

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL
September 21, 2015

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, September 21, 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 Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the September 8 regular session and September 8 closed session minutes as submitted.

Ms. Andrea Rillorta came before City Council to request a peddler license for a mobile food unit. She had contacted City Clerk Paulette Bowers about a permit several weeks ago. Her family owns the What-A-Burger restaurant in Mt. Pleasant and this is an extension of that business. Council reviewed a copy of the application and City regulations for a peddler permit.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a peddler license for a mobile food unit for Andrea Rillorta.

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

Councilmember Hughes asked Human Resources Director Robert Whitley about the Performance Evaluation Program to secure an outside organization to develop a performance evaluation tool for the City. He stated he was on vacation last week and that Springsted had sent the proposal to the NC

League of Municipalities and he will call this week and find out and let Council know.

The Mayor and City Council considered the adoption of a branding logo and tagline.

This item was held over from the September 8 meeting. At that time, the City Manager was instructed to contact North Star Destination Strategies to obtain additional options for City Council's review and consideration. The additional options sought were:

The word ALBEMARLE in the same green the land block is currently and the land block changed to the color the word ALBEMARLE is currently. Basically swapping the color of ALBEMARLE and the land block.

The word ALBEMARLE in a gold or darker or yellow;

The word ALBEMARLE in the same blue as water, and the word NORTH CAROLINA is faded blue or grey as it is in NORTH CAROLINA in the County logo.

At the September 7th meeting, several Councilmembers suggested the above three additional choices to review along with the original by the creative committee. North Star has accommodated this request at no additional cost.

Mayor Michael reviewed the process taken which involved a task force with a goal in mind of branding the City. The County was also interested in branding so they joined forces to have a request for proposal ranging from \$20,000-\$150,000 for 12-35 weeks. They chose \$82,000 over 21 weeks. They had eight responses to the RFP, no one local applied. There were 45 local contacts that attended several of the meetings held. There were 11 member focus groups, 15 regional contacts from counties surrounding Stanly County. The groups were present for multiple meetings. There was input from a local artist regarding the time investment. The Mayor also stated that we have noticed inconsistencies in colors based on deliverables.

The Mayor read the note Council received from Northstar where Northstar stated that they strongly support the choices of the creative committee as the preferred logo. The icons in blues and green are cohesive and Council will notice in comparison that the terra cotta/brown color for the name stands out the most. The green name and the brown tile for land are not as balanced as the

original. The gold color is outside your palette and does not work at all. And all vibrancy is lost when almost everything is blue in the last option.

Council comments included several stating to leave it as originally designed by the creative committee, either the brown or blue for the word Albemarle either would work, or changing the word Albemarle to blue and NC in a pale grey.

Councilmember Alexander moved that Council accept the original proposal with the word Albemarle in terra cotta, Councilmember Hughes seconded the motion. Voting for the motion were Councilmembers Alexander, Hughes, and Whitley. Voting against the motion were Councilmembers Aldridge, Dry, Hall, and Townsend. The motion failed.

Councilmember Dry moved that Council accept one of the alternate proposals with the word Albemarle in blue and NC in faded blue or pale grey. Councilmember Aldridge seconded the motion. Voting for the motion were Councilmembers Aldridge, Dry, and Townsend. Voting against the motion were Councilmembers Alexander, Hall, Hughes, and Whitley. The motion failed.

Councilmember Hall moved that Council accept the original proposal with the word Albemarle in terra cotta. Councilmember Hughes seconded the motion. Voting for the motion were Councilmembers Alexander, Hall, Hughes, and Whitley. Voting against the motion were Councilmembers Aldridge, Dry, and Townsend. The motion carried.

The Mayor and City Council considered a 1.6% electric rate reduction for the billing beginning October 2015. Council reviewed the resolution authorizing the rate reduction and the proposed Electric Rate Schedule. The 1.6% decrease is an across the board reduction for all classes of customers (except traffic signals and security lights) and will apply to the bills issued in October. The rate schedule is developed by Electricities based on the rate reduction authorized as part of the FY 2015/2016 City Budget.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a 1.6% electric rate reduction for the billing beginning October 2015 and resolution authorizing the rate reduction and the proposed Electric Rate Schedule.

(Resolution 15-26. To decrease the electric rate reduction for the billing beginning October, 2015)

The Mayor and City Council reviewed the 2015-2016 loose leaf collection season which begins this year on Monday October 12. An annual preparatory meeting was held at City Hall with Waste Management staff and City Manager Michael Ferris, Assistant Public Works Director Darren Preslar and Street Superintendent Ross Holshouser.

It was noted that the equipment used last season is still active and will be thoroughly tested and inspected prior to leaf collection which should result in fewer breakdowns. Also, Waste Management has begun stocking an inventory of the commonly needed parts to help reduce downtime when breakdowns do occur. Waste Management will dedicate two automated trucks to Albemarle, a pull behind unit and the use of boom trucks. The amount of equipment on the road on a daily basis will be based on need and conditions and having an experienced leaf truck driver as the lead driver for Waste Management.

Waste Management will submit to the Stanly News and Press a leaf pickup zone map with the pickup dates for the entire season to be published in its Sunday editions September 27th and Sunday October 4th.

The City Manager stated that a leaf pickup zone map with the pickup dates will also be on the City website and Facebook.

The Mayor and City Council considered a bank financing bid tabulation for the purchase of a Landfill caterpillar compactor. If financing is approved with the low bidder Uwharrie Bank, Council will need to approve the resolution for the financing terms with the bank.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council excused Councilmember Hughes.

Council reviewed the following bid tabulation:

Uwharrie Bank 1.579%

BB&T Governmental Finance 1.66%

Wells Fargo 1.842%
SunTrust Equip/Leasing 2.28%
Carolina Alliance Bank 2.10%

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Dry, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the low bidder as Uwharrie Bank with a 1.579 % interest rate and a term of 59 months with the following resolution for the financing of the Landfill compactor.

(Resolution 15-27. To approve the bank's financing terms in the purchase of a compactor for the landfill.)

Councilmember Hughes joined the meeting at this time.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a budget amendment for the purchase of a waste handling dozer for the City Landfill.

(Ordinance 15-26. Budget amendment for the purchase of a dozer and compactor at the landfill.)

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Whitley, and unanimously carried, the City Council a budget amendment for the purchase of downtown Christmas lights.

(Ordinance 15-27. Budget amendment for the purchase of downtown Christmas lights.)

The Mayor and City Council reviewed a memo from Lindsay Carter, Revenue/Collections Supervisor regarding uncollected 2004 Property Taxes to be written off. Additional research shows the write-off amount under consideration is consistent with previous years:

2014 - 99.64%

2013 - 99.42%
2012 - 99.69%.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved uncollected 2004 Property Taxes to be written off in the amount of \$ 26,977.86 and \$250.94 in the Municipal Service District.

The Mayor and City Council received an update on the streetscape project. At the previous meeting City Council asked about the cost of Stantec participating in the Downtown Christmas event on December 4 to receive more public input and it turns out Stantec is unavailable to attend the event. City staff proposes instead that staff be at a location at the downtown Christmas event where information about the project is available for public review. The focus group meetings and the public survey will already be complete at this point. The City Manager noted that participation at the downtown Christmas event can provide a pulse check for the project to determine if what has been developed to date is on target or some change in direction is needed.

Mayor Michael stated that there are six meetings scheduled for October 1 and 2 between 10 am and 4 pm each of those days. The Mayor will get this schedule to the City Manager to place on the City website and it will also be on the local radio station. The City Manager stated that there will be a survey out in the next couple of weeks to receive input on the downtown from the public.

The City Manager stated that Council received a report from the City Attorney of items he is currently working on as:

- 1) Completing title work for housing demolitions for James Luster with COG
And should be ready for review with Mr. Luster by October 2 or October 3
- 2) Rough draft of alleyway agreement being typed and will be submitted tomorrow
- 3) Rough draft of Stanly Community College agreement waiting on info from Connie Josey (SCC Attorney)
- 4) Survey concerning GHA Annexation, as soon as completed will record and a petition for voluntary annexation will be submitted to Council.
- 5) Drafted ordinance concerning school speed zones and times for October 5

Agenda

6) Drafting statement for 1st quarterly billing for 2015-16 fiscal year

The City Manager stated he would like to give an update on the US 52 Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Project. Council awarded Contract 1 to Dellinger, Inc. for a total contract amount of \$8,892,962.00 and award of Contract 2 to Utility Service Co., Inc. for a total contract amount of \$255,300.00. The award of Contract 1 and Contract 2 was contingent upon submission of and approval of the request to the NCDENR SRF Loan Program and the NCLGC for an increase in the loan amount to reflect the construction cost as a result of the bidding process. NCDENR and NC Local Government Commission have approved both and contracts have been executed. Work should begin in November, 2015.

Councilmember Townsend stated that Council may want to consider having a food truck Friday or something of this nature in the future.

Councilmember Hughes stated that she has noticed a lot of progress at the Central School location on 3rd Street. She asked that Council drive by and see this when they can. Mayor Michael gave a report of some of the work being done on the inside of the building and the new building at the back.

Councilmember Dry echoed statements made by Councilmember Townsend about the What-A-Burger mobile food unit and excited they are coming into Albemarle and welcomed them.

Councilmember Whitley asked if there had been any unexpected issues pop up on the Central School project. The Mayor and City Manager stated there had not been any that they were aware of.

Councilmember Hall asked about an issue that Street Superintendent Ross Holshouser had been working on with a resident concerning a drainage issue. Mr. Holshouser determined that the drainage issue was not in the City right of way but on the resident's property.

Councilmember Hall mentioned the grand opening this week of the Tarheel Challenge Academy in New London. Also, the grand opening today at Hobby Lobby for the entire shopping center.

Mayor Michael stated that this could mean up to 380 new jobs when all the stores in the entire shopping center are opened. He thanked Mr. Kilpatrick for developing this area into a shopping center.

Councilmember Hall discussed the fact that Waste Management only picks up 4 cubic yards at a time at a residence, then picks up remainder each week until completed. She stated that we may want to look at doing it differently with the next contract.

Councilmember Hall asked if October 20 or 22 from 4-5 pm had been chosen yet for the CKA Valve Turning Ceremony planned for the Mount Pleasant Pump Station location. The City Manager stated that they are focusing on having it October 22 which is Council's 1st choice.

Councilmember Hall mentioned the Day of Caring for Public Power Week on Wednesday, October 7. Assistant Public Utilities Director Judy Redwine is meeting with Becky and Elisha at the senior center to line up people to care for on that day. Also, Thursday, October 8 will be the key accounts breakfast held by the Public Utilities Department in the Raymond I Allen room. Ms. Hall thanked Judy Redwine for all that she does concerning Public Power Week.

Mayor Michael stated that he will continue to update Council on a couple of house and senate bills which affect the City and will email results to Council. This includes house bill 112 for municipal elections to go to even number of years and senate bill 527. We also should receive additional sales tax to use in economic development hopefully.

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

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