

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL  
December 21, 2015

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, December 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 Martha Sue Hall, Bill Aldridge, Chris Bramlett, Benton H. Dry, II, 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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Pastor John Futterer of First Lutheran Church gave the invocation.

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Mayor Michael stated that we honor Mayor Pro Tem Alexander for serving the City for the last 28-years. The Mayor thanked Mr. Alexander for all he has done for the City. It will not be possible to replace him with all the experience he has.

Senator Tom McInnis stated that he is here to represent Governor McCrory and to award Mr. Alexander with the highest honor bestowed by the State office on civilians for the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. He stated that Mr. Alexander was an ambassador extraordinaire.

Senator McInnis stated that Mr. Alexander served in the armed forces and mentioned the flag pin and Marine Corp pin on his lapel.

Mr. Alexander stated that first of all he would like to thank the citizens for allowing him to serve and he appreciates all their support. He also stated that he has enjoyed working with all the City Managers, and Councilmembers over the last 28 years.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Dry, and unanimously carried, the following Resolution was duly adopt:

(Resolution 15-31. Adoption and Presentation of a Resolution to former Mayor Pro-Tem Troy E. Alexander)

Mayor Michael presented this resolution to former Mayor Pro Tem Alexander for his 28 years of service on City Council.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the December 7 regular session and December 7 closed session minutes as submitted.

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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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The Mayor and City Council considered an agreement for engineering services to redesign and upgrade the Leonard Ave/NC Hwy 24-27 intersection and funds would be transferred from the Powell Bill asphalt line item to the Professional Services line item. This will reduce the amount budgeted for asphalt in the Powell Bill fund from \$110,000 to \$96,500.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved an agreement for engineering services to redesign and upgrade the Leonard Ave/NC Hwy 24-27 intersection for construction document preparation and an estimated cost for the construction project in the amount of \$13,500. This work is expected to be completed within 5 weeks of the notice to proceed.

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The Mayor and City Council considered a request from ELM Site Solutions representing the BASF Corporation to install two groundwater monitoring wells in the right of way of Garfield Avenue. The wells would be installed off the travel surface at the back of the curb at 121 Garfield Avenue. The wells are part of a required groundwater assessment as part of an environmental investigation for the former CIBA Specialty Chemical location on Kingsley Drive.

Mr. Rusty Norris and Mr. Tom Taylor with ELM Site Solutions came forward and answered any questions that Council had.

Councilmember Hall requested a letter be sent to the property owner at 121 Garfield by ELM Site Solutions to make sure they are okay with this. Council requested a letter be mailed by ELM Site Solutions, giving the property owner a 7 day delivery time frame and allowing the property owner until Jan 20 to respond back to ELM Site Solutions.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the request from ELM Site Solutions representing the BASF Corporation to install two groundwater monitoring wells in the right of way of Garfield Avenue if the property owner at 121 Garfield affirms this. If the property owner does not respond by January 20, ELM can proceed with the project and the City Manager is authorized to sign the encroachment agreement on behalf of the City.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Dry, and unanimously carried, the following Resolution was duly adopt:

(Resolution 15-32. The electric rate schedule identified as Schedule OL – Outdoor Lighting Service to be revised as of January 1, 2016.)

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the following Resolution was duly adopt:

(Resolution 15-33. To approve a loan through the North Carolina Clean Water Revolving Loan for the US Hwy 52 Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Project.)

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Dry, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved excusing Councilmember Hughes concerning the financing with Uwharrie Bank of the Uwharrie Bank financing Fire Department Motorola radios due to a potential conflict of interest.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and unanimously carried, the following Resolution was duly adopt:

(Resolution 15-34. The City's official intent to reimburse expenditures for the Fire Department Motorola radios project that is to be financed from the proceeds of the Uwharrie bank financing.)

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Councilmember Hughes came back into the meeting at this time.

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The Mayor and City Council considered adoption of FY 16/17 Budget Preparation Schedule.

It was the consensus of City Council to accept the FY 2016-17 Budget Preparation Schedule with the budget work sessions beginning at 6 pm each evening scheduled.

It was the consensus of City Council to meet on Tuesday, January 12 at 5 pm at City Hall for a Strategic Planning Meeting.

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The Mayor and City Council considered a day and time for Council Tour of Stanly Cabinets.

It was the consensus of City Council to tour Stanly Cabinets on Tuesday, January 12 at 3:30 pm.

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The Mayor and City Council reviewed course information on Municipal Ethics Requirements/Upcoming Training Opportunities. The Essentials of Municipal Government Course for newly elected officials in Hickory on January 8-9 is the closest session. The cost to register is \$425 per attendee. LeaderShop for Veteran Elected Officials for experienced elected officials also takes place in conjunction with the Essentials course in Hickory. This is a one day course that takes place on January 8. Registration cost is \$225 per attendee.

Councilmember Aldridge, Hall and Mayor Michael affirmed their attendance on January 8 in Hickory. Councilmember Bramlett confirmed he will attend the Essentials course on January 8 and 9. Councilmember Townsend will let the City Manager know.

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The Mayor and City Council were reminded of pictures being taken on Monday, January 4, at 6:15 p.m. at City Hall before regular session meeting.

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

(Resolution 15-35. To honor Dr. Bill Hatley for all his participation and all he did for the downtown and the ADDC)

Mayor Michael stated that Dr. Bramlett will contact the family and see when it will be convenient for them to come accept the resolution.

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Mayor Michael wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a great holiday.

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The City Manager stated that City Hall will be closed December 23, 24, and 25, 2015 for the Christmas Holiday and again on Friday, January 1, 2016 for the New Years Holiday.

The City Manager asked Public Works Director Nina Underwood to come forward and give a brief report on the US 52 S Sidewalk Project with Little Mountain Builders. Ms. Underwood stated that the sidewalk project on US 52 S has begun near the Albemarle Pool Supply today and is ready for concrete which will be poured on Monday, December 28, 2015.

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Councilmember Townsend stated the the Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast will be held at the EE Waddell Community Center at 8 am on Saturday, January 16 2016.

Councilmember Townsend wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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Councilmember Hughes wished all the City employees a Merry Christmas.

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Councilmember Aldridge wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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Councilmember Hall stated that she had noticed the new logos on the City vehicles and they look great.

Councilmember Hall stated that the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Christmas Dinner will be December 25, Christmas Day, at the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church downtown between 11 am – 2 pm.

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Councilmember Dry wished everyone a Merry Christmas and asked everyone to prayer for Peace on Earth.

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Councilmember Whitley wished everyone a Merry Christmas and for everyone to slow down and enjoy the Christmas season.

Councilmember Whitley stated “Go Panthers”!!

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Councilmember Bramlett spoke of the Wiscasset Mills Foundation and that former Mayor Pro Tem Alexander was a big part of this and when there was no longer a need or ability to continue this program, the money was given to the Stanly County Family YMCA.

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Upon questioning concerning the City’s naming rights, Parks and Recreation Director Toby Thorpe stated that he has no answer at this time and the committee will be meeting in January, 2016.

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