



The Mebane City Council held a continued meeting on August 5, 2020 at 6:04pm. The August 3, 2020 meeting was continued per G.S. 166A-19.24, which states that when a public body conducts a public hearing as a remote meeting, it must allow for written comments on the subject of the public hearing to be submitted between publication of any required notice and 24 hours after the public hearing. Directly following the continued meeting, the Council held a Listening Session which began at 7:10 p.m., Wednesday, August 5, 2020. Due to public health concerns related to COVID-19, the meeting and session were held virtually via Zoom.

Council Present via Zoom:

Mayor Ed Hooks
Mayor Pro-Tem Jill Auditori
Councilmember Tim Bradley
Councilmember Patty Philipps
Councilmember Everette Greene
Councilmember Sean Ewing

City Staff Present at City Hall:

Assistant City Manager Chris Rollins
City Attorney Lawson Brown
City Clerk Stephanie Shaw
IT Director Kirk Montgomery

City Staff Present via Zoom:

City Manager David Cheek

Per the requirement of G.S. 166A-19.24 all votes were conducted by roll call.

Mayor Hooks called the meeting to order. He stated that tonight's Council meeting is divided into two parts. One being the continued two (2) public hearings from Monday, August 3, 2020 Regular Meeting and second, a Listening Session.

Mayor Hooks stated the first item tonight is the continued Quasi-judicial Board of Adjustment public hearing on a request from Alamance Community School c/o Leslie Hall Paynter, a newly approved charter school, for approval of a special use request to temporarily have Alamance Community School use the Crosslink Community Church's facilities (3445 Old Hillsborough Road) until its permanent campus in Graham is completed and approved for occupancy.

The Council had no further questions. No one from the public submitted any public comments. Mayor Hooks then called for a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Greene made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ewing, to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously per a roll call vote. Mr. Ewing made a motion, seconded by Ms. Philipps, to approve the Special Use Permit as presented. The motion carried unanimously per a roll call vote.

Mayor Hooks stated the next item is the continued public hearing on a request from Lebanon Road 3, LLC, c/o James Parker, Jr., is requesting approval to conditionally rezone +/-93.5 acres of a +/-179.23-ac property located at 1818 Saddle Club Road (Orange County – ETJ) from CU-R-8 & CU-R-10 (Conditional Use Permit - Single-Family Residential) to R-12(CD) (Single Family Residential Conditional Zoning District) to allow “Tupelo Junction” a subdivision with 181 single family homes as a Residential Cluster Development.

Jack Smyre, PE, AICP with The Design Response, joined the meeting virtually via Zoom.

Mr. Bradley said there seems to be two major areas of concern from the constituents that he heard from. The first being wetlands and Council’s lack of concern for the wetlands. He stated he dug into it pretty deeply yesterday and thanked Mr. Rollins for his knowledge of the subject. He said as he understands it, when the site plan was reviewed, other than the bridge crossing the floodplain, there did not appear to be any apparent wetland issues. Having said that, once the project moves forward, if it is approved, any wetland issue would have to be permitted and mediated by the developer before construction should begin and that is outside the purview of Mebane and he assumes it would be either State or Federal resources like the Army Corp or the EPA. He questioned if that assumption was correct. Mr. Rollins said that is correct. He said the developer has done a preliminary look with a licensed soil scientist to look for wetlands and streams. They also had a certified County person take a look at it originally. Mr. Rollins explained the process in detail and stated that the process is what the City goes through on each project regarding wetlands and streams.

Mr. Bradley said the other issue he has heard a fair amount about is the buffer. He said he went out and looked, comparing the plans that were submitted and it does not appear to him that the developer can increase the 20-30-foot buffer on the Saddle Club Road side without encroaching on wetlands on the other side of the development. His question for Mr. Smyre is, would the developer be willing to plant screening trees along the border on the Stagecoach Road side that abuts existing properties that are inhabited to block or hinder the view of the development. Mr. Smyre said that it is a pretty big ask but they were warned to give some pretty quick thought to that request before the meeting began. He said that is a lot of perimeter and they had not really represented that this would be a buffer, particularly an opaque buffer, but more of a spacing of the lots off of the property not lotting out to the common line but leaving a HOA controlled space between homeowners within Tupelo Junction and homeowners outside Tupelo Junction. He said in particular on the Linz property, he thinks the tree covering in that area is pretty thin, so looking at that area in particular, the developer would be willing to plant an evergreen buffer along that edge that utilizes materials off Mebane’s recommended plant materials for evergreens, probably installed at a minimum of 6 feet initially as those things grow pretty fast in a double staggered row. That would be about 800 liner feet. Mr. Smyre said the question is, is that really needed in any other location because otherwise, there is not really any other lots backing up to existing houses or land being used residentially. Mr. Bradley said he is speaking in regard to the Linz property as everything northeast of Golden Honey Drive appears to be fairly buffered. The property south of Silver Rock Place just looks pretty open. Mr. Smyre said yes, the property owner has cleared out almost all the way to the property line, in fact he thinks, the southern most part of the area, Pinhook, down near the telephone easement line had been previously cleared even perhaps used for pasture purposes. He said he believes the Linz’s may have leased some of the property for

horses way back, so there is very little material in that area. Mr. Smyre said, so let us say, from the telephone easement moving northward up to the northwest corner of the Linz's property, then going east out to where our property ends, approximately 800 linear feet, the developer would be amenable to doing a double staggered planting of evergreen material at least six (6) feet high at installation, 8 feet on center with double staggered coincident with development in Phase 5, not opaque at installation but will quickly grow to be opaque. Mr. Bradley stated that covers the primary area of his concerns.

Mr. Greene stated that in 2006-2008, he sold to Garman Homes in Durham. Since then he has had no dealings with them but he wanted to disclose that. He said also in the last six (6) months, a friendly competitor asked if he would show one of his builders around Mebane and it turned out to be Jim Garman but there was no agreement, nothing asked, nothing given or promised but he also wanted to disclose that information as well. Mr. Brown standard is a "direct substantial financial impact" so if there are any questions, it should be discussed. If there are no questions, it does not need to be discussed. Mr. Bradley said his understanding of the ethics law is that unless the elected incumbent receives a direct financial benefit from the project, that they must vote, therefore he thinks Mr. Greene has the obligation to vote.

Ms. Philipps questioned how the 20-foot buffer around the whole development will be maintained by the HOA. She said she also has a little bit of a concern over a disagreement over the depth of the self-imposed buffer that the developer has offered next to the Linz property. She said on Monday night a slide was shown indicating a 20-foot buffer but then after the meeting was told that was not the case, so she would like some clarification about the distance between the new boundary of the Linz property and the boundary of this project. Mr. Smyre requested that Mr. Rollins pull up Monday night's PowerPoint slide depicting those boundaries. He said he thinks the confusion is over the adjoining property owner believing without possibly checking that there was just the minimum of 20-feet provided along their north/south boundary line with us, while in reality they had 35 feet depth in that area. So, he thinks the 10.8 feet maximum at the dog lot area that the property line was adjusted westerly. In the property owners minds, they some how took 20 feet minus the rounded up 11-12 feet, they thought that only left and 8 feet buffer but in reality they were able to greenlight the seller, Lees Bees Inc, to grant their request if it was his inclination because with the module they ended up with they had a 35 foot buffer, minus the 11-12 feet, they had a 24-foot buffer. The only pinch point was at the top corner but could be restored by tweaking lot 96.

Mr. Smyre said the HOA would not be patrolling the outside buffer, it would more than likely be a HOA complaint and response situation. He said the HOA will have a standing contract with a maintenance firm to maintain the street trees.

Ms. Philipps asked a final question as a follow up to Mr. Bradley's concerns about the wetlands. She said after the meeting they were shown a map from a federal wetland mapper which showed a potential wetland behind one of the Saddle Club properties. She said the map did state it was not for determination purposes but she requested that Mr. Rollins comment to whether or not that is a common occurrence.

Mr. Rollins explained that the online wetland mapper is based on a 1982 aerial photography that someone evaluated and said this could be a stream or could be a wetland but that website has as

disclaimer posted in several places which basically states this map done from a 1982 map and does not mean there are wetlands there.

Mr. Rollins said he would like to make an additional point. He said that if understands what Mr. Smyre was saying, it appears that in the back corner of the property abutting lots 78-81/82, there are already matures trees in that area, so in general, when staff looks at plans, mature trees are requested to be saved, rather than tear them down and plant new cypresses so he just wanted to make sure everyone was on the same page. It could be that area needs some enhancing but no mature trees should be cut down.

Mr. Ewing thanked the developer for being willing to put in the evergreen buffer. He then asked why so many setback waivers were requested. Mr. Smyre said that it is fairly routine to reduce the setbacks when doing a cluster development. He gave a brief overview of the requested setbacks. They give the builder some flexibility about how to set the home on the lot.

Mr. Ewing asked Mr. Brown if there could be a legal argument made for higher density under the current zoning. Mr. Brown said there would be a higher density under the current zoning allowable than what is being requested. Mr. Smyre said in R-12 zoning 3.18 units per acre would be allowable but they are proposing 1.94 units per acre.

Ms. Auditori asked Mr. Rollins to put the site plan slide back up. She asked why they are suggesting that no buffer needs to be planted along the property that abuts lots 101, 102 and 103.

He said it is intended to included in part of the area for installing an evergreen buffer on lots all the way to lot 101. Mr. Greene questioned if it would include all the way up to lot 104. Mr. Smyre said he had not really contemplated that because they were trying to be very careful and sensitive to the fact the house near 103 and 104 because that home is set so deep into their lot, they did not want to put any lots up to the back of that property line. He said he has not heard from that property owner but since it is such a small area, they could establish an evergreen buffer that wraps that house so it was on the southern side of 104 and northern side of 103. Ms. Auditori said she would like to hear a definite confirmation that they will put in a buffer on the north/south property line abutting lots 101, 102 and 103. She also feels it is important to address each property owner whether we have heard from them or not. Mr. Smyre said they would be willing to supplement as needed with existing vegetation. He said he can agree to put in buffer along the north property line (lots 78-82) then east (lots 96-101) but as turning the corner (lots 101-103) supplement as needed. Ms. Auditori stated she if fine with that agreement.

Ms. Auditori said she wanted to address the other topic brought up by Mr. Bradley in regard to the wetlands. She said some concern was brought up that Three Oaks would, because they were employed by the developer, present a favorable wetlands report to the developer and to Council. She requested confirmation that if that were to be the case, that favorable report be evaluated in an unbiased way as it moves forward by using third parties. Mr. Rollins said the people invited from the soil scientist will clearly be US Army Corp of Engineers representative, a State representative and one of the City's engineers. The determination is made by the US Army Corp of Engineers and the State. Mr. Smyre confirmed that what Mr. Rollins said is correct.

Clerk Shaw read aloud a letter received from Karen Baker, 4040 Talisker Trail, Mebane, NC. via email during the 24-hour time frame after Monday night's public hearing.

My name is Karen Baker, I live at 4040 Talisker Trail, Mebane, NC

Good Evening Mayor and members of Mebane City Council.

Thank you for providing me this opportunity to express my thoughts.

My husband and I purchased 51 acres from Jerry Kenyon in 2007. Before selling to us, he asked what we intended to do with the 51 acres. Our answer was that we intended to build one home and live the rest of our earthly life on this property. Once he was assured that we were not going to subdivide, he sold to us. Over the years we have purchased surrounding lots for a total of 89 contiguous acres. 14 of those acres are along Saddle Club Road.

I have spoken before you before regarding the Havenstone projects. 25 of our acres are in Cherry Place, with the only access being through the Havenstone Subdivision.

As I recall, there are 4 reasonable requirements that need to be met to grant approval for Tupelo Junction to go forward.

1 – will not endanger the public health or safety.

On this point, my biggest concern is the location of the access to Tupelo Junction, whether on Lebanon Road or Saddle Club Road. Especially on Saddle Club as this is a hill and blind curve. I realize there have been traffic and safety studies that support this location, however I find it difficult to believe what is written. It will be difficult to enforce a slower speed limit, as many do not adhere to the current posted signs. I mow along Saddle Club and am aware of traffic patterns for at least two hours every week for the past 10 years. It is very busy, especially on the weekends, with folks going to the recycle center. I can tell you that the majority of vehicles are traveling above the speed limit. Additionally, I have had difficulty exiting onto Lebanon Road from Havenstone due to the current traffic on Lebanon Road. This is necessary as we have property in Cherry Place. Havenstone has been approved for about 169 homes, multiply that by a minimum of two cars for 338 cars and minimum of two trips each car, that's 676 more trips, minimally on Lebanon Road and environs. Villages of Havenstone, south of Lebanon Road, with 43 home sites, has the potential to add 172 trips per day. That is busy! Then add Tupelo Junction with 181 homes, times 2 cars, times minimum of two trips for an additional 724 trips daily. There was talk about a roundabout at Stagecoach Rd. This I support. I can see a light at Saddle Club & Lebanon Road, as it is challenging now, without the potential, addition of 1572 trips per day in the area, to get onto Lebanon Road. Think about it.

2 – will not injure the value of adjoining or abutting property.

All I can say is that a cluster home edition brings the city to this rural area. As it has been said, those of us living in this area are here because we want to live in the county. Please consider decreasing the number of homes to be built.

3 – will be in harmony with the area in which it is located.

This point was discussed when Havenstone was on the agenda. I never did understand how the Mebane City Council could support that cluster homes were in harmony with homes on multi-acre lots. However, Havenstone was approved. Tupelo Junction, a cluster home community is not in harmony with the adjoining rural homes on multi-acre lots. Once Havenstone was approved and the developer paid to bring the water and sewer out in this direction, the writing was on the wall.

4 – will be in conformity with the land development plan, throughfare plan, or other plan officially adopted by the City Council.

There is no doubt in my mind that this fits into Mebane by Design. I simply wish that zoning would not change to allow for this density of housing. Yes, Mebane is growing. Growth is inevitable. Mebane by Design is an attempt to demonstrate some control of how the growth occurs.

One other point to be reiterated is that this area is Orange County. We have all heard about the fact that this area is in the ETJ. There still are challenges with accountability. My husband and I have had issues with run off from Havenstone after Hurricane Florence. Yes, that was an unusual storm and act of nature, but we still should be able to speak with someone for assistance. I called Mebane and was told that we were in Orange County and needed to call that office. I called that office and was told that it was not their issue because of the ETJ. You have already heard this type of run around.

I am challenged with the fact that Mebane dictates the land usage, but living in Orange County means we do not get a vote. As these housing developments grow, there will be more citizens feeling this frustration.

In the end, there is little doubt in my mind that Mebane City Council will approve a plan for Tupelo Junction. I would like to strongly suggest decreasing the number of homes and work forcibly with DOT for road safety of the citizens.

Thank you for your attention.

Mr. Greene made a motion, seconded by Ms. Auditori, to close the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously per the roll call vote.

Mayor Hooks called for Council to take action on the Tupelo Junction conditional rezoning request. Mr. Ewing stated that he was elected on smart growth and this request, by terms presented and discussed, there is a legal possibility for higher density on these properties. The proposed owner is requesting to have lower density and they are investing in the Mebane community by a greenway and after this meeting they are supporting our country neighbors by agreeing to install the buffers, which they did not have to do, therefore, Mr. Ewing made a motion, seconded by Ms. Philipps, to find that **the application is consistent** with the objectives and goals in the City's 2017 Comprehensive Land Development Plan *Mebane By Design*. The request:

- Is for a property within the City's G-4 Secondary Growth Area and is "...generally residential and commercial in nature..." (Mebane CLP, p.66);
- Does not develop 50% of the property in a Conservation Area that features Mill Creek (p. 67);

- Is providing community facilities in the form of a greenway that connects to Lake Michael Park, consistent with Growth Management Goal 1.4 (p. 17, 83);
- Improves the safety and confidence of pedestrians crossing Lebanon Road, consistent with Public Facilities and Infrastructure Goal 2.1 (p.17, 84);
- Provides a greenway connection across Lebanon Road to Lake Michael Park, consistent with Open Space and Natural Resource Protection Goal 4.2 (p. 17 & 89);
- Provides a greenway and open space in a developing area, connecting to other locations, consistent with Open Space and Natural Resource Protection Goal 4.3 (p. 17, 89, & 90); and
- Provides a greenway, as required in the City's *Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan*.

Additionally, the developer has agreed to install an evergreen buffer along the sides of 1514 Saddle Club Road, 1622 Saddle Club Road, the eastern sides of 1708 which is the other sides of development for lots 77-83, lots 96-101 and lots 102-104.

Mr. Bradley stated that he would like to mention, based on a comment made by Ms. Baker, stating that this development would add to the number of people in Orange County that did not have a voice before City Council but it is his understanding that this property will be annexed and become City limits so all of these homes will be residents of Mebane. Ms. Auditori said that is a really good point and one of the things that we have struggled with is that some people are sad to see Mebane grow in this way and she understands that but people want to live in this area and it is really important for us to consider the option of not approving some plans like this and what happens when people want to live in our community and we do not allow them to. What happens is they move outside of the ETJ and are not inside our City limits. We have since this happen and the City does not have any say on how we grow and this is one of the reasons she felt it was important to move forward with this project. Mr. Bradley said he wanted to clarify that the annexation will only take in the residents of the project, not those surrounding. He also wants people living in Orange County to know they do have a voice as a majority heard from during this hearing were non-city residents in Orange County. He also stated that he would be severely disappointed if Mebane got a call on a development in Mebane that was approved by Mebane and they were told do not bother us, you need to call Orange County. He said if this has happened, he is sure that it will not happen anymore.

The motion carried unanimously per the roll call vote.

Listening Session Registered Speakers via Zoom:

Carolyn Burns, Mebane resident
Tommy Jones, Mebane resident
Debra Kaufman, Mebane resident
Angela Gathright, Mebane resident

Mayor Hooks opened the Listening Session with a review of the speaking order for the registered speakers. He continued by saying that he would like for it to be clear that Council's lack of response during the session is not because they are not listening, they are listening, notes are being taken and Council will follow up to comments at a later time. He also reviewed the guidelines for the session as follows:

- Callers will be held in queue and asked to mute their phones or speakers until they are called on to speak.
- Speakers will be called in the order in which they registered. The Speaking Order List was displayed on a PowerPoint slide at the beginning of the session.
- Each speaker will be allowed five (5) minutes. At the end of the 5 minutes, speakers will be taken out of the queue and will not have another opportunity to speak during this session.
- Per authority of NCGS 143-318.17, if a person participating remotely willfully disrupts the session, then upon direction by the Mayor, such person may be removed from electronic participation.

Mayor Hooks thanked all speakers for registering to speak and introduced the first speaker, Carolyn Burns.

Carolyn Burns, 600 Bunker Drive, Mebane, said she has lived in Mebane for the last six (6) years and currently lives in the Arrowhead Greens subdivision. She thanked the Mayor and Council for all the time they devote to serving the community. She stated that she signed up to speak because of something she read in the Mebane Enterprise but before that she would like to speak about a housing issue. She said when they moved into their Mebane home, they started having roofing problems within two years and now after several years, they need a new roof which she feels is absurd. She said they have had several people look at their roof who have told them it was done poorly. She stated she spoke with Keith Williams, City of Mebane Inspector, asking him why was it not caught during their inspection. She said she was told that the inspectors are not allowed to climb up on the roof. She said she is sure there is a good reason for that but she would like to make a suggestion that in the overall picture when putting new homes in Mebane, a consideration might be what type of roof people are getting and maybe somebody should climb up on the roofs to inspect the work so this type of thing does not happen to other people. Mr. Burns said it will be a very costly fix. She said Dan Ryan Builders built the homes in her subdivision and the roofs were put on by Alpha Omega. She said shingles have been flying off of various roofs in her neighborhood but her home seems to be the worst one. She feels this issue should be addressed for future

residents. Ms. Burns said secondly, she would like to speak about something she read in the Mebane Enterprise regarding the presentation made to Council about the possibility of having an advisory committee. She said she feels very strongly that people remember that white is a color too and that if the city does have an advisory committee it should be represented by all people that live in our community. She shared that after her and her husband retired, they traveled for seven (7) years all over the country in a motor home and it was such great fun. She said the whole time they were traveling they were looking and wondering where they wanted to settle down for the rest of their retirement. She said they came to Mebane because their son and grandson lived here and they could not believe that they found such a wonderful place. She said Mebane is fabulous, although there is quite a bit more traffic now than when they first moved here. She said Mebane is just a charming place to live. She said her neighborhood is very integrated and she has been very pleased with the way everyone gets along with one another within the whole community and she wants it to stay that way. She said she feels rancor out there in the world beyond Mebane's "walls". She said her feeling is that we are all more alike than we are different and many want the same things for their families, peace, love, good jobs and opportunities. She said we get those kinds of things and build that kind of community by working together. She concluded by stating again that if an advisory committee is put in place, it should include representation from everyone in the community, all voices should be heard.

Mayor Hooks thanked Ms. Burns for her comments and introduced Mr. Jones.

Tommy Jones, 307 E. Dogwood Drive, Mebane, said he spoke to Council at a previous meeting requesting further representation within the city, a minority based advisory committee to play along side the City Council. He said, at present, he has met with several leaders throughout the community and also currently he is in the process of meetings with the NAACP. He said the purpose of the committee is not to overshadow any other members of the community. He said the purpose of the committee is to bring further acknowledgement and awareness to situations of African-Americans throughout the city and to prevent such actions that have happened in other areas around us from taking place here.

Due to audio difficulties, it became very hard to hear Mr. Jones speak, so Mayor Hooks requested that staff work on the connection and in the meanwhile have the next registered speaker begin.

Debra Kaufman, 207 W. Holt Street, Mebane, stated she thought she had registered to speak during the Tupelo Junction Public Hearing but was confused as to the order. She stated she wrote to all of the Councilmembers a couple of days earlier and she appreciated the replies she received back. She thanked Mr. Rollins for sharing his deep knowledge in regard to the wetlands and the process, stating it gave her a lot of assurance. She said way back when Mill Creek was being developed there were some allowances made so that the setbacks were not as far from the wetlands as the State recommended therefore, she had some old concerns that were still resonant in her mind. She stated she has two (2) main concerns, in general, she is always leery of development that will take away trees and wildlife that cannot be replaced but she does realize that is an inevitable part of growth. She requested that Council be mindful of that as the City grows. She said she was sad when Lees Bees sold and as a granddaughter of a farmer, she is always sad when farm land can not be bought by a land conservancy or other farmers. She said traffic is another concern, especially with the NC 119 bypass coming through, she thinks we need to be

mindful of the traffic issues that come with growth. She continued by saying that the Unified Development Ordinance is pretty wise for the most part and she really appreciates the Council and staff ensuring that builders follow them and not deviate from them, to the extent that it possible, but keeping in mind that negotiations have to be made sometimes. She also expressed appreciation for the neighbors of the project as the area is more rural. She said she appreciates the Council and staff and all they work they do. She said she really enjoys being a part of Mebane. She concluded by complimenting the Council and Administration by saying they are the best the City has had since 1989 when she moved to Mebane.

Mayor Hooks thanked Ms. Kaufman for her comments and invited Mr. Jones back to the meeting as the audio issues were fixed.

Mr. Jones said the purpose for him speaking during this session was to continue the conversation that was held at the last Council meeting that he attended virtually. He said when he previously spoke it was to recommend the creation of an advisory committee to the City Council, much like the other committees that are presently within the city, and how the committee would be beneficial to discussing the issues that are on a rise in our country and on a rise within our town and to prevent those things from happening here. He said at the last meeting when he spoke, he was very fair in stating that he did not necessarily see a lot of the conflicts that have happened in other places happening here in our city but that does not mean that there are no issues that have happened here in our city as well. He said the issues that have been discussed are things that have plagued our county forever. He asked how do we continue the conversation and how do we see the needs of people who feel they do not have a voice. He said communication and coming together is needed and the existence of such a committee could be vital to those things happening. He said when you look at organizations like the NAACP and the ACC Jews and the purpose of why those organizations were started in the first place was because minority people, particularly right now African-Americans, were not allowed the same opportunities to make themselves and their voices heard and to be recognized for things which they have dealt with within their communities. He said issues that have happened in Mebane, such as West End, need to have continued conversation. He said that area needs to receive the proper annexation that it deserves without having gentrification becoming an issue in that area as well. Again, he stated the only way that can be done is through communication between the people and the city. He said if we are able to put together an advisory committee in our area, we would be able to communicate with people within those areas to find out what issues are going on within their areas and have a collective unit that could work along side with everyone together. He said he does not see this as something that would be a detriment to our community but something that could give our town opportunities. He said we know the history; we know what has happened. He asked how do we push the envelope farther? He said it is his hope that putting together such an advisory committee with collective unification of the City of Mebane can be something that can push our city even further and could be a benefit to everyone involved. He ended his comments by thanking everyone.

Mayor Hooks thanked Mr. Jones for his comments and introduced Ms. Gathright.

Angela Gathright, 1421 Yellowood Drive, Mebane thanked Council for allowing her to speak. She said is a retired military veteran and currently lives in the Manorfield subdivision. She said she moved to Mebane in 2013 while she was working at the VA in Durham. She said the main reason she attended tonight's session was to listen in on the issues that surround Mebane. She said she learned of Mebane while attending college in Winston-Salem. She said she used to drive through Mebane to come see her aunt that lived in the Holly Ridge subdivision. She said Mebane has grown a lot since then. She said she used to live in the Cary Mooresville area and when she was working at the VA she decided to retire with her children to Mebane. She said she and her children love Mebane. She said her daughter just graduated from Eastern Alamance High School and her soon recently moved to Kentucky but he is still a North Carolinian. She said as a veteran and as a worker in childcare and education field, as well as having a degree in biology and chemistry, and with her parents living in the Fort Bragg area, so she has always been a part of the political process. She said as she is getting older, she wants to learn more about the process and about how to successfully communicate the needs of her children and other children that may move to Mebane. She said she would like to see Mebane grow as diverse as it can be, so with that said she supports Mr. Jones and some of his ideas about coming together. She stated you can not have diversity without listening to one another. She said listening to each other is so important which she learned in the military, serving in the Army with some of her service being in combat in Afghanistan. She said as a Mebanite it is important that there be a forum in which her voice and her children's voices can be heard. She said she wants her children to learn the process. She said there is a scripture saying "if you perish, you perish for lack of knowledge" and that is not the future she wants for her children or her grandchildren. She said when she retired in Mebane that was a big decision for her. She thanked Council for listening and requested that should the advisory committee move forward; she would like to serve in that capacity.

Mayor Hooks thanked Ms. Gathright for her comments. He stated that all registered speaker has spoken and thanked each of them again for participating. He assured them all that the comments made tonight will be taken under advisement.

Mr. Greene commented that the session was excellent with good comments.

Mr. Ewing thanked everyone for their comments and stated that he values their feedback so greatly.

Ms. Philipps said it was a wonderful opportunity to hear from people and she hopes there will be more of it and that more people become involved. She said the technical issues need to be worked out.

Mr. Bradley said it is important for people to know that they have an opportunity to share concerns at each regular monthly meeting during the public comment period. He said he enjoys and welcomes citizens comments.

Ms. Auditori said she appreciates everyone's comments. She said she thinks there is a real opportunity to make strides towards diversity inclusion. She said fortunately in Mebane we have

been lucky that it has been a place of little adversity in recent years and that is really best time instead of being reactionary, we can be proactive about creating a more diverse and inclusive community.

Mayor Hooks adjourned the Listening Session at 7:32pm

Attest: _____
Stephanie W. Shaw, City Clerk

Ed Hooks, Mayor