

**HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
HAMLET CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015 – 7:00 PM**

MINUTES

Governing Body Present:

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

Staff Present:

City Manager	Marcus Abernethy
City Clerk	Tammy Kirkley
City Attorney	TC Morphis
Police Chief	Scott Waters
Fire Chief	David Knight
WTP Supt.	Robert Brown
Zoning	Gail Strickland
Public Works Dir.	Billy Stubbs
IT Director	Zach Garner
P&R Director	Maurice McLaurin

Others Present: approximately 22 attendees. Media RCDJ

- 1. Call to Order.** Mayor Bayless called the meeting to order.
- 2. Invocation.** Councilman Tony Clewis offered the invocation.
- 3. Adoption of Agenda.** Council Members Buie and Preslar motioned to adopt the amended agenda to Table Item #9, and add subsection (a) (6) relating to a personnel matter to Item #15. The motion carried 5-0.
- 4. Adoption of January 10, 2015 Regular and Closed Session Meeting.** Council Members Clewis and Buie motioned to adopt the regular and closed session minutes as presented. Councilman Buie recused himself from voting on a portion of the closed session minutes dealing with a contract. All were in favor.
- 5. Comments from Attendees.** Mr. O'Neil Patrick presented council. The mayor gave legal counsel's advice on the car crushing matter within the police department. Mr. Patrick stated he would wait on the decisions that need to be made in the matter.

Mr. Brown - 506 Entwistle St. – Mr. Brown questioned if the city has any plans to do anything about the recent tree trimming done in the city.

The mayor replied that the trimmings took place on Duke Energy's right-of-way. He suggested Mr. Brown call Duke Energy's customer service and make a complaint. Mr. Brown noted that he contacted them and he was told to inform the city. Mayor Bayless asked Mr. Brown to call city hall tomorrow and they may have a contact number for Duke Energy.

Old Business

- 6. Award of Bid for Fire Truck.** Council reviewed the Bid Sheet for Fire Truck. The mayor reported that one bid was received from Smyrna Truck,- Fouts Bros. out of Smyrna Georgia, and the bid was for \$216,000. Mr. McQueen made the motion to accept the bid received from Smyrna Bros. for \$216,000; Mr. Preslar seconded the motion on the floor. Mayor Bayless asked for comments. Fire Chief David Knight confirmed that the bid was \$1,000 off from the amount budgeted. Mr. Clewis inquired about certain specs of the truck. The fire chief confirmed the cab & chassis is a Peter-Bilt and that the new truck will hold 2000 gallons of water and will be able to pump 1250 gallons per minute. Mr. Buie and Mr. McQueen thanked the fire chief for his efforts in finding a vehicle within the allocated amount and thanked staff for their work on the financing end of the matter. Mayor Bayless called for a vote and the motion on the floor carried unanimously by vote of 5-0.

New Business

- 7. Adoption of Resolution No. 2015-01 - Approving Financing Terms with Branch Banking and Trust.** The total loan is \$216,000; the first loan payment will be due on January 1, 2016 and the last payment due on January 7, 2020. The payments will be \$46,212.63 per year for five years. The manager noted the two options for financing offered; he stated the city will need to make a payment in the first fiscal year that we receive the loan in order to satisfy the auditors. Mr. Abernethy noted that council will need to choose between the two financing options offered: 5 years with a 2.29% rate or 7 years with a 2.59%. The manager confirmed this is a lease purchase. Councilman Preslar motioned to go with the 5 year financing option and Councilman McQueen provided a second to the motion. The vote passed 5-0.
- 8. Donna Wright - Director of Emergency Presentation.** Ms. Wright presented council and noted the County EMS department is seeking a grant from the State for 911 Board. She said this is a consolidation grant that will bring other agencies together as one unit. She has met with the county about consolidating and the county has signed an agreement. This new system will better serve the citizens of the county. Ms. Wright gave discussed the benefits of a more updated- one dispatch agency. Safety is the biggest benefit; technology and better records management are also benefits. She invited Hamlet to participate in the coming together of the agencies. She said she has also talked to Rockingham's manager and they will be voting on the matter. The wireless company funds help to bring this funding about. Chief Martin asked about the deadline for the grant which is April 10 and Ms. Wright will need to know prior to April 10th.

Mr. Preslar said he understands it will be a cost savings to the city taxpayers but suggested for council to discuss the matter during the Budget Retreat in March. It was confirmed that this will be a county department. Mr. Wright talked about having a law enforcement oversight committee to assist in this matter.

Council discussed maintaining an employee to work at the window at the PD during working hours if this does come to play. It was also stated it takes about 6-7 seconds to transfer calls with the current system.

Mr. Preslar and Mr. McQueen noted their support of this idea and that there are more sides to this type plan than the taking over the personnel. Mr. Wright confirmed this will not be an immediate action and will be a few years down the road if all goes through. Donna stated that Scotland County is today, fully transferred into a fully consolidated county as well as others. She noted the funding that is available.

The Budget Retreat is March 6 & 7. Mr. McQueen asked Ms. Wright to send the manager a contract to review. Ms. Wright confirmed that this plan will be of no cost to the City of Hamlet. Mr. Preslar reiterated that the funds come from the cell phones payments.

- 9. Amendments to the Personnel Policy.** (Item Matter is tabled until March 10, 2015)
- 10. Advertisement for the Delinquent Taxes.** The tax collector is requesting council's permission to advertise the delinquent tax listing on April 8, 2015, and allowing tax payments to be made and removed from the list until April 3, 2015. Councilman Buie and Clewis motioned to allow the advertising to take place on April 8, 2015 and allowing the persons in arrears to have an opportunity to pay and not be on the listing by April 3, 2015. The vote passed unanimously in favor 5-0.
- 11. Consideration of Tax Releases.** Council Members Clewis and Preslar motioned to approve the tax releases as presented. All were in favor with a 5-0 vote.
- 12. Mayoral Appointment- Board Member to the Sandhills Community Action Program.** Mr. Derek Crawford of Hamlet was appointed to the Board.
- 13. Adoption of Resolution No. 2015-02 Surplus and Sale of Personal Property.** Council reviewed the photos of scrap metal and garbage receptacles, as well as discussing the list of unused vehicles requested to be declared surplus. Council Members McQueen and Buie motioned to adopt the Resolution declaring the property surplus and allow for the sale. The vote passed in favor 5-0. Council briefly discussed the need to have a dumpster at public works to store future scrap metal.

Other Business.

Departmental Reports. Jerry Lamont reported that the basketball registrations ended January 9th and practices are underway. The basketball season starts Monday. Council then took a few moments to thank Jerry Lamont for all of his assistance and efforts in the Park and Recreation Department while being without a director. Mr. Lamont said he understood some people had asked why he was driving the former director's truck and said he did so to save on fuel and confirmed it with the interim manager at the time. Pat Preslar gave Mr. Lamont his personal thanks. Mr. McQueen asked Jerry about the adult men's group who play basketball at the gym on Sundays. Mr. Lamont said Steve Daskall and a group of men rent the gym on Sundays; he reported that they have been renting the space for years.

Mr. McQueen asked city staff to look at having a waiver signed by the group since there are no city personnel present in the gym in case someone were to get hurt. He said this would reduce the city's liability.

The Mayor stated he has asked Zach Garner to look into broadcasting the meetings live via the internet.

Gail Strickland reported that the bid packets to demolish the property at 16 Hamlet Avenue are available at city hall and may be found on the city's website.

Tammy Kirkley reported that the earlier approved personal surplus property will be advertised locally for the public as required.

14. City Manager's Report

Duke Energy Tree Trimming Project. Mr. Abernethy wants to work more closely with Duke and the citizens to work out the kinks in these future projects. Duke will begin taking a street light inventory in March and work in May and June to change out the light bulbs. They are looking at painting some of the poles in the downtown areas.

Mr. Abernethy reported that he attended the Manager's Conference in Durham this past week and gave his appreciation for the opportunity. He then welcomed and introduced Chuck McShane and Maurice McLaurin to city council and the public. The Mayor recognized Zach and Candace Garner for all of their efforts at the Visitor's Center and Depot while the director's position was vacant.

Councilman McQueen inquired about a property on McDonald Avenue and said he has received a complaint call about it. Mrs. Strickland noted that if the complaint was regarding the 516 McDonald Avenue property, that the situation has been on the "list" since she came to work with the city. She noted that she was finally able to locate the property owner on social media and that the cleanup has taken place as a result. Mr. McQueen asked about the flaking of the paint and noted the asbestos concern. Mrs. Strickland will check on that matter.

Council Member Buie inquired if there is a policy about garbage receptacles and if it stated that the city will only pick up city issued cans. He noted that we need to make sure we are picking up as the policy states.

15. Closed Session. Motion to go into closed session per NCGS §143.318.11 (a) (4) (5)(6) – to discuss a contract; economic development, and a personnel matter. At 7:58 p.m., Council members Buie and McQueen made the motions. All were in favor with a 5-0 vote.

At 9:05 pm open session reconvened.

The Mayor reported that nothing was done in closed session that would need a vote by council.

16. Comments of Council

Councilman Preslar noted the handling of the situation downtown Hamlet recently and commended the Hamlet Police Department for getting on the happening in a quick manner.

Councilman McQueen said he received a call from a city resident near the Rice Street and Myrtle Avenue area about street light outages. He asked staff to check into the outages in the area.

Councilman Tony Clewis thanked Jerry Lamont for his hard work at Park & Recreation. He thanked the police chief for the handling of the recent unfortunate incident downtown. Mr. Clewis also recognized Public Works for picking up the trimmings with Duke Energy’s tree project.

Councilman Eddie Martin echoed the other comments in recognizing and thanking Jerry Lamont for his help in the Park & Recreation, and he thanked the police department for their efforts.

Councilman Buie gave notice to the public that to the recent break-ins at the Briarwood area have been reportedly going on during the daytime. Police Chief Waters advised the public that if something looks suspicious to call the Hamlet PD at the time that it is noticed. The chief recommended all to lock their car doors and create a neighborhood watch to assist.

17. Mayor’s Comments. Mayor Bayless said council is moving ahead and thanked city staff for the job they’re doing. The Mayor noted that NC Department of Transportation has asked to look at the sidewalk to be added at the park side of Spring Street. He referenced a recent structure fire that started by a grass fire and reminded the public to be careful because it is woods’ fire season. Mayor Bayless reminded all that the next meeting will be the Budget Retreat on March 6th at 8:00 am.

18. Adjournment. At 9:16 pm motions were made by Councilman Clewis and Buie to adjourn the meeting. The vote passed with a vote of 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Tammy Kirkley, City Clerk

