

ADJOURNED MEETING CITY COUNCIL
March 27, 2014

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in an adjourned session on Thursday, March 27, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the City Hall. Mayor Ronnie Michael presided and the following Councilmembers were present, to wit: Troy E. Alexander, Bill Aldridge, Benton Dry, Martha Sue Hall, Martha E. Hughes, Dexter Townsend and Chris Whitley. Absent, none.

The Mayor and the City Council held a Fiscal Year 2014/2015 Planning and Budgeting Work Session in the Conference Room of the City Hall with

Mayor Michael called the meeting to order.

City Council received a copy of the agenda for this evening's budget work session.

The City Manager stated that due to a March 30 deadline to determine/study the handling of alum sludge by applying for a grant, he needs an answer from City Council of whether to move forward with this project. The study will be performed by LKC Engineering at a cost of \$34,000 in which the grant would pay 100% of the cost. If Council agrees, we would come back before Council with the formal paperwork.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Alexander and unanimously carried, the City Council approved moving forward with the paperwork for a grant study on the handling of alum sludge.

The City Manager stated that City Council received a presentation at their last meeting from Lacy Beasley, Vice President of Business Development with Retail Strategies. Charity Barbee, Economic Developer with ElectriCities was unable to be at that meeting for the presentation.

ElectriCities believes it will be able to pay half of the 2nd and 3rd years, leaving the City \$9,000 cost for each of those years, along with the cost of \$20,000 (after ElectriCities pays \$28,000) for the first year. The City's total over three years will be \$38,000 for the retail study.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Whitley and unanimously carried, the City Council approved moving forward with an in depth analysis of the City's retail business opportunities by Retail Strategies in the amount of \$38,000 over a three year period.

Assistant City Manager Michael Ferris stated that the next item concerns the Budget Retreat Report by Michele Ferguson with the Novak Consultant Group. Council identified the four key focus areas as Economic Development, Intergovernmental Relations, Citizen Engagement, and Housing options. Also, Council discussed items they would like to see continue, what they would like to see stopped, and items they would like to create. Now, it is determining what you would like to consider and how it will affect the budget this year.

Councilmember Hall asked that Council keep the four focus areas in mind as we cover the budget.

The City Manager stated that he would like to cover City Council's budget priorities concerning the General Fund.

City Council viewed a list of priorities that they had determined and they viewed each item and made their choice of priorities for the City Manager to consider in preparing the budget. The City Manager stated that any new item or change would have to come from an increase of taxes or fees or either dropping something else. There are no existing monies for these priorities and we need to determine which ones are most important to find revenues to support them.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved moving forward with an in depth study concerning the development of a multi-field

facility at the Wiscasset Mills property with Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) funds.

It was the consensus of City Council to evaluate the renovation or replacement of the garage facility.

Upon questioning, the City Manager stated that the same amount of money will be allocated for house condemnation for 2013-14. Assistant City Manager Michael Ferris stated that Richard Huneycutt owner of one of the houses that is located on NC Hwy 73 that was burned, has started tearing the house down and another owner of the house behind Family Video on Salisbury Avenue is also tearing the house down himself per James Luster with COG. This may leave us enough money to handle two more houses.

The City Manager stated that Council has already approved application for financing of the landfill leachate force main project. He wanted Council to determine if the cost is greater than the original projections, do we want to continue if we receive the grant. It was decided that the City Manager will make recommendations and Council can decide at that point in time.

The City Manager stated that at the US Hwy. 52 Water Treatment Plant, timing and funding are playing a big part in decision making for the renovation of this plant. We will apply in the fall for state funds or the Finance Director Colleen Conroy will be looking into the best rates on bank loans. The project is around \$6m.

The City Manager covered several more project considerations in Public Utilities Department:

1. Construction of Deep Water intake at Tuckertown Water Treatment Plant
2. Electrical improvements at Long Creek WWTP
3. Complete conversion of all in town 4Kv circuits to 24Kv
4. Electrical Vehicle Replacement – Bucket and Line Truck

Mayor Michael stated that the City Manager is asking Council to consider travel for the 2013-14 fiscal year. They received a handout of the most important events to consider attending and the cost per event, per person. City Council determined the events to attend and the maximum number of people per event, giving the City Manager a dollar amount to consider in the budget.

Mayor Michael reminded everyone of the Phase III Greenway ribbon cutting on Monday, March 31 at 6pm on Salisbury Avenue.

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