

**CITY OF HAMLET REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2012
7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

Governing Present:

Mayor	Jeff Smart
Mayor Pro-Tem	Tony Clewis
Council Member	Pat Preslar
Council Member	Abbie Covington
Council Member	Johnathan Buie

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
WTP Superintendent	Robert Brown

Others Present: Kelli Easterling-RC Daily Journal, Barbara Cato, Robert Pemberton, Wendy Massagee, Eric Altman, Randy & Sue Tunstall, Alma Kendall, Chad Quinn

Adoption of Agenda. The presented agenda was unanimously adopted by motions of Council Members Preslar and Clewis.

Adoption of Minutes. Minutes to the May 1 & 14 Budget Work Sessions and the May 8 Regular Monthly Meeting were unanimously approved collectively as presented. Motions were made by Council Members Clewis and Covington.

Comments from Attendees. None were presented.

Tribute to Dr. Diane Honeycutt. A Memorial Proclamation was read aloud and presented to the family of the late Council Member, Dr. Diane Honeycutt. The mayor also presented the family with a plaque whereby recognizing the service of Dr. Honeycutt to the city. Council shared individual comments on behalf of Diane Honeycutt.

Budget Message from City Manager. Marchell David reported on the highlights of the Budget Message for the upcoming 2012-2013 FY. The upcoming year's budget balances at \$7,323,680. Within the message the manager noted specific challenges the city will face in the upcoming

year. The proposed budget is comprised of: General Fund \$4,517,645- Powell Bill \$235,535 - Water/Enterprise Fund \$2,570,500, all of which have offsetting revenues and expenditures. The proposed budget includes a 10% reduction in health care insurance premiums; contributions to other agencies: (Richmond County Humane Society, Richmond County Literacy Council, Richmond County Arts Council and New Horizons); Capital Reserves of \$355,540. Customer service and quality of life issues are important to the City of Hamlet. Within the proposed budget, there are no increases in fees or taxes to the citizens of Hamlet. Proper management is a reflection of the presented balanced budget.

Public Hearing for the Proposed 2012/2013 FY Budget. Mayor Smart explained that the hearing is to allow for public comments or questions in reference to the proposed FY 2012/2013 budget. The floor to the public hearing was opened and comments and questions were invited, no one presented council and the floor was closed.

Adoption of the FY 2012/2013 Budget Ordinance. Councilman Preslar thanked staff and council for their hard work on the budget. He noted that an in-house pay evaluation will be conducted to help the employees who may be behind and noted that there will not be a raise this year for all employees in order to help to get the pay where it should be for certain departments. Mr. Buie thanked staff and everyone for helping him to learn and to get through the budget process. Mrs. Covington thanked the employees for managing their resources. Mr. Cleiws also thanked staff for their hard work. The Mayor reiterated to the citizens that Hamlet has done a fine job of putting together a good budget and staff has been smart with the funding. Mayor Smart echoed that there will be no increase in fees, saying that tax and utility rates will remain the same and that there will also be no decrease in services. Mayor Smart reported that council will continue to review department needs on a quarterly basis and if a change comes about, several capital issues will be addressed at such time. He stated that Hamlet is being as fiscally responsible as possible. Mayor Smart then called for a vote. The proposed FY 2012/2013 Budget Ordinance was unanimously approved by motions of Council Members Preslar and Buie.

Fourth Quarter Budget Amendments. Mayor Smart reported that the presented budget amendments will close out the city's current year budget. He noted that the amendments are public record and read aloud the explanations for same. Mayor Smart called for a vote, and Council Members Covington and Clewis motioned to adopt the amendments as presented. The amendments were unanimously adopted.

Presentation by Eric Altman. *Mr. Eric Altman* presented council to share ideas for Frisbee golf in Hamlet and to ask for council's consideration for such a park. Mr. Altman stated that he will present more detailed information for the proposal during the July meeting. He suggested utilizing the area alongside of the existing walking trail at the city lake to develop such a course. Mr. Altman suggested this type of course will result in an increased use of the park and said it is a good for individuals and for families. Other municipal frisbee golf courses and their growing successes were recognized. Mr. Altman briefly explained the game. The expense will be the baskets for the frisbees and Eric explained that this sport may have from 9 to 27 holes/baskets

and he explained the function of the T-Boxes. He spoke of a professional organization that will design a course free of charge and talked about their standards. The costs are for this sport and the maintenance are low. No supervision is needed for this sport.

Mr. Altman stated that he will head-up the fund raising for the request and said that his office will be a sponsor as well. Eric asked for council's thoughts and advice on this request. Jeff said Eric has the blessings of council to move forward and that it will fall under the Parks and Recreation Department. He directed Mr. Altman to get the okay from Mitch Bowman and to discuss the proposed location; Mr. Bowman will then meet with the Manager to review this project; once this has taken place Mr. Altman may move forward with letters of commitment and sponsorships to present to the city. Council Member Preslar recommended having a map of the proposed course during the review process. Mayor Smart also recommended Mr. Altman to run the idea by with the Senior Center Advisory Council as well, because they may be interested in adding this to their activities. Eric will confirm with Mr. Bowman about the location of the course and will begin to start with sponsorship letters.

Appointments to the Senior Center Advisory Council. Thersa Mercer, Valeria Lunceford and Raymond Marshall were unanimously appointed to serve on the Sr. Center Advisory Council as recommended by the Sr. Center Advisory board. Motions were made by Council Members Covington and Preslar to make the aforementioned appointments as recommended by the board.

Ordinance Establishing the Size of the Hamlet ABC Board. Council adopted the ordinance changing the membership from three members to five members to the Hamlet ABC Board. The motions were made by Council Members Buie and Covington to extend the number of members on the board. All were in favor. The store manager and the board are aware of the potential change.

Appointment to the Hamlet ABC Board. Council Members Preslar and Buie motioned to appoint Abbie Covington to the Hamlet ABC Board as a council representative and the vote passed unanimously. Two applications have been submitted to serve on the Hamlet ABC Board. Council Member Buie motioned to appoint applicant number 2. There were discussions of both applicants between council. Council Member Clewis stated his appreciation to both applicants and stated in light of applicant number 2 applying prior to applicant number 1, he made a second to Councilman Buie's motion. The vote was unanimous to appoint applicant number 2, Wendy Massagee.

Public Hearing No. 2. Amendments to Hamlet City Code Art. 1 Deposits Required. In reference to water/utility accounts, the amended code would allow a surviving spouse of a water account holder to transfer the name on the account without having to pay a deposit. The floor to the public hearing was opened and no one presented council, the hearing was closed. Council Member Clewis and Buie motioned to accept the amendment to the Code concerning deposits on water accounts. The vote passed unanimously.

Approval of Amendment to Reconnect Fee Policy. Currently homeowners who have their accounts cut off for watering meters, the new owner has to pay the initial fee when they have the watering meter turned back on. The proposed amendment will change the reconnect fee to \$100 only if the ownership changes. Councilman Preslar and Buie motioned to adopt the new amendment to the policy. All were in favor.

Johnathan Buie thanked the chiefs for sticking around in the budget meetings and the sacrifices made. He thanked everyone for their patience with his newness and questions.

Tammy welcomed volunteer applications.

City Manager's Report.

Marchell David thanked everyone for their help with the recent Meet- Me- at- the-Lake clean-up day. She reported that the second Community Gardens meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 19 at 7:00 pm in the council chambers to narrow potential site intentions down to two. The manager further announced that city offices will be closed on Wednesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day. She reminded the public that the Fireworks Display Show will be at the Fairgrounds and activities on Main Street on the 4th of July.

Comments of Council

Pat Preslar announced that Hamlet is hosting an All-star Tournament on Veteran's Drive and will need volunteers June 28 – July 2, there will be 8 teams. Volunteers are needed with parking, concessions, Booster Club projects in order to help things run smoothly. Contact city hall for more details - Happy 4th of July.

Abbie Covington questioned information and potential site information regarding the Community Gardening.

Tony Clewis thanked the department heads and the street crews for their work.

Mayor's Comments

The mayor thanked all for coming tonight. He asked everyone to remember the 4th of July activities. The band Ponder Blue will be playing live before and after the fireworks show.

Closed Session. At 8:17 p.m., a motion was made to go into closed session per NCGS Section 143.318.11 (a)-(6) by Council Members Clewis and Buie. All were in favor.

Open Session. Around 9:02 p.m., open session reconvened by motions of Council Members Preslar and Covington. All were in favor.

The mayor announced that during closed session council discussed the vacant seat on Hamlet City Council. He reported that council will announce the filling of the vacant seat during the July 10th regular monthly meeting.

Adjournment. At approximately 9:03 p.m., motions by Council Members Clewis and Buie were made to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Kirkley, City Clerk