

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL
March 21, 2016

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, March 21, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Ronnie Michael presided, and the following Councilmembers were present, to-wit: Bill Aldridge, Chris Bramlett, Benton H. Dry, II, Martha E. Hughes, Dexter Townsend, and Chris Whitley. Absent, Mayor Pro Tem Martha Sue Hall.

Mayor Michael called the meeting to order.

Mayor Michael presented a retirement certificate to Becky P. Blalock. Ms. Blalock retired on March 1, 2016 with 18.33-years of service with the City, all in the Human Resources Department.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Bramlett, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the March 7 regular session and March 7 closed session minutes were approved as submitted.

Mayor Michael stated that he will be adding several items in the comment section at the end of the regular session meeting.

The Mayor stated that Council had a copy of the monthly departmental reports in their agenda packets and asked if anyone had any questions.

The Mayor and City Council considered preparation of a SRF Loan Application Package for Phase II of the Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation and Phase I of the Electrical System Rehabilitation and Screw Pump Replacements at Long Creek Wastewater Treatment.

Mr. Adam Kiker with LKC Engineering came before Council in February, 2016 requesting permission to prepare a SRF loan application package for improvements. At that time Council deferred a decision on the matter until after the Connect NC bond referendum on March 15, 2016. The bond would have included grant money for water and wastewater improvement projects which may provide different funding alternatives to reduce the debit service that would be required for the package of projects presented.

Mr. Kiker stated that since that time the Public Utilities Department has been evaluating the priority of the projects requested as well as the potential timing of when funding would be available from the Connect NC bond issue. At this time it appears that it will be approximately eighteen (18) months before grant funding would be available for water and sewer projects.

Mr. Kiker noted he recommends that the improvements to the solids disposal process at the LCWWTP be deferred for consideration as loan project at this time and be considered as a grant project when the program is available. He also recommends that the Phase II of the I&I project for the sanitary sewer collection system, the screw pump replacements, and the electrical system rehabilitation at the LCWWTP be considered at this time for the loan application process. Total project is \$4,472,000 and loan amount requested would be \$4,384,000 for a 20 year term at 1.84%.

Mr. Kiker stated that he will come back before Council on April 7 with the completed application and a resolution for Council's approval. The application will be submitted on before the deadline on April 29, 2016 and we should receive notification of funding by June, 2016.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a SRF Loan application package for Phase II of the Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation and Phase I of the Electrical System Rehabilitation and Screw Pump Replacements at Long Creek Wastewater Treatment, loan amount of \$4,384,000 for a 20 year term at 1.84%.

The Mayor and City Council considered Change Order No. 1 to the construction contract with Dellinger, Inc. for the US 52 Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation for an increase in the contract amount of \$59,678.43 and nine (9) additional days in the contract time, bringing the revised total contract amount to

\$8,952,640.43 (covered by budget contingency funds) and the total contract time to 450 days and 510 days for substantial and final completion.

Mr. Adam Kiker with LKC Engineering stated that the dollar increase is covered by budgeted contingency and utilizes only 7% of available contingency funds. It was also noted that approval of the change order will not require a change in the Capital Project Budget for the project. The change order will be funded from the contingency line item contained in the project budget.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Whitley, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved Change Order No. 1 to the construction contract with Dellinger, Inc. for the US 52 Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation. This includes an increase in the contract amount of \$59,678.43 and nine (9) additional days in the contract time bringing the revised total contract amount to \$8,952,640.43 (covered by budget contingency funds) and the total contract time to 450 days and 510 days for substantial and final completion.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the following Ordinance was duly adopted:

(Ordinance 16-08 - To appropriate funds received in Public Works for Miscellaneous Revenue to purchase a used truck for hydro equipment onto the current truck & chassis.)

The Mayor and City Council received an update on the process to evaluate the structure of the Albemarle Downtown Development activities. The City Manager noted that with the ADDC organization being over 25 years old and with the departure of the employees for other positions, this became an opportune time to undertake this review. Liz Parham of the NC Main Street Program was engaged to help with the review. Several suggestions were made on how operations and the organizational structure could be improved to allow for a greater focus on the four pillars of the NC Main Street Program. Many similar organizations around the State are moving to a quasi-governmental partnership.

The City Manager stated that this would entail the employees becoming City employees, and the properties, some events, and fundraising continuing with the non-profit. The City Manager undertook research of other cities that it was suggested the City look at and it does appear that some of the more successful municipal programs have this structure.

The City Manager stated that the ADDC Board of Directors took up this matter once again at their March 14 meeting. Since the City indicated it wanted a recommendation from the ADDC itself, Councilmember Hughes, Mayor Michael and the City Manager were excused from voting on the matter. The voting of the remaining members in attendance was unanimous to recommend the quasi-governmental arrangement.

The City Manager further stated that a subcommittee of the ADDC Board is organizing to prepare a memorandum of understanding regarding how this arrangement would work and responsibilities of each party. Sample wording has been received from the NC Main Street Program and a draft has been developed of how the specifics of this arrangement might work which will be shared with the committee. The MOU will eventually come to City Council and the ADDC Board for formal consideration if the process continues in this direction.

The City Manager answered any questions that Council had.

The Mayor and City Council were reminded that City offices will be closed on Friday, March 25 for the Good Friday Holiday.

Mayor Michael reviewed the final budget work sessions days/times and a summer schedule for regular meetings with City Council for final approval.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Bramlett, seconded by Councilmember Dry, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the following final budget work session days/times in May and the summer regular session meeting schedule through September, 2016 as follows:

Final Budget Work Sessions:

Tuesday, May 3 and Tuesday, May 10 beginning at 6 pm

Regular Meetings beginning June, 2016

Mondays June 6, June 27

Monday, July 18

Monday, August 15

Tuesday September 6 and Monday, September 19

The City Manager reminded everyone of the Stanly County Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Recycling Collection which will be Saturday, April 2, 2016 from 9AM-1PM in the rear parking lot of the Stanly County Agri-Civic Center.

Mayor Michael The City Manager reminded Council that the Police and Fire Departments will be participating in the Career Fair hosted by Stanly Community College on Tuesday, March 22 in the Webb Center on the Albemarle Campus between 1-3 pm and it is open to the public.

Mayor Michael The City Manager reminded Council of the Catawba Nuclear Power Plant tour on Thursday, April 7 and that we will be taking a van leaving City Hall at 8 am and return around 3 pm that day. Council needs to bring an ID, closed toed comfortable shoes, and no dresses.

Councilmember Townsend commended the Police Department on positive comments that was made on social media about an Albemarle Police Officer that stopped and helped a citizen change a tire.

Councilmember Whitley asked about issues with one of the contractors on the CKA waterline project.

Public Utilities Director Mike Leonas came forward and stated that one of the contractors with this project went bankrupt and they are working with a bonding company on this. He also stated that this should not cause any major issues per Liberty Mutual.

Councilmember Whitley stated that at the last RPO meeting, NCDOT was concerned of a delay on the NC 24-27 project due to the bridge issue. The preliminary evaluation was determined sound and they should not lose time or have a delay. Mayor Michael stated that the good thing is that NCDOT is going to be able to use the bridge and not tear it down.

Councilmember Whitley also stated that NCDOT has a pothole hotline that anyone can call about a pothole location and it will be repaired.

Councilmember Bramlett stated that he and Economic Development Director Mark Donham attended a NC Competes for Jobs tour sponsored by the NC Department of Commerce that was held in Ellerbe, NC on March 14.

Councilmember Bramlett stated that he asked Secretary of Commerce John E. Skvarla, III several questions concerning the unemployment rate. Mr. Bramlett also stated that Mr. Donham was very diligent in working with the broadband group present on Albemarle's issues. Senator Thom McInnis stated that Albemarle is in a doughnut hole concerning broadband.

Councilmember Bramlett stated that there were positive comments from the volunteers about receiving a thank-you note from Assistant City Manager Christina Alphin on all their hard work on the Stanly County 175th Anniversary. He thanked Ms. Alphin for the notes to the volunteers.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Council adjourned to a Closed Session Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) & (6) - Economic Development and Personnel Matters.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hughes, 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 NCGS 143-318.11(a) (4) & (6) - Economic Development and Personnel Matters and there was nothing to report at this time.

Mayor Michael stated that he had met with Mr. Ritchie Hearne last week and Mr. Hearne is interested in tearing down several of the downtown buildings that he owns that are located west of the old taxi stand. Mr. Hearne wanted to know If Council is okay with this, before going to the Historic Resources Commission for approval.

It was the consensus of City Council to not object to Mr. Ritchie Hearne to tear down several of the downtown buildings that he owns that are located west of the old taxi is located.

Also, Mr. Hearne is interested in paving the alleyway behind the Goody Shop to behind Vac n Dash. He would ask if the City would cover the labor if he would buy the materials.

It was the consensus of City Council to work with Mr. Hearne on an agreement to pave behind the Goody Shop.

Mayor Michael stated that the City Employees Picnic will be held Wednesday, May 12 between 11am -1 pm at City lake Park Amphitheatre.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.