

**HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016
7:00 PM**

MINUTES

Governing Body Present:

Bill Bayless	Mayor
Johnathan Buie	Mayor Pro-Tem
Jesse McQueen	Council Member
Eddie Martin	Council Member
David Lindsey	Council Member
Wendy Massagee	Council Member

Staff Present:

Marcus Abernethy	City Manager
TC Morphis	City Attorney
Tammy Kirkley	City Clerk
Jill Dickens	Finance Officer
Scott Waters	Police Chief
Calvin White	Fire Chief
Billy Stubbs	Public Works Director
Robert Brown	WTP Superintendent
Gail Strickland	Zoning Administrator

Others Present: Media (1), Approximate Attendees (22)

1. **Call to Order.** Mayor Bayless called the meeting to order.
2. **Invocation.** Reverend Steve Crews of the Hamlet Church of God of Prophecy offered the invocation.
3. **Adoption of Agenda.** The Agenda was amended to include Item 6-A for the purposes of considering Resolution 2016-03, and to add section (a)(5) to Item 19 for acquisition of property. The amended agenda was approved by motions of Council Members Buie and Massagee. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **Adoption of Minutes.** Minutes to the January 12th Special Meeting; January 12th Regular Meeting and January 12th Closed Session were unanimously approved with motions presented by Council Members McQueen and Massagee.

5. **Comments from Attendees.** Master Sergeant Brian Webb of the North Carolina National Guard presented council and provided an update regarding a detachment of the local unit. As of January 2016, the local unit is active as a full company and there will be a daily presence at the local unit again. Master Sergeant Webb introduced several officers of the local unit.
6. **Presentation of Richmond County Comprehensive Transportation Plan.** Mr. Domonique Boyd presented council with a request to adopt the Richmond County Comprehensive Transportation Plan maps. As Mr. Boyd's second visit before council, he provided a brief update via power point of an overview of the plan.
- 6-A. **Consideration of Resolution 2016-03 Adopting the Richmond County Comprehensive Transportation Plan.** Mayor Bayless read the Resolution aloud for the public. Council Members Buie and Martin motioned to approve. The motion carried 5-0.
7. **Presentation by Claudia Brown and Jeff Adolphsen of the NC State Preservation Board.** Ms. Brown and Mr. Adolphsen presented information regarding the National Register of Historic Places Program. Information concerning tax credits for the possible areas of Hamlet that may qualify under the program were discussed. This is a Federal and State program that helps revitalize towns. The requirements of the program were provided. Attendee, Ms. Bobbie Williams offered inquiries about the potential buildings. Mayor Bayless thanked the presenters.
8. **Public Hearing: Amendments to Zoning Table of Permitted & Prohibited Uses.** The city manager presented explanations for the amendments to the Zoning Table of Permitted and Prohibited Uses. The floor to the hearing was opened and the attorney provided further explanations. No one presented and the hearing was closed.
9. **Consideration of Ordinance No. 2016-02- Ordinance Pertaining to Prohibited Uses and Uses Not Specifically Listed in the Table of Permitted Uses.** Council Members Massagee and McQueen motioned to approve Ordinance No. 2016-02. The vote passed 5-0.
10. **Adoption of Consistency Statement of Council.** Council Members Buie and Massagee motioned to approve Council's Consistency Statement related to Ordinance No. 2016-02. The vote passed 5-0 in favor.
11. **Ordinance No. 2016-03 Pertaining to the Open and Concealed Carrying of Firearms.** Motions to approve Ordinance No. 2016-03 were made by Council Members McQueen and Buie. The vote passed unanimously.

12. **Personnel Policy Updates Regarding Firearms.** Council Members Buie and Martin motioned to approve the presented Personnel Policy updates to Article IV, adding §21, which prohibits city employees (except police officers) from carrying firearms while on duty and addresses concealed weapons while on duty. The motion carried 5-0.
13. **Award of RFP for Forester Consultant.** The city manager reported five bids were received in the matter and explained the rates of the bids received. Mr. Abernethy made the recommendation to award the RFP to Kiker Resource Management with a 4% fee. Council Members Buie and McQueen motioned to award the contract to Kiker Resource management. All were in favor.
14. **Approval of Tax Releases.** The submitted tax releases were unanimously approved by motions of Council Members Massagee and Martin.
15. **Departmental Reports.**
Councilman McQueen asked staff to check on the issue with the graffiti on streets and noted the location(s).

Gary Greene – New displays at the Depot were mentioned and Mr. Greene encouraged additional donations in order to keep the displays revolving. The museum has seen visitors from England and Hawaii. The National Railroad and Hall of Fame has exchanged items with the city's museum. Upcoming to the Depot Museum will be the Hamlet School of Nursing display.

16. **City Manager's Report.**
City Offices will be closed Good Friday, March 25 in observance of the Easter holiday; there are no changes to the garbage schedule due to the closing.
17. **Comments of Council.**
David Lindsey thanked staff for leading new council through the recent Budget Retreat.
Jesse McQueen expressed his thoughts on learning that the city did not have to use the \$800,000 allocated to balance the budget and explained. He said council agreed to use some of the funds to purchase needed items such as: air tanks, police cars, other vehicles, etc.
Eddie Martin reiterated the earlier comments and thanked Kim Lindsey for the contribution of items during the Retreat.
Wendy Massage also recognized Kim Lindsey.
Johnathan Buie thanked staff and the department heads for the presentations during the Budget Retreat and noted the new format worked well.

18. **Mayor's Comments.** Mayor Bayless offered good comments on the recent Budget Retreat and recognized staff for good financial management. The HBDA- Business of the Month is Harrington Funeral Home.

19. **Motion to go into Closed Session Per NCGS §143-318.11 (a) (3)(5)(6) for attorney-client privilege, negotiation of land contract, and personnel matters.** At 8:02 p.m. Council Members Buie and Martin motioned to go into Closed Session. The vote passed unanimously.

At 9:42 p.m., Open Session reconvened. No votes were made while in Closed Session.

20. **Adjournment.** At 9:43 pm, with no other business to discuss, Council Members Buie and McQueen motioned to adjourn the meeting. The vote passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Tammy Kirkley, City Clerk