

HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016
7:00 PM

MINUTES

Governing Body Present:

Bill Bayless	Mayor
Johnathan Buie	Mayor Pro-Tem
Jesse McQueen	Council Member
Eddie Martin	Council Member
David Lindsey	Council Member
Wendy Massagee	Council Member

Staff Present:

Marcus Abernethy	City Manager
TC Morphis	City Attorney
Tammy Kirkley	City Clerk
Jill Dickens	Finance Officer
Billy Stubbs	Public Works
Gerald Adams	IT Director
Gail Strickland	Zoning
Jennifer Turner	Tax Collector

Others Present: Two law enforcement officers, approximately 8 attendees

1. **Call to Order.** Mayor Bayless called the meeting to order.

2. **Invocation.** Given by Pastor Al McCormick of First Pentecostal Holiness Church in Hamlet.

3. **Adoption of Agenda.** Mayor Bayless asked to add Item 16A for Closed Session per the personnel statute. Council Members Buie and Lindsey motioned to adopt the agenda to add Item 16A and Table Item 8 until the budget meeting. All in favor with the changes.

4. **Adoption of Minutes.** Minutes to the October 11, 2016, Regular Monthly Meeting and Closed Session were unanimously approved by motions of Council Members Buie with a change noted to the date. Council Member McQueen provided the second. The motion carried 4-0.

5. **Comments from Attendees.** No one presented.

Old Business:

6. **Review of Draft Facility Rental/Reservation.** Mr. Abernethy explained the purpose of the policy is to define the applicability of facilities owned by the City for public use, to set guidelines generally outlining rental or reservation of city owned facilities. The policy defines which facilities are applicable to

the policy. Reservations can be made for small gatherings at facilities; however, festivals, fundraisers, parades and other big occasions require an additional special event application. With this policy, citizens will be able to reserve picnic shelters. The mayor suggested to look into erecting a sign at the parks with rental options. The manager reported the rental fees mirror the fee schedule adopted by council. Mr. Buie asked about Memorial Ball Park not being included within Fee Schedule. Mr. Morphis confirmed council may adopt an ordinance to amend the policy. Council Member Buie motioned to approve the policy to include Memorial Ball Park. Mr. Morphis noted they may vote to approve with the instructions to bring an ordinance back to the next meeting for the parks rental to match South Hamlet Park. Council Member Massagee made a second. The motions carried unanimously.

7. Review of Draft Special Event Policy. A brief review of the policy was given. Council Members Buie and Massagee motioned to approve. The vote passed 5-0.

8. Review of Recommended Changes to the Hamlet Personnel Policy. (Tabled until budget meeting)

New Business:

9. Presentation of Hamlet, NC Happenings Mobile App by Jack Thornsbury. Young Mr. Jack Thornsbury, son of city employee Stephanie Thornsbury, created the mobile app for Hamlet. Jack said the app was initially created for the Seaboard Festival, however; it has been expanded to provide information and directions for a variety of Hamlet's events. Jack noted the app is available on Android and iOS devices. Mrs. Massagee noted she utilized the mobile app during the festival and it was a tremendous help. Mr. Thornsbury was thanked by council for his work.

10. Veteran's Day Mayoral Proclamation. Mayor Bayless read aloud a Mayoral Proclamation recognizing November 11, 2016 as Veteran's Day.

11. Hospice Day Proclamation 2016. The mayor read aloud the proclamation recognizing November as Hospice Palliative Care Month on behalf of Richmond Hospice. He presented the proclamation to Ms. Julia Woody.

12. Approval of Submitted Tax Releases. Council Member Buie and Martin motioned to approve the tax releases. The motion carried unanimously.

Other Business.

13. Departmental Reports.

Mr. Buie inquired about the Monroe Garden Apartments and Mrs. Strickland provided an update. She said the city is looking at a potential burn, if not a demolition. She will meet with the manager and the fire chief in the near future to see how to move forward. The manager confirmed March or April of 2017 is a conservative timeline. An update was also given on the corner property located at Monroe Avenue. The city's plan is to address the Monroe Garden Apartments first and go from there. Mrs. Strickland gave the reminder that there will be a significant cleanup of debris once the structure is gone.

Stephanie Thornsbury reported the recent Ghost Tour at the museums was a huge success. The tickets sold out in three days.

14. City Manager's Report.

Mr. Abernethy reminded the public that city offices will be closed for Veteran's Day on November 11 and on November 24 & 25 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. During the Thanksgiving holiday week, Thursday's garbage pickup will take place on Wednesday. The Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Monday, November 28 at 5:30 pm at Hamlet Main Street Park; the Hamlet Christmas Parade is scheduled for December 8 at 3:30 pm; Hamlet's Old Fashioned Christmas will be December 9 & 10 from 6-9 pm with activities on Hamlet Avenue on Friday and Main Street on Saturday.

15. Comments of Council.

David Lindsey thanked all of the volunteers with the Seaboard Festival; he recognized several individuals responsible for coordinating events for the public. Mr. Lindsey commended the new festival planning board for the success of the event.

Eddie Martin wished everyone a safe and happy thanksgiving.

Johnathan Buie thanked the volunteers who helped with festival and also thanked a special group of young people who helped. He gave appreciation to Jack Thornsby for creating the mobile app. Mr. Buie said he joined in on the Ghost Tour at the Depot and thanked Stephanie for coordinating the event. He announced Hamlet-Olympian Miss Ashton Locklear will be the Grande Marshall in the Christmas parade. Details for parade participants were given.

16. Mayor's Comments.

Mayor Bayless recognized Convenience Corner as the Business of the Month. He gave information about a cookbook put together by the Hamlet Library, which includes a number of photos. Cookbooks may be purchased for \$20 each at Hamlet Library and the Hamlet Visitor's Center. The Mayor thanked Kim Lindsey for her work with the Seaboard Festival.

Mayor Bayless called City Clerk Tammy Kirkley forward. He announced that Mrs. Kirkley completed the IIMC Clerks Certification Course with the UNC School of Government in October. The Mayor presented the clerk with the certificate and offered congratulations on her certification.

16A. Motion to go into Closed Session. At 7:42 pm, motions to go into Closed Session per NCGS Section 143-318.11 (a)(3)6 for attorney client privilege and personnel matters. The motions were made by Council Members Buie and McQueen. The motion carried unanimously.

Open Session reconvened at 8:10 pm by motions of Council Members Buie and McQueen. Mayor Bayless reported no decisions were made while in closed session.

17. Adjournment. At 8:11 pm, Council Members Buie and McQueen motioned to adjourn the meeting. The vote passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Tammy Kirkley, City Clerk

