

**HAMLET CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MONTHLY MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016
4:30 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

Absent:

Wendy Massagee	Council Member
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Staff Present:

Marcus Abernethy	City Manager
TC Morphis	City Attorney
Tammy Kirkley	City Clerk
Jill Dickens	Finance Officer
Doc Sylvain	B&M Director
Billy Stubbs	Public Works Director

Adoption of the Agenda. Council Members Martin and Buie motioned to approve the agenda. The vote passed 4-0.

The manager said the draft budget is almost complete and added that a few last minute things will come in due to property taxes and the potential health insurance increase of 12% or \$68,000. The manager gave a review of the two quotes received for health coverage. Currently, the budget is at \$5.1 million.

Council reviewed the "Immediate Purchase List" which they approved in March. The manager gave a recommendation to change the payout amount and explained. He talked about paying out 10% to 100% of any employees who have less than 100 hours to help get the debt off of the books. Next year's draft budget includes a 20% to be paid out on July 1.

Capital Improvement Plan. The CIP prioritization worksheet was reviewed. The sound system project was discussed. Council agreed all Public Works employees need to have a CDL license. Mr. Stubbs talked about the need for a trailer and a truck at Public Works. Council agreed that a tandem axle trailer is needed to utilize when hauling. Mr. Stubbs confirmed that a used trailer

may be purchased for less than \$20,000. Mr. McQueen inquired about a single tandem truck with the used trailer for that same amount. Council agreed to a single axle truck and tandem trailer.

Mr. Buie inquired about the paving project at the Senior Center parking lot and suggested to list it as a Priority #2, and do patching. Mr. Stubbs explained the plan to address the repairs at the Senior Center. Council agreed to consider the plan presented by Mr. Stubbs and move the repaving project to a Priority #2 and the patching to Priority #1.

The manager referenced the parking lots located at South Hamlet Park and Memorial Park and said the previous numbers given were inaccurate. The quote to pave South Hamlet parking lot is \$250,000 and to repave the parking lot at Memorial Park is \$50,000; there is an alternative quote to add in a gravel lot – council continued to discuss parking lot options for Memorial Park.

Gail Strickland joined the meeting at 5:10 pm

Non Capital Outlay Operating Expenses were reviewed.

Fund Balance Appropriations. Council discussed this year's budget projection. The Tree Management Plan was discussed; the manager asked council to decide how they would like to allocate the funds. Mr. Abernethy noted some local governments create a capital improvements fund with this type of money.

Police Department-Assault Rifles. Council agreed to keep at four.

Fire Department- Pickup trucks. The manager explained the department would like to have the two current trucks repainted and will more than likely sell the Dodge Charger. The city does not plan to purchase a new truck for the fire department. Mr. McQueen inquired as to why funds were being spent to fix the old fire truck to just sit under the shelter; he asked how much the cost will be. The fire chief explained they plan to pull the truck to Raleigh to be a part of the upcoming parade for Fireman's Day. The Parade will be in May and pictures could be in major magazines. Mr. McQueen asked if the fire department is in the red how it was justified spending funds on the repairs; he said his issue is the truck is not being used. The manager and the fire chief explained it will cost about \$2,000 or less to repair all items and that it should be a budgeted item that the manager may amend internally. The Mayor stated the vehicle is used when pumpers are down and it's used for the super soaker events in the city as well. Mr. Buie recommended looking at mats to park the vehicle.

Mr. McQueen said the tires on the dump truck are more of a priority than the tires on the subject fire truck. Discussions of the fire truck being insured were presented and Mrs. Strickland will check on the matter. Council then agreed to repair the older fire truck and use it for parade and museum purposes. The manager said the old fire truck located at the Water Treatment Plant has previously been declared surplus and is on the list to be sold at the next sale or auction.

Break: A ten-minute break was taken at 5:45 pm.

The manager has included a salary increase of 1.5% and a merit increase of 2.5% in the budget. Council discussed the need for both types of increases. Mr. Abernethy said council may raise the base salaries by a certain percentage in order to maintain the pay range. Council agreed to do a salary increase for employees by 1.5%. The manager explained his plan to increase the police pay in order to get them at the needed pay rate. It was agreed that the equipment and take-home car program is a benefit to the police department as well. Marcus suggested approving the increases as he recommended and to move the positions for the police up one pay grade. The manager stated if all police positions are moved up, the expected costs will be around \$30,000. Mr. McQueen asked staff go back the last five years and figure up the totality of what has been spent in in connection to hiring officers.

ABC Board Raise Request. This request has come from the ABC Board and council discussed their current pay. Mr. Buie noted that city council has not had a raise in many years. Council tabled the matter until a full board is present. Mr. Buie motioned to raise council pay by \$50 per month and Mr. Lindsey made the second. The vote was 2-2; Mayor Bayless voted to break the tie vote in which he was opposed. The motion failed 3-2. Council Members Buie and Lindsey were in favor.

Pay Increase for Planning Board Members. Mrs. Strickland reported that the Planning and Zoning Board has not had a raise in over 20 years; their current pay is \$25 per meeting and the meetings are held on an as-needed basis. It was the consensus of council to place the ABC Board and Planning Board increase requests on the May Budget Meeting Agenda. Mr. Buie requested to add the council pay increase consideration on the May Budget Meeting Agenda as well.

Longevity Raises. 20% payout in budget for July 1. Five options were reviewed.

Contributions to Other Agencies. The current year was the last year for the donation to Discovery Kids. The manager explained the application process for the agencies requesting donations. Mr. Lindsey suggested for the upcoming budget to exclude Discovery Kids and give the same amount that was given last year. Model Train group – council discussed giving \$1,000 and the manager suggested putting it in the Depot budget and allow Gary Greene to control.

Dobbins Heights Fire Service Fee. The current increases will more than cover the expenses. EMS calls are not included. A four-year plan was recommended. Council agreed to leave it to the agreed upon amount shown and increase the amount by \$2,000 annually to \$30,000 over the next three years.

Consideration of Resolutions No. 2016-04 and 2016-05: These Resolutions are in connection to the city purchasing locally and specifically purchasing from Vector Shirts; the documents are for

public contracts and the exemptions listed in the statutes. In order to do business with any elected official the board has to pass a Resolution and post the document, etc. Councilman Lindsey requested to be recused from the vote. Council Members McQueen and Buie motioned to recuse Mr. Lindsey and the vote passed in favor 3-0. Council Members Martin and Buie motioned to approve both Resolutions 2016-04 & 2016-05. All in favor 3-0.

Adjournment of Meeting. At approximately 6:33 pm, motions were made by Council Members Buie and Martin to adjourn the meeting. The vote passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Tammy Kirkley, City Clerk