

**HAMLET CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MONTHLY MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2016
4:00 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:

Jesse McQueen	Council Member
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Staff Present:

Marcus Abernethy	City Manager
Tammy Kirkley	City Clerk

Call to Order

Mayor Bayless called the meeting to order.

Adoption of Agenda

Council Members Lindsey and Buie motioned to approve the Agenda. The motion carried 4-0.

City Entrance Signs

Mr. Lindsey noted the condition of an entrance sign to the city, as well as, stating that the trees that need to be removed at the ends of Hwy 74. Council discussed the subject trees need to be either maintained or removed. The manager confirmed he will inform Mr. Stubbs to have the subject trees removed.

Councilman Jesse McQueen joined the meeting at 4:14 pm

City Football Program

Mr. Lindsey reported that another football league was formed in the county this past week. Discussing the city's football program, Council agreed to not combine the 9-12 age groups. Mr. Buie said the new football league is looking for a home and suggested the city allow them to come in for next year, if possible. Waivers would have to be signed and submitted if the league did decide to use the city's facilities. The manager suggested if the city does host the other football league, the city shouldn't have its own football league, or if we have the league then

the city shouldn't host the other league; the majority of council agreed with the theory. Mr. Lindsey suggested the city could allow the other league to use the Fairgrounds. A few council members felt if the city football program was done away with, not having the reoccurring high equipment and liability costs would be a positive. It was noted that the Park & Recreation soccer season could begin later if there were no city football. The Mayor agreed that the city could make better use of the Fairgrounds. Council asked the manager to locate a contact with the other football league and invite them to the table to discuss utilizing the Fairgrounds.

Comp-Time

Mr. Lindsey stated council is trying to learn more about employees' comp-time situation. The manager stated he sent out the department totals and explained not all earn comp-time. The manager said department heads are keeping an eye on their employees' comp-time and are getting it under control. He went on to explain that changes will be seen under the new FLSA overtime rules; rules for exempt and non-exempt employees were discussed. Mr. Abernethy went on to give explanations for the higher number of hours incurred this year within the water and finance department. The manager and the finance officer are addressing the matter and the accrued hours are expected to decrease approximately 30% by the end of the current pay period. Employees have been informed not to accrue further comp-time when not a necessity.

It was reported that comp-time within the Police Department is much lower than that of a few years ago. The manager discussed his thoughts on not having enough labor force with part-time employees. Council agreed for the manager to continue to work at keeping the comp-time down and to keep council abreast of the matter.

Council Member Martin suggested the city work with state legislature to change the guidelines so that our police officers do not have to sit with the involuntary patients at the hospital mental wards. Mr. Martin noted there should be a special agency to sit with these commitments. The manager spoke of an agency that places a time limit that the officers are to sit with these units. It was reported that all referrals have to go through Sandhills Regional Center. It was the consensus of Council that the manager collect data and contact the NCLM to request assistance in having something changed in this type of situation.

Appeals Process for Terminated Employees

Councilman Lindsey discussed the current policy for an appeals process for terminated employees. For example, Mr. Lindsey noted if the city manager were to fire a department head, per the current policy, the matter would ultimately end up going back to the manager and he suggested there needs to be another filter added. In current policy, the manager has the final say so with any employee. Mayor Bayless pointed out council cannot do anything with this matter because council's authority is to hire and fire within the city manager's position.

Mr. Buie suggested appointing a review board to hear the appeals. Council agreed this matter should be discussed with the city attorney. Mr. McQueen provided further explanation of concern with the current policy and potential liability issues.

Memorial Gym Air Conditioner

Mr. Abernethy reported that Mr. Sylvain with the city received an estimate for an appropriate sized unit for the gym to be approximately \$45,000-\$50,000. Mr. McQueen inquired about monthly operation expenses for the unit. Portable cool fans and moisture issues were mentioned. Council asked the manager to get a total cost for the unit and Mr. McQueen requested potential usage costs as well.

Additional Christmas Garland along Hamlet Avenue

The city has currently budgeted \$3,500 for street Christmas decorations and Mr. Stubbs estimates the cost to be about \$5,500 for Raleigh Street down to Hwy. 177. It was stated the items need to be ordered as soon as possible. The Seaboard Festival and the Parade Committee each donated \$1,000 in this area; however, the donations from the Parade Committee was taken out and given to another purpose. Mr. Abernethy explained he needed council's permission to make a budget amendment to increase this line item.

Update on the A&P Building

The Contractor is expected to have the building leveled within the next few weeks. Graded soil will be the remains and the concrete pad will be taken up as well. Council agreed to seed the location. It was reported that the budget amendments for the asbestos was taken care of in last year's budget.

Shortridge Park Monument

The manager briefly mentioned a Shortridge plaque discovered and inquired if anyone had information about where it was to be placed in the city. Mr. Martin provided his recollection of the location.

Adjournment

At approximately 5:00 pm, Council Members Martin and McQueen motioned to recess the meeting until 7:00 pm at which time the Regular Monthly Meeting is scheduled to begin. The vote passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,


Tammy Kirkley, City Clerk

