

Hamlet City Council Regular Monthly Meeting
201 Main Street, Hamlet, NC 28345
Tuesday, January 10, 2012
7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Governing Body Present:

Jeff Smart	Mayor
Tony Clewis	Council Member – Mayor Pro-Tem
Abbie Covington	Council Member
Pat Preslar	Council Member
Johnathan Buie	Council Member
<i>Absent:</i> Diane Honeycutt	Council Member

Staff Present:

Marchell Adams-David	City Manager
Steve Futrell	City Attorney
Tammy Kirkley	City Clerk
Jill Dickens	Finance Officer
David Knight	Fire Chief
John Haywood	Police Chief
Gail Strickland	Zoning
Robert Brown	WTP Superintendent
Susan Sellers	Senior Center Director

Others Present:

Chad Guinn; Amy Guinn; Rusty Craig; Susan Greene; Ike Carlyle; Anne Olgesby

- 1. Call to Order.** Mayor Smart called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- 2. Invocation.** Reverend Chris Hawks of Second Baptist Church offered the invocation.
- 3. Adoption of Agenda.** The presented agenda was unanimously approved by motions of Council Members Preslar and Covington.
- 4. Adoption of Minutes.** Minutes to the December 13, 2011 Council Meeting were unanimously approved by motions of Council Members Covington and Clewis.
- 5. Comments from Attendees.** None were presented.

Old Business

- 6. Consideration of the Bright Rezoning Request.** Council was presented with a rezoning petition in December from Thomas Bright for property located at 349 High Street for the purpose of having a neighborhood business. The item was tabled until January in order for council to set conditions to the request.

Mayor Smart read aloud the suggested conditions to be added. Staff confirmed that there have been no questions or feedback concerning the rezoning request. For the record, if adopted, this will be a B-3 zoning and the property is in close proximity to a church and is in a residential neighborhood. Council reviewed the recommended conditions and discussed their thoughts on amendments. Councilman Preslar requested to add to the conditions – “No games of chance will be allowed”; Councilman Buie requested to change the wording within No. 4 to read: “Arcade games for children 15 years of age and under are allowed”; and council agreed to not set the hours of operation for the business, except to state that the business may not open on Sundays until 1:00 pm. It was noted that the recommended usages include a section for violations. Council briefly discussed the specific agency that would regulate any potential sale of lottery tickets. It is noted in the conditions that “No sale of alcohol products will be allowed.” Mayor Smart called for a vote.

Councilman Preslar made a motion to allow the rezoning request to include the conditional usages and the changes requested by council. Councilman Buie made a second to the motion. The vote passed unanimously. Mayor Smart asked for staff to amend the conditions as agreed upon tonight and to inform the Brights of the decision.

New Business

- 7. Presentation by Anne Olgesby with the Lumber River Council of Governments.** Ms. Olgesby presented council and explained that the LRCOG works for member agencies. She gave several examples of how the LRCOG assists surrounding agencies. Ms. Olgesby discussed various programs available; she gave the LRCOG’s annual budget and noted the estimated number of people they project to assist in the upcoming year. She reported that the Hamlet Senior Center is recognized as a “Center of Excellence” and reported the amount of funding Hamlet receives for same. The programs administered by Hamlet Senior Center were mentioned. Council briefly discussed other programs and funding opportunities with Ms. Olgesby.
- 8. Adoption of Proposed Budget Amendments.** Mayor Smart referenced the recommended budget amendments presented by staff for the second quarter. He noted that the amendments were standard procedure for the quarter and that council was able to provide some additional items for the city and were pleased to be able to do. Council Member Covington motioned to approve the amendments as presented and Council Member Clewis made a second to the motion. Mr. Preslar inquired about the Seaboard Festival increase and asked if it is a reimbursable item and the manager explained that the city doesn’t know ahead of time what the funding will be and make the changes accordingly. Among the amendments were the purchases of the street sweeper and the Field of Dreams. Mr. Preslar discussed the football program and the increase in the number of participants who live outside of Hamlet; he suggested looking to other agencies to assist with funding for the program. The playground improvements included equipment at the W.D. James Park; the South Hamlet Park and Convenience Corner Park. The Seaboard Festival Committee also made a contribution for the playgrounds. The cemetery line item on the amendments was offset by an individual’s donation. Mayor Smart called for a vote and all were in favor of the presented amendments.

The budget amendments include: **General Fund Revenues:** Total Increase \$69,700; Decrease 0; Net Increase \$69,700. **General Fund Expenditures:** Total Increase \$112,955; Total Decrease \$43,255; Net Increase \$69,700.

9. **Consideration of Tax Releases.** The tax collector submitted tax releases per Richmond County: Total Releases \$196.83 and Total interest released \$56.61. Council Members Covington and Buie made the motions to approve the releases as presented and the vote passed unanimously.
10. **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Resolution.** Mayor Smart reiterated that Monday, January 16 is a day to celebrate and remember Martin Luther King, Jr. He read aloud a resolution recognizing Dr. King. The mayor then noted several activities scheduled within the community on this day.

Other Business

11. City Manager Report.

Marchell David announced that City Offices will be closed on Monday, January 16 and commercial garbage pickup should not be affected. She also announced that the city will hold a Council Work Session on Thursday, January 31, at 3:30 pm at Hamlet City Hall. Mayor Smart took a moment to briefly explain Council Member Honeycutt's absence from the meeting tonight.

12. Comments of Council.

Johnathan Buie thanked the public again for their support. He stated that he is looking forward to a good new year with the city.

Pat Preslar inquired about a specific abandoned building located on Hamlet Avenue and Gail Strickland reported that the code enforcement officer re-inspected the particular building last week and that there are problems with the owners. She noted that this situation will more than likely go before council soon as an imminent threat. Mrs. Strickland stated that the city put the tape up around the area in order to try and secure same.

Tony Clewis publicly congratulated Susan Sellers for recently being selected "Citizen of the Year." He thanked everyone for the work they are doing and said the street sweeper put in place is working out well.

13. Mayor's Comments.

Mayor Smart commented that it is his hopes that the city will be very aggressive in addressing the aforementioned building on Hamlet Avenue, as well as, the other buildings with issues in that area. He stated that Hamlet needs to continue to move forward with these issues. The mayor also mentioned the benefits of having the street sweeper.

14. Adjournment of Meeting.

At 7:56 pm, Council Members Clewis and Preslar motioned to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tammy Kirkley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Tammy Kirkley, City Clerk