

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

Governing Body Present:

Mayor	Bill Bayless
Council Member	Johnathan Buie
Council Member	Eddie Martin
Council Member	Wendy Massagee
Council Member	Jesse McQueen
Council Member	Maurice L. Stuart, II – seated after Oath Administered

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	Jatique' Barnes

Others Present:

Curtis Ingram, Eva Ingram, Evan Ingram, Ahmad Shelton, Audrey C. Stuart, Robert L. Craig, Cheryl Streeter, Jordan Washington, LaTosha Bivens, Alberta Bivens, Jasmine Hart, Kerkeaushea Steele, Johnny Steele, Linda Bayless, Judy Lynn, Martha Waters, Denise Cornet, Phillip Lynn, Ronald Tillman, Ollie Ingram, Sandra Dickens, Sheri Parks, Terry Moore, Johnnie Butterfield, Tanya Goodwin-Baldwin, Vernell Davis Riggins, Jasmine Hager with the Daily Journal, Tommy McMaster, Angeline K. David, Sherrell Jackson, Emily Waters, Laurie Waters, Bernice Owens, Sheriff James Clemmons, Highway Patrolman Andreas Deitrich, James Hamilton and others that did not sign in.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Bayless called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

2. Invocation

The scheduled Pastor was unable to attend. A Moment of Silence was observed.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Council Member Buie offered a motion to adopt the Agenda. Council Member Martin provided the second. The vote was 4-0.

4. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the February 12, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting and Budget Review Meeting and February 26, 2019 Special Meeting were approved by motions of Council Members Buie and McQueen. The motion carried 4-0.

5. Comments from Attendees.

Ms. Johnnie Butterfield stated she addressed Council 1 year ago. She wanted to inquire if Council has revisited the opioid drug problem in the community. She provided updated numbers and also advised

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the next new drug, an inhalant used for PTSD had been introduced in the offices. It is on the streets as an illicit drug, the Special K Date Drug. Ms. Butterfield thanked Council for pushing the information forward to the County for treatment and awareness. She stated collaboration with the County is great but she wanted to make sure Hamlet can take care of themselves. Information of an Opioid Misuse and Overdose Prevention Summit in June 2019 was given and Ms. Butterfield encouraged someone from the City to attend. She also expressed appreciation to several City employees for their assistance in a water issue and in leaf, limb and trash collection.

6. Oath of Office for Newly Appointed Council Member.

City Clerk Gail Strickland administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Maurice Lee Stuart, II. Mrs. Strickland introduced the new Council Member and he took his seat with the Board.

7. Appointments to the Hamlet Depot Board.

Mayor Bayless stated the Depot Board had submitted 2 applications for appointments. Council Member Buie motioned and Council Member Martin gave the second to appoint Jarvis Maurice Joy and Barry K. Cosey. The vote was 4-0.

8. Adoption of Bayless Resolution 2019-03- Surplus

Mayor Bayless called Chief Scott Waters to the podium and read the Resolution to allow the City of Hamlet to donate the retiring Chief's badge and sell him his gun for \$1.00 upon his retirement on March 29, 2019. Council Members Buie and Martin provided the motion and second to adopt the Resolution. The vote was 4-0. The Mayor presented Chief Waters his badge and service weapon. Mr. Bayless stated it is a long- term tradition for someone in law enforcement to pay the required fee and gave the Chief \$1.00. Chief Waters began his comments by thanking God for the opportunity to serve. He also expressed appreciation to the people of Hamlet and his department. Both Mayor Bayless and Council Member Buie gave thanks to Chief Waters for his life-long career with the City of Hamlet Police Department.

9. Approval of Tax Releases

Council Members Buie and Martin motioned to approve the Tax Releases presented. The vote was 4-0.

10. Approval of 3rd Quarter Budget Amendments

Council Member Buie stated the City had several unexpected costs but the City is still in good standing. Mayor Bayless added the City had its first Budget Meeting and is great financially. He also mentioned the City does have serious water and sewer issues coming that it will need to prepare for. The motion to approve the amendments was made by Mr. Buie and the second offered by Council Member McQueen. The vote was 4-0.

11. Proclamation – Arbor Day

Mayor Bayless read the Proclamation announcing April 5th as Arbor Day in the City of Hamlet and expressed appreciation to the Hamlet Tree Board for their beautification efforts.

Other Business

12. City Manager's Report

Mr. Blanton thanked the crowd for coming and recognized the elected officials from Rockingham and Ellerbe as well as Sheriff Clemmons, Highway Patrolman Deitrich and Mrs. Owens. Information for the sale of City Surplus was provided by the Manager. The auction will take place March 20th through April 3rd at www.govworldauctions.com. The merchandise can be inspected at the Public Works Department located at 1000 Oakhurst Avenue. Also announced was the recent hiring of the Senior Center Director,

Sarah Locklear, and Hamlet Native Jennifer Seaman as the Museum Manager and Downtown Coordinator.

13. Comments of Council

Council Member Martin offered congratulations to Council Member Stuart.

Council Member McQueen welcomed Mr. Stuart. He stated the City has a promising future. The Sewer Bond will be paid off next year and the City hopes to upgrade the water and sewer systems. Mr. McQueen thanked the City Manager for his outstanding work, especially the past few weeks. The vacant positions have been filled with qualified people. He thanked Chief Waters for his time with the Hamlet Police Department, recalling the two of them began their career together in December 1991. Mr. McQueen thanked the local law enforcement and local elected officials that were in attendance for their working relationship with the City of Hamlet.

Council Member Massagee welcomed newly appointed Council Member Stuart.

Council Member Stuart gave thanks to God, the Mayor and Council. Thanks was also offered to his family, stating he came from 4 generations of family from Hamlet. Mr. Stuart stated he plans to be a part of Hamlet; he was away for 25-30 years but has returned to be part of the community. He is looking for guidance from all and wants to see the Council Chambers filled each 2nd Tuesday of the month. He concluded by saying the reason he is serving is for the people of Hamlet.

Council Member Buie stated he was glad to see the large number in attendance, especially the youth. He thanked the elected officials and law enforcement for attending. Appreciation to Bernice Owens for her work on Hamlet Avenue was given. Mr. Buie said he was pleased with the 2 new hires and feels the Budget Meeting went well. He encouraged citizens to give their ideas to Council. The Council Member offered his assistance to Mr. Stuart and welcomed him to the Board. To assist with keeping drains unblocked, Mr. Buie asked citizens to make sure debris placed for pick-up is on the property owner's side, not in the street. The debris in the street backs up the drains and creates flooding.

14. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Bayless stated he is looking forward to working with Council Member Stuart. He also mentioned Council is working on the upcoming budget and encouraged the citizens to review the budget to see where their tax dollars are spent. The Mayor thanked the City Manager for his work for the most recent hires. Mr. Bayless advised yard debris will be removed as quickly as possible with everyone doing spring yard work. He also requested citizens report any pot holes they observe in the City streets.

15. Motion to Adjourn

At 7:47 pm, Council Members Buie and Stuart provided the motion and second to adjourn. The vote was 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Gail M. Strickland
City Clerk

