Lenoir Recreation Director, who was in attendance at the meeting. Mayor Gibbons thanked Mr. Sturgis for all he did for the City of Lenoir during his 30+ year tenure.

Mr. Sturgis stated it was an honor and a pleasure to represent the Recreation Department during this recognition event for Rick Rash. Mr. Sturgis stated he worked with Rick when he began his career with the City of Lenoir and noted he was an outstanding person who enjoyed working in the community. Mr. Sturgis thanked City Council for all they do for the Parks & Recreation Department.

In addition, Mayor Gibbons stated Rick was a founding member of Caldwell County Pathways and recognized all of the members of Pathways that were in the audience. Jack Brown with Pathways thanked City Council for their recognition of Rick. Mayor Gibbons shared that Rick continued to serve on the Pathways Board even after he became ill. He stated it was appropriate to recognize him and thanked Recreation Director Phillip Harper and Public Works Operations Manager Jon Hogan for their part in having the sign made for the greenway.

Mayor Gibbons also presented Mrs. Rash with a copy of the sign designating the trail as described in the resolution as the "Rick Rash Trail" which will be placed

along several areas of the greenway. Mrs. Rash was very appreciative and thanked City Council for the recognition and support of Rick.

II. MATTERS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Minutes: Approval of the minutes of the minutes of the City Council Meeting of Tuesday, August 01, 2023 as submitted.
- B. Authorizing Resolution; NCDEQ: Staff recommends approval of the proposed resolution authorizing the City Manager and Finance Director to execute and file the Lead Service Line Identification and Replacement Grant application with the NC Division of Water Infrastructure for Assistance for Lead Service Line Identification Inventory and to construct, plan or conduct a study of the needs in the community regarding lead service line replacements. Note: The grant will provide funding up to \$500,000 and no match is required by the City. This application will also assist in meeting new EPA requirements regarding lead service line replacements. (A copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference. Refer to page 227-229.)
- C. Resolution; Naming Portion of Greenway: Staff recommends approval of the resolution naming a portion of the greenway in memory of Rick Rash who worked for the City of Lenoir in the Recreation Department for 30 years. (A copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference. Refer to page 230.)

Upon a motion by Councilmember Prestwood, City Council voted 6 to 0 to adopt items on the Consent Agenda as described above and as recommended by City Staff.

IV. REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS

V. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

VI. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER

A. Items of Information

SOUTHERN SUNDOWN

- 4 MILER RACE:** 1. The annual Southern Sundown 4 Miler race will be held on Saturday, August 19 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in downtown Lenoir and is sponsored by Liquid Roots.

COMMITTEE OF THE

- WHOLE:** 2. The Committee of the Whole will meet on Tuesday, August 22 at 8:30 a.m. at City Hall, Third Floor Conference Room.

FOOTHILLS REGIONAL

AIRPORT AUTHORITY:

3. The Foothills Regional Airport Authority will meet on Wednesday, August 30, 2023 at noon at the airport facility.

CAROLINA TATTOO & ARTS GATHERING:

4. The Carolina Tattoo & Arts Gathering will be held on Friday, September 1 through Sunday, September 3. The event is hosted by Carolina Distillery in downtown Lenoir.

CRUISE-IN: 5. A Cruise-In event will be held on Saturday September 2 beginning at 3:00 p.m. in downtown Lenoir.

HOLIDAY CLOSING: 6. City offices will be closed on Monday, September 4 in observance of Labor Day.

B. Items for Council Action

VII. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

VIII. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNCILMEMBERS

CLOSED SESSION: A. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a),(4) and upon a motion by Councilmember Stevens which unanimously carried, City Council entered into closed session to discuss economic development.

OPEN SESSION: B. Upon a motion by Councilmember Prestwood, City Council voted unanimously to re-enter into open session.

IX. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MAYOR

X. ADJOURNMENT

A. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Shirley M. Cannon, City Clerk

Joseph L. Gibbons, Mayor



CITY MANAGER
SCOTT E. HILDEBRAN

CITY OF LENOIR
NORTH CAROLINA

MAYOR
JOSEPH L. GIBBONS

CITY COUNCIL
J. T. BEAL
F. KENT GREER
T. H. PERDUE
J. I. PERKINS
R. S. PRESTWOOD
D. F. STEVENS
C. D. THOMAS

**RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF LENOIR FOR
FALL 2023 DIVISION OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE
LEAD SERVICE LINE IDENTIFICATION AND REPLACEMENT**

WHEREAS, The City of Lenoir has need for and intends to construct, plan for, or conduct a study in a project described as the City of Lenoir Lead Service Line Inventory Project, and

WHEREAS, The City of Lenoir intends to request State loan and/or grant assistance for the project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LENOIR

That the City of Lenoir, the **Applicant**, will arrange financing for all remaining costs of the project, if approved for a State loan and/or grant award.

That the **Applicant** will provide for efficient operation and maintenance of the project on completion thereof.

That the **Applicant** will adopt and place into effect on or before completion of the project a schedule of fees and charges and other available funds which will provide adequate funds for proper operation, maintenance and administration of the system and the repayment of all principal and interest on the debt.

That the governing body of the **Applicant** agrees to include in the loan agreement (if required) a provision authorizing the State Treasurer, upon failure of the City of Lenoir to make a scheduled repayment of the loan, to withhold from the City of Lenoir any State funds that would otherwise be distributed to the local government unit in an amount sufficient to pay all sums then due and payable to the State as a repayment of the loan.

If applying for a regional project, that the **Applicant** will partner and work with other units of local government or utilities in conducting the project.

That Scott Hildebran, City Manager and/or Donna Bean, City Finance Director, the **Authorized Representatives** and successors so titled, are hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of the Applicant with the State of North



Carolina for a loan and/or grant to aid in the study of or construction of the project described above.

That the Authorized Representative, and successor so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with such application or the project: to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application.

That the **Applicant** has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, and funding conditions applicable to the project and to Federal and State grants and loans pertaining thereto.

Adopted this the 15th day of August 2023 at Lenoir, North Carolina.

SEAL



Joseph L. Gibbons, Mayor

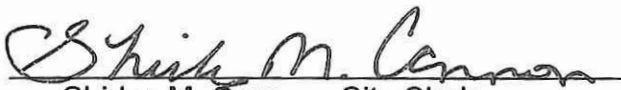
ATTEST:



Shirley M. Cannon, City Clerk

FORM FOR CERTIFICATION BY THE RECORDING OFFICER

The undersigned duly qualified and acting City Clerk of the City of Lenoir, NC does hereby certify:
That the above/attached resolution is a true and correct copy of the resolution authorizing the
filing of an application with the State of North Carolina, as regularly adopted at a legally convened
meeting of the City of Lenoir, City Council duly held on the 15th day of August 2023; and, further,
that such resolution has been fully recorded in the journal of proceedings and records in my
office. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of August 2023.


Shirley M. Cannon, City Clerk

CITY OF LENOIR, NC
CHARTERED
JANUARY 28, 1851

SEAL



CITY MANAGER
SCOTT E. HILDEBRAN

CITY OF LENOIR
NORTH CAROLINA

MAYOR
JOSEPH L. GIBBONS

CITY COUNCIL
J. T. BEAL
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C. D. THOMAS

Proclamation Honoring Rick Rash and Naming "Rick Rash Trail"

WHEREAS, Richard James Rash, was born and raised in Lenoir and Caldwell County and gave many decades of service to his family, friends, neighbors, and community; and

WHEREAS, Richard, better known as Rick, was a faithful employee of the City of Lenoir serving 36 years from 1967 to 1970 and 1972 to 2004 as a Recreation Specialist, Recreation Supervisor, and Lenoir Aquatic & Fitness Center Supervisor; and

WHEREAS, Rick was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army and served eight years with the American Red Cross; and

WHEREAS, during this three decades of service in recreation, Rick taught unknown numbers of local children how to lifeguard, how to swim, and how to safely enjoy aquatic activities; and

WHEREAS, Rick was a founding member of Caldwell County Pathways and was an active member of the Pathways Board of Directors from its inception serving until his passing in January this year; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure on the Board, Pathways helped expand trail opportunities in Lenoir and Caldwell County and worked to promote outdoor activities and health and wellness opportunities for the community; and

WHEREAS, Rick was loved and respected in Lenoir and the community and was known as always being kind, generous, helpful, friendly, and caring.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Joseph L. Gibbons, Mayor, on behalf of the City of Lenoir Council, do hereby proclaim that the greenway loop beginning at the northernmost parking lot on Zacks Fork Road running south to Powell Road and returning north along the gravel path by the Lenoir Aquatic & Fitness Center be officially named as

"Rick Rash Trail"

In honor and remembrance of Rick's dedication and service to the Lenoir Aquatic & Fitness Center, the City of Lenoir, Caldwell County Pathways, and to his devotion to the community and people he loved.

This the 15th day of August 2023.

SEAL


Joseph L. Gibbons, Mayor

