

C871 W78C1 NKC

THE CHRONICLE

• See Opinion/Forum pages on A6&7 •

• See Sports on page B1 •

Volume 45, Number 47 WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. THURSDAY, August 22, 2019

City Council approves renaming of Dixie Classic Fair

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

With the city chamber filled with residents for and against the resolution, the Winston-Salem City Council voted on Monday night to change the name of the Dixie Classic Fair.

Talks about the name change were reignited earlier this year when a group of residents led by Bishop Sir Walter Mack called for the term "Dixie" to be immediately removed from the name of the city's fair.

Mack, who is the senior pastor at Union Baptist Church, and others said the term was derogatory because of its connection to slavery and white supremacy. Mack and more than 20 other local pastors and ministers also held a press conference to call for the name change.

After the push for the change was made public, thousands of people reached out to fair and city officials to let it be known how they felt.

In early May, hundreds of people showed up to a public forum held at the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds and according to city officials, they have received 11,000 emails and other comments directly related to the name change.

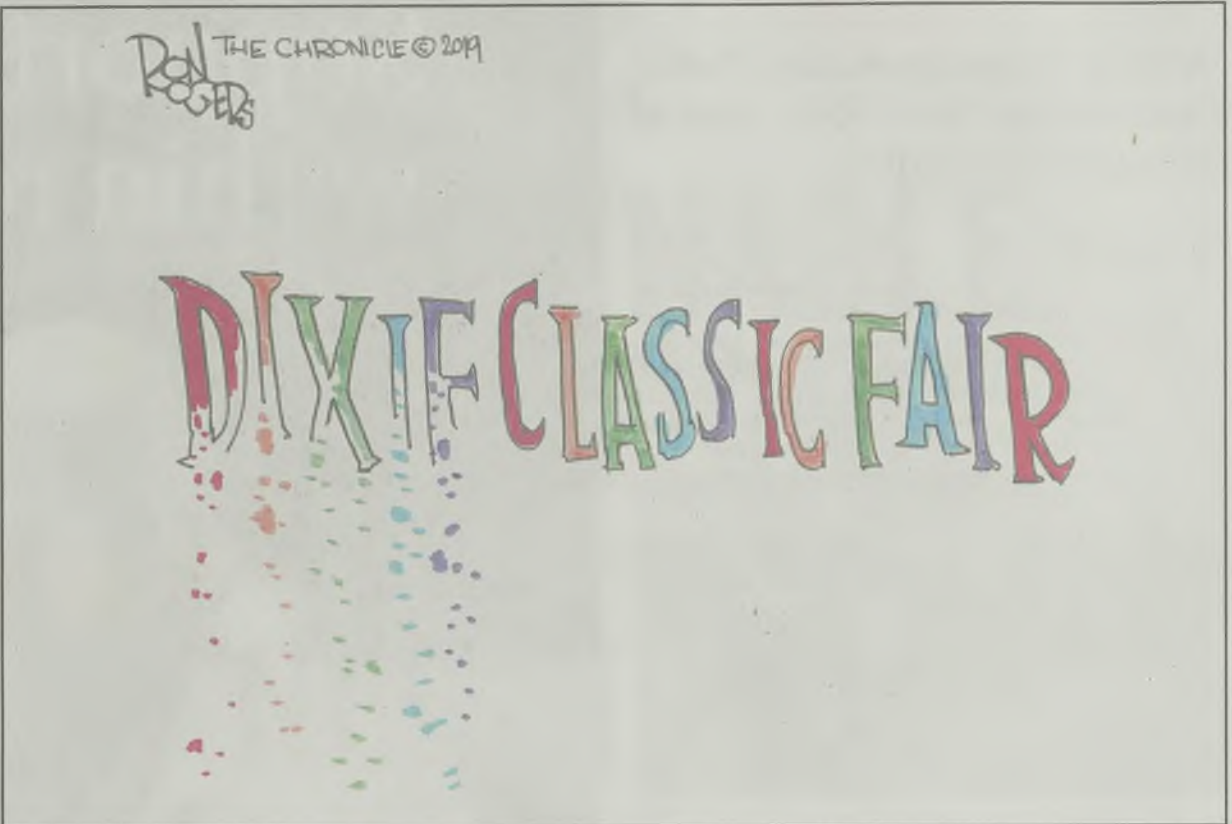
"Dixie" has been associated with the local fair since the mid 1950s when the name was

changed to include the term. At that time, the city of Winston-Salem had two fairs, the Dixie Classic Fair, for whites, and the Carolina Fair for blacks. When the Dixie Classic Fair was integrated, the Carolina Fair lost support and eventually disbanded. When the city took over the Dixie Classic Fair years later, the name stayed.

Before the vote on Monday, Aug. 19, council members had the opportunity to express their feelings on the matter and explain their vote.

Winston-Salem native and representative for the North Ward, where the annual fair is held, Denise "D.D." Adams, said she remembers when she wasn't allowed to go to the Dixie Classic Fair because of the color of her skin. She said now it's her responsibility to stand up for what's right.

"When it's all said and done, like Martin Luther King said, I have to know that I stood on the right side of what's right, and just. There are so many fairs in this state and nobody grabbed up Dixie. Whether it was Raleigh, Greensboro, Charlotte or Durham. And Winston-Salem didn't either," Adams said. "One person with their signature decided to change the history of this city. We all know what was going on in this city in 1956."



Councilmember James Taylor, who is publisher of The Chronicle, let the council and public know that he would be exercising his right to abstain. According to Mayor Allen Joines, "abstain" votes are counted as "yes" votes.

Taylor, who mentioned the need for a name change during a committee meeting in 2015, said although he stands by his original thoughts and views, he gave his word that he would not move

forward with pushing for a name change. He said after his initial call for the name change, he received countless emails and calls from constituents asking him to drop the matter, but heard from few supporters. Later that year, Taylor released a statement saying he would no longer pursue the name change.

"I do stand behind my comments I made in 2015 supporting the name change, but I also stand by my word which

I think is important to the constituents," Taylor continued. "I stand by my promise to the constituents that I would not pursue this further. Even though I know times change and information changes, my word is important to me."

Councilmember Dan Besse said he saw no compelling reason to keep the name. He said, "The name itself, Dixie, has no special connection to Winston-Salem or Forsyth County."

John Larson, who represents the South Ward, was one of two councilmembers in attendance to vote 'No' on the name change. Larson mentioned the majority of the responses received were against the change.

"Eighty-six percent said that they shouldn't change the name at all," Larson noted.

"We can quibble certainty over whether those people were in

See Fair on A2

Burke leads rifle initiative at Smith Reynolds Airport

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

After it was sent back to the public safety committee for discussion earlier this summer, the Winston-Salem City Council has approved an amendment that will allow wildlife officers to discharge rifles to shoot deer within the boundaries of Smith Reynolds Airport.

Before the amendment was approved by a 6-1 vote on Monday, Aug. 19, the ordinance only allowed the use of shotguns to remove deer and other wildlife in the vicinity of the airport. James Capps, a wildlife biologist who spoke to city council members during a public safety committee meeting, said shotguns were best for shooting birds, not deer.

It is believed that about 15 whitetail deer are currently within the fences that enclose the runways and taxiways of the airport located on North Liberty Street. Representatives

from the airport have said deer on the runway and taxiway, a path that connects to the runway, cause problems for aircraft and most importantly, endangers passengers.

When the matter was on the table for a vote in June, councilmembers raised questions about how the amendment would impact residents who live in the vicinity of the airport. Councilmember James Taylor, who is publisher of The Chronicle and chair of the public safety committee, said he didn't feel comfortable voting on the matter without having input from the residents first.

"I would like to have seen an opportunity to have more public input on this issue, especially from the community surrounding the airport," Taylor continued. "I understand the need to curtail the deer population. I think it makes sense to protect the residents who are using the planes and the equipment



at the airport, but I think we have to do it at the same time protecting the community."

Councilmember Denise "D.D." Adams agreed with Taylor. She said the original plan, which was to notify residents a few days before wildlife experts were scheduled to arrive, wasn't sufficient.

"You can't just tell people the weekend before you're going to shoot rifles. I agree with Councilmember Taylor that we need to pull this

back and make sure that everybody in the community around that airport understands what is getting ready to happen and why."

After hearing comments from her colleagues, Mayor Tempore Vivian Burke made a motion to have the amendment sent back to the public safety committee for review. Since that time, city officials have sent out more than 700 letters to residents who live within 500 feet of airport property. City officials

also sent emails and had meetings with residents.

At least nine residents responded to the city and let it be known that they were against the amendment. Jerelyn Travick, who lives on Airport Road, has been very vocal about her concerns with the rifles. During the committee meeting, Travick raised numerous questions about the amendment.

Although residents like Travick and others still have concerns, prior to voting on Monday night, Burke said, "We have

communicated in many ways with them and I don't know how much more we can talk about this issue."

To eliminate the deer population within the boundaries of the airport, wildlife experts will use suppressed single-fire rifles. According to Andrew Moore, a representative with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the firearms will only be used from an elevated platform, so the experts will always be

See Rifle on A2

036*002*****3-DIGIT 275
WTTXS-E-RES & SERIALS MGMT
DAVIS LIBRARY CB # 3938
PO BOX 8890
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27515-8890 90

**ADVENTURE IS WAITING.
JOIN CUB SCOUTS.**

Boys & Girls Ages 5-10!
Find a Cub Scout Pack near you.
Visit BeAScout.org

We Rent U-Haul Trucks!

ASSURED STORAGE
of Winston-Salem, LLC

(336) 924-7000
www.assuredstoragewcs.com
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Sat 9am-3pm
Gate Hours: 5am-10pm
4191 Bethania Station Road • Winston-Salem

MOVE OR SPECIAL \$25 per month

Professional self-storage.

