

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL

March 16, 2015

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, March 16, 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.

Mayor Michael called the meeting to order

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the March 2 regular session and the March 2 closed session minutes as submitted.

The Mayor and City Council received a presentation of the proposed Leonard Avenue roundabout design and how the roundabout would fit into this area.

Public Works Street Superintendent Ross Holshouser came before Council to review the conceptual layout of the 120 ' diameter roundabout proposed on Leonard Avenue at the Walmart access. It was noted that this is the smallest diameter believed will work per Wesley Stokes with Teague Engineering. The approximate amount of right-of-way that would need to be acquired for this roundabout would be around 0.15 acres on the Walmart side and around 0.30 acres on the new development side of the roundabout. The drawings depicted the dimensions of the roundabout and also the 3 truck turning scenarios through the roundabout.

Mayor Michael stated that if Council wishes to approve a roundabout at the Walmart access, we will need to talk with Wal-Mart and the Olive Place development group. The cost is estimated to be around \$300,000 for a roundabout versus a poled signal light starting around \$50,000.

Mr. Holshouser and Ms. Pate Butler, Regional Traffic Engineer with NCDOT answered any questions Council had.

It was the consensus of City Council to have staff proceed in talking with Wal-Mart and the Olive Place developers concerning the roundabout and the space it will take up on each site and the City Manager to come back before Council with the results and a dollar amount of the cost and best proposed methods to pay for this.

It was the consensus of Council to secure land to consider adding another lane on Leonard Avenue on the east side of Zaxby's. Mayor Michael asked that the City Manager work on this issue as well as the possibility of widening Leonard Avenue on west side of Office Max and bring results back before Council.

The Mayor stated that Council had a copy of the monthly departmental reports in their agenda packets and asked if anyone had any questions. Several Councilmembers commented they liked the information provided by the new project summary reports.

The Mayor and City Council considered support of the NCDOT proposal to install bi-directional medians on NC 24/27. At the March 2 meeting the City heard from representatives of the NCDOT concerning a proposal to install bi-directional medians on NC 24/27 from approximately Henson Street to Spaulding Street. It was noted by Ms. Pate Butler, Regional Traffic Engineer with NCDOT that the accident statistics and congestion warrant installation. The NCDOT indicated they would like the City to adopt a resolution of support for the medians if the City wishes NCDOT to pursue this project. NCDOT provided technical assistance and answered questions concerning the proposed median installation.

Ms. Butler stated that NCDOT will come back before Council and give a presentation once everything is completed if Council would like.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Dry, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the following resolution:

(Resolution 15-08 – To support the installation of bi-directional medians on NC 24/27 from Henson Street to Spaulding Street)

The Mayor and City Council reviewed a proposed change of scope to the Leonard Avenue Sidewalk Project by Public Works to reduce the length of sidewalk along the west side of Office Max due to the discussion regarding possible changes to the configuration of Leonard Avenue on the Wal-Mart side of NC Highway 24/27. The discussion on this side has been to alleviate the traffic back up at the traffic signal by re-designating the existing lanes, or by adding a third lane. It appears that either of these solutions would move the straight lane of Leonard Avenue on the Wal-Mart side so that it would no longer align with the receiving lane on the opposite side of Leonard Avenue. Such changes could require the widening of Leonard Avenue on the Office Max side, so the installation of sidewalk in this immediate area at this time does not appear to be wise.

Mayor Michael encouraged Council to leave these decisions to the City Manager and staff and to give them the authority to make the decision once determined.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved leaving the decisions concerning the Leonard Avenue sidewalk to the City Manager and staff and to give them the authority to make the decision once determined.

The Mayor and City Council considered an amendment to an engineering services agreement with Municipal Engineering Services Company, PA for services during design phase and construction phase of Long Creek WWTP Headworks Project. The amendment to the engineering services agreement is for the preparation of construction plans, specifications for the project, permitting of the project through NCDENR, services during bidding and negotiation, construction contract administration, and limited engineering observation during construction. It is recommended by Public Utilities that Council approve this amendment in the amount of \$355,000 for engineering services during the design and construction phases for the Phase II Improvements at the Long Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility and authorize the City Manager to execute the amendment.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Alexander, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved an amendment in the amount of \$355,000 for engineering services during the design and construction phases for the Phase II Improvements at the Long Creek

Wastewater Treatment Facility and authorize the City Manager to execute the amendment.

The Mayor and City Council received from Director of Public Housing Cedric Baldwin a report from Public Housing on the FY 2015-2019 Five Year Agency Plan and annual update prior to the public hearing that will be held April 2, 2015 at the Dept. of Public Housing office. There is no action required of the City Council at this time. The purpose of this item is to advise Council of the proposed changes that will be presented to the Resident's Advisory Board and the at public hearings and input sessions held at Elizabeth Heights and Amhurst Gardens.

The Mayor and City Council received information concerning amendment changes to the Incentive Performance Agreement between Stanly County, NC, the City of Albemarle, NC, and Triton Glass, LLC. This amendment is being presented to change the dates that Stanly County and the City of Albemarle would make payments for the incentives to Triton Glass. The original performance agreement stated the first installment would be made during March of 2015; it should have stated during March of 2016. As a note of interest, Triton Glass had estimated that they would only have added 2 new jobs at this time. They have added 14 jobs to date.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Whitley, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved making changes to the Incentive Performance Agreement between Stanly County, NC, the City of Albemarle, NC, and Triton Glass, LLC concerning the dates that Stanly County and the City of Albemarle would make payments for the incentives to Triton Glass from March, 2015 to March, 2016.

The Mayor and City Council considered a resolution to honor the 2014/2015 Albemarle High School Men's Basketball Team and Coach Al Andrew.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Dry, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the following Resolution:

(Resolution 15-07, To honor the 2014/2015 Albemarle High School Men's Basketball Team and Coach Al Andrew.)

The Mayor and City Council considered a resolution to honor the 2014/2015 Albemarle High School Women's Basketball Team.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the following resolution.

(Resolution 15-08, To honor the 2014/2015 Albemarle High School Women's Basketball Team.)

It was the consensus of Council to present the resolutions to Albemarle High School men's and women's basketball teams and Coach Al Andrew at the Monday, April 20 City Council meeting if the teams and coaches are available.

The Mayor and City Council considered attendance at the NCLM Listening & Visioning Tour Event. This is a new NCLM event designed to provide an opportunity to talk in depth on the state of affairs of cities, the city/state relationship, and the importance of municipal leadership. The breakfast events begin at 7:30 a.m. while the dinner events start at 5:00 p.m. It was the consensus of Council to decide on which location to attend after Town Hall Day on Wednesday, March 18.

The Mayor and City Council discussed the release of an upgraded version of the agenda system which we will be installed prior to the April 6 meeting. The upgrade is expected to eliminate the system quirks some users have been experiencing.

It was noted that this upgrade has a slightly different look to the Boardview site. The Mayor and City Councilmembers using Boardview would need to receive training on the changes prior to the next meeting. Novus has released training / overview videos regarding the changes.

It was consensus of Council for staff to email links to training videos for Council to watch individually prior to the next regular meeting concerning the upgraded version of the NovusAgenda System.

The Mayor and City Council were reminded of Town Hall Day, Wednesday, March 18. It was suggested those attending be at the City Hall and ready to depart at 7:45 a.m.

The Mayor and Councilmembers Alexander, Hall, Hughes, and Whitley confirmed their attendance.

The Mayor and City Council were reminded that City Offices will be closed on Friday, April 3 for the Good Friday Holiday.

Mayor Michael stated that the 20th Annual YMCA Prayer Breakfast will be held Wednesday, April 1 at Stanly Regional Medical Center Family and Education Center with breakfast beginning at 6:30 am.

Councilmembers Alexander, Aldridge, Hall, Townsend, and Whitley will be attending.

Mayor Michael noted that due to the building setback variance previously provided to the Shops at Olive Place, conflicts with utilities, and the potential for the installation of a roundabout on Leonard Avenue, the installation of street trees as part of this development per City Ordinance may not be possible. It was suggested that staff be given the authority to work with the developer concerning the installation of the trees and redistribute the street trees on the property, if necessary.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved giving authority to City staff to negotiate and work out issues concerning where trees will be placed at the Shops at Olive Place development.

Mayor Michael reported that due to the possible widening of NC Highway 24/27 to accommodate the bi-directional medians, any sidewalk installed by Shops at Olive Place on this road could be removed by the highway widening. He suggested City Council not require sidewalks on NC 24/27, but that all other sidewalks for the development be installed.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Dry, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved waiving the sidewalk installation on NC Highway 24/27 as part of the Shops at Olive Place development.

Councilmember Aldridge wished a belated birthday to Mayor Pro Tem Alexander and congratulations for his rotary award.

Councilmember Whitley stated that he was at the YMCA at 5 am with Councilmember Alexander on his birthday.

Councilmember Hall stated to Council that networking is the most important thing concerning Town Hall Day. Ms. Hall spoke of the NLC Washington conference she attended the first week in March. She had a handout for Council concerning the Big Ideas for Small Cities seminar held March 8 held at the Marriott Wardman, Washington, DC.

Councilmember Hall stated that she, Economic Development Director Mark Donham, and Parks and Recreation Director Toby Thorpe had a phone conference with Jane Lewis Campbell, Director of the National Development Council in Washington, DC and Pat Thompson Senior Director of the National Development Council who gave them avenues for seeking funds designed for cities with population less than \$50,000 in developing the Wiscassett Mills Baseball Park.

Councilmember Hall stated that she already has received what Council will be receiving in their Town Hall packet. She can email to Mayor and Council the information. One item in the packet is concerning redistricting.

Councilmember Hall informed Council of a forum on health and program on suicide prevention at Stanly Regional Medical Center on March 30 at 5 pm. There will be a free meal served starting at 6:30 pm.

Councilmember Hall stated there will be a Rural Economic Development meeting held in Wadesboro on Thursday, March 26 at the 1st Methodist Church starting at 6 pm with a speaker from the NC Department of Commerce concerning grants available to local government.

The City Manager, Economic Development Director Mark Donham, Mayor Michael, Councilmember Hall, and Councilmember Hughes will be attending.

Mayor Michael stated that the City Manager will be sending on Tuesday to Mayor/Council talking points for Town Hall Day.

Mayor Michael reminded everyone of the bloodmobile to be downtown on Tuesday, March 31 from 11am-2pm.

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