

ADJOURNED MEETING CITY COUNCIL  
April 16, 2014

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in an adjourned session on Wednesday, April 16, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. at the Rosebriar Restaurant. Mayor G.R Michael presided and the following Councilmembers were present, to wit: Bill Aldridge, Benton Dry, Dexter Townsend and Chris Whitley. Absent, Troy E. Alexander, Martha Sue Hall, and Martha E. Hughes.

-----

The City Council held a meeting with the members of the Planning and Zoning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment to discuss matters of common interest.

-----

Mayor Michael introduced the City's new Economic Development Director Mark Donham from Oxford, NC. He said that Mr. Donham had been an economic director in Louisiana, New Mexico, and Monroe NC where he developed a business industrial park.

Mr. Donham came forward and stated that he appreciates the opportunity to come to Albemarle and work. He stated that he has watched Albemarle grow including the construction of four lanes for NC Hwy 24-27 and that Albemarle has a lot of opportunity to attract industry. Also, he said that he had been meeting with different groups in the City who he will be working with in economic development.

Mr. Donham stated he is married and has two children. His wife teaches school and will be moving here after school is out.

-----

Mayor Michael stated that Council has been talking about whether to continue the joint dinner meetings with the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment. He asked for input from the members of each board present of how important they think the quarterly meetings are and should we continue to meet 2, 3, 4 times a year or maybe not at all.

Planning Board Chairman Rodney Morgan asked for clarity on the Jim Goins property and where it stands.

Mayor Michael stated that Mr. Goins has cleaned up the property considerably. We will see in the future where the railroad may abandon a part of their line.

-----

Zoning Board of Adjustment member, Dean Speight stated that he enjoys the fellowship but it would create great savings for the City if we have no business at hand to discuss to not have the dinner meetings.

Planning Board member, Randy Shank stated that he would vote to continue having the dinner meetings because it is a way to meet some of the City's new staff.

Zoning Board of Adjustment member, Terry Blue stated that he enjoys the meetings but understands the expense of having these dinner meetings. Called meetings would be fine but scheduled meetings probably would have better participation then called meetings which may interrupt existing schedules.

Zoning Board of Adjustment member, Perry Moser stated that he would be fine with it either way but he has enjoyed getting to know City Council and new City staff. At a formal called meeting we may not get to know people as well as this informal dinner meeting allows.

Zoning Board of Adjustment member, Curtis Ragsdale stated that he enjoys the dinner meetings but understands money has to be considered.

Zoning Board of Adjustment member, Tim Scott stated that he has enjoyed meeting board members and staff and would like to know why members do not attend these meetings. He will be fine either way.

Councilmember Dry stated that he can see both sides formal vs. informal meetings and advantages for both. It always comes down to money and expenses and will make an impact on the decision Council makes. We are going to have to make a lot of decisions here at budget time and have to choose priorities.

Mayor Michael stated that he hears from the input to maybe continue but not as many as four times a year and to consider called meetings as needed. He thanked everyone for their input.

-----

Mayor Michael stated that the Business Development Task Force will meet May 6, 7, 8, and 9 all day at City Hall and the evening of May 20 at City Hall to look at the entire process from the beginning to certificate of occupancy and see if the process needs modifying or made more user friendly. We may recommend things to the Planning Board from the Business Development Task Force.

-----

Planning Board Chairman Rodney Morgan stated that since the ordinance concerning Jake Brakes is in effect, he had noticed his neighborhood to be quieter.

Mayor Michael stated that all the signs concerning this are up.

-----

Planning and Community Development Director Keith Wolf stated that in one of the subdivisions where building new houses, there had been complaints from residents about them working with lights after dark until 10 pm. The noise ordinance states that construction has to stop at 9 pm. We may have a request to change back to an earlier time than 9 pm.

Council and joint boards continued discussion of change to the ordinance and the pros and cons of each.

Councilmember Townsend talked about sign regulation and it being some of the hardest situations he has faced as a Councilmember. Concerning digital signs and regulation of the signs, we need to not be so restrictive maybe.

Councilmember Aldridge asked what business is coming to the old Tim Marburger dealership on US Highway 52. Planning and Community Development Director Keith Wolf stated that a used car dealership will be coming there.

-----

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Dry and unanimously carried, the City Council approved having two joint board dinner meetings a year, one in April and one in October.

-----

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