

**HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
HAMLET CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2015 – 7:00 PM**

Minutes

Governing Body Present:

Mayor	William Bayless
Mayor Pro Tem	Johnathan Buie
Council Member	Tony Clewis
Council Member	Jesse McQueen
Council Member	Eddie Martin
Council Member	Pat Preslar

Staff Present:

City Manager	Marcus Abernethy
City Clerk	Tammy Kirkley
City Attorney	TC Morphis
Police Chief	Scott Waters
Fire Chief	David Knight
WTP Supt.	Robert Brown
Zoning	Gail Strickland
Public Works Dir.	Billy Stubbs
IT Director	Zach Garner

Others Present: approximately 18 attendees, Media: Pee Dee Post and RCDJ

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Bayless called the meeting to order.

2. Invocation.

Bishop Marvin Taylor, Jr. of Outreach for Jesus offered the invocation.

3. Adoption of Agenda.

Councilman Clewis and Preslar motioned to adopt the amended agenda presented. The vote passed 5-0.

4. Minutes from the December 9, 2014 Regular and Closed Session Meetings.

The Open and Closed Session minutes from December 9, 2014 were approved by motions of Council Members Clewis and Buie. Motion carried 5-0 vote.

5. Comments from Attendees. None were presented.

6. Recognition of Law Enforcement Officers by Police Chief Waters.

Officers Trenton Morrison and Robert McNeill were introduced as recently hired officers with the City of Hamlet.

Two -year veteran officer Corey Adams was recognized as the newly assigned Resource Officer for Richmond Community College. Detective Heather Wyatt was recognized for a recent promotion to that of Detective Lieutenant; and Patrolman Randy Dover was recognized for the recent promotion to Detective Sergeant. Chief Waters gave a report of each employee's credentials, background and experience as he introduced them to the public. The chief extended appreciation his employees.

7. Motion to Adopt Ordinance No. 2015-01- Demolition of 16 Hamlet Avenue.

Zoning Officer, Gail Strickland presented council and gave a report on the issue with the building - 16 Hamlet Avenue. She reported that she has met with the Richmond County Building Inspector and a contractor to obtain guidance in demolishing the building. The roof to the building has collapsed, and the support beam in the front will have to remain as it is attached to the adjoining building. Mrs. Strickland reported if council adopts the ordinance tonight, the process for bids will follow. Councilman Buie and Martin motioned to adopt Ordinance No. 2015-01 as presented. All were in favor with a 5-0 vote.

8. Motion to Adopt Budget Amendments.

Mayor Bayless directed council's attention to the submitted budget amendments and asked if there were any questions of council and none were presented. See Attachment A, which is incorporated by reference and hereby made a part of these minutes. Mayor Bayless called for a vote. Councilman Clewis and Buie motioned to adopt the submitted budget amendments and the vote passed in favor 5-0.

9. Approval of Tax Releases and Refunds.

The tax releases total of \$486.47 and the tax refunds total of \$343.46 were submitted per Richmond County. Councilman Clewis and Buie motioned to approve the tax releases and refunds. All were in favor 5-0.

10. Appointments to Hamlet Depot and Museums Board.

City Clerk Tammy Kirkley reported the Depot Board Chair informed staff of three vacancies on the board. She said the Depot Board met this week and gave favorable a recommendation for council to appoint Zach Garner, Candace Garner and Keith Stromberg. Councilman Preslar and Buie motioned to appoint Zach Garner, Candace Garner and Keith Stromberg to the Hamlet Depot Board. The motion carried 5-0. Mayor Bayless reported the new Museum Director is scheduled to begin on January 21.

11. Mayoral Proclamation in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Mayor Bayless read the Proclamation observing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in Hamlet.

12. Other Business.

Departmental Reports- **Police Chief Scott Waters** reported that he is in the process of checking into the body armor for his department and said he may get a demo of the equipment as well. The Chief reported Officer Glenn's father-in-law passed away offered condolences.

13. City Manager's Report.

- Offices will be closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday, January 19th.
- New Museum Director Chuck McShane will start on January 21.
- There are several personnel openings and staff is working quickly to fill them.
- The Mid-Yr Planning Session will be held on January 15, at 4:30 pm, Hamlet City Hall.

Attendee, Mr. Brendon Watson was recognized and it was reported that he is working on his Eagle Scout and that he is a volunteer with the East Rockingham Fire Department.

14. Closed Session.

At 7:20 pm, motions to go into Closed Session per NCGS § 143.318.11 (a) (2) (3) (5) and (6) were made by Council Members Buie and Clewis. The motion passed 5-0.

Open Session reconvened at 8:51 pm. Mayor Bayless reported no decisions were made and there is no action to be taken.

15. Comments of Council.

Pat Preslar reminded everyone to be careful with the potential inclement weather conditions that may be upon us.

Tony Clewis asked all to remember Donnie Caulder's family in prayer as his grandmother passed away. He asked the manager to check the weather conditions in the morning and inform office staff of any needed delays. Mr. Clewis reminded city workers to be careful on the roads.

Eddie Martin reported that Dorothy Bynum asked him about the city making a \$100 donation to the MLK Jr. Committee in Richmond County. He said this is a significant event in as much as it is a state and federal holiday and that the city should consider the request. Councilman Martin made a motion for the City of Hamlet to approve a \$100 donation to the Richmond County MLK Jr. Committee effective tomorrow, if possible. Councilman Clewis made a second to the motion. The vote passed in favor 5-0. Mr. McQueen added that he would like the city to purchase tickets to the scheduled luncheon.

Johnathan Buie recognized Gail Strickland's continued efforts on Hamlet Avenue. He said things are looking much better as compared to previous years. Mr. Buie welcomed the new law enforcement officers and expressed council's appreciation to the police department.

16. Mayor Comments.

Mayor Bayless reported the city has received a number of complaints regarding Duke Energy's current tree trimming project. He explained that the city has no control over the project; however, Duke Power did inform us that the trees are on their right-of-ways and said they make the cuts in the best way for the tree to survive. The Mayor reported concerns may be voiced to Duke Power.

Duke Power did inform the city that they will grind the smaller branches and the cut the bigger pieces and leave on the property for firewood. Mayor Bayless stated the city will pick up any unwanted bigger pieces.

Mayor Bayless extended his appreciation to the all of the police officers and he noted the city is pleased to have Officer Adams at Richmond Community College.

17. Recess of Meeting.

At 9:01 pm, motions to recess the meeting until Thursday, January 15, 2014, at 4:30 pm were made by Council Members Buie and McQueen. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy W. Kirkley, Clerk for City of Hamlet