

Hamlet City Council Regular Monthly Meeting
201 Main Street, Hamlet, NC 28345
Tuesday, August 9, 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 Abbie Covington
Council Member Diane Honeycutt

Staff Present

City Manager Marchell David
City Attorney Steve Futrell
City Clerk Tammy Kirkley
Finance Officer Jill Dickens
Fire Chief David Knight
Police Chief John Haywood
Zoning Gail Strickland
WTP Superintendent Robert Brown
Public Works Supervisor Benny Billingsley

Others Present

Bishop Marvin Taylor, Jr.; Kelli Easterling, Richmond County Daily Journal; Johnathon Buie

1. **Call to Order.** Mayor Smart called the meeting to order.
2. **Invocation.** Bishop Marvin Taylor Jr. of Outreach for Jesus offered the invocation.
3. **Adoption of Agenda.** Item No. 8 was added to the presented agenda for the purposes of an Appointment to the Depot Board. Councilman Preslar and Clewis motioned to approve the agenda with the newly added Item No. 8. The agenda was adopted by a unanimous vote.
4. **Adoption of Minutes.** Minutes to the July 12, 2011, regular monthly council meeting were unanimously adopted as written by motion of Council Members Bayless and Honeycutt.
5. **Comments from Attendees.** None were presented.

New Business

6. **Amendments to the Backflow Prevention Policy.** Mayor Smart reported that the initial policy was passed September 8, 2009, and council is being asked to adopt the presented amendments. Lawn sprinkler systems need to be added to the current “Severe Hazard List”. “Severe Hazard” items will now have to have a testable device installed. Certified technicians or certified plumbers will perform the actual testing and Ernie Billingsley has been certified to oversee the program. It will be the customer’s responsibility to purchase the materials. Mr. Billingsley talked about the testable device to be installed. Mr. Clewis confirmed if a customer doesn’t have a separate watering meter and has a lawn sprinkler system installed, that the main water meter will require a testable device. The current connections prior to tonight that are listed as a severe hazard are grandfathered in; the new connections and current connections that are disconnected and later reinstated will be required to have the device installed. Councilman Preslar presented questions regarding fees and the process to keep track of the annual testing results. The Water Department and the meter reader’s role in the process were explained.

Mr. Billingsley explained that previously an irrigation system was considered a “moderate hazard” however; the State approved amendments last year and it is now the law and is not negotiable. He further explained that a dual check valve is currently required. If a specific business or residence changes hands and it is deemed “Severe Hazard” the city will require that a backflow device be installed and annual testing will be performed. The manager confirmed that the current policy has a certain level of penalties built-in and she explained possibilities of how the city may monitor the annual test results. Councilman Bayless and Covington made the motion to adopt the backflow prevention policy amendments and the vote passed unanimously.

7. **Consideration of a Municipal Bridge Agreement between NCDOT and the City of Hamlet.** The presented agreement is in reference to the Rice Street Bridge and the city will share the costs with NCDOT; an inspection is performed every two years. The manager pointed out the city’s options and said this is the best route to take with a cost of \$520 to allow the state perform the inspection. Mrs. David also confirmed that if there are findings, there will be cost sharing as well. Councilman Clewis and Covington motioned to accept the municipal agreement and the vote passed unanimously.
8. **Appointment to the Depot Museum Board.** Mayor Smart reported that the Hamlet Depot Museum Board has a vacancy for a board member. Jimmy Quick has been approved and recommended by the Depot Board. Council Members Bayless and Clewis motioned to appoint Jimmy Quick and all were in favor of the vote. Mayor Smart thanked Mr. Quick for his willingness to serve on the board.

Other Business

9. **City Manager's Report.** Mrs. David reported that the Water Lake Dam Project is approximately 90% complete and invited council to go over and see the project area. She also announced that city offices will be closed on Monday, September 5 in observance of Labor Day. The manager informed the public that there is a "Drop Box for School Tools" located inside city hall and said all school items collected will be distributed to Richmond County Schools.

10. **Comments of Council.**

Diane Honeycutt inquired about the status of the Stinson Building. Mrs. David replied that it will definitely be completed by the end of the year; however, noted that the plans are to have a temporary certificate of occupancy by Seaboard Festival.

Tony Clewis thanked the employees at Public Works for the various street cleaning efforts in town. He also reported that a set of keys were found on Main Street and someone turned the keys into him. He asked if anyone has lost a set of keys, to please see him about the matter.

Bill Bayless mentioned the number of complaints received about problems with speeding on Main Street. He thanked the Police Department for their efforts in addressing the issue.

Pat Preslar mentioned the problem with lily pads in certain areas at the city lake and Robert Brown replied that fish are scheduled to be delivered Wednesday morning and it should take care of the issue.

11. **Mayor's Comments.**

Mayor Smart reported that the city has hired additional personnel to work on the streets and curb and gutters and he thanked Benny Billingsley and Billy Stubbs for their assistance. He said the extra work is making a difference and he thanked council for agreeing to the new hires. Mayor Smart reported that most of the recent paving projects in town have been completed and he thanked NCDOT for a job well done. He said the changes within the Water Lake Dam Project have made a difference as well. The mayor is pushing the contractor to have the Stinson Building open by Seaboard Festival and said the public will see some cosmetic differences soon. Mayor Smart concluded with extending best wishes to the students and parents for a great and safe upcoming school year.

12. **Adjournment of Meeting.**

At 7:30 p.m., Council Members Bayless and Covington made motions to adjourn the meeting and the vote passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Kirkley, City Clerk