

**HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2016
7:00 PM**

MINUTES

Governing Body Present:

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

Staff Present:

Marcus Abernethy	City Manager
Bob Hornick	Attorney In-place of TC Morphis
Tammy Kirkley	City Clerk
Jill Dickens	Finance Officer
Scott Waters	Police Chief
Calvin White	Fire Chief
Billy Stubbs	Public Works

Others Present: RCDJ Rep, Fifteen Attendees

- 1. Call to Order.** Mayor Bayless called the meeting to order.
- 2. Invocation.** Pastor Ricky Jacobs presented the invocation.
- 3. Adoption of Agenda.** Council Members Buie and Martin motioned to approve the presented Agenda. The motion carried 4-0.
- 4. Adoption of Minutes.** The June 14, 2016, Regular and Closed Sessions were approved unanimously. Council Members Buie and Massagee presented the motions. Vote passed 4-0.

Mayor Bayless noted Councilman Jesse McQueen is out of town tonight.

- 5. Comments from Attendees.** Retired city employee, **Jerry Lamont** presented council to say the recent baseball tournament went well and said staff and Mr. McLaurin did a great job. Mr. Lamont went on to say council did an unjust act to the city employees last month by freezing their increase while passing their own pay increase. Council Member Massagee suggested Mr. Lamont get his math correct; she said council gave employees a 2.5 % merit increase, as well as, a longevity bonus. Council Member Buie pointed out Council has not received a raise in 20 years. Mayor Bayless said nothing was done behind closed doors, all was performed in open meetings and invited anyone interested to review the minutes of the meetings.

Willie Baldwin presented council and noted the condition of the South Hamlet basketball court and inquired if work to the court is planned in the future. Mr. Buie explained the city's plans for the area. The manager welcomed a meeting with Mr. Baldwin to further explain.

New Business:

- 6. Mayoral Proclamation in Honor of Miss Ashton Locklear.** Mayor Bayless called Ashton Locklear forward to make a special presentation and read the proclamation aloud. Miss Locklear was congratulated and extended best wishes in the upcoming Summer Olympics as an alternate athlete.
- 7. Consideration of Text Amendments to Article V & Article VI of the Personnel Policy. Article V: The Pay Plan (a) and Article VI: Work Conditions and Expectations (c) and (e).** The manager gave explanations for the needed text amendments and said it will help clean-up any confusion where multiple sections of the policy contradict one another concerning the timing of the performance evaluations.

Council Members Buie and Martin motioned to approve the text amendments. The vote passed 4-0.

- 8. Approval of Submitted Tax Releases.** The submitted tax releases were approved with a 4-0 vote by motions of Council Members Buie and Martin.
- 9. Departmental Reports.**
Fire Chief White reported his department is continuing to work on the same projects as reported last month.

Chief Waters had no report for council. Councilman Buie suggested to Chief Waters that he would like to see more visibility at Hamlet Housing Authority and suggested a mobile unit. He asked the city to put this matter on the front burner and discuss.

Stephanie Thornsbury reported all of the display items at the Depot are now archived. She is working on moving the gift shop into the Visitor's Center. The Mayor thanked all who worked on July 4th.

10. Manager's Report. The manager reiterated council's support on behalf of the city employees concerning benefits; he mentioned the merit raise, longevity bonus and the continued health care coverage at 100% for employees and thanked council for their support. Mr. Abernethy then thanked everyone who helped during the July 4th activities. He said the volunteer group - "Deep Impact"- is working on various projects within the community this week; the group will be cleaning up at the city lake Thursday & Friday of this week. The city accepted bids for the demo of the A&P building through today and bids will be opened tomorrow. The manager thanked the Cole Foundation and the Richmond Foundation for grants awarded to Memorial Park and the WD James Park. Regular registration for youth soccer will be open through July 22, and late registration dates are July 25-29.

11. Comments of Council.

David Lindsey commented the fireworks show and recognized several for their support of the event. Mr. Lindsey also thanked Frank McQuay and Billy Gibson on a recent, personal EMS call. In reference to Mr. Lamont's earlier comments, he asked if the city could look into having the funds received from the gate admissions of the tournament redirected to the Park & Recreation's budget. A total of \$3,696 was deposited from the gate and concessions. Gate was \$2,405. The manager confirmed this may be done via budget amendment. Council agreed on the gate fees suggestion.

Eddie Martin asked about the landscaping on Battley Dairy Road and Highway 177; he said the women's group mentioned the area needs attention. Mr. Martin asked if Mr. Maples will look at the area.

Johnathan Buie said the new playground at Memorial Park looks good. He noted that he kept up with the fourth's activities while he was on away on vacation via Facebook. One of the coaches in the mentioned All-Star Tournaments kept him abreast of the event; Mr. Buie heard all positive about the tournament.

12. Mayor Comments.

Mayor Bayless announced the Business of the Month as Lewis' Automotive. He said the Hamlet Senior Center accomplished certification in being a Center of Excellence; he offered congratulations and thanked Ms. Nikki Sewell. The Mayor referenced a thank you letter he received in regards to the recent baseball tournament.

13. A Motion to go into Closed Session. At 7:44 pm, motions were made by Council Members Buie and Martin to go into Closed Session per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3), (5) for attorney-client privilege and contract issues. The vote passed 4-0.

Open Session reconvened at approximately 8:13 pm. Council Members Buie and Massagee motioned to go back into Open Session, all were in favor. Mayor Bayless reported no action was taken while in Closed Session.

14. Adjournment. With no other business to discuss, at 8:14 pm, Council Members Buie and Martin motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,


Tammy Kirkley, City Clerk

