

**HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2013  
7:00 PM**

**Minutes**

Present:

Jeff Smart	Mayor
Tony Clewis	Mayor Pro Tem
Pat Preslar	Councilmember
Abbie Covington	Councilmember
Johnathan Buie	Councilmember
Dewey Brower	Councilmember
Marchell David	City Manager
Tammy Kirkley	City Clerk
Steve Futrell	City Attorney
Jill Dickens	Finance Director
David Knight	Fire Chief
Amery Griffin	Acting Police Chief
Gail Strickland	Zoning Officer
Robert Brown	WT Plant Superintendent
Billy Stubbs	Public Works Director

Others: RC Daily Journal Representative and approximately five attendees.

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1. **Call to Order.** The Mayor called the meeting to order.
  2. **Invocation.** The Mayor Pro Tem gave the invocation.
  3. **Adoption of Agenda.**  
The agenda was unanimously adopted by way of motions made by Councilmember Covington and Councilmember Preslar. Vote passed 5-0.
  4. **Appointment of City Clerk.**  
Tammy Kirkley was appointed as the City Clerk to the City of Hamlet. Councilmember Buie and Councilmember Preslar motioned to appoint Mrs. Kirkley as the City Clerk and the vote passed 5-0.
  5. **Administration of Oath of Office.**  
Mayor Smart then swore in Tammy Kirkley as the City Clerk.
  6. **Approval of Minutes.**  
The January 8, 2013 regular meeting minutes were approved as presented by vote of 5-0 with motions made by Councilmember Clewis and Councilmember Covington.
  7. **Comments from Attendees.**  
There were none.

**New Business**

**8. Approval Date to Advertise Tax Delinquency Listing.**

Council was provided with the delinquent tax listing as of February 6, 2013. The tax collector has requested approval to advertise the delinquent listing in the local paper on Wednesday, March 27, 2013 with the last day to pay and be removed from the list being Friday, March 22. Councilmember Clewis and Buie motioned to approve the advertising the tax delinquent listing on March 27. The vote passed 5-0.

**9. Consideration of Tax Releases.**

The tax releases were approved as submitted by motions of Councilmember Preslar and Councilmember Clewis. The vote passed 5-0 in favor of the motion.

**Other Business**

**10. City Manager's Report.**

- **Marchell David** thanked Gail Strickland for filling in as the Acting City Clerk during the absence of the position. She noted the City went through the proper channels in the interview and hiring process for filling the clerk's position. She welcomed Mrs. Kirkley back to Hamlet.

City officials participated in a walk-thru today at the new industry TheraFirm. The company's tentative opening date the operations is June 18. Relocation of equipment is planned to take place during March and April. The building has undergone a major transformation with a financial investment of approximately \$4.5- 5 million dollars. This is a cooperative group and the city looks forward to an extended partnership with the company.

The 2013 Planning Session is scheduled for March 8 and 9 beginning at 8:00 am on both dates. Friday's Session will be hosted at the Hamlet Senior Center from 8 am – 5 pm and Saturday's Session will be hosted in the Council Chambers at City Hall from 8 am to around 1 pm. Department heads will be in attendance on Friday to give their department's presentations.

**11. Councilmember's Comments.**

- **Dewey Brower** welcomed Mrs. Kirkley back to Hamlet and he thanked Gail Strickland for her assistance.
- **Johnathan Buie** also thanked Mrs. Strickland for filling in and he welcomed Tammy back with the City. He stated that all departments look good. In recognizing Hamlet, he commended Hamlet Middle Schools was selected as a "Schools to Watch School" which is a National recognition and is great for Hamlet. The school went from a 50% to a 72% passing rate and he congratulated them. During this same time a Hamlet student won the Richmond County Spelling Bee. He mentioned that the Hamlet Park and Recreation basketball program has approximately 260 players for a make up of 30 teams. Councilmember Buie commended Miranda Chavis, Museum Manager for the good she is doing with the tours; he has received a number of compliments.  
Lastly, regarding the tennis courts, Mr. Buie agreed the city should continue to have a court open if the decision is made to use the current one as another source of parking.

- **Pat Preslar** reiterated the welcome to Mrs. Kirkley and thanked Mrs. Strickland. He reported that the streets and the town look good and he offered thanks to the city crews. Pat also recognized Hamlet locals Sam and Lisa West for their work on a recent commercial they shot for Kyac.com. He too noted the increase with Hamlet's basketball program.
- **Abbie Covington** recognized that the painting of the Depot has started and welcomed the updates. She boosted the upcoming event hosted by Miranda Chavis at the Depot entitled "Don't call me George" that will take place on February 21. She recognized the community's 15 year old student, Ashton Locklear, a budding gymnast for being chosen as one of two people from the American Gymnast Teams to compete in Beijing China in July. Ashton was also selected to compete on March 1 in Boston in a National Competition, which will be televised with Universal Sports Network an affiliate of ESPN. Mrs. Covington congratulated Ashton for her accomplishments. Councilmember Covington suggested for the city to include local positive news such as a "Spotlight" on the city's website.
- **Tony Clewis** thanked Mrs. Strickland for all for her efforts in helping during the absence of a city clerk. He offered positive words about the new business in the city Therafirm and noted Hamlet is growing. He also invited the public to attend the aforementioned event at the Visitor's Center. He is receiving a lot of positive feedback on the Chamber event held in December at the Depot and Visitor's Center. He ended with offering thanks to Billy Stubbs and all employees at Public Works for their hard work in town.

12. **Mayor's Comments.**

**Jeff Smart**, Mayor, called for a public hearing to be set for the March 12 regular monthly meeting to consider lowering the speed limit on Hwy 177 South. The mayor explained the specific location and the requests from area residents. Mayor Smart reported that the state has performed a traffic study in the subject area and has declined to lower the speed limit. According to the State, Council has the authority to make a recommendation to the State concerning the matter if they so choose. The public hearing will be appropriately be advertised by the clerk.

Mayor Smart commended Public Works for all of their hard work on the cleanliness of the city streets.

13. **Proclamation Honoring Dannell Ellerbe.**

The mayor reported that Hamlet native Dannell Ellerbe who grew up in Hamlet's Park & Recreational programs now plays in the NFL for the Baltimore Ravens. Mr. Ellerbe recently played in the XLVII Super Bowl and played a great part. The mayor then read aloud the proclamation and he congratulated Donnell Ellerbe and his family for this outstanding achievements. Mr. Ellerbe is planning an upcoming autograph signing as a Super Bowl champion player in Hamlet and plans to host a summer camp for the kids in Hamlet.

**Other.**

**Billy Stubbs** took a moment to thank council for the positive comments concerning the street conditions and that he will relay it to his employees.

Dannell Ellerbe's family then joined the meeting and the Mayor presented the proclamation to Dannell's mother. Step-father Robert Covington informed council that Dannell is currently under a new agent and the new agent will be contact with Hamlet as to when the autograph signing may take place. Mr. Ellerbe is planning a trip to Hamlet but will not be able to sign at the moment.

**14. Adjournment of Meeting.**

At approximately 7:35 pm, Councilmember Preslar and Covington motioned to adjourn the meeting and the vote passed with a 5-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Tammy Kirkley,  
City Clerk for City of Hamlet