

**LENOIR CITY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023  
6:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Joe Gibbons presiding. Councilmembers present were Mayor Pro-Tem Crissy Thomas, Jonathan Beal, Kent Greer, Todd Perdue, Ralph Prestwood, David Stevens, City Manager Scott Hildebran, City Clerk Shirley Cannon and City Attorney T.J. Rohr.

**ABSENT:** Councilmember Ike Perkins, Fire Chief Ken Hair and Parks & Recreation Director Kenny Story.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Finance Director Donna Bean, Downtown Event Coordinator Matthew Anthony, Police Chief Brent Phelps, Interim Fire Chief Kenny Nelson, Planning Technician Hannah Williams, Public Services Director Radford Thomas, Public Works Operations Manager Jon Hogan, Public Utilities Operations Manager Jeff Church, and Communications Director Joshua Harris.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. The meeting was opened by a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance as led by Mayor Gibbons.

**II. MATTERS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**STREET RENAMING**

**EXELA WAY:**

- A. A public hearing was held to receive public comments regarding a Staff recommendation to rename "Advantage Court" to "Exela Way" as requested by Exela Pharma Sciences, LLC. The street name has been verified by the Planning Department as meeting all requirements for street naming in the City. If Council wishes to proceed with the name change, Staff requests approval of the street name change from Advantage Court to Exela Way.

Mayor Gibbons opened the public hearing to receive public comments regarding the street name change.

There being no public participation, Mayor Gibbons closed the public hearing and asked Council for action.

Upon a motion by Councilman Stevens, City Council voted 6 to 0 to rename Advantage Court to Exela Way as requested by Exela Pharma Sciences, LLC and as recommended by City Staff.

On behalf of City Council, Mayor Gibbons presented a new street sign for Exela Way to Mr. Don Overton, Exela Representative, who was present at the meeting. Mayor Gibbons stated Exela is a great industry to have in the community and commended them for their leadership and partnership with the City of Lenoir.

Mr. Overton thanked City Council for the recognition.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Minutes: Approval of the minutes of the City Council meeting of Tuesday, January 17, 2023 as submitted.
- B. Minutes: Approval of the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of Tuesday, January 24, 2023 as submitted.
- C. Acceptance of an Offer to Purchase Real Property and Notice of Offer to Purchase Real Property; H. Lewis Price Street: Mr. Hamilton Wall has submitted an offer to purchase a 4' x 54' strip owned by the City of Lenoir and running alongside the length of his adjacent property at 118 H. Lewis Price Street in the amount of \$1,000 plus advertising costs, NCPIN#279847597 and Tax ID#09-9-3-30 as submitted. Staff recommends Council accept the offer and direct Staff to advertise in the News-Topic starting a ten (10) day upset bid period as required by N.C.G.S. §160A-269 following Council's acceptance of the Offer to Purchase. A copy of the Offer to Purchase Real Property is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference. Refer to page 40.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Perdue, City Council voted 6 to 0 to approve the items on the Consent Agenda as described above and as recommended by City Manager Hildebran.

**IV. REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS****V. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS****VI. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITY MANAGER****A. Items of Information****BLACK HISTORY**

**MONTH:** 1. Black History Month will be celebrated at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center during the month of February. A schedule of events is available online at [www.cityoflenoir.com](http://www.cityoflenoir.com).

**ABC BOARD:** 2. The ABC Board will meet on Thursday, February 9 at 2:00 p.m.

**LENOIR BUSINESS ADVISORY**

**BOARD:** 3. The Lenoir Business Advisory Board will meet on Thursday, February 16 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, Third Floor.

**CITY/COUNTY SERVICES**

**COMMITTEE:** 4. The City/County Services Committee will meet on Monday, February 13 at noon at CCC&TI.

**PARKS & RECREATION**

**ADV. BOARD:** 5. The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board will meet on Monday, February 20 at 6:00 p.m. at Mulberry Recreation Center.

**RECEPTION, KEN HAIR &**

**KENNY STORY:** 6. A reception will be held on Tuesday, February 21 from 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. at the

City/County Chambers, 905 West Avenue, Lenoir, NC, to recognize and honor Ken Hair, Fire Chief and Kenny Story, Parks & Recreation Director upon their upcoming retirement from the City of Lenoir.

**CITY COUNCIL PLANNING**

**RETREAT:** 7. City Council will conduct their annual Planning Retreat on Friday, February 24 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the meeting room of Blue Ridge Energies, 100 Cooperative Way, Lenoir, NC.

**VIII. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MAYOR**

**BOARD APPOINTMENT;**

**LENOIR HOUSING AUTHORITY:**

A. Mayor Gibbons recommended that City Council appoint Susan Gray to the Lenoir Housing Authority to fill the unexpired term of Debbie Smith. Ms. Smith's term expires June 2027.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Prestwood, City Council voted unanimously to appoint Susan Gray to fill the unexpired term of Debbie Smith on the Lenoir Housing Authority as recommended by Mayor Gibbons.

**BOARD ANNOUNCEMENT;**

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT:**

B. Mayor Gibbons announced he is recommending Kyle Case for appointment to the Board of Adjustment for a term expiring 2026. This board appointment will be placed on the February 21, 2023 agenda for City Council's consideration of approval.

Mayor Gibbons reported there was also one additional vacancy he will be submitting a recommendation for in the near future.

**IX. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

A. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

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Shirley M. Cannon, City Clerk

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Joseph L. Gibbons, Mayor