

**HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019
7:00 PM
MINUTES**

Governing Body Present:

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

Staff Present:

City Manager	Jonathan Blanton
City Clerk	Gail Strickland
City Attorney	TC Morphis
Finance Officer	Jill Dickens
IT	Zach Garner
Public Works Director	Billy Stubbs
Police	Marc Terry

Others Present: Linda Bayless, Mr. Michael Carter, Jasmine Hager with the RC Daily Journal and Amy Guinn with the Richmond Observer, Don Norton, Gerald Pakota, III, Kay Cavendish and Tim Nevinger

1. Call to Order

Mayor Bayless called the meeting to order.

2. Invocation

Mr. Michael Carter of Second Baptist Church of Hamlet offered the Prayer.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Mayor Bayless advised the need for an addition to the Agenda to include the Resignation of Council Member Lindsey. Council Member Buie motioned to adopt the Agenda with the addition of Item #5A to vote on Mr. Lindsey's resignation and Council Member McQueen provided the second. The vote was 4-0.

4. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the January 8, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting were approved by motions of Council Members Martin and Buie. The motion carried 4-0.

5. Comments from Attendees.

Mr. Dean Lawrence from Austin Street discussed issues with his water bill and a print-out he obtained from the Water Department that shows 0 consumption for a time period and then continued increases in the bill for the last several months. After reviewing the print-out, the

Manager determined a more thorough investigation of the matter was needed. He will contact the Water Department for more information and then report his findings to Mr. Lawrence.

5A. Resignation of Council Member Lindsey

The Mayor read a letter he received from Council Member Lindsey advising his resignation from Hamlet City Council for personal reasons effective immediately. Council Member McQueen voted to accept the resignation effective immediately. Council Member Buie provided the second. The vote was 4-0. Mayor Bayless reported Council will appoint a replacement and suggested anyone with interest or suggestions contact Council. Mr. McQueen inquired of Attorney Morphis the protocol for the appointment. Mr. Morphis advised some towns accept applications and others appoint the person they think will be best for the job. Mr. Buie commented the last appointment was to a candidate that ran for the office. Council Member Massagee suggested Council get someone that has already served with experience.

New Business

6. Appointments to the Hamlet Depot Board.

Mayor Bayless announced the Hamlet Depot Board has provided 3 applications for Council to review and appoint. Council Members Buie and McQueen provided the motion and second to appoint Brian Mitchell, Angela Averitte and Max Brigman to the Depot Board. The vote was 4-0. The Mayor read the list of current Board Members stating they have 15 members but 2 are inactive.

7. Adoption of Resolution 2019-01 Surplus Items.

The Mayor reported Staff has provided a list of items to surplus and dispose of. He asked Public Works Supervisor Billy Stubbs if the 4 vehicles were Public Works and Mr. Stubbs confirmed. He also asked if the 22-ton jack worked. Mr. Stubbs advised it did not. The Mayor stated he was informed the miscellaneous items listed for the Fire Department were worn out air packs and pieces of bad fire hoses. The City will advertise the items on a Government Surplus website. Council Member Buie asked to add 4 basketball goals that were removed from South Hamlet to the list. He then motioned to approve the surplus list. Council Member McQueen offered the second. The vote was 4-0.

8. Adoption of Resolution 2019-02- Retirement of K9 Edy

Mayor Bayless reported the City has a canine that has served his prime. Council Member Buie reported the canine served the City for 8 years and the Mayor advised Edy would go the handler for \$1.00. Mr. Buie provided the motion to approve the Resolution and Council Member Martin gave the second. The vote was 4-0.

9. Approval to Advertise Delinquent Taxes

Mayor Bayless announced the Tax Collector has compiled a list a delinquent 2018 Taxes. She is requesting permission to advertise them. Mr. Bayless announced \$174,462.60 is due to the City as of February 7, 2019 and asked everyone to pay their taxes. Council Member McQueen asked where the list would be published and the Mayor stated the Richmond County Daily Journal was the only publication available. Council Members Buie and McQueen gave the motion and second to approve. The vote was 4-0.

10. Approval of Tax Releases

Council Members Buie and Martin motioned to approve the Tax Releases in the amount of \$152.57. The vote was 4-0.

Other Business

11. City Manager's Report

Mr. Blanton reported regular baseball registration will continue through March 8th with late registration the week following, ending on March 15th. He discussed the CSX parcel near BB&T Bank. In October 2017, the City entered into an agreement with CSX that the City would maintain the right-of-way if they stay 25 ft. from the railroad tracks. City employees have been working at the location this week. Council Member Martin stated Mr. Stubbs should advise the Horticulturist he can continue to clean the property as agreed. Mr. Stubbs reported the City has received an inquiry if trees could be planted on the property. After discussing, it was determined the City Manager will talk with the Tree Beautification Board to select an alternate site.

12. Comments of Council

Council Member Buie gave an unaudited report from the LRCOG of their financial investment into Richmond County from July – September 2018 of \$279,030.00 for aging services and work force development.

13. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Bayless wished all a Happy Valentine's Day and reported businesses on Main St. are making improvements to their buildings. He also expressed appreciation to the other businesses on Main St. and Hamlet Ave.

14. Motion to Adjourn

At 7:32 pm, Council Members Buie and McQueen provided the motion and second to adjourn. The vote was 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Gail M. Strickland
City Clerk

