

**HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2022
6:00 PM
MINUTES**

Governing Body Present:

Mayor	Bill Bayless
Council Member	Jesse McQueen
Council Member	Eddie Martin
Council Member	Abbie Covington
Council Member	Maurice Stuart
Council Member	Oscar Sellers

Staff Present:

City Attorney	TC Morphis
City Manager	Matthew Christian
City Clerk	Gail Strickland

Others Present: Lisa Luckey with Richmond County Hospice, Margaret Williams, Josephine Wallace, and Ethan Burns

1. Call to Order

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

2. Moment of Silence

A Moment of Silence was observed.

3. Adoption of Agenda

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

4. Adoption of Consent Agenda

Council Member Martin motioned to adopt the Consent Agenda. Council Member Sellers provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

5. Comments from Attendees

Ethan Burns addressed Council to discuss an overgrown lot next to his residence at 712 McDonald Avenue. He stated the property was in foreclosure and asked for an update on the progress. Gail Strickland explained foreclosures are done through Richmond County. City Manager Matt Christian provided his contact information to Mr. Burns and Attorney Morphis advised he will check to see if there is an active case but explained sometimes the process takes years.

New Business

6. Proclamation for National Hospice and Palliative Care Month

Mayor Bayless read the Proclamation and presented it to Hospice Representative Lisa Luckey. Mrs. Luckey expressed her appreciation to the City of Hamlet for their support to Hospice.

7. Proclamation for Veterans Day

Mayor Bayless read the Proclamation.

8. Consideration of WithersRavenel Task Order No. 1 for Comprehensive Plan

The City Manager advised the Task Order is for the Comprehensive Plan and reiterated a previous discussion that the City is taking the approach of completing the entire project. The Task Order prescribes the timeline as 12 months but broken out in the Order it should be completed by October. Along the way there will be lots of services and public engagements to provide the City with a high-quality product for the community. Council Member Covington motioned to approve the Task Order. The second was provided by Council Member Stuart with a 5-0 vote.

Other Business

9. City Manager's Reports

City Manager Matthew Christian announced City offices will be closed Friday for Veterans Day and November 24th and 25th for Thanksgiving. For the week of Thanksgiving, Thursday's garbage will be collected on Wednesday. He announced the Tree Lighting and festivities will be Monday, November 28th at 5:30 and the Christmas Parade December 8th at 6 pm with line-ups taking place earlier. Also discussed was the availability of on-line bill pay and on-going basketball registration until December 12th. Mayor Bayless commented he has received compliments on the recent Halloween events.

10. Comments of Council

Council Member Martin discussed the upcoming holidays and wished everyone a nice Thanksgiving.

Council Member Sellers asked everyone to support the Hamlet events.

Council Member Covington thanked all that helped with the Seaboard Festival, noting the employees play a key part. She announced the proceeds from the festival will go to a group in the community. She wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving. Mrs. Covington offered appreciation to all in Hamlet for their support in her campaign and said she is glad she can continue to serve Hamlet.

Council Member Stuart thanked Mrs. Luckey from Hospice for attending the meeting and Mr. Burns for making Hamlet his residence. Mr. Stuart stated it is exciting to see new businesses in Hamlet and offered appreciation to those investing in the community. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Council Member McQueen wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving. He discussed the Seaboard Festival, saying the event is put on by a core group of 5-6 people, along with volunteers on the day of the festival. He encouraged others to assist with future festivals. He thanked Council Member Covington for her hard work in her campaign for County Commissioner. He said the citizens of Richmond County missed an opportunity to get a plethora of knowledge in the position. Mr. McQueen added he is disappointed in the outcome but excited she will remain on Hamlet's Council. Mrs. Covington responded people end up where there are supposed to be. She said the campaign was a huge education; she never realized how angry people are with current issues. Council Member Covington mentioned the Hospice Veterans Celebration, saying it was the most moving Veterans Day Event she had ever attended.

11. Mayor's Comments


Mayor Bayless stated he was glad to still have Mrs. Covington on Council. He said the City is running well and suggested citizens call City Hall if they have any questions or call Council and they will contact the

Manager. He discussed the upcoming events. The Mayor reported Public Works is doing an excellent job of picking up the leaves and pine straw. He stated, with the heavy rains in the forecast, to keep the pine straw off the drains. Mr. Bayless wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and asked all to remember the veterans.

12. Motion to Adjourn

At 6:30 pm, Council Members Sellers and Covington provided the motion and second to adjourn the meeting. The vote was 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,


Gail M. Strickland, City Clerk

