

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL  
April 20, 2015

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, April 20, 2015 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 Troy E. Alexander, Bill Aldridge, Benton H. Dry, II, Martha Sue Hall, Martha E. Hughes, Dexter Townsend, and Chris Whitley. Absent, none.

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Mayor Michael called the meeting to order

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The Mayor and City Council presented a City of Albemarle Retirement Certificate to John P. Broadway, II with 17.75 years of service in the Police Department. John retired on March 1, as a Police Detective Sergeant after spending his entire career in the Albemarle Police Department.

Police Chief Halliburton presented John P. Broadway, II with his weapon.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the April 6 regular session as amended and the April 6 closed session minutes as submitted.

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Mr. Roger Lisk, 806 Amanda Way, came before City Council to request the removal of a Hillside Village Subdivision entrance sign. It was noted that this sign was installed by the developer during Phase I construction of Hillside Village. It has been struck by vehicles and sustained other damage over the years and that several neighbors feel the sign is unsightly and a hazard. The sign is in the middle of Amanda Way near its intersection with Mountain Creek Road. There is no formal homeowner's association established to address the sign on the part of the homeowners

In 2008, the City Council considered this same request and approved that the sign be removed by City forces, provided that the homeowners as a whole did not object. No information can be found where this issue stopped, but the sign was not removed and is still an issue for some of the residents. A majority of the neighbors are in favor of the removal of the sign, with a few expressing no preference, and no objections from anyone associated with the subdivision to the sign being removed. If City Council authorizes staff to remove the sign, the estimated cost of the labor and materials is \$500 and is certainly something we can do.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the removal of a Hillside Village Subdivision entrance sign.

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Mr. Wilbur Wiggins, 717 Thomas Street, to request a peddler license to sell ball caps on foot.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Dry, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a peddler to Mr. Wilbur Wiggins to sell ball caps on foot.

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Mr. Raymond Parker, 407 Coggins Avenue, to request a peddler license to sell short orders and snacks in a mobile food unit.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a peddler to Mr. Wilbur Wiggins to operate a mobile food unit.

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

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

(Ordinance 15-11 - To Amend the Plants Division & Systems Division of Water and Sewer Budget and to Amend the Landfill Budget).

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The Mayor and City Council considered renewal of employee medical insurance for FY 2015-2016 with Blue Cross/Blue Shield. The City Consultant Bill Webb, Jr. has negotiated our renewal. These negotiations started with Blue Cross / Blue Shield proposing a 24% increase. The current proposal is no increase (0%) for the same plan in FY 15/16 and we recommend approval.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the renewal of employee medical insurance with Blue Cross/Blue Shield with Blue Cross / Blue Shield with no increase (0%) for the same plan in FY 15/16.

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The Mayor and City Council reviewed information concerning a Gang Eradication Grant. The City has asked the Governor's Crime Commission to make a few line item transfers. When we adopted Budget Ordinance 14-25 we did not do a line item budget so the Salaries/Benefits line does not change in total but the various lines that made it up in the Crime Commission Grant are changing. There is a zero effect in the amount.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved line item transfers to the Governor's Crime Commission Gang Eradication Grant.

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The Mayor and City Council reviewed information concerning Leonard Avenue and NC Hwy 24/27 Intersection change proposals. Staff was asked to investigate the cost of a roundabout on Leonard Avenue where the

entrances to Wal-Mart and Shops at Olive Place will align, as well as the addition of lanes on Leonard on both the north and south sides on NC Highway 24/27. Also, to discuss these projects with the adjoining businesses.

The City Manager provided a memo covering their findings which includes rough cost estimates, comments from affected businesses and options on paying for any of the improvements once City Council comes to a decision on how they would like to proceed. The NCDOT is aware the City will be discussing this matter and has been invited to attend the meeting. Any work on lane widening on Leonard Avenue will certainly need to be coordinated with the NCDOT as this will impact their traffic signal configuration and require work within their right of way.

Council reviewed Option 1 which would allow construction of a new right turn only lane adjacent to Zaxby's and add a receiving lane on opposite side (Office Max) side: \$285,000 - \$355,000. Also, Option 2 which would convert existing right lane adjacent to Zaxby's to a 3-turn option lane and add a receiving lane on opposite side (Office Max) side: \$80,000 - \$100,000.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Whitley, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved exploring Option 1 which is to construct new right turn only lane adjacent to Zaxby's and add a receiving lane on opposite Office Max) side with a cost of up to \$355,000 plus contingency.

Mayor Michael stated that Wal-Mart and the property owner of the Olive Place location were presented with the possibility of a roundabout at the southernmost entrance to Wal-Mart and the main drive into the new Shops at Olive Place. Both were opposed of a roundabout in that location.

Also, an option of a stoplight at the southernmost entrance to Wal-Mart and the main drive into the new Shops at Olive Place. One was against this option also.

Mayor Michael asked if Council would like to proceed with making a decision on a roundabout or stoplight or wait to a later date to make this decision.

It was the consensus of City Council to do nothing at this point at the southernmost entrance to Wal-Mart and the main drive into the new Shops at Olive Place where a roundabout or stoplight will be determined to go.

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The Mayor and City Council considered attendance at the ElectriCities Regional Meeting on May 12, 2015, 6 p.m. at The Great Wolf Lodge in Concord.

The Mayor and all Councilmembers except Councilmember Hughes confirmed attendance. There will be a carpool leaving City Hall at 5pm that day.

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The Mayor and City Council were reminded of the Chamber Legislative Breakfast to be held on Monday, May 4 at 7:15 a.m. at the EE Waddell Center. Mayor Michael and Councilmembers Aldridge, Alexander, Hall, Hughes, Townsend and Whitley have confirmed their attendance and are registered. Also, Michael Ferris and Mark Donham. There are no tickets and attendees just sign in at the door. There will be a table reserved for the City.

Councilmember Aldridge asked to be removed due to a conflict that day.

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The Mayor and Council considered attendance at the NLC Congress of Cities event to be held in Nashville, Tennessee from Wednesday - Saturday, November 4 - 7, 2015. The early bird discount deadline is May 29. The City Manager noted that he wanted to bring this to Council's attention so that the City can take advantage of the early bid discount and can register everyone for the Conference Center Hotel, as these rooms typically sell out first.

Mayor Michael asked that Council review their calendar and let staff know before the May 29 early bird deadline if they will be able to attend.

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The Mayor and Council were reminded of the budget work sessions on Wednesday, May 6 and Thursday, May 7 at 6 pm in the Executive Conference Room.

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The Mayor and City Council received information concerning the NCDOT installation of curbing cuts on West Main St. from Hwy 52 west to Old Charlotte Rd. NCDOT has begun installation of handicapped accessible curb cuts.

Last summer, Council instructed City Manager Ray Allen to contact NCDOT concerning the lack curb cuts for handicap accessibility on West Main St. NCDOT agreed to fund this work and recently awarded the construction bid to Southeast Contracting. NCDOT did request, should they encounter any conflicts with City utilities that adjustments be made by the City at our expense. Mr. Allen agreed to this request.

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The Mayor and City Council received information that the annual City Employees Cookout and Picnic will be held at City Lake Park on Wednesday, May 13 from 11 am to 1 pm. Rain location will be the Niven Center on East Main Street. All City employees and retirees are invited to this event.

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Mayor Michael stated that Council needs to consider a board appointment to the ABC Board which expired March, 2015.

The Mayor stated that he had spoken with Terry Morgan and he is interested in serving on the ABC Board.

After discussion, Councilmember Townsend stated that he would like to hold this over to the next meeting and give Mr. Terry Blue and opportunity to respond since that was the board he originally asked to be appointed to.

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Councilmember Aldridge stated that he would like to thank Police Chief Halliburton for the proactive response by Officer Aaron McBroom on resolving a community project concern.

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Councilmember Whitley stated again this week that he likes the new format for the Departmental Reports.

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Councilmember Hall stated that she represented rural towns on a panel on Municipal Financing hosted by the North Carolina league of municipalities in Pineville on April 13.

Councilmember Hall also said that she was on a conference call on Monday April 20 for members of the Legislative Action Committees discussing filed Bills of interest in this General Assembly.

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Mayor Michael stated that ElectriCities Legislative Meeting is May 13 in from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Museum of History in Raleigh.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council adjourned to a closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) - For the Negotiation of Real Property.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Whitley, and unanimously carried, the City Council reconvened to open session. Mayor Michael announced that a closed session was held pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (5) - For the Negotiation of Real Property and there was nothing to disclose at this time.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Whitley and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.