

Hamlet City Council Regular Monthly Meeting
201 Main Street, Hamlet, NC 28345
Tuesday, July 12, 2011
7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Governing Body Present:

Mayor Jeff Smart
Mayor Pro Tem Pat Preslar
Council Member Bill Bayless
Council Member Tony Clewis
Council Member Diane Honeycutt

Absent: Council Member Abbie Covington

Staff Present:

City Manager Marchell David
City Attorney Steve Futrell
City Clerk Tammy Kirkley
Finance Officer Jill Dickens
Police Chief John Haywood
Park & Recreation Director Mitch Bowman
WTP Superintendent Robert Brown
Zoning Officer Gail Strickland
Tax Collector Gail Wise

Others Present:

Kelli Easterling with Daily Journal; Ike Carlyle; Susan Greene; Johnathan Buie; Lee Harkey; Michael Burgess, John Burgess

- 1. Call to Order.** Mayor Jeff Smart called the meeting to order.
- 2. Invocation.** Councilman Clewis offered the invocation.
- 3. Adoption of the Agenda.** Council Members Preslar and Bayless made the motion to approve the agenda as presented and the vote passed unanimously.
- 4. Adoption of Minutes.** A motion to adopt the June 14, 2011 minutes was made by Council Members Clewis and Honeycutt. All were in favor.
- 5. Comments from Attendees.** None were presented.

New Business

- 6. Approval of Annual Tax Settlement.** The list of unpaid taxes as of June 30, 2011 was presented to council. The collection rate is 96.30%. Gail Wise, the city's tax collector will continue to collect the unpaid taxes. The presented settlement will need to be officially approved by council. Councilman Preslar inquired about the repeat late payers and Mrs. Wise replied that basically they are the same ones, occasionally you will have others. It is Mrs. Wise's hopes to collect 100% and garnishments are still being pursued for the unpaid taxes. Mr. Preslar commended Mrs. Wise's efforts in collections. A motion was made by Councilman Bayless and Preslar to approve the annual settlement. The vote was unanimously approved.
- 7. Approval of Tax Releases.** Tax releases and interest in the amount of \$118.34 were submitted to council for approval. The motion was presented by Council Members Bayless and Clewis to approve the submitted tax releases and there was no discussion. All were in favor of the motion.
- 8. Mayoral Proclamation for Lyme Disease Awareness Month in 2011.** A request was submitted to city hall to consider the adoption of a Mayoral Proclamation in reference to Lyme Disease Awareness in an effort to bring public recognition to the disease. Mayor Smart took a moment to read aloud the proclamation.

Other Business

Police Chief John Haywood took a moment to commend his officers for their work in the investigation of a recent murder case. He also thanked the surrounding agencies for their assistance and noted that all suspects, thus far, are in custody.

Mitch Bowman reported that there will be a State Baseball Tournament for the 12 yr olds in Laurinburg on Thursday at 3:00 pm at the Optimist Park. He stated that park & recreation baseball season is over and said things went well; Mitch stated that they are looking forward to having a concession stand at the baseball park next year. Several council members recognized some of the updates that have been made at the parks. Mr. Bowman reminded the public that regular soccer registration is open now through July 29 and late registration will run the following week, which will cost an additional \$10 per player.

Robert Brown announced that the Water Lake Dam Project has been completed and that the contractors will begin working on the punch list next week. He reported that the water level is down below 6 ft. where it was at 7 ft. He stated that all is well and said the low level has nothing to do with the drought.

9. City Manager's Report.

Mrs. David announced that the recent "Meet Me at The Lake" community clean-up project went well. She offered thanks to everyone who came out and participated and noted that there were volunteers from all age groups.

10. Comments of Council.

Diane Honeycutt reported that the 4th of July activities went over well and she thanked everyone.

Tony Clewis reported that the fireworks display show was a success even with the weather issues experienced and that the activities on Main Street were a success.

Bill Bayless thanked the Police Chief and his department for their hard work on the aforementioned murder case. He also commended the fire department for their work and efforts with the fire on McDonald Avenue over the weekend.

Pat Preslar reported that everything went well in town during July 4th and he thanked everyone for their participation.

11. Mayor's Comments.

Mayor Smart reiterated the positive feedback in reference to the activities in town for the Fourth of July this year. He noted that the weather intruded somewhat, which is why the show went by a little faster this year. Mayor Smart recognized the good crowds that came out and enjoyed the activities. He reported the various road paving projects currently underway throughout town and thanked everyone for their patience with the projects that will have a good end result.

The Mayor also recognized the segment of Hamlet that was filmed and has aired on UNC-TV and said he hopes it will draw visitors to our town. Mayor Smart noted that there will be two viewings. The manager said that the city is trying to figure out a way to make it a part of our history with the Depot.

Councilman Bayless welcomed the scouts in attendance tonight. Ike Carlyle was also welcomed at the meeting.

12. Adjournment of Meeting. At 7:24 p.m., Council Members Preslar and Clewis motioned to adjourn the meeting. The vote passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Tammy Kirkley, City Clerk