

**CITY OF HAMLET REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
HAMLET CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345  
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2013  
7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

***Governing Body Present:***

Jeff Smart	Mayor
Tony Clewis	Mayor Pro Tem
Pat Preslar	Councilmember
Abbie Covington	Councilmember
Johnathan Buie	Councilmember
Dewey Brower	Councilmember

***Staff Present:***

Marchell Adams-David	City Manager
Steve Futrell	City Attorney
Tammy Kirkley	City Clerk
Jill Dickens	Finance Officer
David Knight	Fire Chief
Amery Griffin	Police Chief
Gail Strickland	Zoning Officer
Robert Brown	WTP Superintendent

***Others Present:*** Journal Representative, Roger Parker, Hayes, Chance Steen, Steve Davis

**1. Call to Order.**

Mayor Smart Called the meeting to order.

**2. Invocation.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Tony Clewis offered the invocation.

**3. Adoption of Agenda.**

The Agenda was unanimously adopted with a 5-0 vote by motions of Councilmember Preslar and Clewis.

**4. Approval of Minutes.**

The following sets of minutes were approved as presented by vote of 5-0 with the motions being made by Councilmember Clewis and Buie.

- March 8, 2013 - Planning Session
- April 9, 2013 - Regular Monthly Meeting
- May 1, 2013 - Budget Work Session #1

#### 5. Comments from Attendees.

- **Mr. Roger Parker** owner of 100 Rollins Ave. presented council to discuss accrued fines on his property that was burned. He reported that someone set his home on fire on January 7, 2010, and noted the 911 call went to Rockingham instead of Hamlet, which wasted time to put out the fire. Since that time, he had had to hire an attorney for a claim to collect with the insurance company. Mr. Parker asked for the code violation fines to be lifted from his property due to the special circumstances. He stated he had someone who wanted to purchase the property; however, the accumulated fines with the city stopped the sale. Mr. Parker asked council if they would consider doing away with the fines and he welcomed the fire department, if possible, to do a burning exercise on the structure. He said he doesn't think he should have to pay anything prior to December. Mr. Clewis talked to Mr. Parker about the number of letters he received from Mrs. Strickland with the city about the matter. Mr. Parker stated he feels it is unjust for him to be fined when he hadn't settled on the contents, which was evidence in the burning. He noted he had to hire a private adjuster to help him to settle on the structure and the contents. Mr. Parker confirmed the structure settled about a year ago - around March 2011, and the contents settled in December 2012.

Mayor Smart stated that he and council will need some time to review the matter and the dates involved and will be back in touch with Mr. Parker. The mayor took a moment to explain the process. Councilmember Covington asked Mr. Parker if he is prepared to take the structure down and Mr. Parker confirmed as soon as Hamlet says they will drop the zoning issue, he will be looking for someone tomorrow to do the work, unless council would say it's ok for the fire chief to burn it.

- **Mr. Danny Hayes** a lifelong resident of Spear Street in Hamlet and a Rockingham business owner said he comes to council as a concerned citizen and business owner for two reasons. 1) He would like to request a community action watch and talked about the problems with burglaries with his mother's home and others in his neighborhood. He complained that every bit of the detective work on his mom's case, he had to do it, with the help of Gary Carter of the HPD. Mr. Hayes reported that no one has spoken to his mother about her house being burglarized. He complained that last week someone stole his mother's riding lawn mower and they drove it out of her yard. Mr. Hayes' mother did not report the lawn mower being stolen because nothing was ever done with the first burglary that occurred around October of 2012. He complained about the lack of communication with the police department. 2) He said he is addressing city council tonight because he feels there needs to be further training inside of the Hamlet Police Department; he said training is offered for free by the Human Relations Council, which he is a member. He asked if there is a plan or a community watch to assist with the burglary issues. Councilmember Buie asked Mr. Hayes to relay the message to his mother and the neighbors to please make sure to report any incidents that occur.

Mayor Smart said council will communicate with the police chief on the issue. Mr. Hayes confirmed the citizens in the neighborhood are working on getting a group together. Councilmember Covington explained that a community watch starts with the community, and stated that its neighbors watching for neighbors, and is something that they may institute on their own.

- **Steve Davis** owner of TRG Sign Company gave council an update on the way- finding signage project in town. Two signs were installed today and the remaining nine will go up by the week's end. He thanked the city for allowing him to be a part of the project.

**6. Approval of Fourth Quarter Budget Amendments.**

The Fourth Quarter Budget Amendments were approved as presented by motions of Councilmember Clewis and Brower. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

**7. City Manager's Report.**

The city manager informed the public that city offices will be closed for Memorial Day - Monday, May 27, and reported the closing will not have an effect on trash collections.

**8. Comments of Council.**

- **Pat Preslar** complimented the work on the Park and Recreation baseball fields. He thanked the volunteers and the part-time help. Mr. Preslar stated the National Train Day this past week was a success and said there was a good turnout for the event. He thanked CSX and Amtrak for their participation.
- **Tony Clewis** reported that the Lumber River Council of Government is hosting a Scam Jam on May 21, from 10 am- 2 pm at the Cole Auditorium. The event is to educate the older adults from being targeted by scams and fraud. He echoed the success of National Train Day and thanked everyone involved; he recognized Senator McLaurin for attending the event.

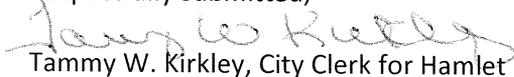
**9. Mayor's Comments.**

Mayor Smart echoed the success with the recent National Train Day. He also reported that the red lines along the sidewalks in town are part of a walking tour project; he noted this is a self-tour or path for visitors to take on their own. This project will be completed in the near future.

**10. Recess of Meeting.**

At 7:30 pm, Councilmember Covington and Clewis motioned to recess the meeting until May 22, 2013, at 4:00 pm. The vote passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Tammy W. Kirkley, City Clerk for Hamlet

