

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL
April 17, 2017

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, April 17, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Ronnie Michael presided, and the following Councilmembers were present, to-wit: Mayor Pro Tem Martha Sue Hall, Bill Aldridge, Chris Bramlett, Benton H. Dry II, Martha E. Hughes, Dexter Townsend and Chris Whitley. Absent, none.

Mayor Michael called the meeting to order.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the April 3 regular session and April 3 closed session minutes were approved as submitted.

The Mayor stated that City Council excused Councilmembers Bramlett, Hall and Whitley to attend the Stanly County Commissioners meeting concerning an issue that will affect sales tax distribution to all municipalities in Stanly County.

Mayor Michael stated that he will take a recess after item #4, first item of new business for around 30 minutes allowing time for Councilmembers Bramlett, Hall and Whitley to return to the City's meeting.

Wendy Walsh came before City Council to request a peddler license for a hotdog cart. Ms. Walsh is currently working with Stovall's Hotdogs and their cart. She is planning on adding her own hotdog cart. Council received a copy of her application, background check, push cart photo, and menu items.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a peddler license for Wendy Walsh to operate a hotdog cart upon speaking with the Stanly County Health Department.

The Mayor and City Council received a copy of the March Monthly Departmental Reports and asked if anyone had any questions.

The Mayor and City Council considered a request of Piedmont Natural Gas has several Gas Main Extensions they are requesting City approval. Maps and paperwork were provided for each item and there are multiple projects and streets involved. The green line on the maps designates the extension. Mr. Jimmy Bowen, Project Specialist with PNG was present and answered any questions that Council had.

Each request and the streets involved are:

Beale Street
North Sixth, McCurdy ,Wolfe, North Second, Wolf Street
North Sixth Street
Salisbury and North Second
Penny to serve Stanly Commons

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hughes, seconded by Councilmember Dry, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved five gas main extensions for Piedmont Natural Gas on Beale Street, McCurdy, Wolfe, North Second, Wolf Street, North Sixth Street, Salisbury, and Penny Street.

Mayor Michael recessed the meeting at 7:09 pm to allow Councilmembers Hall, Bramlett, and Whitley time to return back from the Stanly County Commissioners meeting.

Mayor Michael brought the meeting back to order at 7:50 pm.

The Mayor and City Council considered changes in public Wi-Fi usage throughout the City. IS Director Owen Squires came before Council and stated that there is a continued increased use of our Public Wi-Fi. One side effect of this increased use is that citizens often visit City buildings just to be able to connect to our Wi-Fi. Staff

wanted to bring this to Council's attention and perhaps to start planning for the expansion of our public Wi-Fi in the downtown areas.

Mr. Squires stated that usage of our public Wi-Fi has seen an approximate 1/3 increase over the last year with no substantial change in the network since its installation approximately four years ago. Mr. Squires reviewed the IS Department Monthly Report which depicted the increase.

Mr. Squires said that there are people just hanging out near city buildings just to use the public Wi-Fi and an option is to limit the bandwidth for the network to the point people don't want to use it. This would be bad for employees and council. He said that the City is looking at ways to better deploy the Albemarle Employee network which requires network login in order to use it. Setting up public Wi-Fi in areas that the City chooses by placing seating with tables in different locations throughout the City such as Liberty Gardens and Market Station and advertise these areas made available for public access for them to use would be another option.

Mr. Squires answered any questions that Council had.

Mayor Michael thanked Mr. Squires.

The Mayor and City Council considered payment to Green Pieces Recycling in Accordance with NC General Statute. The City Manager noted that NCGS 160A-327 states that if a unit of government enters the solid waste or recycling business and displaces an existing private vendor, that the vendor must be compensated if a request is made and certain conditions are met. Green Pieces Recycling will be displaced as a curbside residential vendor in Albemarle once the City begins service in July under the terms of our new contract with Waste Management. Steve Megson with Green Pieces has made a request for compensation equal to his the last 6-month of revenue and Mr. Megson provided the City with information regarding his clients and charges.

The City Manager reviewed the list from Green Pieces Recycling to ensure only residential service locations within the City's corporate limits were included. Upon completion of the review it was determined that the monthly gross revenues for service inside the City were \$1,786. The City is required to pay for 6-months of lost service, resulting in total compensation to Green Pieces Recycling of \$10,716.

The City Manager stated that Mr. Megson would prefer to be paid the full amount in late June just which is just prior to our new service starting with Waste Management. The ultimate decision would still be up to City Council.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved paying Green Pieces the amount of \$10,716 for six months displacement fees by making a lump sum payment of \$10,716 in late June just prior to Waste Management's new service.

The Mayor and City Council considered a proclamation to support the "Stamp out Hunger" Letter Carrier Food Drive on May 13, 2017.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a proclamation to Support the "Stamp out Hunger" Letter Carrier Food Drive on May 13, 2017.

(Proclamation)

The Mayor and City Council were informed that Wade McSwain has resigned from the CVB. Mr. McSwain is one of the two City appointments to the CVB, with Councilmember Hughes being the other. Mr. McSwain has advised the City Manager that this would be effective immediately. The City Manager said that in speaking with the CVB Director Chris Lambert, he stated that there are no stipulations on who is appointed. It can be anyone the City Council feels will best represent the City's interests on the Board. City Council will need to consider filling the remainder of his terms, which runs to June 30, 2018.

Mayor Michael asked that Council take time and consider this and talk again at the next Council meeting when all Councilmembers are present.

The Mayor and City Council were informed of changes to the E.E. Waddell Center Hours. Over the last few months, staff has been working to increase efficiency in Parks and Recreation. After assessing attendance at the Waddell Center of the Monday-Thursday evening shift, staff believes there is little to no benefit to staying open past 8:00 p.m. based on lack of use of the facility during this time. We are proposing to change open hours effective May 1, 2017. Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Saturday – 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 pm.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved changing open hours at the EE Waddell Community Center as follows effective May 1, 2017: Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am – 8:00 pm and Saturday – 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm.

The Mayor and considered attendance at the Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast. This annual event will be held on Monday, May 8 from 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. at the City's EE Waddell Community Center.

Mayor Michael and Councilmembers Aldridge, Dry, and Hughes affirmed their attendance and Councilmember Townsend will let the City Manager know.

Mayor Michael stated there will be a Strategic Planning Meeting for Economic Development will be Wednesday, April 26 at City Hall with 4-5 sessions during the day and one in the evening. He asked that all Councilmembers try to attend if possible. Economic Development Director Mark Donham will be sending out an email to City Council.

Mayor Michael stated that the City will need to amend their performance agreement with Pfeiffer University since Pfeiffer will own the newly constructed building for their campus instead of a 3rd party. The City's economic development attorney will amend this agreement.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved having the City's economic development attorney amend their performance agreement with Pfeiffer University to state that Pfeiffer University will own the building and therefore not pay property tax. Pfeiffer will make a payment in lieu of taxes to the City in year 6 through 10.

The City Manager stated that National Lineman Appreciation Day will be on Tuesday, April 18.

Councilmember Hughes asked about the cameras located on the Pfeiffer property. The City Manager stated that due to the demolition on site there and then the beginning of construction next, there are cameras there so the public can monitor the process and to record the process for historical purposes.

Councilmember Aldridge stated his concerns of old vehicles located at Stanly Commons near Hawthorn Avenue. He asked if they could re-locate the vehicles behind the Stanly County Health Department. He said there has to be a better location to place them.

Councilmember Aldridge stated that with warmer weather ahead, crimes will probably increase. He asked that residents as well as business owners keep eyes open and look out for each other.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Council adjourned to a Closed Session Pursuant to NCGS 160A-318.11 (a) (3) –To consult with the City Attorney.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Bramlett, and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Council reconvened to open session. Mayor Michael announced that a closed session was held Pursuant to NCGS 160A-318.11 (a) ((a) (3) – To consult with the City Attorney and there is nothing to disclose at this time.

Councilmembers Bramlett, Hall and Whitley came back into open session during the closed session meeting after attending the Stanly County Commissioners meeting concerning changing the distribution of sales tax dollars to all municipalities in Stanly County.

Councilmember Bramlett stated that he, Mayor Pro Tem Hall and Councilmember Whitley attended the Stanly County Commissioners meeting this evening concerning their vote to add to the existing agenda concerning a change to the distribution of sales taxes from per capita to ad valorem. The item was added to the agenda but tabled until next week when a meeting will be held by Friday, April 28.

Councilmember Hall stated that Locust Parks and Recreation will be having events twice a month from now until September and the City needs to look at doing these types of things here.

Councilmember Hall stated that she would also like to follow up on the Stanly County Commissioners meeting this evening concerning the proposal of the sales tax distribution being changed from per capita to ad valorem. She stated that 53 counties in NC allocate sale tax dollars per capita. She also said that after 30 minutes of discussion tonight, Board Chairman Bill Lawhon made a motion to table this item and it was seconded by Jan Lowder. The County Manager stated that he had just been given this information earlier today.

Councilmember Hall stated that this would affect our budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year by \$500,000 which is equal to a 5 cent tax rate increase. This would take away \$1.4million from the municipalities and hand it over to Stanly County. Stanly County Commissioners will call a meeting next week to discuss this further. Albemarle, Badin, and Norwood had representatives that spoke this evening at the meeting concerning this issue.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hughes, seconded by Councilmember Whitley, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned until Wednesday, April 19 for a joint meeting with the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment at Rosebriar Restaurant at 6:30 pm.