

**HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2023
6:00 PM
MINUTES**

Governing Body Present:

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

Staff Present:

City Manager	Matthew Christian
Incoming Clerk	Cindy Terry
City Attorney	TC Morphis

Others Present: Howard Wallace, Gerard Morrison, Chris McDonald, Matt Lamb.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Invocation

Pastor Bill Monroe of Calvary Baptist Church offered the Invocation.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Council Member Covington motioned to adopt the Agenda. The second was offered by Council Member Jesse McQueen. The vote was 5-0.

4. Adoption of Consent Agenda

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

5. Comments from Attendees:

Gerard Morrison advised that many events are planned for Juneteenth. A breakfast at the Senior Center will be held June 14 and he encouraged everyone to attend. Mr. Morrison again requested that he be appointed to the Committee for the Comprehensive Plan. He also inquired as to the Committee's meeting schedule. The Manager advised that there were no meetings currently planned, but when a meeting is scheduled, he will email Council.

New Business

6. Public Hearing #1 – Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget

City Manager Christian advised that the City has met all requirements for the FY2023-2024 Budget. He also advised that there are minor changes to the Budget made at the last Work Session, that are reflected

in the final Budget Ordinance presented during this meeting. Additionally, the Manager advised that the Budget is available for public

viewing. Mayor Bayless opened the floor to the Public Hearing. No one presented. The Mayor then closed the Public Hearing.

7. Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget Ordinance No. 2023-01,
Council Member Covington motioned to adopt the Ordinance. The second was offered by Council Member Sellers. The vote was 5-0.

8. Consideration of Resolution 2023-06 – Contract with Richmond County Building Inspections

Mayor Bayless reported that the City has again contracted with Richmond County for building inspections. Council Member Covington inquired as to whether the City would have to continue using the County for building inspections if the City hires a planner. Mr. Christian responded yes. Council Member Covington then motioned to approve the Resolution and Contract. The second was provided by Council Member McQueen. The vote was 5-0.

9. Consideration of Approval for USDA Grant

City Manager Christian advised that the City had applied for and been awarded a \$78,000 master grant specifically for the downtown core. It will mainly involve streetscape and infrastructure. The Mayor questioned whether this would be up front money. Mr. Christian advised that these are usually reimbursement-type grants, but agreed to check on whether the City can receive the funds up front. The Manager asked that he be allowed to act on behalf of Council to move forward with the grant. Council Member Covington made a Motion, seconded by Mr. McQueen, to allow the City Manager to act on behalf of Council for the grant. The vote was 5-0.

Other Business

10. City Manager's Reports

City Manager Matthew Christian reported that last Friday an event was held for Crime Stoppers that raised over \$3,000. Mr. Christian reminded Council about the 4th of July events that will be held on July 1 and that food trucks will be in several locations. He also advised that there are several ongoing events such as Senior Center Line Dancing, yoga by the tracks, and food trucks every other Friday.

11. Comments of Council

Council Member Martin advised that Post 49 had a great opening day with support of the County and surrounding areas, and that the team has had great success in the games they have played so far. Mr. Martin also thanked the media and radio stations for their efforts to promote the games.

Council Member Sellers thanked City Manager Christian, the City's staff and its police officers for doing a great job for the City. He then wished everyone a safe and happy Fourth of July.

Council Member Stuart advised that there will be Juneteenth celebrations at the Hamlet Senior Center, Leak Street School and Dobbins Heights Park. He encouraged everyone to come out for these events.

Council Member Covington again welcomed Cindy Terry as the new City Clerk.

Council Member McQueen inquired about yard debris and the equipment used for same. The Manager reported that everything was working well and that the streets are being cleaned up. He also stated that

the Post 49 baseball is a tremendous asset for the city. Mr. McQueen also thanked the Manager for the vision that will pay dividends for the City.

12. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Bayless thanked Councilman Martin and Chip Gordan for everything they have done with the ballfield for the Post 49 baseball. He also was pleased that so many Juneteenth celebrations will be happening around the City. The Mayor wished everyone a safe and great July 4th.

13. Motion to go into Closed Session per NC General Statute §143-318-11(a)(3) (6) Attorney-Client Privilege and Personnel

At 6:28 pm, Mayor Bayless asked for a motion to go into Closed Session and read the Statutes. Council Member McQueen made the motion. The second was offered by Council Member Sellers. The vote was 5-0.

Return to Open Session

At 7:12 pm, Council Member Covington made the motion to return to Open Session. The second was given by Council Member Sellers. The vote was 5-0.

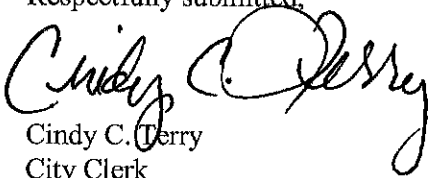
Closed Session Action

Mayor Bayless announced an issue was discussed in Closed Session that requires action in Open Session. Council Member Covington motioned to enter into a Legal Service Agreement with the attorney firm of Whitaker & Hamer, giving the City Manager the authority to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City. The second was given by Council Member Sellers with a 5-0 vote.

14. Adjourn

At 7:14 pm, Council Members Stuart and McQueen provided the motion and second to adjourn the meeting. The vote was 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,


Cindy C. Terry
City Clerk

