

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL

April 21, 2014

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, April 21, 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.

Mayor Michael called the meeting to order.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Alexander and unanimously carried, the minutes of the April 7 regular session and April 7 closed session minutes were approved as submitted.

Bishop James Richardson came before City Council to speak on behalf of concerned citizens.

Bishop Richardson stated that he has heartbreaking and grievous concerns and he had asked the City Manager to be on tonight's agenda in reference to South Albemarle citizens and especially on Lincoln Street. He stated that his first concern is about Albemarle and Stanly County resident safety. He stated that we have to move forward with protection now from law enforcement.

Bishop Richardson stated that he does not feel safe at his home on Lincoln Street. He spoke about the City Call-In sponsored by the Albemarle Police Department which was held last Thursday evening at City Hall. The people living in the areas I mentioned need protection all the time and extreme attention from our Police Department. He stated more than just riding by or sitting and looking at the street area for problems.

Bishop Richardson stated that he feels that our Police Chief needs more staff than he has to always be able to protect our citizens. His concerns tonight is asking that the Police Chief has enough staff to get the job done and make this a top priority. He further stated that citizens who pay taxes should not be afraid to live in their house and not have to look over their shoulder while traveling the streets of Albemarle.

Mayor Michael stated that Council understands and will take South Albemarle concerns into consideration.

Bishop Richardson stated that his second concern and question is how is the City Manager evaluated and who does this evaluation.

Mayor Michael stated that he would like to schedule a meeting with Bishop Richardson, along with the City Manager, himself and others to talk further on these issues brought forth tonight.

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

The Mayor and City Council consider attendance at North Carolina Municipal Power Agency One Regional Meeting. The options for this meeting are April 29 in Statesville, May 8 in Gastonia, and May 13 in Concord.

It was the consensus of City Council to attend the May 13 meeting in Concord. All Councilmembers affirmed their attendance, except for Councilmember Hughes who had a conflict.

The Mayor and City Council considered setting a public hearing to consider a map amendment for the Water Treatment Plant Property at 2510 US Hwy 52 North from R-10 Residential, GHBD, and LID to HID. This is necessary due to an error by the SNAP in which the previous public hearing notice did not run. The public hearing can be set for May 19.

The proposed zoning will reflect the current use of the property and allow for upgrading of current facilities in the future. It was noted that this would consolidate the zoning for all of the wastewater treatment plant property and for the US 52 water treatment plant property to one zoning classification. No expansion or change in use is planned for either facility, although there are continuing upgrades planned for both facilities, including a major renovation to the US 52 water treatment plant. The renovations will not result in any significant change in appearance to the building itself except for cosmetic cleaning and repairs.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Dry and unanimously carried, the City Council approved setting a public hearing to consider a map amendment for the Water Treatment Plant Property at 2510 US Hwy 52 North from R-10 Residential, GHBD, and LID to HID for Monday, May 19, 2014.

The Mayor and City Council were introduced to the new Economic Development Director, Mark Donham. The City Manager noted that the hiring of a Director of Economic Development for the City was one of the top two recommendations of the Citizens Economic Development Task Force appointed by the Mayor and City Council. The Task Force felt it was critical the City create this position and take a more active role in economic development. While we will still work with the County EDC and other area economic development organizations and personnel, we are now taking a more active role in the marketing of our many assets and supporting new business development as well as provide support to our existing businesses.

Mr. Donham came forward and stated that he appreciates the opportunity to come to Albemarle and be the first Economic Development Director for the City. He stated that his most successful program was in Monroe, NC creating their corporate center and was also their first Economic Development Director. Also, he said that he had been meeting with different groups in the City who he will be working with in economic development.

The Mayor and City Council considered a request of Stanly Community Christian Ministries for a proclamation in support of the annual letter carriers food drive. Councilmember Hall received this request from SCCM.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Alexander and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a proclamation in support of the annual letter carriers food drive from SCCM.

(Proclamation)

Pastor Roger Thomas came forward and thanked Council for their approving the proclamation and handed out grocery bags for the letter carrier food drive for Council.

The Mayor and City Council considered a request of Stanly Community Christian Ministries for amendments to an ordinance regulating the placement of donation boxes. Councilmember Hall received a request from SCCM regarding this matter. This request is related to the ordinance adopted by City Council a few years ago in part due to a request from SCCM because of the placement of donation boxes from agencies outside of Stanly County where it appeared the items may not have been going to charitable causes.

Councilmember Hall stated that around 2-1/2 years ago several companies from outside the County placed donation boxes throughout the County and they were for profit businesses. The City put an ordinance in place where the business has to be non profit and it has to be on owned property or property they have leased. Councilmember Hall stated that Pastor Thomas' proposal is to have folks willing to build drop boxes for Christian Ministries only

Pastor Roger Thomas, Executive Director of SCC asked that Council prohibit companies using drop boxes that are not charity but for profit. He stated that still exists in the County and he also noticed this in Mount Gilead. He is asking that SCCM be able to have donation boxes which they will have boy scouts making them for their scout projects. Currently the ordinance allows donation boxes only on owned property or leased property and they would like to place on other property they do not own. Also, currently the ordinance allows only boxes constructed of noncombustible materials and they would like to use wooden constructed boxes.

Pastor Thomas stated that they will work with Council concerning the parameters and all this will stay in the County and only benefit Stanly County residents and non profit.

Mayor Michael asked that City Attorney David Beaver come forward.

Mr. Beaver stated that you cannot isolate just one non-profit to be able to do this and not allow all non-profits the same privilege. Each non-profit can design their boxes by the ordinance so as to identify them from the others.

Mayor Michael stated that he will refer this to the City Manager, Planning and Community Development Director Keith Wolf, and Fire Chief Oke and ask they that come back before Council with recommendations to amend the ordinance.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Dry and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the City Manager, Planning and Community Development Director Keith Wolf, and Fire Chief Oke and ask they that come back before Council with recommendations to amend the ordinance.

The Mayor and City Council considered a Proclamation for National Day of Prayer to be held May 1 at 12 noon in Courthouse Square downtown.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved setting a proclamation for National Day of Prayer to be held May 1 at 12 noon in Courthouse Square downtown.

(Proclamation)

The Mayor and City Council considered a draft letter to the State Legislative Delegation regarding proposed changes in business license tax. Mayor Michael requested that the City Manager draft a letter for City Council's consideration. The letter will be sent to Senator Gene McLaurin and Senator Justin Burr.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Alexander and unanimously carried, the City Council approved sending a letter to the State Legislative Delegation regarding proposed changes in business license tax.

The Mayor and City Council considered a resolution for a Technical Assistance Grant Application for an Alum Sludge Disposal Study authorizing the Mayor to file an application to request grant funding through the Technical Assistance Grant program at the NCDENR. This will fund an engineering study to determine alternatives and costs for the disposal of alum sludge generated from the water treatment plants.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Whitley and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a resolution for a Technical Assistance Grant Application for an Alum Sludge Disposal Study.

(Resolution 14-10 - Technical Assistance Grant Application for an Alum Sludge Disposal Study)

The Mayor and City Council considered approval of a change order to a construction contract for the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project (I&I Project). This would authorize the City Manager to execute Change Order No. 1 for the construction contract with Dellinger, Inc. for the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Phase I project in the amount of \$39,818.51 for additional costs incurred and an extension of the contract completion time of 15 days as a result of weather related delays, for a total contract cost of \$2,925,068.51 and a completion time of 315 days. The Engineer (LKC Engineering) has reviewed the costs and is in agreement with the proposed change.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Dry and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a change order to a construction contract for the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project (I&I Project) in the amount of \$39,818.51 for additional costs incurred and an extension of the contract completion time of 15 days as a result of weather related delays, for a total contract cost of \$2,925,068.51 and a completion time of 315 days.

The Mayor and City Council considered a request of Centralina Council of Governments for letter of support for USDOT planning grant. It was noted that Centralina Council of Governments will be submitting a grant application for Federal Department of Transportation Planning grants through the TIGER program. This is a unique opportunity for the DOT to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve critical objectives. The grant will permit acceleration of regional freight planning at a time critical to businesses within our region. Since the application will be sent out Friday April 25, CCOG is asking for letters to be provided by Monday April 24 if possible.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a letter of support for the Federal Department of Transportation Planning grants through the TIGER program.

The Mayor and City Council considered participation in Esther House Jeans 4 Justice fund raiser. Human Resources Director Robert Whitley was approached by a representative of the Esther House to solicit employee participation in Jeans 4 Justice to promote awareness and education to prevent sexual violence. April is Sexual Assault Awareness month

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Dry and unanimously carried, the City Council approved Esther House Jeans 4 Justice fund raiser approval to solicit employee participation.

The Mayor and City Council considered attendance at the NC League of Municipalities Town Hall on Wednesday, June 4, 2014.

Councilmember Aldridge, Dry, and Whitley will let the City Manager know if they can attend.

The Mayor and City Council considered attendance at ElectriCities of North Carolina Annual Meeting August 7-9. Registration for this meeting has opened, but the program has not yet been published. It is being held at the Pinehurst Hotel.

The Mayor and City Council were reminded of City employee picnic which will take place on Thursday, May 15 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at City Lake Park. If it rains, it will be held at the Niven Center.

Councilmember Townsend congratulated Ms. Alice Davis being the recipient of the Sally Stoker Award from the YMCA.

Councilmember Alexander echoed the congratulations to Ms. Davis being the recipient of the Sally Stoker Award from the YMCA.

Councilmember Dry echoed the congratulations to Ms. Davis being the recipient of the Sally Stoker Award from the YMCA.

Councilmember Hall echoed the congratulations to Ms. Davis being the recipient of the Sally Stoker Award from the YMCA.

Councilmember Hall thanked everyone who participated in the spring clean up sponsored by the Community Appearance Commission for the City including Mayor Michael, Councilmembers Dry, Townsend, Whitley, Planning and Community Development Director Keith Wolf and the Community Appearance Commission.

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