

HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017
7:00 PM

MINUTES

Governing Body Present:

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| 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:

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| 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: Jonathan Blanton, Media and approximately 13 visitors

Call to Order. Mayor Bayless called the meeting to order.

Invocation. Drew Staples of Second Baptist Church in Hamlet offered the invocation.

Adoption of Agenda. Council Members Buie and Massagee motioned to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

Adoption of Minutes. Open and Closed Session minutes for the December 13, 2016, meetings were unanimously approved by motions of Council Members Lindsey and Martin. The motion carried.

Comments from Attendees.

Linda Murray of 318 Spring Street in Hamlet presented council to complain about speeders on her street and about the potholes on the portion of High and Spring Street.

Ms. Murray noted the illegal passing on the street and the safety concerns it presents. Mayor Bayless asked Mr. Stubbs to check on the potholes and Mr. Abernethy stated the city will take additional police measures for the police to assist with traffic situations. Mr. Abernethy said the city will look at patching the potholes if it is found that the street cannot be resurfaced this year. Mayor Bayless offered explanations for the State issued Powell Bill Funds, which go toward paving streets.

Old Business

Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant Agreement with Duke Energy. David McNeill, District Manager with Duke Energy presented council to explain the grant Hamlet was awarded for the NC Charging Station Project. The grant is for \$15,000 for three charging ports. Mr. Abernethy explained the electricity usage with the charging station project. Mr. McNeill presented a brief power point presentation in an effort to help explain the program that is made available by funds from a settlement with the EPA. Mr. McNeill said it was a competitive application process; he said 511 were requested and 211 were awarded. There are currently no charging stations in the county and Hamlet will be the first. The deadline for the grant agreement is the end of January; other timelines for the program were reviewed. Mr. Abernethy said the three ports may be installed at the Visitor's Center and can tie into the existing meter, which will cut down on installation and operating costs.

Whitney Schmitt with ChargePoint presented council and reviewed Chargepoint's industry and the state's sales and growth. She talked about the CAFÉ Standards over time and said by 2025 the cars will be mandated to get about 55 mpg. She talked about the growth of the electric vehicles in Richmond County over the last two years. Ms. Schmitt noted it costs about .46 per hour for a car charging and when the station is not in use it uses very little electricity. The costs and the warranty for the charging stations were reviewed. The warranty for the first year is paid in full at no cost to the city. Ms. Schmitt noted the warranty is great to have but said the stations do not need regular maintenance. The entire station area will be under surveillance and there is no liability with the stations. Hamlet is set up to have two stations, three ports and is a Level II. After the first year, it will cost \$780 per year for the option to charge to the customer. It was discussed for the units to be placed immediately behind the Visitor's Center and as close to the meter as possible.

Mr. Abernethy reported other agencies are not charging for the service and are using the stations as an economic development tool. There is a 90/10 split for collecting the fee when charging the customer and a \$280 port fee per year. Mr. Martin inquired about the option to terminate the agreement before the 3-year period ends. Mr. McNeill said over time, the city will see more and more use; he stated this is a positive future need of citizens and visitors of the community. Mr. Morphis stated there is no automatic renewal within the contract.

To keep from using the front parking spaces at the Visitor's Center, Mr. Lindsey suggested to move the proposed location of the ports to the back corner of the same lot. Marcus stated the city may extend another 30 feet and install less than the \$15,000.

Councilman Buie motioned to table the location of the ports within the agreement, Eddie seconded. All of council were in favor. Mr. Abernethy said he will instruct staff to get a quote to install the units and the city will hire an electrician to have them connected.

New Business

City Manager's Oath of Office. Mayor Bayless called for motions to appoint a city manager. Council Members Buie and Martin motioned to appoint Jonathan Blanton as the new city manager. The motion carried unanimously. Tammy Kirkley then called Mr. Blanton forward and administered the manager's oath of office. Mr. McQueen inquired the capacity Mr. Abernethy holds until his last day with the city. Mr. Morphis suggested the title as the former manager or for a few days there will be no title.

Adoption of Budget Amendments. The budget amendments were approved by motions of Council Members Buie and Massagee. The motion carried.

Approval of Tax Releases. Council Members Buie and Martin motioned to approve the tax releases. The motion carried.

Proclamation in Observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The mayor read aloud the proclamation.

Other Business

Departmental Reports.

Billy Stubbs provided information concerning the water leak repair that was addressed today.

Tammy Kirkley reminded council of the upcoming Chamber Annual Celebration on February 2.

City Manager's Report.

Marcus thanked council for the opportunity to serve the City of Hamlet right out of MPA School. He mentioned the lessons learned while with Hamlet.

Mr. Blanton thanked Mr. Abernethy for his help this week; he thanked council and said he looks forward to working with everyone.

Comments of Council.

David Lindsey thanked Marcus for his work in Hamlet. He thanked Billy for prepping for the snow.

Jesse McQueen thanked public works for being prepared for the weather conditions. He welcomed Jonathan on-board and extended good wishes to Mr. Abernethy.

Wendy Massagee offered best wishes to Marcus and welcomed Jonathan Blanton.

Eddie Martin wished Marcus well and welcomed and said he looks forward to working with Mr. Blanton.

Johnathan Buie echoed all comments to Marcus and he welcomed Jonathan Blanton.

Mayor's Comments.

Mayor Bayless noted Billy's readiness for the water leak near the railroad tracks today and also for being prepared for the weather. Mr. Stubbs credited his staff for being prepared and hard work. Mayor Bayless said the city will miss Mr. Abernethy; however, welcomed Mr. Blanton. He thanked council for their help in the hiring process. The Mayor thanked all for their work with the Old Fashion Christmas events on both Hamlet Avenue and on Main Street.

Motion to go into Closed Session.

At 8:13 pm, motions were made by Council Members Buie and McQueen to go into Closed Session per NCGS Section 143-318.11 (a)(3)(4)(6) for attorney client privilege, personnel matters and economic development. The motion carried.

AT 9:04 pm, Closed Session ended. Open Session reconvened by motions of Council Members Buie and Lindsey. The motion carried.

Adjournment.

With no further business, Council Members Buie and Martin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 pm. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Tammy Kirkley, City Clerk

