

November 13, 2012 Regular Monthly Meeting

**HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2012
7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

Governing Body Present:

Mayor	Jeff Smart
Mayor Pro-Tem	Tony Clewis
Council Members:	Pat Preslar
	Abbie Covington
	Johnathan Buie
	Dewey Brower

Staff Present:

City Manager	Marchell Adams-David
City Attorney	Steve Futrell
Finance Officer	Jill Dickens
Fire Chief	David Knight
Interim Police Chief	Amery Griffin
Zoning Officer	Gail Strickland
WTP Superintendent	Robert Brown

Others Present: Jean Stricklin, Steve Davis, Van Billingsley, Jerry Goodman, Norman Bland, Chad Guinn, Dawn Kurry with Richmond County Daily Journal, Beth Brown

Call to Order. Mayor Jeff Smart called the meeting to order.

Invocation. Mayor Pro-Tem Tony Clewis offered the invocation.

Adoption of Agenda. Councilman Pat Preslar and Mayor Pro-Tem Tony Clewis made the motion and second to adopt the Agenda as presented. All were in favor.

Consideration of Minutes. Minutes to the regular monthly October 9, 2012 meeting along with closed session minutes for the same date were unanimously approved by motions of Mayor Pro-Tem Tony Clewis and Council Member Abbie Covington.

Comments from Attendees. Van Billingsley, owner of Electronic Services, LLC, spoke to Council regarding the company's policy for responding to false alarms. When ESC receives an alarm at their monitoring center, the Hamlet Police Department is notified within 30 seconds, The ESC employee takes the officers/dispatchers badge number for their records. They then contact the homeowner. If the homeowner cannot be located or cannot provide the necessary code, the police officer continues the call; however, if it is found to be a false alarm, the Police Department is notified within 2 minutes. Mr. Billingsley stated he had spoken to all law enforcement agencies in the county prior to establishing the policy. He was open to suggestions if changes were needed.

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Mayor Pro-Tem Tony Clewis advised the Board that the Hamlet Fire Department had responded to a number of calls to his church. An investigation by Mr. Billingsley found the problem to be in the heating and cooling system, not the fire alarm.

Council Member Abbie Covington asked Fire Chief David Knight for the response procedure when the Fire Department receives a call. He replied that the Fire Department is paged out by 911 Emergency Services. Once the call is received, they must respond with 2 fire trucks and 4 personnel. They cannot turn back even if the call is found to be a false fire alarm. By ISO standards, it is considered a non-response if they do not complete the call. If more than 2 non-responses are found, they can lose their certification. Covington stated that in the situation of the fire department, equipment and personnel are being diverted that may be needed elsewhere. She expressed a concern for homeowners that repeatedly have false alarms due to their negligence. The Police Department is much easier to turn around where the Fire Department cannot.

Councilman Pat Preslar advised he likes the idea of sending the Police Department first and then stopping if possible.

Mr. Billingsley explained the company's policy when a homeowner is not reachable. He has a 24-hour technician and the alarms have 15 minute timers that stop a sounding alarm. The alarm also deactivates a zone after 3 cycles.

Mayor Smart thanked Mr. Billingsley for the information provided.

Jean Stricklin presented Council. She was representing the Boyd Lake Community in reference to Hamlet Lake Mobile Home Park and a wooden structure in the area. She asked Council to consider demolition of the mobile homes and wooden structure. Complaints listed included: boarded mobile homes, overgrowth, illegal drugs, prostitution and shootings. She advised Hamlet EMS & PD are called 2-3 times per week; Hamlet EMS responded to 32 calls in 2012. She advised many homes in their community had been broken into and the community does not feel safe. She also reported a decrease in values of their homes. She stated that the owner of the Mobile Home Park is Dr. Souder and the owners of the wooden structure are deceased. She asked Council to give consideration to the petition signed by 47 members of the community.

Mayor Jeff Smart responded that Code Enforcement has made progress and Staff will review the situation.

Mayor Pro-Tem Tony Clewis, in regards to the wooden structure, explained that it is not a simple process to take the structure down when the owners are deceased.

Pat Preslar asked if the City has in place minimum housing standards. Gail Strickland reported that the Mobile Home Park information was given to the City's Code Enforcement Officer in July 2012. City Staff mailed letters that outlined the violations. Dr. Souder contacted City Hall and advised he had an agreement with someone to purchase the property and they were responsible for maintaining it within code. After Dr. Souder made contact with the responsible party, the City's Code

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Enforcement Officer met with him and discussed the violations for each mobile home. As of September 5, 2012, it was reported that all violations were abated with the exception of one fascia board.

Fire chief David Knight commented that he had given Ms. Stricklin 2 documents: one for 2011 until present time in which EMS made 25 calls to the location and the second document with 6 calls for 2012. There were no fire calls in the records checked for the past 4 years.

Councilman Buie inquired on the number of police calls to the area. Chief Amery Griffin reported the calls range from serving papers to a shooting. Mayor Smart stated the City also has concerns due to the closeness to the City Parks. Councilman Preslar stated someone had attempted to break into the concession stand on 2 different occasions.

New Business:

Public Hearing – Bland Rezoning: A public hearing was advertised for the rezoning of 2 parcels owned by Bland, Incorporated located on Cheraw Road (Hwy 177 S). The request is to rezone all of parcel 748001193672 from Light Industry (I-1) to Residential 20 (R-20) zoning and a portion of PIN 748001187843 from Residential 10 (R-10) to Residential 20 (R-20) zoning. The Planning Board gave favorable recommendation.

Mayor Smart advised the developer plans to build residential structures in the area and thanked Mr. Bland for his addition to the City's tax base.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clewis asked if the property was in the City limits. The owner stated the property along the road frontage is in the city limits. Gail Strickland advised Mr. Bland plans to ask for voluntary annexation of the remaining portion of the rezoned property.

Councilman Preslar asked if the development would include a road. Mr. Bland reported the lots would be 290 feet deep, all road frontage, without a road in the development.

With no further discussion, Councilman Buie made a motion to approve the rezoning request. The second was offered by Councilman Brower and the motion was approved by all.

Approval of Records Retention and Disposition Schedule. The North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and Records, has provided an updated Records Retention and Disposition Schedule in accordance with Chapters 121 and 132 of the General Statutes of North Carolina for use by governmental agencies. Council Members Abbie Covington and Johnathan Buie made the motion and second to accept the resolution. All were in favor.

Approval of Tax Releases. The Tax Collector submitted tax releases with interest totaling \$2389.42 and tax refunds with interest totaling \$494.55 per Richmond County Tax Collector. The motions to approve the Tax Releases as presented was offered by Mayor Pro-Tem Clewis and second given by Councilman Dewey Brower. The motion was approved by all.

Other Business:

Departmental Reports.

Gail Strickland provided information for the purchase of bricks to be placed at the Hamlet Depot facilities. She also gave an update on 2 structures on Hamlet Avenue below the railroad tracks. Demolition bids were opened on October 31, 2012. The asbestos has been removed and applications for permits mailed to the state. Abbie Covington inquired on the costs. Mrs. Strickland provided the cost of \$14,000.00 for asbestos removal and \$13,500.00 for demolition. That is a savings of \$9,000.00 from the original method of demolition.

Mayor Smart reported that Tammy Kirkley is no longer with the City of Hamlet. She is now serving as the Clerk to Pinehurst. He wished her well and thanked Gail Strickland for her willingness to help until a Clerk is hired.

City Manager's Report. Marchell David reported that Thursday, November 15, 2012 will be the first Parks & Recreation Community Meeting with the Wooten Company. The meeting has been advertised and the public is urged to attend and share in the dialogue for the direction of the City's Parks and Recreation expansion.

Mrs. David provided the following upcoming events:

- City Offices will be closed on November 22nd & 23rd. Garbage normally picked up on Thursday and Friday of that week will be collected on Wednesday.
- The City of Hamlet Annual Tree Lighting will be November 26th at 5:30 pm at the Depot Park with Ron & Irene Mayo as the Honorees.
- December 6th is the date for the Hamlet Rotary Christmas Parade beginning at 3:30 pm.
- Hamlet's Old Fashion Christmas will be celebrated on December 7th and 8th.

Comments of Council.

Councilman Buie thanked the Veterans for their service and asked that all employees be safe on the frosty mornings. He wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilman Preslar reported that the City's football program, the only youth program in the county, kicked off on Saturday and invited the public to come watch a game.

Council Member Covington applauded the Veteran's Program at Hospice Haven and thanked the organizers for including the City of Hamlet in the plans. She also thanked the veterans for all they have done.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clewis inquired on the price of the bricks. Mrs. Strickland reported \$50.00 for Museum members and \$60.00 for non-members. He also gave details of Hamlet's Old Fashioned Christmas on Main Street and Hamlet Avenue. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and thanked the Veterans for their sacrifices and the freedom we experience.

Mayor's Comments.

The mayor followed up reporting the success of the Seaboard Festival. He reported the event had great weather and was attended well. He expressed appreciation to Miranda Chavis for the Grand

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Opening of Hamlet's Visitors Center. The mayor explained the exhibits will rotate and other projects are underway. He received positive comments from citizens that were able to tour the Amtrak trains brought in for the day of the Seaboard Festival. He concluded by saying that Hamlet was showcased that weekend and wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Adjournment.

At 7:53 p.m., Mayor Pro-Tem Clewis and Council Member Buie motioned to adjourn and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Strickland, Acting Clerk