

**HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
HAMLET CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, August 12, 2014 – 7:00 PM**

MINUTES

Governing Body Present:

Mayor	William Bayless
Mayor Pro Tem	Johnathan Buie
Council Member	Pat Preslar
Council Member	Tony Clewis
Council Member	Jesse McQueen
Council Member	Eddie Martin

Staff Present:

City Manager	Marchell David
City Clerk	Tammy Kirkley
City Attorney	TC Morphis
Acting Police Chief	Rodney Tucker
Fire Chief	David Knight
WTP Supt.	Robert Brown
Zoning	Gail Strickland
Museum Manager	Miranda Chavis
IT	Zach Garner
Park & Rec Director	Mitch Bowman
Public Works Dir.	Billy Stubbs

Others Present: approximately 60 attendees. Media -2

- 1. Call to Order.** Mayor Bayless called the meeting to order.
- 2. Invocation.** Pastor Ricky Jacobs offered the invocation.
- 3. Adoption of Agenda.** Council Members Buie and Martin motioned to amend the agenda by moving Item No. 14 behind Item 15. All were in favor of the amendments. Councilman Buie and McQueen motioned to adopt the agenda with the amendments. All were in favor.
- 4. Minutes Approved:** Minutes to the July 8, 2014 Regular Meeting and the May 1, 2014 Budget Meeting were approved by vote of 5-0 with Councilman Preslar and Clewis making the motions to collectively adopt both sets of minutes.
- 5. Comments from Attendees.**

Lisa McLendon resident of Hamlet presented council regarding the forming of a new Raider Marching Alumni Association. She talked about what the association will do to help the students in school and what they will do to help teach the future students of the band. Paying it forward is what the association will be doing.

October 31 is the first event – band members from the 1st graduating class of Richmond Sr. High School to current. She informed the public of a T-Shirt sale and noted that all proceeds will go back into the band program. It cost approximately \$400 per student to be in the band. Ms. McLendon thanked council for the time.

Abbie Covington presented council on behalf of herself and on behalf of previous council members to say thank you to Marchell David and to Miranda Chavis. She pointed out Ms. Chavis' passion and professionalism she brought to the city and thanked her for the time she served Hamlet. Mrs. Covington thanked Marchell for her efforts and everything she did for the City of Hamlet.

Jeff Smart presented council as a local business owner and as a former Mayor of Hamlet to publicly thank Marchell David for what she has meant to him personally and to the city. He noted that Mrs. David has brought some \$20 million dollars to this town with her efforts. Mr. Smart stated he and the manager disagreed at times but that they worked well as a team. He thanked her for coming back from college to help support her hometown for twenty years. Mr. Smart said he was enhanced himself because of Mrs. David.

Bert Unger presented council and said he has spent many years working with Marchell and said the citizens would never know what she has done for the citizens and for the city. He stated his work with Marchell was very gratifying. Mr. Unger reminded all that Hamlet's loss will be Raleigh's gain and said he will miss her.

6. Introduction of Law Officers and Promotion Recognition. Interim Police Chief Tucker introduced new Patrol Officer Randy Dover and said he has 9 years of law enforcement and will be an asset to the Hamlet Police Department and the City of Hamlet. He also reported that there have been a few promotions in the Police Department due to some leaving and said Mr. Grantland Jackson was promoted to Sergeant and Ms. Heather Wyatt was promoted to investigator. Mr. Dover and Ms. Wyatt were in attendance and they were given a round of applause.

7. Adoption of the Fire Code for the Solar Energy Farm. Gail Strickland presented council for explanation. She said there was a lot going on with the adoption of the entire Solar Farm Ordinance during last month's meeting that the Appendix for the Fire Code for the Solar Farm Ordinance was overlooked and that it needed to be adopted. Ms. Strickland said there were no changes to the appendix. With no questions, Mayor Bayless said he would entertain a motion to adopt the Appendix to the Fire Code for the Solar Farm Ordinance that was adopted last month. Council Members Clewis and Buie made the motions and the vote passed 5-0.

8. Council Appointment of Alternate Member to the Lumber River Council of Governments. Councilman Clewis nominated Councilman Buie to serve as the Alternate Member to the LRCOG and Councilman McQueen made the second. No other nominations were presented. Councilman Clewis and McQueen then motioned to appoint Johnathan Buie to serve as the Alternate Member to the LRCOG and the vote passed 5-0.

9. Approval of Tax Releases. The tax releases were unanimously approved as presented by Council Members Preslar and Clewis. (Councilman McQueen stepped out of the meeting). All were in favor with a count of 4-0.

10. Adoption of the Yearly Tax Settlement and Charge the Tax Collector to Collect Taxes for the Coming Year. Councilman Clewis and Buie motioned to approve the tax settlement and to charge the tax collector to collect the coming year's taxes. The manager confirmed that the list of names before council is the closeout listing. Councilman McQueen returned to the meeting. The Mayor called for a vote and the vote passed 5-0.

11. Discussion on the Parks and Recreation Gymnasium. Johnathan Buie noted a potential solution is to look at some of the space at Memorial Park, along the fence in the corner near the park by the baseball field. If we can look at some idea of what it will cost for a structure with heat and A/C. Mr. Buie said we are not particularly looking to build it right now but to get a quote or an idea for what it will cost to build one. He said if we can keep the practices and games together it will be better for the parents. He said the current gym can be used for practices. It was noted that the city does not own the property and that it is a land lease. Mr. Buie noted that the current owner allowed us to build a new concession stand on the property and they, more than likely, wouldn't mind a new gymnasium. He suggested checking with Second Baptist Church on their new gym and to look into getting a quote. Mr. Buie and Jerry Lamont discussed the logistics for the potential field layouts.

Council Members Martin and Clewis agreed there is a need for another gymnasium. Councilman Buie said he will get with Mr. Lamont and they can get some measurements of some areas at the park.

12. Presentation to the City Manager. Mayor Bayless called the City Manager and her attending family members to the front for a presentation. Mrs. Marchell David was presented with a plaque noting her 20 years of service with the City of Hamlet. A standing ovation by all was given to Mrs. David.

Councilman Pat Preslar then asked for a moment to present the manager with a farewell gift. He said he has worked with Mrs. David for the past 12 years as a council member. Mr. Preslar thanked Mrs. David for what all she has done for the city and for what she has tolerated with the controversy. He noted a number of accomplishments overseen by Mrs. David including the \$20 million in downtown improvements. He said Hamlet is a better place because Marchell David was here. Mr. Preslar presented the Mrs. David with a framed photo of the Depot and all applauded.

13. Comments from the Manager. Mrs. David then gave closing comments to the City of Hamlet. In her comments she noted specific lessons she has learned while at the City of Hamlet, a few being: it is better to be respected than liked because people always like you when things are going their way; what defines a family; you will never please all of the people all of the time but you always try; the true tests of one's character, and to make the best of the situations life may throw at you. Mrs. David thanked the people she was able to work with, specifically, Abbie Covington, who taught her about grace under fire and further explained. She thanked Bert Unger and many other individuals within the community and within her professional network. She thanked the City of Hamlet staff who she would put up against anyone; she gave thanks to Council Members Tony Clewis and Pat Preslar. Also thanked were past mayors she served under, Abbie Covington, Cary Garner and Jeff Smart; she thanked Bill Bayless for his service. She thanked previous manager Lee Matthews for an internship he afforded her back in 1993.

Mrs. David thanked her family for sharing her with the city and she thanked the community. Mrs. David concluded with stating it has been her joy and pleasure to work for this community and confirmed that it has been her passion because it was her home. Another ovation was given to Mrs. David.

Department Head Reports

Jerry Lamont with Parks & Recreation reported that the soccer draft will take place next week.

Gail Strickland in Zoning reported the city has demolition bid packets available for a structure that will be taken down on Monroe Avenue. The demolition bid has been advertised and packets may be picked up at city hall. She stated that bids are due by Monday, August 18th and the bid opening will take place at 12 Noon.

Robert Brown addressed the current water taste and odor situation. He is aware of all of the complaints and he apologized. Mr. Brown reported that they tried something different this year in treatment. Staff has been out and about flushing hydrants in an attempt to help flush out the water and the situation is getting better. Mr. Brown said they are continuing to address the areas that have multiple complaints. He asked that the water customers who are still having issues to contact the water plant and for the customers where the water is getting better to not call and he explained. He said staff is getting feedback that the situation is getting better. Mr. Brown explained the issue is primarily due to the algae this year and the hot sunny days. He said the rain will assist in helping to wash some of the issues. Samples are being drawn from various areas and the state lab is drawing samples from the city lake.

Councilman Martin said Hamlet has always been known for their superior drinking water and asked Robert to better explain what they did differently this year. Mr. Brown explained they went from a granulated copper sulfate and to a liquid form. Robert Brown also confirmed Hamlet also uses grass carp in the lake and that the originals that were placed in the lake in 2003/2004 will be replaced this fall. Mr. Buie said the city had a trial and error issue and we will get it worked out as we always do. Mr. Buie thanked Mr. Brown. Mr. McQueen added that the city has no fault in what has gone on; however, he wanted the public to be aware of the matter. Mr. McQueen thanked Mr. Brown for the recent tour at the water plant. The Mayor thanked Robert for his work and dedication as well.

The Mayor recognized Marchell David for putting a good staff in-place.

14. Motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143.318.11 (a)(e) to preserve attorney-client privilege. At approximately 8:10 pm, motions were made by Council Members Buie and McQueen to go into closed session for attorney-client privilege per the statues and the vote passed 5-0.

At 9:06 Open Session Reconvened. Mayor Bayless informed the public that there was nothing to report from closed session.

15. Comments from Council.

Pat Preslar wished Marchell David and her family the best and thanked her for all of the years of service to Hamlet.

Jesse McQueen wished Mrs. David good luck in her new career.

Tony Clewis said he appreciated Mrs. David’s kind words. He then recognized a number of accomplishments and recognitions of Mrs. David’s while with Hamlet and he thanked her for same. Mr. Clewis also thanked Miranda Chavis, who is departing from the city, for her many efforts and wished her the best. He said Ms. Chavis did an amazing job with the downtown activities. He thanked all of council and all of the department heads and noted they are all working for the common cause.

Eddie Martin said he would like to reiterate all that has been said by council tonight and he offered thanks to Marchell David for her service to the city and wished her good luck in the future.

Johnathan Buie thanked Mrs. David for her service. He recognized that Mrs. David’s resignation ends on August 22; however, he asked council, as a thank you to Marchell, to pay her thru August 31 and let her go home and spend time with her family and do what she needs to do to get ready. A motion was then made by Council Members Buie and Preslar to pay Mrs. David through the end of August and the vote passed 5-0.

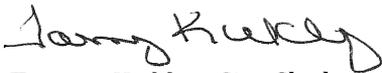
16. Mayor’s Comments. The Mayor thanked Marchell David again for her service and said that words cannot express his thoughts. He then said as mentioned Marchell’ last day with the city is on August 22 and said council needs to appoint an Interim City Manager as of August 23. He has been asked if Mrs. Kirkley will serve in that position again and Tammy confirmed that she will do so. Council Members Buie and McQueen motioned to appoint Tammy Kirkley as the Interim City Manager and assure that her pay is the same as was carried out last time for this service. The vote passed 5-0.

Mayor Bayless recognized local Earl Bradshaw and congratulated him on his 99th birthday and wished him well.

The Mayor said the Hamlet Florist and Consignment has moved from current building down to the old Rice Building. He also recognized the owner of Razzle Dazzle for their one year anniversary. He welcomed and thanked all the businesses downtown Hamlet.

17. Adjournment. Council Members Preslar and Buie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 pm. The vote passed unanimously 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,


Tammy Kirkley, City Clerk

