

HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2019
7:00 PM
MINUTES

Governing Body Present:

Mayor	Bill Bayless
Council Member	Eddie Martin
Council Member	Wendy Massagee
Council Member	Maurice L. Stuart, II
Council Member	Joe Robinson - seated after oath

Staff Present:

City Manager	Jonathan Blanton
City Clerk	Gail Strickland
City Attorney	TC Morphis
IT	Zach Garner
Public Works Director	Billy Stubbs
Police –	Chief McMasters

Others Present: Linda Bayless, Carrie Aquino, Pastor Steve Crews, Johanna Brady, Robert Singletary, Sr., Jaden Wilson, Kristi Wilson, Corey Wilson, Barbara Pipkin, Terri Robinson, Polly Williams, Sandra Dickens, Amy Guinn, Brent Gibson, Misty Gibson, Brynn Gibson, Sandra Robinson, Ethan Gibson, Ashlynn Gibson, Kay Cavendish, Tim Nevinger, Carol Fulmer and Kelley Bryant

1. Call to Order

Mayor Bayless called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Invocation

Pastor Steve Crews of Hamlet Church of God of Prophecy offered the Prayer.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Council Member Martin motioned to adopt the Agenda with Council Member Stuart providing the second. The vote was 3-0.

4. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the June 8, 2019 Special Meeting and Closed Session and the June 11, 2019 Regular Meeting were approved by motions of Council Members Martin and Stuart. The vote was 3-0.

5. Comments from Attendees

No one addressed Council.

New Business

6. Oath of Office for Newly Appointed Council Member

City Clerk Gail Strickland administered the Oath to Council Member Joe Robinson and he was seated with Council.

7. Approval of Tax Releases.

Council Member Massagee motioned to approve the Tax Releases. Council Member Martin provided the second. The vote was 4-0.

Other Business

8. City Manager's Report.

Mr. Blanton congratulated Council Member Robinson on his appointment. He provided soccer registration information. The Manager also informed the public the Hamlet Police Department is initiating a new Community Policing Program where officers will be knocking on doors, meeting residents and providing care packages with information. The officers will be in the areas of East Hamlet, Pine Croft and Briarwood on Saturday, July 13th. The goal is for every household in the City to receive a visit from the police officers.

Mayor Bayless asked if Council had any questions for the Manager. Council Member Massagee stated, since she was excluded from the Manager's contract discussion, she had questions. The first question was in regards to the severance package at the end of the 3-year contract period if the contract was not renewed. The City Manager explained the contract would end at the conclusion of 3 years and a severance package would not be given. Next, Mrs. Massagee asked if the contract contained a residency requirement. Mr. Blanton replied it did not, but he assured her he would be keeping a residence here. She responded that the Wadesboro contract, which Mr. Blanton said was used as a model, contained a residency requirement. Lastly, Mrs. Massagee asked if the Manager received the 3% Cost of Living Adjustment on July 1st and Mr. Blanton indicated he did not.

Council Member Stuart asked for the beginning date of the Community Policing Program. The Manager confirmed with Chief McMasters the date of Saturday, July 13th beginning at 10:00 am.

9. Comments of Council.

Council Member Martin welcomed Mr. Robinson to the Board.

Council Member Robinson expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Hamlet and thanked Council for the confidence they had put in him. He stated he has a love and concern for the town and is open to comments from the citizens. He thanked his family for their support and remarked he had sworn to do the job to the best of his ability.

Council Member Massagee stated she had mixed emotions. She has been in favor of a contract, but was not pleased with how it came about. She explained she was excluded from the process and only received the email with the contract the day before the meeting and her daughter's graduation was changed to the same meeting date and time. She concluded by saying just because something was not illegal did not make it right.

Council Member Stuart offered his congratulations and assistance to Mr. Robinson. He also encouraged the citizens to attend the meeting.

10. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Bayless said he is looking forward to working with the new Council Member. He also offered his condolences to Mr. Stuart on the passing of his grandmother. The Mayor announced the July 4th activities were great, especially the fireworks and said he was thankful Hamlet did not cancel their

fireworks tradition since the ones at the racetrack were cancelled. He also asked citizens to let the Manager or Council know if they have any issues.

Mr. Blanton reported past Council Member Victor Faires passed away last week.

11. Motion to Adjourn.

At 7:15 pm, Council Members Martin and Stuart provided the motion and second to adjourn. The vote was 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Gail M. Strickland, City Clerk

