

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL  
October 20, 2014

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, October 20, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall. Mayor Ronnie Michael presided, and the following Councilmembers were present to-wit: Troy E. Alexander, Bill Aldridge, Benton Dry II, Martha Sue Hall, Martha E. Hughes, Dexter Townsend, and Christopher Whitley. Absent, none.

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Mayor Michael called the meeting to order.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the October 6 regular session and October 15 adjourned session minutes as submitted.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the following agenda adjustment to be added after item #19, at the end of the new business section.

- 1) To consider approval of an electronic gaming settlement.

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Ms. Melanie Holles, Director, Stanly County Public Library came before Council to discuss the potential reuse of the former City Hall Annex building for Stanly County Museum. The City Manager noted that the Stanly County Historical Society is interested in looking at the possibility of leasing and renovating the former Annex building into a new museum building. Their current building is very small, and their exhibit space is very limited. The City Manager showed the building to the Society, and they have gotten permission from the Board of County Commissioners to form a feasibility study committee.

Ms. Holles stated that they are requesting permission from the City Council to move forward with this study. They also request a Council or staff member to be a part of the study committee. Commissioner McIntyre from Stanly County government will be a part of this committee.

Ms. Holles answered any questions that Council had.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Alexander, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved permission for the Stanly County Historical Society to move forward with the feasibility study.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Dry, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved appointing Economic Development Director, Mark Donham to the feasibility study committee.

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Ms. Shannon Johnson, Executive Director, Albemarle Downtown Development Corporation presented the ADDC FY 2013-2014 Audit and an update on ADDC activities.

Ms. Johnson gave an overview of ADDC accomplishments since January 2014. She thanked City Council, City administration and staff, volunteers and citizens of Albemarle for all of their support.

Ms. Johnson answered any questions that Council had.

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Mr. Chris Lambert, Stanly County CVB came before City Council to provide an update on Stanly County Convention and Visitors Bureau. He stated that domestic tourism in Stanly County generated an economic impact of \$70.68 million in 2013. Also in 2013, Stanly County ranked 48 in travel impact among North Carolina's 100 Counties.

He covered some of the projects Stanly County CVB is working on:

Morrow Mountain Park after damage during 2013 microburst.  
Promoting three local vineyards and supporting three nearby  
Agri-Tourism  
Social Media and free advertisements  
Promotion items as pens, t-shirts, etc.  
The Travel Guide and Relocation Guide

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City Employee United Way Campaign Committee, Collections Supervisor Lindsay Carter, Battalion Chief Tony Upchurch, and Public Works Director Nina

Underwood came before Council to present the results of the 2014 campaign. Also present was Jennifer McSwain, Stanly County United Way Director.

Battalion Chief Tony Upchurch stated that for the 2015 campaign 125 of the 277 City of Albemarle employees gave some type of contribution, with 55% or 69 of those giving “my fair share”. Our goal for this year’s campaign was to exceed our pledge amount from last year which was \$21,000.00. The total amount raised for the 2015 United Way Campaign for Stanly County was \$20,023.43. Traditionally, the City Council has approved an extra annual leave day for the campaign co-chairs as a small token of appreciation.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Alexander, and unanimously carried, the City Council the City Council approved an extra annual leave day for the campaign co-chairs as a small token of appreciation.

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Mayor Michael noted that the monthly administrative reports were in the agenda package.

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The Mayor and City Council considered an appointment for third alternate on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Because of the majority required for decisions on the ZBA, Planning Director Keith Wolf has asked that this vacancy be filled as soon as practicable so as not to inconvenience members of the public who apply for variances with the ZBA.

With no nominees from Council at this time, this will be continued on the next meeting agenda for Monday, November 3, 2014.

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The Mayor and City Council considered an appointment to vacancy on the Community Appearance Commission.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hughes, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved Kelly Phillips 3 year term appointment to the Albemarle Community Appearance Commission expiring July, 2017.

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The Mayor and City Council considered the 2015 grant application options and recommendations for Parks and Recreation. Council received a summary of available grant application options.

Mr. Thorpe recommended for the 2014-2015 budget year to include re-applying for the Morehead Park renovations for the 2015 PARTF cycle first and then begin applying for funds other than PARTF for the development of a multi-field complex at the former Wiscasset site. Once we receive funds from other sources for the ballfield complex, apply to PARTF (possibly larger applications will be favorable by then)

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved recommendation of Parks and Recreation Director Toby Thorpe to re-apply for Morehead Park Renovations for the 2015 PARTF Cycle.

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The Mayor and City Council considered the close out of the Department of Public Housing Capital Fund Project with Central Builders. This project was for HVAC renovations at Amhurst Gardens single-story units and is now complete. Council can approve the final contract as adjusted to reflect one change order (made within budgeted contingency) and the net decrease in the final contract amount as it came in under budget.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Dry, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the close out of the Department of Public Housing Capital Fund Project with Central Builders.

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The Mayor and City Council considered a declaration of surplus and authorization for liquidation by the sealed bid method for approximately 125 electrical transformers from the Electric Division of Public Utilities.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a declaration of surplus and authorization for liquidation by the sealed bid method for approximately 125 electrical transformers from the Electric Division of Public Utilities.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the City Council approved to amend the US 52 Water Treatment Project Budget to reduce the amount of Interfund Transfer in the 52 Rehabilitation project.

(ORDINANCE 14-31. To amend the US 52 Water Treatment Project Budget to reduce the amount of Interfund Transfer in the 52 Rehabilitation project)

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Whitley, seconded by Councilmember Hughes and unanimously carried, the City Council approved to amend the Old Whitney Pump Station Rehabilitation Project Budget.

(ORDINANCE 14-32. To amend the Old Whitney Pump Station Rehabilitation Project Budget.)

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Whitley, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved to amend the FY 2014-2015 Water and Sewer Budget to appropriate funds for alum sludge removal.

(ORDINANCE 14-33. To amend the FY 2014-2015 Water and Sewer Budget to appropriate funds for alum sludge removal)

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The Mayor and City Council discussed attendance at NCLM Advocacy Goals Conference in Raleigh on Thursday, December 11. This meeting conflicts with the inaugural Centralina COG "Creative Solutions for Thriving Communities" conference. Assistant City Manager Michael Ferris is planning to attend the NCLM meeting and Mayor Michael and Councilmember Hall confirmed their attendance.

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The Mayor and City Council discussed Attendance at Centralina COG Creative Solutions for Thriving Communities Conference in Concord on Thursday, December 11.

The City Manager and Councilmember Hughes confirmed their +attendance.

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The Mayor and City Council received information concerning the City receiving a Planning for Healthy Communities Technical Assistance Grant in the amount of \$6,500 from Centralina Council of Governments.

The City Manager noted that this would provide technical assistance in developing an improvement plan for the Second Street corridor in downtown. Dana Stoogenke with RRRPO had learned that this program was available and put together the application based on the RFP that Michael Ferris and Nina Underwood developed last year for downtown streetscape improvements. We have not been able to award an RFP for this due to the cost. This grant will enable the City to plan for a smaller area that we may be able to expand to other parts of the downtown.

Councilmember Dry asked that staff send a letter of thanks to Dana Stoogenke with RRRPO.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the settlement agreement regarding the business license fees paid for electronic gaming operations during the fiscal year 2012-2013 to John J. Orow, United Fuels, LLC in the amount of \$8,333.34.

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Councilmember Townsend reminded everyone of the next Gang Eradication event on Thursday, October 30, 2014 at City Hall beginning at 6 pm.

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Councilmember Hall reminded everyone to place October 23 on their calendars for the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Annual Memorial Event at First Street United Methodist Church at 6pm.

Councilmember Hall handed out to Council a sheet concerning a webinar on Monday, October 27 concerning the Water Supply Master Plan for the Catawba-Wateree River from 11 am until 12 noon that Council may want to join as a guest.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry and seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, Councilmember Hughes was appointed as acting City Clerk.

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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 to discuss real estate and personnel matters.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council reconvened to open session at 8:28 p.m. Mayor Michael announced a closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) 5 and 6 to discuss real estate and personnel matters and there is nothing to report at this time.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned until Monday, November 3 at City Hall in Council Chambers at 6 pm to discuss the City Manager search process.