

**HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC  
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2013  
7:00 PM**

**Minutes**

**Present:**

Jeff Smart	Mayor
Tony Clewis	Mayor Pro Tem
Pat Preslar	Councilmember
Johnathan Buie	Councilmember
Dewey Brower	Councilmember
Marchell David	City Manager
Tammy Kirkley	City Clerk
Steve Futrell	City Attorney
Jill Dickens	Finance Director
David Knight	Fire Chief
Amery Griffin	Police Chief
Gail Strickland	Zoning Officer
Robert Brown	WT Plant Superintendent
Others: Present:	RC Daily Journal Representative; and approximately 20 visitors.

**Absent:**

Abbie Covington	Councilmember
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1. **Call to Order.** Mayor Smart called the meeting to order.
2. **Invocation.** Pastor Steve Crews of the Hamlet Church of God of Prophecy gave the invocation.
3. **Adoption of Agenda.**  
The agenda was unanimously adopted by way of motions made by Councilmember Buie and Councilmember Preslar. Vote passed 5-0.
4. **Approval of Minutes.**  
The January 8, 2013 regular meeting minutes were approved as presented by vote of 5-0 with motions made by Councilmember Preslar and Clewis.
5. **Comments from Attendees.**  
There were none.

**New Business**

6. **Administration of the Oath of Office to Hamlet Police Chief.**  
The City Clerk administered the Police Chief Oath of Office to Amery Griffin.
7. **Motion to Close Regular Meeting and Enter into a Public Hearing.**  
Councilmember Clewis and Buie motioned to close the regular meeting and enter into a public hearing for the purposes to discuss lowering the speed limit on Hwy. 177. The vote passed 4-0.

**8. Public Hearing:**

Mayor Smart opened the floor to the public hearing and explained that the hearing is to allow for public comments regarding a request the city received from citizens of Hamlet to lower the speed limit from 55 mph to 45 mph along the portion of Hwy. 177 South located inside Hamlet City Limits.

- **Mr. Bill Pate** said he came to give his concerns about speeding along Hwy 177; however, on a different section. Mr. Pate reported his concerns for potential danger along the section of 177 from Hylan Avenue down to Convenience Corner. He stated he lives on Rollins Avenue and noted the speeding problem when at the stop sign turning onto Hwy. 177. Mr. Pate complained about the speeding through the stop lights and gave examples. Councilmember Clewis inquired why the caution light located in this area was removed. Mrs. David will make contact with NCDOT to find out why the light was removed.
- **Steve Crews pastor** of the Hamlet Church of God of Prophecy located on Hwy. 177 supports the lowering of the speed limit along this portion of the highway. He stated that he lives in the parsonage on this highway as well. Pastor Crews commented that the church has grown and they have a lot more people going in and out of the church on Sundays and Wednesdays and during the special events taking place at the church. Mr. Crews noted a number of various programs that take place at the church that draw a lot of traffic in and out of their property. Pastor Crews said the high speed zone is a problem for the church and they would appreciate the lowering of the speed limit in that area for safety issues.
- **Johnathan Buie** offered comments on the different speed zones in the subject area. He stated it is a positive for the residents and businesses along this area and the matter has his support.
- **Pat Preslar** recommended when, and if, the speed limit is lowered for the police department to set-up the speed cart along this area to help to get the public familiar with the new speed limit.
- **Mayor Smart** explained the process will not happen overnight and said council will consider a resolution during the April regular monthly meeting. If the resolution is adopted, it will then be forwarded to Raleigh.

**9. Motion to Close the Public Hearing and Re-enter into Regular Meeting.**

Councilmember Clewis and Brower motioned to close the public hearing and re-enter into regular session. The vote passed unanimously. Mayor Smart asked staff to include a resolution on the April agenda.

**10. Motion to Adopt Resolution 13-04: Approving the June 10, 2011 Water Shortage Response Plan.**

City Manager Marchell David and Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Robert Brown gave explanations for Resolution 13-04. The Mayor reported that council previously approved the Water Shortage Response Plan and this is a resolution to that effect as required by the state. Councilmember Preslar and Councilmember Clewis motioned to approve the Resolution 13-04. The vote passed by vote of 4-0.

**11. Motion to make Appointments to the Hamlet Depot Museum Board.**

Council discussed the nominees to be appointed. The Hamlet Depot Museum Board gave a favorable recommendation to appoint Jackie Hatfield and Melanie Potoka to the board. Motions were made by Councilmember Buie and Brower to appoint Mr. Jackie Hatfield and Ms. Melanie Potoka to the Hamlet Depot Museum Board. The vote passed unanimously.

**12. Motion to Adopt Resolution 13-05: Concerning Loss of “Transitional Hold Harmless” Reimbursement Funds.**

The mayor explained the request for the Resolution of Support and stated the Transitional Hold Harmless Reimbursement Funds come from the state and are within the sales tax portion of the city’s budget. Motions were made by Councilmember Clewis and Brower to adopt Resolution 13-05. The vote passed 4-0.

**13. Motion to Approve Tax Releases.**

The city manager and finance officer discussed the submitted tax releases from the Tax Collector as recommended by the county. The taxes should have been listed as an exempt status. Council questioned the releases and requested for staff to check with the county to get additional information on the exempt status of the business. After discussion on the item, Councilmember Preslar and Buie motioned to approve the tax releases as submitted. The vote passed unanimously.

**14. Motion to Adopt Resolution 13-06: Concerning NC 177 Curb & Gutter Project.**

The mayor explained Resolution 13-06 and stated that NC DOT plans to resurface NC 177 from the northern city limits of Dobbins Heights to the railroad bridge south of US 74 Business in Hamlet. Noting as well that the plans include replacing the existing curb and gutter and sidewalk, and to install additional sidewalk on the west side of NC 177, which is next to Memorial Park. Councilmember Clewis motioned to approve Resolution 13-06 as written and Councilmember Brower made the second to the motion. The motion passed by vote of 4-0.

**15. City Manager’s Report.**

Regular registration for Park and Recreation baseball ends this Friday at 5:00 pm. City offices will be closed on Friday, March 29 in observance of Good Friday. The manager reported that residential garbage pickup will not be affected and said if special accommodations for the businesses are needed to contact public works.

Mrs. David reported the city had a good Planning Session this year and she thanked all department heads and council. The manager then welcomed Richmond County Sheriff Clemmons to the meeting and invited him to speak to the community.

Sheriff Clemmons presented council and stated it was a pleasure to be witness the new appointment of the chief of police. The sheriff stated that he and his department supports Hamlet and they look forward to a great working relationship with Hamlet and all of the other local law enforcement agencies and first responders. Mr. Clemmons concluded with noting that the Hamlet agency looks really good.

**16. Councilmember’s Comments.**

- **Dewey Brower** welcomed Mr. Griffin as the new chief. He commended several recent local events and thanked everyone for their hard work.

- **Johnathan Buie** also congratulated the chief. He thanked the sheriff for being in attendance and for the kind words. He welcomed the visitors to the meeting.
- **Pat Preslar** congratulated Amery Griffin and he gave his appreciation for coming in and serving during the interim.
- **Tony Clewis** thanked Sheriff Clemmons for being in attendance and congratulated Mr. Griffin. He inquired about a designated left turn signal on Hwy 74 heading east and west, stating the traffic has to currently wait before turning left at said stoplights. Mr. Clewis asked staff to contact NCDOT to inquire about having designated left turn signals because of the high amount of traffic on Hwy. 74.

**17. Mayor's Comments.**

**Jeff Smart** stated there are a lot of positive things going on in Hamlet. He noted the recent spring retreat with the department heads and stated it was good to hear what they do on a day-to-day basis. Mr. Smart gave his appreciation for the city's department heads and all of the employees. Mayor Smart said Hamlet is doing well with keeping the streets clean and said we will continue to work on the challenged areas in town. He then recognized the improvements to be completed in town by the state as mentioned earlier, in addition to a number of other positive events happening in the community. The mayor commended the HPD staff being personable with the community and added that means a lot to the city. Among other positive things going on, Council approved a new roof for the public library that is much needed. Mayor Smart thanked council for investing the citizen's funds in the right way.

**18. Motion to Adjourn Meeting.**

At approximately 7:40 pm, Councilmember Clewis and Buie motioned to adjourn the meeting and the vote passed with a 4-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Kirkley, City Clerk for City of Hamlet