

**MINUTE BOOK XXXI PAGES 1-9**  
**TROUTMAN TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 13, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Town of Troutman Town Council was held in the Troutman Town Hall, 400 North Eastway Drive, North Carolina on Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. with the Mayor Teross W. Young, Jr., presiding.

Councilmembers Present: W. Paul Henkel; George W. Harris; Felina L. Harris; Edward R. Nau; Jerry R. Oxsher

Absent: None

Staff Present: Ronald Wyatt, Town Manager; Kimberly Davis, Town Clerk; Gary Thomas, Town Attorney; Josh Watson, Police Chief; Emily Watson, Communications/Community Engagement/Employee Services; Michael Barker, IT

Press Present: Debbie Page, Iredell Free News

**I. MAYOR YOUNG CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER**

**MAYOR YOUNG WELCOMED VISITORS AND GUESTS**

**INVOCATION** – Delivered by W. Paul Henkel, Mayor Pro Tem

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ADJUSTMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA (\*\*Adjustments)**

\*\*Postponement/removal of the formal presentations of Item 12. Recognition In Memory of Former Town Council Members Jennie Clontz and James (Jimmy) Troutman due to sickness.

Upon motion by Councilmember Paul Henkel, seconded by Councilmember Felina Harris, and unanimously carried, approved the January 13, 2022 Town Council meeting agenda as amended above.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA:** *Consent Agenda Items are considered to be routine by the Town Council and will be approved with one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless the Mayor or a Council member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered as the first item under New Business.*

- ITEM 1. Approval of Agenda Briefing Meeting Minutes of December 06, 2021**
- ITEM 2. Approval of Closed Session Meeting Minutes of December 06, 2021**
- ITEM 3. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2021**
- ITEM 4. Approval of Retirement and Sale of Police K9 Jackpot**
- ITEM 5. Approval to Trade/Surplus Firearms to Lawmen's Police Supply**
- ITEM 6. Acceptance of Donated Right-of-Way Property Located on the East Side of North Main Street Fronting Iredell County Fairgrounds Property by John D. Goforth, Property Owner**
- ITEM 7. Approval of Policy #60 Titled: "Town of Troutman Street Maintenance Acceptance Policy"**
- ITEM 8. Approval of Resolution 02-22 Titled: "Resolution In Memory Of Jennie Lee Moore Clontz"**
- ITEM 9. Approval of Resolution 03-22 Titled: "Resolution In Memory Of James K. Troutman"**
- ITEM 10. Approval of Resolution 04-22 Titled: "A Request Of Support For The Town Of Troutman To Match 50% Of Funding Up To \$100,000 For Construction Of Sidewalk On The East Side Of Wagner Street"**
- ITEM 11. Approval of Resolution 05-22 Titled: "Resolution In Memory Of Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. And In Recognition Of Martin Luther King Day"**

Upon motion by Councilmember George Harris, seconded by Councilmember Eddie Nau, and unanimously carried, approved Consent Agenda as presented.

(Copied in full, Resolution 02-22 is filed in Resolution Book IV, Page 6)

(Copied in full, Resolution 03-22 is filed in Resolution Book IV, Page 7)

(Copied in full, Resolution 04-22 is filed in Resolution Book IV, Page 8)

(Copied in full, Resolution 05-22 is filed in Resolution Book IV, Page 9)

(Copied in full, Policy #60, Resolutions 02-22 thru 05-22, Right-of-Way info, K9 information and Firearm Surplus information is attached to these minutes and is filed on CD titled: "Town Council Supporting Documents" dated January 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in CD Book #1 titled: "Town Council Supporting Documents")

### III. INTRODUCTION(S) / RECOGNITION(S) / PRESENTATION(S)

~~\*\*ITEM 12.— Recognition In Memory of Former Town Council Members Jennie Clontz and James (Jimmy) Troutman, (Ronald Wyatt, Town Manager)~~

#### ITEM 13. Introduction of New Police Officer Sgt. Daniel Stikeleather, (Josh Watson, Police Chief)

Police Chief Josh Watson introduced Troutman's newest Police Officer Sgt. Daniel Stikeleather stating that Sgt. Stikeleather is originally from Statesville and a graduate of West Iredell High School. He began his career at Statesville Police Department and from there went to Iredell County Sheriff's Office where he served as Patrol Deputy, Investigator, and COPS Sergeant. Chief Watson stated that his training and experience brings great value to the department and his investigations experience will be an asset for the patrol division as well as being able to assist in various incidents and investigations when needed and the department is happy to have him.

#### ITEM 14. Recognition of Police Department Promotions, (Watson)

Police Chief Josh Watson recognized the following two officers for department promotions, Sgt. Chad Trivette and Sgt. Rex Eure.

Sgt. Trivette, originally from Mocksville began his career in law enforcement in Davie County Sheriff's Office as a Corporal and Supervisor. He then went to Mocksville Police Department as a Senior Patrol Officer before coming to Troutman. He has 10 years total experience as a police officer seeing all types of incidents and dealing with people of various backgrounds. He is currently the departments Taser instructor and a field training officer. Chief Watson commented that during the promotion process it was apparent that Sgt. Trivette is calm and level headed and his experience will be very valuable in helping to guide and mentor young officers.

Sgt. Rex Eure originally from Virginia and is a Navy Veteran. Sgt. Eure began his career in law enforcement at St. Augustine's University Police Department. He then served Forest Oaks Police Department before coming to Troutman from North Carolina University Police Department. Sgt. Eure has 4 years total experience in law enforcement. He has shown a strong desire to be involved with the community and engage with citizens from young kids to senior citizens and has taken an active role in helping develop the departments training program.

Chief Watson concluded by commenting that he is happy to have both officers as part of the department.

**ITEM 15. Proclamation 01-22 Titled: “Proclamation Declaring January 23-29, 2022 As School Choice Week In The Town Of Troutman”, (Mayor Young)**

Mayor Young read aloud Proclamation 01-22 proclaiming January 23-29, 2022 as School Choice Week in the Town of Troutman recognizing the important role that education plays in preparing students to be successful adults. He expressed appreciation to all the educators that teach our children and asked that they be kept in our thoughts and prayers especially during this time where they are being challenged more than ever before.

(Copied in full, Proclamation 01-22 is filed in Proclamation Book 1

**ITEM 16. Presentation in Memory of Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. and in Recognition of Martin Luther King Day, (Mayor Young)**

Mayor Young read aloud Resolution 05-22 titled: “Resolution in Memory of Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. and in Recognition of Martin Luther King Day” honoring his life and legacy and recognizing his leadership and dedication for equality and justice for all. Mayor Young urged all citizens to live their lives by kindness, peace, and equality continuing to work for the day when dignity and humanity of every person is respected. He expressed appreciation to staff in their commitment in ensuring that we celebrate with a day of service in Troutman announcing that the celebration will begin with a breakfast at South Iredell High School followed by a service project. Mayor Young stated that is important to come together in support of our community.

#### **IV. BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**

**ITEM 17. Tasty Pickles by Carson, (Wyatt)**

Tasty Pickles by Carson was recognized as January’s Business Spotlight of the Month. Mayor Young stated that there is always an opportunity for the Town to recognize outstanding citizens and businesses. This particular spotlight is very important to the Town and allows the Town to express appreciation for work being done. On behalf of the Town Council, town residents, the community and himself, Mayor Young presented Carson Lester with a Certificate of Recognition for his creativity, entrepreneurship, and community involvement and in recognition of his persistence to rise above challenges and create a successful and dynamic business adventure that is an inspiration to our community.

In honor of the business spotlight staff, the Mayor and Town Council wore Tasty Pickles by Carson t-shirts.

Mr. Lester expressed thanks and appreciation to Mayor Young, Town Council and their management team for the recognition stating he really loves this Town and loves his business. He also expressed appreciation to other agencies that has also recognized him. He shared that he ships his product throughout the United States and to two countries (England and South Africa).

#### **V. STANDING REPORTS**

**ITEM 18. ABC Store Quarterly Report, (Layton Getsinger, ABC Board Chairman)**

On behalf of the Troutman ABC Board (Wes Edmiston, Kim Cavin) and General Manager Evelyn Walls, ABC Board Chair Layton Getsinger presented the ABC Store’s performance for the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

**Highlights for 2nd Quarter:**

- The 2nd Quarter saw a continuation of increased sales as experienced in the first quarter.
- October was up 29 %, November 38% and December 27% over last year’s corresponding months.

- December was best month ever \$374,297 compared to \$294,180 last year
- December 23rd: Best day ever with \$33,557.25 in sales
- November 24th: 2nd best day ever with \$32,492.47
- December 24th: 3rd best day ever with \$30,262.15
- December 31st: 4th best day ever with \$29,309.25
- Net profit (after distributions) for the month: \$37,129

2nd Quarter Performance:

- \$903,354 in sales versus \$691,395 last year
- \$211,959 Increase quarter over quarter (31% Increase)

Distributions for 2nd Quarter:

- Town of Troutman and its Recipients: \$25,707.76
- Law Enforcement: \$ 4,351.15
- Alcohol and Drug Education (DACI): \$ 6,091.60

2nd Quarter Net Profit:

- \$81,532 this year versus \$63,729 last year
- \$19,456 Increase over quarter of 31%

Quarterly and 6 Months RECAP and Forecast:

- Budgeted Revenue for 2021-2022: \$2,362,000
- Revenues for 1st Quarter: \$744,051 (32% of Budget)
- Revenues for 2nd Quarter: \$903,354 (38% of Budget)
  - After 6 months the store has \$1,647,405 in sales which is 70% of Budgeted Revenue. This equates to an average of \$10,628 per selling day. The store is on a trajectory to do \$3,000,000
  - There were 155 selling days in the first 6 months
  - There are 154 selling days in this next 6 months
  - The store needs to average \$8,783 a day for these next 6 months to reach \$3 million

Mr. Getsinger stated that last year the store averaged \$8,224 in sales per day and are averaging approximately \$2,500 per day more than last year for the 1st six months of this year but they are seeing their annual fall back in business as it is typical for January and February.

Budgeted profit after distributions: \$107,722. The store is at \$145,348 profit for the first 6 months or 135% of budgeted profit and Retained Working Capital is \$490,812 (against a max allowed of \$490,812). Since opening the store has experienced \$10,036,436 in net sales and \$952,205 in profit before distributions to the Town of Troutman entities in the amount of \$201,476; Alcohol Education and Rehab in the amount of \$44,001 and Law Enforcement in the amount of \$31,429. The stores Net Profit after distributions since opening is \$675,299. Mr. Getsinger advised that the store is at full staffing with no known needs to add additional payroll for the coming year. He also advised that land has been purchased on Hwy 21 south of I-77 and are in the planning stages. He will keep Council apprised.

Councilmember Paul Henkel asked the timeframe of which they will break ground. Mr. Getsinger estimated at least 18 months. Councilmember Eddie Nau extended his appreciation to Mr. Getsinger, ABC Board and store staff for their hard work and that he appreciates what they give back to the community. Councilmember Paul Henkel requested that Layton email Council a copy of his report. Mr. Getsinger commented that he will send a copy to the Town Clerk to forward to Council.

## VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

*The public is invited to address the Town Council with comments or concerns. Public comment is limited to three (3) minutes per individual. Speakers are required to sign in at the podium and are required to adhere to Town Policy #51 Titled: "Policy Governing Comments from the Public at Town Meetings". Public comments can be received by mail at 400 N. Eastway Drive, Troutman NC 28166, live stream chat of no more than 350 words, or email [kdavis@troutmannnc.gov](mailto:kdavis@troutmannnc.gov) (emails can be received up to 5:00 pm the day of the meeting).*

No public comments were submitted via live stream, email, or hand written prior to the meeting.

- Seth Fargher addressed Council regarding comments that he said has been made by multiple people in the room regarding feedback/comments from people in this community that may or may not be taxpaying residents stating that the decisions Council make impact Town residents as well as the people that are not in town limits therefore everyone should have their voices heard (making reference to rezoning that were currently approved). Mr. Fargher stated that they are members of the community and they pay county taxes in which Troutman lies and they support local businesses from which the town benefits. He asked that Council understand that they are all of the same community and that they be willing to receive and hear their comments and concern whether they are tax paying citizens or not.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### ITEM 19. Town of Troutman Town Charter, (Wyatt/Gary Thomas, Town Attorney)

#### a. Call for a Public Hearing

*Mayor Young Opened the Public Hearing*

Mayor Young stated that it is his understanding that traditionally a public hearing is not held but Town Council has opted to hold the hearing to receive feedback from residents.

Town Manager Wyatt stated that the public hearing was suggested by the Town Attorney for transparency sake. He stated that the Charter has been reviewed line by line by a committee appointed by Council comprised of himself, the Town Attorney and 2 Councilmembers (George Harris and Sally Williams) starting May of last year. Manager Wyatt briefly reviewed several proposed changes such as changing Alderman to Council, making the Charter gender specific, and aligning the Charter with adopted ordinances. Once Council accepts the changes it will go before legislator for approval.

Councilmember George Harris stated that the committee worked on the Charter for the past 6 months to update and make consistent by comparing it to other Town Charters looking for general statute changes.

Former Councilmember Sally Williams pointed out and explained that there are two forms of local government: Council/Manager form of Government and Mayor/Council form of Government stating that the Charter was updated also to the form of Government of Council/Manager that the Town has been following for years.

Mayor Young thanked Ms. Williams, Town Manager Wyatt, Councilmember Harris, and Town Attorney Thomas for their efforts in what Council has been discussing over several months and acknowledging that this document really has not been touched for quite a while. It does not need to be updated on an annual basis, but may need to be reviewed before the next forty years.

Seth Fargher addressed Council asking that the Town be transparent and pro-active in communications. He thanked Councilmember Oxsher for responding to his email he sent out to Council questioning the Charter changes. Councilmember Oxsher has explained in his response that the changes are mainly administrative. He stated that the Charter is very important and crucial to the Town and Town matters and that the Town should be up front specifying those changes. When no one knows what changes are being made, it leaves people to speculate/be suspect. Mr. Fargher urged staff to utilize social media more than what has been done in the past. He stated that he has offered to the Town a conversation of ways to improve social media and he is making the offer again at no cost to keep people better informed.

Mayor Young responded to Mr. Fargher stating that when the committee took on the project months ago, it was talked about in an open meeting and a lot of times there is not a whole lot of participation. He stated that Council welcomes that participation. The committee has worked through this process and he is sure it was published in the media then and it is publicized in the media now so it did not just show up two weeks ago, it has been on Council's agenda. Mayor Young expressed appreciation for his comments and the comments of others, but he asked that they also show up and provide not just their negative voice but a positive voice as you have done to offer help. He concluded by commenting that he does not think there is anyone on the Council that does not want to partner to make the Town better; that is why they are here.

*Mayor Young Closed the Public Hearing*

(Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet is filed with these minutes)

**b. Approval of the Proposed Town Charter and to Forward the Proposed Town Charter to the North Carolina General Assembly for Consideration of Enactment**

Upon motion by Councilmember George Harris, seconded by Councilmember Paul Henkel, and unanimously carried, approved proposed Town Charter and to forward the proposed Town Charter to the North Carolina General Assembly for consideration of enactment as presented.

(Copied in full, proposed Town Charter and Public Hearing Notice is attached to these minutes and is filed on CD Titled: "Town Council Supporting Documents" dated January 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in CD Book #1 titled: "Town Council Supporting Documents")

**ITEM 20. Approval of Resolution 01-22 Titled: "*Code Of Ethics For The Mayor And Town Council Of The Town Of Troutman, North Carolina*", (Wyatt/Thomas)**

Manager Wyatt explained that following each municipal election, it is state statute that elected and appointed officials are mandated to attend at least 2 hours of Ethic Training within one year's time. He advised that years ago an Ethic's policy was approved and is still in effect. However, adopting this new set of ethics and standards established by the Town Attorney modernizes some of the verbiage.

Councilmember Jerry Oxsher presented a few minor errors regarding punctuation and grammar. A copy of proposed changes were presented to the Town Clerk to update.

Upon motion by Councilmember Paul Henkel, seconded by Councilmember George Harris, and unanimously carried, approved Resolution 01-22 Titled: "*Code Of Ethics For The Mayor And Town Council Of The Town Of Troutman, North Carolina*" as amended.

(Copied in full, Resolution 01-22 in filed in Resolution Book 9, Pages 1-5)

(Copied in full, Resolution 01-22 is attached to these minutes and is filed on CD Titled: "Town Council Supporting Documents" dated January 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in CD Book #1 titled: "Town Council Supporting Documents")

**ITEM 21. Approval of Policy #61 Titled: “Ethics And Conflict Of Interest Guidelines For Town Advisory Boards And Committees”, (Wyatt)**

Manager Wyatt stated that if Town Council has an Ethic policy to follow, it stands to reason that Town committees and other Town boards must also have those same standards.

Councilmember George Harris pointed out an incorrect adoption date on the policy. Councilmember Jerry Oxsher also presented a few housekeeping items for correction. A copy of proposed changes were presented to the Town Clerk to update.

Upon motion by Councilmember Felina Harris, seconded by Councilmember Paul Henkel, and unanimously carried, approved Policy #61 Titled: “Ethics And Conflict Of Interest Guidelines For Town Advisory Boards And Committees”, as amended.

(Copied in full, Policy #61 in filed in Town Policy Manual #1)

(Copied in full, Policy #61 is attached to these minutes and is filed on CD Titled: “Town Council Supporting Documents” dated January 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in CD Book #1 titled: “Town Council Supporting Documents”)

**ITEM 22. Consider Council Appointments, (Wyatt)**

**a. Appointments of Delegate and Alternate Delegate to Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG)**

Councilmember Jerry Oxsher volunteered as Delegate and Councilmember Eddie Nau volunteered as Alternate Delegate

**b. Appointment of Alternate to Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO)**

Councilmember George Harris volunteered as Alternate Delegate (Mayor Young is designated Delegate)

**c. Appointment of Delegate and Alternate to Lake Norman Regional Transportation Commission (LNRTC)**

Councilmember Paul Henkel volunteered as Delegate and Councilmember Felina Harris volunteered as Delegate Alternate

Upon motion by Councilmember Paul Henkel, seconded by Councilmember George Harris, and unanimously carried, approved appointments as presented above.

**VIII. ELECTED / OFFICIALS REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

**Councilmember George Harris**

- Commented that it is good to see the good things happening within the police department such as the introduction of the new officer and the two recognitions of the two officers promotions.
- Commented that the business spotlight of Carson pickles was very good and that this type of recognition goes a long way. He thanked staff for their part in arranging the recognition and getting the t-shirts.
- In thanking Mr. Getsinger for his report, he commented that he is glad that the ABC Store is doing so good.
- Announced that he will be taking a month and will be back in March. Mayor Young wished him well with his procedure.

**Councilmember Felina Harris**

- Echoed Councilmember George Harris’ comments regarding the Business Spotlight and that she is pleased to see Carson doing so well with his business. It is amazing that he is now shipping to other countries. She commented that she will be glad to see other businesses coming before the Council for recognition as well.
- Thanked Mr. Fargher for his comments tonight and for representing the citizens of our Town.



### **Councilmember Eddie Nau**

- Commented that he hope the citizens/residents come out in support of the towns MLK Day celebration. It is going to be great to give back to the community.
- With the upcoming snow storm, he hopes that everyone will be careful and safe. The Town's Public Works already have a plan in place and he is confident that they will do a great job.

### **Councilmember Jerry Oxsher**

- Commented that he is very proud of the small businesses in Town and that Council spotlighted Carson's pickles. He hopes that Council can continue to foster this environment in the future.
- In honor and recognition, he addressed Councilmember Felina Harris recognizing her Sorority's anniversary stating it is a well-respected group that has done a lot of good things.

### **Councilmember Paul Henkel**

- Due to the recent loss of an employee, he voiced displeasure with social media making a plea to the public to please address situations that they are unhappy with to the Town Manager or Town Council and not to take it out on the employees. He asked that staff be shown appreciation and respect and not be harassed or downgraded.

### **Mayor Young**

- Extended an offer of assistance to Councilmember George Harris during his leave.
- Commented to Councilmember Felina Harris "great job" and congratulated her on founder's day stating that the organization is focused on "good will".
- Spoke to MLK Day and to supporting the community as the Town holds a day of service stating he is looking forward to the event.
- Thanked Police Chief Watson for the introduction of the new officer and the recognition of the two promotions. He expressed appreciation for Chief Watson's leadership.
- Wished Town Manager Ron Wyatt a happy birthday.

### **Town Manager Wyatt**

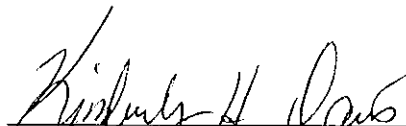
- Thanked Council for the birthday wishes.
- Thanked Police Chief Watson for his professionalism and the department's professionalism as seen tonight.
- Commented that COVID is still with us here at the Town as well as every other work place in the county and with the snow coming we all have to be careful and mindful within the work place.
- Offered assistance to Councilmember George Harris in regards to his upcoming surgery and recovery.
- Responded to Mr. Fargher's volunteering to help with the Town's Social Media/postings stating that the Town cannot just let people have access to the Town's video system and to internal workings because there are laws of what information can and cannot be released and who can and cannot have access to information. The Town cannot put a volunteer in that position and just turn him loose. Mr. Fargher does not know what the laws are and what information can and cannot be public. He shared that the Planning Department has already met with him to discuss certain things and even though he is in our community it is not a town staff burden to educate a county resident as to that process. Manager Wyatt continued by stating that staff is doing the best they can and are posting everything the law requires and then some, but it does not mean we do not have room to improve and do better. Troutman is a small Town with small staff and it would take additional staff time to train a volunteer as to what can go out on social media, nor does staff have the time to do all of the extra stuff other people expect us to do.
- Expressed thanks to Mayor Pro Tem Paul Henkel's comments regarding Town employee's stating he cannot keep giving employee's confidence when we have people attacking them on social media. Staff has nothing to do with the decisions Council or himself as Town Manager make. He also stated that staff is not responsible to do things or answer social media when they are not working nor is it fair to do so.

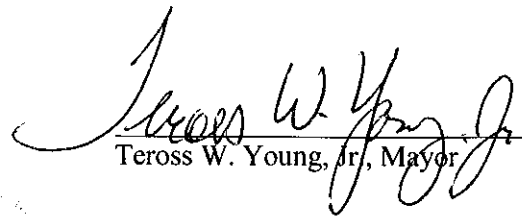


- Addressed snow days stating that in being prepared, town equipment is being checked. Once the snow completely stops, street clearing will not begin for at least two hours to ensure no other precipitation is coming. Public Works will be clearing some of the Town's town streets but most are contracted out. NCDOT will be responsible for clearing state roads. He offered that people can call anytime with questions or issues.
- In reference to the Town's MKL celebration this weekend (Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup>) he stated that it will be attended by all Town Council, County officials, and a state legislator representative. The event will be held at South Iredell Performing Arts Center at 8am with a fabulous speaker and individually wrapped biscuits from Bo-Jangles followed by community workday at Exit 42 at 10am. South Iredell High School (SIHS) Marine Corp. ROTC Cadets will be working along with several other student clubs. Lowes is sponsoring work vest and some equipment/supply. Public Works, police and some town staff will be working in honor of Martin Luther King as a day on, not a day off. Mayor Young thanked Town Manager Wyatt and staff for organizing the event.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Councilmember George Harris, seconded by Councilmember Paul Henkel, and unanimously carried, approved to adjourn the January 13, 2022 Town Council meeting at 9:05 p.m.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Kimberly H. Davis, Town Clerk

  
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 Teross W. Young, Jr., Mayor

(\*\*) Adjustments to the Agenda

