

HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016
7:00 PM

MINUTES

Governing Body Present:

Bill Bayless	Mayor
Jesse McQueen	Council Member
Eddie Martin	Council Member
David Lindsey	Council Member

Absent:

Johnathan Buie	Mayor Pro-Tem
Wendy Massagee	Council Member

Staff Present:

Marcus Abernethy	City Manager
TC Morphis	City Attorney
Tammy Kirkley	City Clerk
Jill Dickens	Finance Officer
Billy Stubbs	Public Works
Gerald Adams	IT Director
Gail Strickland	Zoning

Others Present: Media and approximately six visitors

-
1. **Call to Order.** Mayor Bayless called the meeting to order.
 2. **Invocation.** Mr. Tony Clewis with the Hamlet Church of God of Prophecy offered the invocation.
 3. **Adoption of Agenda.** Mayor Bayless noted the amended agenda includes Item 12.1 – Agreement with Duke Energy for council to consider. Council Members McQueen and Lindsey motioned to adopt the amended agenda as amended. The motion carried.
 4. **Adoption of Minutes.** Open and Closed Session minutes to the November 8, November 10 and November 18 meetings were unanimously approved. The motions were made by Council Members McQueen and Martin.
 5. **Comments from Attendees.** No one presented.

Old Business

6. **Amendment to Fee Schedule, Resolution 2016-08.** The manager explained the amendment includes removing the Hamlet Babe Ruth Park and adding Memorial Park to the list.

The amendment reflects the same rental rates for Memorial, Legion and South Hamlet parks. Mr. Abernethy stated, per the new contract with the school system, the city is not allowed to sublease the Babe Ruth Park and said potential renters need to go through the county. Mayor Bayless confirmed Hamlet pays for the lights. Mr. McQueen pointed out situations when groups have used the park and left the area in an undesirable condition. He said the city needs to inform the school system about the matter. The manager confirmed the city is using the field at times for practice. Council Members Lindsey and McQueen motioned to approve Resolution 2016-08. The motion carried.

New Business

7.Presentation by Ken Anderson. Mr. Anderson presented council and gave an overview of the 2016 year-end audit. Hamlet has had a good year financially. Mr. Anderson reviewed the following within the audit report: **Page 1: Independent Auditor's Report:** city received an unmodified opinion on the June 30, 2016 financial statement, good report; **Page 17: Net Change In Fund Balance General Fund:** current year revenues exceeded expenditures by \$49,276; **Page 19: Net Change in Fund Balance Water & Sewer Fund:** current year expenditures exceeded revenues by \$247,461; **Page 46: Changes in Long Term Liabilities-Debt:** Governmental activities debt increased from 121,609 to \$185,443 or a current year increase of \$63,834. Business type activities debt decreased from \$508,550 to \$406,342 or a current year decrease of \$102,208.

The city has a healthy 42.3% fund balance and the City was not subject to any compliance audit this year. The tax collection rate average for 6 years is 96%. NCDMV collection rate for vehicle taxes have increased. Mr. Anderson stated the audit report has been submitted to the Local Government Commission (LGC) and has not yet been accepted yet due to the department being understaffed. Ken noted per the number, it was a good year for Hamlet. He said the controls are strong at the city.

Mr. McQueen inquired about future estimations. Mr. Anderson recommended comparing fund balance and expenditures during the same month at the same time of year. When asked, Mr. Anderson confirmed the expiration of the general obligation bonds appears to mature in 2020. Mr. Anderson concluded by reporting Hamlet is in a very good debt situation.

8.Adoption of Resolution No. 2016-09 Staff Authorization for Disaster Relief. The manager explained the resolution is required by FEMA in order to submit applicable reimbursement requests in reference to Hurricane Matthew. Council decided the authorized primary and secondary agents in this matter would be Jill Dickens and the city manager or the acting city manager. The motions were made as such by Council Members McQueen and Martin. All were in favor.

9.Adoption of Budget Amendments. It was the consensus of Council to move this item as No. 12.2 on the agenda.

10. Approval of Tax Releases. Council Members Lindsey and McQueen motioned to approve the tax releases as submitted. The motion carried 3-0.

11. Appointment to Hamlet ABC Board. Mayor Bayless explained Bert Unger's term on the Hamlet

ABC Board has expired and an appointment needs to be made. He said Mr. Unger has expressed an interest to be reappointed and there is an application has been received by Mr. Wilson Wise wishing to serve on the board. This is a 3-year term. Council Members Lindsey and McQueen motioned to appoint Wilson "Billy" Wise to serve on the board. The motion carried unanimously.

12. Discussion of Employees' Christmas Bonus. Mr. McQueen recommended giving the employees a bonus since the city did not give a cost of living raise to employees from July- January; he noted the funds are budgeted and was not used. Mr. McQueen said funds were set aside to revisit a raise next month and in lieu of the raise budgeted, give all city employees a Christmas bonus of \$250. Mr. Martin said he is in favor of Mr. McQueen's recommendation as long as it does not take the place of the 1.5% raise scheduled to be discussed next month. Mr. McQueen said the suggested bonus will not throw us over because the raise is already budgeted and he would hope the 1.5% increase will be discussed in January. Council Members McQueen and Lindsey motioned to give all city employees a \$250 bonus. The motion carried. As clarification, the manager confirmed the bonus is for permanent and part-time employees.

12.1. Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant Agreement with Duke Energy. Mr. Abernethy explained the grant for the car charging stations and explained how the electricity needed for the stations. Tony Clewis in attendance explained the units charge the credit cards/energy cards. The manager said it will be up to the council if they want to offer the service for free or charge a nominal fee. The manager explained the GPS technology built into the charging stations and said it will inform the driver of the closest station. The service charge per year for both stations is \$400 annually. Mr. Lindsey discussed concerns with using the Seaboard Festival's meters. Mr. Abernethy stated the electricians at Duke Energy informed him of the option to tie onto the meter at the Depot. It was the consensus of council to table the matter until the other council members are present. It was requested to have a Duke Energy representative come in and talk with council. The city has until the end of January to approve the agreement. Council Members McQueen and Martin motioned to table the matter. The motion carried.

12.2 Second Quarter Budget Amendments. Council discussed the need to amend the submitted budget amendments to remove the included increase for the charging station. Ms. Dickens confirmed council may approve them and change as needed. Council Members McQueen and Lindsey motioned to approve the budget amendments as submitted. All were in favor to approve as submitted.

Other Business

13. Departmental Reports. Gerald Adams gave an update of the new audio system for the council chambers. The vendor is scheduled to do the installation during the week of January 23 and no one will be able to access the room during this time. Mr. Adams explained the logistics of the new setup. It was noted Clark Powell out of Charlotte is the vendor. Mr. Adams received confirmation from council the week of January 23rd is a good time for the vendor to begin work. The Mayor noted the new security system in-place and thanked Mr. Adams.

Billy Stubbs expressed his appreciation for the Christmas bonuses.

Gail Strickland reported bids were opened yesterday for the demo of the Monroe Gardens Apartments. She has applied for permits from the state and the target date to begin movement of the buildings is January 11.

14. City Manager's Report.

Mr. Abernethy thanked council for the employee Christmas bonuses. He then announced the specific changes in reference to the holiday garbage pickup schedule.

Mayor Bayless called the manager forward and he presented Mr. Abernethy with a penciled drawing of the Hamlet Depot as a departure gesture. The Mayor wished the manager well in his future employment endeavors. Mr. Abernethy offered thanks to the Mayor and Council.

15. Comments of Council.

David Lindsey thanked his wife, Kim, for coordinating this year's Hamlet Christmas Parade and he recognized the volunteers, the Hamlet Police Department, and Billy Stubbs for their help during the event. He wished all a Merry Christmas.

Eddie Martin reiterated appreciation to all who helped with the Hamlet Christmas Parade. Mr. Martin extended best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Jesse McQueen thanked the employees for all that they do for the city and he wished everyone a Merry and safe Christmas and New Year.

16. Mayor's Comments.

Mayor Bayless thanked all of the volunteers who helped with the parade. He recognized the local school groups who performed during Old Fashion Christmas on Saturday and offered thanks. Mayor Bayless extended Merry Christmas wishes from he and his wife, Linda.

16A. Motion to go into Closed Session. At 7:55 pm, motions were made by Council Members McQueen and Martin to go into Closed Session per NCGS Section 143-318.11 (a)(3)(6) for attorney client privilege and personnel matters. The motion carried.

Open Session reconvened at 8:36 pm. Mayor Bayless reported no decisions were made and no votes were taken while in closed session.

17. Adjournment. Council Members Martin and Lindsey motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 pm. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Tammy Kirkley, City Clerk

