

HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 - 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Governing Body Present:

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

Absent:

David Lindsey	Council Member
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Staff Present:

Jonathan Blanton	City Manager
TC Morphis	Attorney
Tammy Kirkley	City Clerk
Jill Dickens	Finance Officer
Calvin White	Fire Chief
Scott Waters	Police Chief
Billy Stubbs	Public Works
Gerald Adams	IT Director
Stephanie Thornsby	Museum Director
Gail Strickland	Zoning Coordinator

Others Present: Approximately 11 attendees

1. **Call to Order**

Mayor Bayless called the meeting to order.

2. **Invocation**

Adrian Robson with Summit Church offered the invocation.

3. **Adoption of Agenda**

The manager noted a procedural action is needed via a motion and vote on last month's item to demolish the Yank's Building on Raleigh Street. The matter will be added as Item 7A to the agenda. Council Member Massagee requested to add an item under Old Business regarding the new playground equipment at South Hamlet Park as Item 7B. Council Members Buie and McQueen motioned to adopt the agenda with the two changes. The motion carried.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from the August 8th Regular Meeting and the August 24th Special Session were unanimously approved by motions of Council Members Buie and Martin. The motion carried.

5. Comments from Attendees

None were presented.

6. Personnel Recognition

Chief Waters recognized Sergeants David Ferron and Robbie Carlisle for receiving their Intermediate Law Enforcement Certificate. He pointed out this certificate requires a certain amount of experience as well as training. The chief thanked both men for their hard work.

Old Business:

7. Seaboard Festival Stage Contract Discussion

Mr. McQueen stated no one knew the cost of the attorney's fee for the draft contract last month and confirmed it was \$650. He said a lot of false narratives are circulating within the community that council doesn't want the festival this year, which is not the situation. Mr. McQueen explained the circumstances with the contract and said he was not against the festival. He doesn't want the Seaboard Festival Committee to pay for the contract that was drafted at their request; however, the matter was not handled appropriately. In the future, he suggested if groups approach council with such requests, an ordinance may be needed to protect the city's interest. A briefing of the terms of contract was given.

Mr. Martin reiterated Mr. McQueen's comments. He asked if a motion is needed to say council is not accepting the offer of the Seaboard Festival to pay for the contract. For the record, he motioned the city has not and will not ask for reimbursement for the expense that we incurred on their behalf. Mr. McQueen made a second to the motion and all were in favor.

7A. Ratification of Ordinance No. 2017-05 to Demolish Yank's Building on Raleigh Street

The manager noted this is simply a procedural matter. Mr. Morphis confirmed there are no problems with the Ordinance. Council Members Buie and McQueen motioned to ratify the Ordinance. The motion carried.

7b. Discussion on Playground Equipment at South Hamlet Park

Wendy Massagee mentioned the Special called meeting in August for the playground equipment at South Hamlet Park. She said she did not receive any information or quotes prior to the meeting; and therefore, asked if benches were included in the project. The manager confirmed benches were not included. Mr. Martin said he just recently talked with a lady at South Hamlet and told her he planned to discuss benches, tables and coverings for the park during the upcoming Planning Session. Mrs. Massagee said she was just asking because she did not receive anything ahead of time. She stated last time we received a park grant first and was able to get reimbursed for half of the items purchased. The manager confirmed it was not relayed to him to include benches within the quote.

8. David Richardson with the Lumber River Council of Governments (LRCOG)

Mr. Richardson, a Richmond County native, presented council and introduced himself and noted his role with the LRCOG; he said he is here to serve the city.

Mr. Richardson passed out and discussed a booklet – “NC Tomorrow” and welcomed any questions of council. Mr. Buie said Jan has retired with the LRCOG and said Mr. Richardson has done a good job as the new director; he thanked Mr. Richardson for his service.

9. Request by Tim Nevinger to Hamlet City Council

The manager informed council Mr. Tim Nevinger has requested to purchase a small parcel of city-owned property, which abuts his land, located along Hamlet Avenue. The manager presented a map of the area. Mr. Blanton asked if council is interested in making a motion to appraise, advertise and seal- bid the sale of the land.

Mr. Nevinger presented council to confirm his request. Council discussed the matter and agreed to put the land out to bid. The property will need to be appraised and advertised for sale via sealed bids. Council Members Buie and McQueen motioned in favor of appraising the property and put it out for sale via advertised bids. The motion carried.

10. Discussion of Hamlet Gateway Signs

Mr. Blanton explained the FY 2017/18 budget allocates \$15,000 for new entrance signs. TRG Sign Company submitted several design options with prices. The manager stated the item is for discussion of the design. A bid will be put out for other sign vendors as well. The design submitted is keeping a consistent theme with the depot signs. Mr. Martin said his personal opinion would be to have a train engine on the sign. The manager will send out for other designs as requested. Council discussed what materials the signs will be constructed. Mr. Martin said he also has an issue with the slogan “Hub of the Sandhills” on the seal. Mayor Bayless suggested Mr. Martin assist with the design selection for the proposed signs.

11. Award of Bid for Refuse Truck

A bid opening for a rear-load refuse collection truck was held on August 25, 2017, and three vendors submitted bids. The low bidder was Nulife Environmental, Inc. located out of Easley, South Carolina in the amount of \$122,903. The public works director confirmed he went to the location of the low bidder to inspect the truck and the subject vehicle is the type the city needs. Mr. Stubbs spoke further on the company and confirmed this is a new truck. Councilman Buie said if the vehicle meets the guidelines, he motions and recommends to award the bid to the low bidder NuLife Environmental, Inc., Councilman Martin made the second. The motion carried.

12. Adoption of Resolution No. 2017-06 - Branch Banking and Trust Lease

Resolution No. 2017-06 is a resolution approving the financing terms with Branch Banking and Trust for the purchase of a new garbage, police and fire vehicles. Council Members Buie and McQueen motioned to adopt the resolution. The motion carried.

13. Adoption of Resolution 2017-07 (Liles) Annexation

A petition requesting voluntary annexation for the Liles property on Oak Street was submitted to the city clerk. The subject resolution is fixing a date for a public hearing on the question of annexation. The public hearing has been advertised to be held tonight. Council Members Buie and McQueen motioned to adopt the resolution and the motion carried.

14. Certificate of Sufficiency for Liles Annexation

The clerk has certified the petition of annexation to be signed by the owners of the subject property. Council Members Buie and McQueen motioned to accept the certificate. The motion carried.

15. Public Hearing

Mayor Bayless opened the public hearing in reference to the Liles Annexation. He welcomed comments on the matter and none were presented. The hearing was closed.

16. Adoption of Ordinance 2017-06 extending city limits to include the Liles Annexation- Oak Street.

Council Members McQueen and Buie motioned to adopt Ordinance No. 2017-06. The motion carried.

17. Appointment to the Hamlet Depot Board

Mayor Bayless reported the Hamlet Depot Board has recommended council appoint Mr. Ryan Williams of Rockingham to serve on the Depot Board. It was confirmed by the manager there are fifteen seats on the board. Council Members Martin motioned to accept the recommendation of the Depot Board and appoint Mr. Williams to serve on the board. Council Members Buie made the second to the motion. The motion carried.

18. Consumption of Beer and Wine on City Property

The manager explained there is a discrepancy between Section 3.5 of the Hamlet Code of Ordinances and the lease for tenants who rent the Rotunda, which allow for beer and wine provided certain requirements are met. Mr. Morphis recommends two options: 1) inform the tenants this provision of the lease is void or that it conflicts with the ordinances or, 2) amend the code of ordinances to allow for approved functions.

Mr. Morphis confirmed it is the applicant's responsibility to obtain the appropriate ABC permits for events approved by council to have the consumption of alcohol. He added some agencies also require the hiring of law enforcement at events; it depends upon the town's wishes. Councilmembers Buie and Martin motioned to go with the second option mentioned by the attorney and to amend the ordinance to allow alcohol consumption for council approved events.

Council discussed the amendment to the ordinance and if the amendment should be broad or narrow to include all city properties or only for certain locations. Mr. Morphis informed council they may come to a consensus on the matter and he will draft an amendment to the ordinance to present for council's discussion and consideration during next month's meeting. The Mayor suggested to include a time frame to submit the request for such an event.

19. City Manager's Report

Mr. Blanton reported football and cheerleading registrations are underway. Regular registration will end September 22 and late registration will run from September 25-29. He reported the first stage of the auction has been completed and the city has received about \$35,000. The second stage will run through September 19. Mr. Blanton commended the police personnel recognized tonight in obtaining their certificates.

The manager also thanked staff for their efforts in preparing for the recent storm. In conclusion, the manager said the Hamlet ABC Store has reported their payment to the city this year will be approximately \$58,000.

20. Council's Comments

Jesse McQueen noted an upcoming event on the calendar – the 9th Annual John Coltrane Educational Jazz Festival. He invited attendee, Gerard Morrison to provide information on the event. Mr. Morrison reported the Edutainment Festival is planned for October 7th to be held at Wayman Chapel in Hamlet from 12-7 pm and welcomed vendors. Mr. McQueen asked for the event information be included on the website; he encouraged the public to check the site for an array of information. Mr. McQueen concluded with thanking the employees for their work during the hurricane.

Johnathan Buie thanked Chief Waters for the personnel recognition tonight and he thanked the men for their work. Mr. Buie then recognized the city clerk for obtaining her certification in Public Administration in July and also for receiving her North Carolina Certified Municipal Clerk distinction in August. He thanked Mrs. Kirkley for her efforts in going beyond and continuing her education within her profession.

21. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Bayless thanked all for their help during the storm and reported city crews will get around to all areas for debris pickup. He reminded the public the Fair, the Seaboard Festival, the John Coltrane Festival and Halloween are all coming up in the month of October.

Council Member Buie thanked Mrs. Strickland for the efforts in getting the Monroe Avenue property demolished; it was stated that bid packets for demo contractors for the project are due October 6th.

22. Motion to go to Closed Session per NCGS §143-318.11 (A) (3) (6) for attorney-client privilege to discuss a settlement and a personnel matter.

At 7:58 pm, Council Members Buie and McQueen made the motions. The motion carried.

Open Session reconvened at 8:15 pm.

23. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Council Members Buie and McQueen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Tammy Kirkley, City Clerk

