

**HAMLET CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2022
6:00 PM
MINUTES**

Governing Body Present:

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|----------------|-----------------|
| Mayor | Bill Bayless |
| Mayor Pro Tem | Jesse McQueen |
| Council Member | Eddie Martin |
| Council Member | Maurice Stuart |
| Council Member | Abbie Covington |
| Council Member | Oscar Sellers |

Staff Present:

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| City Manager | Matthew Christian |
| City Clerk | Gail Strickland |

Others Present:

1. Call to Order

Mayor Bayless called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Council Member Covington motioned to adopt the Agenda. Council Member Stuart provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

3. Work Session

• Comprehensive Plan

City Manager Matt Christian explained he was requesting Council's input on the topics to discuss. He reported the Comprehensive Plan is required by law and the City is currently out of compliance. Originally, he suggested a short-term plan to bring the City into compliance, but after the RFQ and discussions with eligible companies, it was determined the timeframe would be longer than expected. He suggested moving forward and completing the entire plan at one time. The process will take 8-10 months requiring Planning Board meetings, public engagement, and Council's input at a cost of \$70,000.00 - \$80,000.00. Mr. Christian recommended using WithersRavenel and budgeting \$40,000.00 this year and another \$40,000.00 next fiscal year. Council and the Manager discussed the pros and cons of the current rezoning moratorium. It was consensus of Council to proceed with the Comprehensive Plan with WithersRavel and ending the rezoning moratorium December 31, 2022 as originally approved.

• IT Services

The City Manager explained he began researching replacing the City's phone system which led to needed upgrades in the network and servers. He reported the City currently spends \$40,000.00 annually on landline phones and another \$36,000.00 - \$40,000.00 to Zach Garner for IT. Additional money is spent for hardware, bringing the total annual expenses to \$90,000.00 - \$100,000.00. He provided information on expanding the City services with VC3's Modern Office Advantage Model at an annual cost of \$130,000.00. After discussion, it was determined Council had unanswered questions.

The City Manager will have a representative from VC3 attend a Work Session to further explain the services.

Christmas Bonus

Mayor Bayless inquired if the City Budget included Christmas bonuses for the employees. Mr. Christian answered it did not.

Council Member Stuart advised he had to leave the meeting at this time.

After discussing the number of current employees, Council Member McQueen provided the total cost would be approximately \$20,000.00. The Manager added the amount would have to be taxed. It was consensus of Council to have the City Manager research the funds to provide a bonus for the employees. The Manager stated he would put in a budget amendment at a future meeting.

ARPA Funds

The Manager reported the City has approximately \$1.4 million remaining in ARPA Funds. Fire Chief Trey Goodwin is researching a much-needed ladder truck. One has been located in Alabama for \$450,000.00, but the Chief hopes to have other options before making a final decision. Mr. Christian reminded Council they need to look at water meters and suggested spending the ARPA money on large, capital purchases.

4. Motion to Adjourn

At 7:25 pm, Council Members Sellers and Martin provided the motion and second to adjourn the meeting. The vote was 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,


Gail M. Strickland, City Clerk

