

Regular Monthly Meeting
February 14, 2012

Hamlet City Council Regular Monthly Meeting
201 Main Street, Hamlet, NC 28345
Tuesday, February 14, 2012
7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Governing Body Present:

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

Staff Present:

City Manager	Marchell Adams David
City Attorney	Steve Futrell
City Clerk	Tammy Kirkley
Finance Officer	Jill Dickens
Zoning Officer	Gail Strickland
Police Chief	John Haywood
WTP Superintendent	Robert Brown

Others Present: Chad Guinn, Terry Mercer, Pete Wheeler, Steve Mercer, Ike Carlyle, Susan Greene

- 1. Call to Order.** Mayor Jeff Smart called the meeting to order.
- 2. Invocation.** Councilman Tony Clewis offered the invocation.
- 3. Adoption of Agenda.** Council Member Preslar and Clewis made the motions to approve the agenda as presented. All were in favor.
- 4. Adoption of Minutes.** The minutes to the January 10 regular monthly meeting and the January 31 Special Work Session were unanimously accepted as presented by motions of Councilman Clewis and Buie.
- 5. Comments from Attendees.** There were no comments presented.

New Business

- 6. Presentation by Representatives at Richmond Senior Games.** Representatives from Richmond Senior Games, Terry Mercer and Pete Wheeler, presented council and talked about the services that are provided at the Hamlet Senior Center for the Senior Games. Mrs. Mercer thanked the city for allowing them to use their facilities and resources.

Mrs. Mercer and Wheeler also thanked the city for allowing them to use the center's new van for the recent senior games out of town. Mrs. Wheeler inquired about the possibility of obtaining permission to erect a small storage building alongside of the current storage building located at the Senior Center and confirmed that the space needed will not take up any parking spaces. The mayor stated that staff will need to look into the request and get back with the group.

7. **Presentation by Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc.** Cynthia Carter, Executive Assistant and Paralegal, of the Legal Aid Pittsboro office, and Willette Crews, Tech Manager and Paralegal, of the Durham Legal Aid office presented council to inform the community about a qualifying, free tax preparation service provided by their agency. Ms. Carter commended Susan Sellers at the Hamlet Senior Center for partnering with Legal Aid to provide this service. Ms. Crews announced that their agency now has another program- "TAP" Tax Assistance Project" and she explained the guidelines for the program. Ms. Crews stated that Legal Aid is proposing to have a center located at the Hamlet Senior Center. Ms. Carter reported that the one other partnering agency in the county is the Town of Dobbins Heights.
8. **Approval Date to Advertise Tax Delinquency Listing.** Mayor Smart reported that the last day for delinquent tax payers to pay and be removed from the delinquent list will be Friday, March 9, 2012. The tax collector is requesting council's permission for the delinquent tax list as of March 9, 2012, to be advertised in the Richmond County Daily Journal on March 14, 2012. The city manager informed council that an updated list as of today's date has been provided. With there being no questions or comments, Council Members Preslar and Covington motioned to approve the advertisement date of March 14, 2012, with the last day to pay and be removed on March 9, 2012. The vote passed unanimously. Councilman Preslar asked staff to advertise the last date to pay for the public's consideration.
9. **Consideration of Tax Releases.** Council Members Covington and Buie motioned to approve the tax releases for February 2012; the tax total \$338.75, interest total \$59.85; total interest refunded \$51.87; total tax refunded \$160.06. The vote passed unanimously.

Other Business

Pat Preslar inquired about the vacant police officer's position and Chief Haywood explained the process and conditions of employment. Recruitment questions were presented by Abbie Covington and the police chief explained the various recruiting avenues. Council Member Covington suggested sending out a notice to local agencies or schools with BLET graduates.

Mayor Smart asked for an update on a specific abandoned building located at the lower end of Hamlet Avenue. Gail Strickland provided an update with staff's many attempts in making contact with the property owners, as well as, the next steps in the process. Council Member Preslar inquired about several other abandoned/problematic properties and Mrs. Strickland gave an update.

10. City Manager's Report.

Marchell David announced that regular baseball registration started on Monday, February 13, 2012, and will run through March 23, 2012; late registration will run the following week. She also reported that Hamlet's Annual Planning Retreat will be held at the Stinson Building on Friday, March 9th with breakfast at 8:00 am and the meeting starting at 8:30 am. Council will meet again on Saturday morning, March 10, at Hamlet City Hall.

11. Comments of Council.

Johnathan Buie wished all a Happy Valentine's Day. He noted that he recently attended a Communities and Schools function and was invited to speak on leadership. He encouraged everyone to check out what the group is doing within the community. Mr. Buie also recognized a team of four local teachers from Hamlet Middle School who won a state award for the best overall team and gave details on the award.

Mayor Pro-Tem Tony Clewis wished all a Happy Valentine's Day. He reported that he is proud that council will be having the Planning Retreat at the renovated Stinson's Building or the Visitor's Center. Mr. Clewis then asked for prayers for Chuck Bowden's family due to a recent unfortunate incident.

12. Mayor's Comments.

Jeff Smart reminded everyone that Café on Main will be open tonight for a valentine's dinner and encouraged all to help support downtown Hamlet when possible. He said he is proud to report that council recently decided and approved to spend money on several quality of life benefits for Hamlet residents.

Several council members have received compliments on the benefits seen by the renovated street sweeper and on the street crews.

The manager took a moment to thank Mayor Pro-Tem Tony Clewis for his representation at a recent function with Pastor Gene Alexander.

13. Adjournment of Meeting.

At approximately 7:33 pm, Council Members Clewis and Buie motioned to adjourn the meeting. The vote passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Tammy Kirkley, City Clerk

