

HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM  
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345  
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2017 - 7:00 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
Wendy Massagee	Council Member

Staff Present:

Jonathan Blanton	City Manager
TC Morphis	City Attorney
Tammy Kirkley	City Clerk
Jill Dickens	Finance Officer
Billy Stubbs	Public Works Director
Gerald Adams	IT Director
Gail Strickland	Zoning
Jennifer Turner	Tax Collector

Others Present: Media and approximately 10 attendees

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1. **Call to Order**

Mayor Bayless called the meeting to order.

2. **Invocation**

The city manager offered the invocation.

3. **Adoption of Agenda**

Council Members Buie and Lindsey motioned to adopt the agenda with the changes. The motion passed 5-0. Personnel matters to be discussed under Item 15 was added to the agenda. Councilman McQueen offered a second with the changes. The motion carried.

4. **Adoption of Minutes**

The February 14, 2017, Regular open and closed session minutes were unanimously approved. The motions were made by Council Members Buie and Massagee.

5. **Comments from Attendees**

None were presented.

Old Business

6. **Discussion and Consideration to Change the Operating Hours of the Hamlet Museum.** The manager reminded council of the request made to change the operating hours of the Hamlet Museum. He said per checking with the grant agreement, there are no ramifications per the grant in changing the hours. Council Member McQueen noted he is not in favor. Council Members Buie and Massagee motioned to close the museums on Mondays for the curator to do her necessary work. It was added by the manager that the museum will be open by appointment only on Mondays. The motion carried by vote of 5-1; Council Member McQueen opposed. It was stated this will allow the curator the opportunity to catalog items of donations to the museum and allow the director to attend to her downtown coordinator duties.
7. **Consideration of Resolution No. 2017-01. Surplus of Service Weapon.** The mayor read the resolution aloud. Councilman McQueen and Buie motioned to adopt the resolution. The motion carried. Mr. McQueen requested to present the weapon to retired Captain Taylor during the April council meeting.

New Business

8. **Consideration of Resolution No. 2017-02. Opposing Changes to Municipal Elections.** Mayor Bayless read the resolution aloud for the benefit of the public. Councilman Buie motioned to approve the resolution and provided comments in support of same. He encouraged the public to talk to their representatives. Council Member Martin made the second. The motion carried.
9. **Approval of Tax Releases.** Council Members Buie and McQueen motioned to approve the tax releases. The motion carried.
10. **Adoption of Third Quarter Budget Amendments.** No comments or questions of council were presented. Council Members Buie and Martin motioned to approve the budget amendments. The motion carried.
11. **Mayoral Proclamation in Honor of Arbor Day.** The Mayor read aloud the proclamation noting April 5<sup>th</sup> as Arbor Day in the City of Hamlet.

Other Business

12. **City Manager's Report.** Baseball registrations will be open through the end of this week. Budget deliberations for the FY 2017/18 are underway and the manager thanked council. Mr. Blanton reiterated \$7,000 is in the budget for cameras only for public works. Mr. Martin said it is imperative to take immediate measures for security at Public Works and Mr. Buie agreed; this is within the FY 2016/17 budget amendment to be considered in April.

**13. Comments of Council**

*Jesse McQueen* inquired about the locks being changed at the Public Works Department and the matter was discussed among staff and council. Staff will meet and look at the logistics of the security system. Jesse McQueen thanked the Hamlet Police Department for the good work in getting the stolen property back from the recent break-in at Public Works.

*David Lindsey* complimented the presentation format and efficiency at the recent Planning Meeting. He noted the afternoon work sessions are helpful.

*Johnathan Buie* stated this year's budget work session was the best he has been involved with thus far. The needs and wants were well put-together and the format was very efficient.

**14. Mayor's Comments**

*Mayor Bayless* reminded all to not do any open burning as this is the wild fire season. He gave his appreciation to council for their work on the budget.

**15. Motion to go into Closed Session**

At 7:24 pm, motions were made by Council Members Buie and McQueen to go into Closed Session per NCGS Section 143-318.11 (a)(3)(6) for attorney-client privilege and personnel matters. The motion carried.

At 7:26 pm, council went back into open session to hear a presentation regarding a sign request from Firsthealth. The motions were made by Council Members McQueen and Buie. The motion carried.

Randy Goodred with Poblocke Signs presented council to discuss the requested sign permits for the hospital in Hamlet. The hospital would like to replace the current signs with newer ones, which are roughly the same size. The hospital is respectfully asking to do so because the request is not permitted per the current sign ordinance. Gail Strickland reported the Hamlet Planning Board will meet next Monday. She confirmed she has spoken with Mr. Goodred and she reiterated the process takes time. Mr. Morphis stated the communication with the entity has been a recommendation to do a text amendment, which may be easily addressed. The Planning Board's recommendation will go before council for consideration during the April monthly meeting. A public hearing will be held in which anyone may speak.

Council Members McQueen and Buie motioned to go into closed session at 7:31 pm. The motion carried.

*Open Session.* At 8:26 pm, open session reconvened. The Mayor reported no decisions were made and no votes were taken while in closed session.

**16. Adjournment.** At 8:26 pm, motions by Council Members Buie and McQueen were made to adjourn. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Tammy Kirkley, GMC  
Hamlet City Clerk

