

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL
September 8, 2015

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Tuesday, September 8, 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 gave the invocation.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved August 17 regular session and August 19 adjourned session minutes as submitted.

Mr. Craig Lewis, Principal, and Amanda Morrell, Landscape Architect for Stantec, came before City Council to discuss the Downtown Streetscape Master Plan development process and provide an overview of the planning, design, and cost estimates of the this project.

Mr. Lewis reviewed information via PowerPoint of the street scape master plan proposal for the Albemarle downtown including the goals and project schedule.

Phase I: Kick-off, data collection, interviews, public input and council presentation. Timeframe is September, 2016.

Phase II: Online surveys, website content, mapping, First Saturday Tactical and public design workshop. Timeframe is September-November 2015.

Phase III: Document preparation, preliminary submittal, staff meeting, final input meeting, document revisions and final Streetscape Plan and Council presentation. Time frame is November, 2015 – February, 2016

Mr. Lewis answered any questions that Council had. City Council indicated they were interested in having Stantec attend the Downtown Christmas event to get more public input and involvement in this process. Mr. Lewis said they will provide cost estimates to perform this additional step.

The Mayor and City Council considered a request from Mr. Chris Solomon for a peddler license for a Mobile Food Unit.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a peddler license for a Mobile Food Unit for Mr. Chris Solomon.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved adoption of a proclamation designating October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Councilmember Hall invited everyone to a breakfast fundraiser on Thursday, October 1 at 7 a.m.

(Proclamation)

Public Works Director Nina Underwood came before Council to present the results of the 2016 Employee Campaign. Representing the City United Way Campaign Committee for the City is Battalion Chief Tony Upchurch, Public Works Director Nina Underwood.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a day of vacation to the City United Way Campaign Committee members as a reward and recognition for volunteering to lead the campaign.

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

The Mayor and City Council considered a Minimum Commercial Maintenance Code that the ADDC had recommended the City consider adopting. After making some modifications to the draft from the ADDC, the Planning Board voted 6-1 on July 21, 2015, to recommend the City Council consider adoption of the current proposed version of the Commercial Maintenance Code. This item was presented at the August 17 meeting and at that time City Council wanted time to review the proposal and asked that it be placed on the September 8 agenda. Council reviewed information on the background and general comments on options of how the City might proceed if Council so approves.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved having a public workshop for public comment on Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 7 pm concerning a Minimum Commercial Maintenance Code.

The Mayor and City Council considered participation in an inside Service Line Warranty Program which covers water and sewer only on the inside of your home.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Dry, and unanimously carried, the City Council denied approval of an inside Service Line Warranty Program.

The Mayor and City Council considered the adoption of a branding logo and tag line. NorthStar Destination Strategies presented the City's logo and tag line at the August 19 meeting. The City Manager noted that the City has issued a news release about the logo and tagline as well as information about the process. As discussed at the August 19 meeting, the public was extensively involved in the initial input process. Opportunities to participate in surveys were widely broadcast throughout the community. Copies of the logo and tag line as well as the media release to the public were reviewed by Council. The City is scheduled to receive the electronic material and implementation package the week of September 8 and

can begin implementation as soon as City Council formally adopts the logo and tag line.

The City Manager was asked to speak with NorthStar of several requested changes to the colors chosen for the logo and tag line. Council asked that the City Manager bring back to several color change examples they requested for review with price changes if any, and let Council choose the one most liked.

The Mayor and City Council was advised the request to the NCDENR Division of Water Infrastructure to increase the SRF loan amount subject to adoption of a resolution by Council to accept the increased loan was approved. The increase of \$150,430 in the loan amount will bring the total loan amount to \$3,165,647. The terms of the loan (20-years at 2% interest) remain unchanged.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council the following Resolution was duly adopted:

(Resolution 15-25. NC Clean Water Revolving Loan for the Headworks Project.)

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a budget amendment to appropriate unspent funds for housing demolition from FY 14/15 to FY 15/16.

(Ordinance 15-25. To appropriate unspent funds for housing demolition from FY 14/15 to FY 15/16.)

The Mayor and City Council discussed the NCDOT Street Sweeping Agreement which would be for 1-year with automatic yearly renewals. This agreement marks the first increase in reimbursement since the inception of the program in 2003. A negotiated reimbursement of \$8,485.55 has been accepted by

NCDOT. The current annual reimbursement total is \$4,057.60. The City agrees to sweep a minimum of 4 times per year, and actually sweeps more often.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a NCDOT Street Sweeping Agreement with a negotiated reimbursement of \$8,485.55.

The Mayor and City Council discussed the purchase of a landfill compactor. Public Works Director Nina Underwood noted that the City approved this in the FY 2015/16 budget funds. Ms. Underwood is proposing to purchase the compactor off the State contract. The State contract is where equipment and materials are bid on a state-wide basis and a vendor selected, which means a competitive and public bid process has taken place and the City and other government entities across the state are permitted to purchase directly from State contract.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the purchase of landfill compactor off the State contract.

The Mayor and City Council discussed the purchase of a waste handling dozer. Public Works Director Nina Underwood notated that the previous dozer was damaged in a fire and she is requesting to use the insurance proceeds and Landfill reserves to purchase the new unit. This would be an outright purchase and not financed since a majority of the revenues are from insurance proceeds, using the insurance settlements in the amount of \$251,200 and fund balance of \$197,800.

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

The Mayor and City Council considered amending the time of the School Zone Designation on Park Ridge Road. With the start of the school year, staff noticed the school zone lights on Park Ridge Road in front of Albemarle High School needed to be adjusted. AHS starts at 8:00 a.m. and dismisses at 2:45. The morning schedule for the light is 7:45 - 8:30 and the afternoon schedule is 2:45 - 3:30. The school zone and activation of lights is established by ordinance, as the school zone designation also reduces the speed limits during these periods on Park Ridge Road from 35mph to 25mph.

The City Manager noted that a change of 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. may work better for the morning, and 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. for the afternoon. The City Council would need to authorize the City Attorney to draft an ordinance for consideration at the September 21 meeting and include adding times for the school zone on Badin Road for Albemarle Middle School to the schedule to reflect what is posted, as it is not currently in the code.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved having the City Attorney draft an ordinance for consideration at the September 21 meeting changing to 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. for Albemarle High School and adding 1835 Badin Road, Albemarle Middle School to the ordinance including times of 7:15 am to 8:30 am for the mornings and 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. for the afternoons to the school zone schedule to reflect what is posted, as it is not currently in the code.

The Mayor and City Council considered a street closing request for "An Albemarle Downtown Christmas".

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the closing of 1st Street from Kimbrell's to King Street 5-9:30 pm, 2nd Street from the Alamada to King Street from 5 – 9:30 pm and Main Street from 3rd Street to Depot Street from 3:30 – 9:30 p.m.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed an update to the City of Albemarle's online domain name and upcoming changes to the City's online web and email presence. Our domain name will change from ci.albemarle.nc.us to albemarlenc.gov.

IS Director Owen Squires noted the upcoming changes to the City's online web and email presence and migrating to a new domain name. The domain change will move Albemarle to the standard domain format. Once in place, all email and internet searches using the old domain will automatically forward to the new account. This will allow everyone plenty of time to adjust to the change. Also, Mr. Squires noted the timing of the change works well with other activities we have taking place such as the branding initiative, the continued work on our new web and communication platform, and our need to provide a consistent and easily accessible online presence.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved an update to the City of Albemarle's online domain name and upcoming changes to the City's online web and email presence.

The Mayor and City Council considered an appointment to a 3-year term on the Convention & Visitor's Bureau. The City Manager has been advised that Mr. Jack Neel's term expired July 1 on the CVB Board and he does not wish to be reappointed for another term. The term is for 3-years and there are no restrictions or requirements for the appointment, other than the appointee must reside in Stanly County. The meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month at 8:30 in the morning at the CVB office.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved appointing Councilmember Martha Hughes to the CVB Board for a 3 year term, expiring July 1 July 2018.

The Mayor and City Council considered appointments for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Vacancies. Nominations for the two vacancies on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board were held over from July until public schools resumed classes. Dr. Rick Hessman (East Albemarle) and Mrs. Melissa Smith (Central) have responded with their nominations. These vacancies and created by the resignation of Ellen Wilson Talbert (Central) and Andra Bennett (East).

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Alexander, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved

appointing Jennifer Winkler as East Albemarle Elementary representative for a two year term expiring July 2016 and Michelle Osborne as Central Elementary representative for a two year term expiring July 2017 on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

The Mayor and City Council considered a day and time for the CKA Valve Turning Ceremony planned for the Mount Pleasant Pump Station location. Several different date/time options were presented to Council to select 3-4 different combinations so that staff can select the most convenient date for the ceremony.

It was the consensus of City Council to meet on either October 22 as first choice or October 20 as second choice between 4-5 p.m. either day.

The Mayor and City Council received information of Albemarle receiving a PlayPrints Grant through NCRPA and Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Parks and Recreation Director Toby Thorpe stated that Albemarle has been notified that it has received a PlayPrints grant through NCRPA and the NC Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation. Parks and Recreation Director gave special thanks to Oliver Webster of the AP&R staff who completed the application.

The Mayor and City Council received information of Albemarle being named Playful City USA for 2015. Parks and Recreation Director Toby Thorpe stated Albemarle has been named a Playful City USA for the fifth consecutive year by non-profit organization Kaboom!, which promotes and advocates unstructured play among young people, as well as preservation and construction of safe and accessible places.

The Mayor and City Council considered attendance at the Centralina COG Thriving Communities Conference to be held at the Gastonia Conference Center on Thursday, December 3 from 9:00 - 4:15. Advanced registration is \$89.

The Mayor asked that anyone planning to attend let the City Manager know.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed information concerning the ribbon cutting for Tarheel Challenge Academy on Monday, September 14 at 10:00. This event was mentioned at the COG meeting in New London.

City Attorney David Beaver came before Council to report current projects he is engaged in for the City.

1. Agreement for alleyway for certain property owners on West Main Street
2. Voluntary Annexation of GHA property
3. Stanly Community College agreement
4. Title searches for housing approved for condemnation in FY 15/16

Mayor Michael thanked the City staff for all their hard work during the recent Friday night storm and thanks to the citizens for their patience during this process. This outage involved a substation at Carolina Avenue affecting thousands of customers.

The City Manager commended the Public Utilities Department, Public Works Department, Fire, Police and all staff involved for all their hard work during the recent Friday night storm in restoring City power.

The City Manager stated that Council needs to choose a delegate and alternate for voting at the Annual Conference City Vision 2015 on October 11-13 in Winston-Salem.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Alexander, and unanimously carried, the City Council appointed Councilmember Townsend as the delegate and Councilmember Aldridge as the alternate.

Councilmember Aldridge echoed comments of Mayor Michael and the City Manager concerning staff's hard work last Friday evening restoring power. He also expressed thanks to the City Manager for being out with the crews during the events.

Councilmember Dry thanked Fire Chief Oke and Battalion Chief Upchurch for their participation in the Hearts for Hank fundraiser for Hank Chavis on Sunday, August 30. They raised \$15,000 in donations. Councilmember Dry asked everyone to keep Hank in their prayers.

Councilmember Hall stated that she had a resident ask if the Stanly County Reverse 911 System could be used to warn everyone concerning power outages. Ms. Hall stated that everyone should make sure that 911 has their land phone and cell phone number if they would like warnings on both phones.

Councilmember Hall stated that she also was asked if the City could aid residents in any way on Stony Gap Road in getting an internet service provider since the landfill is located on that road. IT Director Owen Squires came forward and stated that the Stony Gap Road is at the end of Windstream and Time Warner Cable's circuit and service is very slow in that area.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council adjourned to a closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) and (6) - Real Estate Negotiations and Personnel.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, 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) and (6) - Real Estate Negotiations and Personnel and there was nothing to disclose at this time.

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