

HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2017 - 7:06 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:

Jonathan Blanton	City Manager
TC Morphis	Attorney
Tammy Kirkley	City Clerk
Jill Dickens	Finance Officer
Calvin White	Fire Chief
Billy Stubbs	Public Works
Gerald Adams	IT Director
Gail Strickland	Zoning
Scott Waters	Police Chief
Jennifer Turner	Tax Collector

Others Present:

Pastor Steve Crews, Linda Bayless, Kim Lindsey, Don Norton, Joy Horton, Richard Lassiter, Tim Nevinger, Kay Canendish

Call to Order

Mayor Bayless called the meeting to order.

Invocation

Reverend Steve Crews of the Hamlet Church of God of Prophecy offered the invocation.

Adoption of Agenda

Council Members Buie and Massagee motioned to adopt the agenda. The motion passed 5-0.

Adoption of Minutes

Minutes to the 4/11/17 Regular and Closed Session and the May 9, 2017 Regular Meeting were unanimously approved by motions of Council Members Buie and Massagee. The motion carried.

Comments from Attendees

None were presented.

New Business:

Public Hearing: FY 16/17 Budget

Mayor Bayless opened the floor to the public hearing for the 2016/17 Fiscal Year Budget. He welcomed public comments. The finance officer confirmed Mr. Buie's inquiry regarding the \$142,000 budgeted for the Depot Museum includes building and maintenance funds. There were no other comments presented and the floor to the hearing was closed.

Adoption of Budget Ordinance No. 2017-02 for Fiscal Year 2017/18

Council Member Martin motioned to adopt the proposed Budget Ordinance as presented and Council Member Buie provided the second. The mayor welcomed comments. A vote was taken and passed with a 3-2 vote. Council Members Massagee and Lindsey were opposed.

Adoption of Resolution 2017-07 Update of Fee Schedule

Mr. Lindsey commented on the "per event" charge and suggested the policy include a "per league" charge for teams to rent the field for a season. Mr. Lindsey pointed out the policy lists a \$250 fee "per event" for renting a ballfield. He referred to an adult soccer league that used the field in the spring as an example. Mr. Blanton noted the policy may be amended to add the cost for a league per season. Mr. McQueen suggested checking with other agencies to get an idea for an appropriate charge. Mr. Buie agreed there is a need for clarification of definitions and costs in the policy. Mr. Lindsey motioned to approve the fee schedule as is and Mr. Buie made the second. The motion carried.

Presentation by Kim Lindsey on Behalf of Seaboard Festival Day Incorporated

Mrs. Lindsey said October 2017 will mark the organization's 35th anniversary. She said the committee operates with no financial contribution from the city and all monies come from vendor registration fees. The group is offering to build a covered shelter/stage on the old A&P parking lot owned by the city. Mrs. Lindsey said the group is willing to donate the structure with one request, which is for the committee to have use of the venue every Seaboard Festival weekend; otherwise, the stage will be the city's venue. The group plans to install lights to the structure, which will accommodate evening events. The Seaboard Festival wants to gift the stage back to the city once built and they need council's permission to build it on the city's property.

Mrs. Lindsey compared the request to another similar situation and noted the specs for the proposed stage. The Seaboard Festival Committee will pay for it all and they understand the city may decide to build something on the property in the future and the stage/shed may have to be removed. Mr. Martin suggested the city attorney draft an agreement between the two parties. Mr. Morphis informed council if interested, they may approve the matter in principal tonight and he will draft an agreement. It was stated council may give the manager authority to sign afterwards. Mr. Martin asked if it would be a conflict if someone rented the venue for a private party and wanted to serve alcohol. Mrs. Strickland confirmed the renters may have alcohol at private events with the applicable permits. The timeline for building the stage was mentioned; Mrs. Lindsey stated, ideally the group would like to start the project the first week in August at the latest. Mr. Buie motioned to approve the request formally tonight with the contract to be drafted and brought before council in July. Mr. McQueen stated he would like to see a sketch of the proposed stage and he then made the second to the motion. The motion carried.

Other Business:
Manager's Report.

Mr. Blanton reported soccer registration is underway and provided the applicable dates and costs. He reported on the city's Fourth of July events and reminded all of the annual fireworks show to be celebrated on the fourth in Hamlet to be put on by M&M Fireworks. The manager referenced the illegal types of fireworks as precautionary information to the public. The Downtown Farmer's Market is held on Thursdays from 4-8 pm at Hamlet Main Street Park. Christine Carroll with the Richmond County Daily Journal was welcomed. Mr. Blanton then asked council if they wished to schedule a Work Session next month as suggested in an earlier council meeting. Council Members Lindsey and Massagee agreed to a Work Session and the remaining council members were opposed. The majority of council agreed any items to be discussed may be done so during regular meetings. Mr. Buie asked if the city will put out additional signage during soccer registration to help remind the public. Mr. Blanton will look into the matter.

Council's Comments

David Lindsey commented on the Farmer's Market and thanked Stephanie Thornsby for coordinating same. Regarding discussions during a Work Session- Mr. Lindsey has concerns with the funds coming in from timber project. He said the city needs to utilize said funds for the water and sewer plant and now is the time to begin planning for upgrades; he asked to discuss the matter at the July meeting. Mr. Lindsey announced July 7-21 are the dates for interested citizens to sign-up to run in the upcoming city council election. He agreed on considering an ordinance in July regarding the timber sale funds to be set aside for water and sewer projects.

Johnathan Buie informed council he will be away during the July meeting. He wished all a safe and happy holiday and thanked all of the volunteers who help put on the events.

Wendy Massagee wanted to clarify her position on a few things. She then read a prepared statement regarding the citizens and volunteers who keep things running in the city, as well as, the civic organizations.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Bayless echoed thanks to the volunteers and civic organizations for their service to the city; he also thanked the employees for their work. Mayor Bayless welcomed Ms. Carroll to the meeting.

Closed Session. At 7:42 pm, motions were made by Council Members Buie and McQueen to go into closed session per NCGS Section 143-318.11 (a) (3) (5) (6) for attorney-client privilege, contract negotiation and personnel. The motion carried.

Open Session reconvened at 8:11 pm and Mayor Bayless reported no votes were taken in Closed Session.

Adjournment.

At 8:12 pm, Council Members Buie and McQueen. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Tammy Kirkley, City Clerk

