

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL  
August 4, 2014

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, August 4, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Ronnie Michael presided, and the following Councilmembers were present, to-wit: Troy E. Alexander, Bill Aldridge, Benton H. Dry, II, Martha Sue Hall, Martha E. Hughes, Dexter Townsend, and Chris Whitley. Absent none.

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Mayor Michael gave the invocation.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Whitley, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved July 21 regular session minutes as amended and July 21 closed Session and July 28 adjourned session minutes as submitted.

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Mr. Stephen Lander, Kercher Engineering came before City Council to present pavement assessment report for Second Street. Public Works Director Nina Underwood contracted with his firm to investigate this street. The concrete base under the pavement is not as thick as current standards, and it is cracked thus resulting in reflective cracking through the asphalt.

Mr. Stephen Lander gave a report on his findings concerning the pavement condition for Second Street. He gave the causes of deficiencies such as reflective cracking, rutting, and plastic flow and his recommendations. It was noted that the worst section is from North Street northwardly to the intersection with Franklin Street and that most of the ride quality issues are due to the rutting and plastic flow, which he believes is due to the asphalt mix that was installed by the contractor when it was last resurfaced.

Mr. Lander stated the ideal solution would be to remove all of the existing asphalt and concrete and replace it. However the estimate cost to do this for the entire length is \$1.4 million. The next best option is to mill and resurface, which is estimated at \$609,312 for the entire length.

Mr. Lander and Public Works Director Nina Underwood answered any questions that Council had. It was noted that since problems have been experienced with this street, staff would also recommend that we use a NCDOT pavement standard mix for this work, and require testing of the asphalt.

City Council discussed options 1-3 and the cost of each for the entire length of Second Street or just from North Street northwardly to the intersection with Franklin Street. It was the consensus of Council to consider choosing Option 1 (optimum solution) and have the City Manager and Public Works Director Nina Underwood look into the cost and financing and then determine how much of Second Street can be completed.

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The Mayor and City Council reviewed a request of Mr. Michael Louis Stovall requesting a City of Albemarle peddler license. He is interested in operating a hot dog cart in Albemarle. Mr. Stovall was not present to make the request in person as scheduled.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a peddler license for Michael Louis Stovall.

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Mark and Linda Sample, 36580 Old Salisbury Road, New London came before City Council to request an exception to the City's utility billing adjustment policy for a water leak.

Mr. and Ms. Sample were out of the country for a month when a water pipe burst. Their water bill was \$706.01. The City Manager noted that after taking into account their average monthly water bill, which is \$35.69, the unusual amount of the bill due to the water leak bill would be \$670.32. Customer Service Coordinator Scott Hopkins has already given them credit for half of this amount of \$335.16 in accordance with the City's policy. They are requesting the full amount be removed from their billing due to not being home and knowing about this. Council reviewed their plumbing bill and City Utility Billing. The additional amount of adjustment would be \$335.16. City Council has on a few occasions granted an additional adjustment if they felt the circumstances warranted such.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Dry and unanimously carried, the City Council approved an

additional adjustment of \$335.16 which is giving back to them the entire overage amount.

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Ms. Lisa Long, 1910 Hemlock Drive came before Council concerning an issue with a dog aggression in her neighborhood. She stated that her family had been attacked for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time on their own property. She gave a full report of the three instances that occurred from October of 2013 to date.

Ms. Long stated that she has spoken with Police Chief Halliburton, City Manager Raymond Allen and Stanly County Health Director Dennis Joyner. City Manager Raymond Allen also spoke with County Health Director Dennis Joyner concerning this issue. She asked that since the Stanly County ordinance has changed and they want to look at this as being a first time offense, that Council would grandfather all three attacks in their consideration.

Mayor Michael stated that this decision will be up to Stanly County and their ordinance since the City has placed this in their full control. He also stated that all of Ms. Long's information will be considered and we will see if the County's attorney decides to make this the third time offense instead of the first.

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The Mayor stated that Council had a copy of the municipal calendar in their agenda packets and asked if anyone had any questions.

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The Mayor and City Council considered a resolution regarding the NCDOT Strategic Transportation Investments. Dana Stoogenke of the Rocky River RPO drafted a resolution for consideration by City Council. The Stanly County Board of Commissioners will also be considering the same resolution.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Whitley, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the following resolution:

(Resolution 14-18. Strategic Transportation Investments.)

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The Mayor and City Council considered approval for the Significant Amendment of Agency Plan for Flat Rent adjustment in the Department of Public Housing. It was noted that under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014, the new law establishes new parameters that PHAs must use when determining the flat rent amounts. Specifically, flat rents must now be set at no less than 80 percent of the applicable Fair Market Rent (FMR); and also establishes that PHAs may, but are not required to, lower flat rents to 80% of the applicable FMR in years when the FMR decreases from the previous year. This provision applies to the FMRs published for fiscal year 2015 and beyond. If a PHA must increase their flat rents to comply with the statutory changes, the increase shall be considered a significant amendment to the PHA Annual Plan.

Public Housing Director Cedric Baldwin and Section 8 Housing Manager Rachel Hough answered any questions that Council had.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Dry, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the Flat Rent Significant Amendment for Public Housing to present to HUD.

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The Mayor and City Council considered an agreement with Vision Internet to consolidate, migrate, and to further develop a common web-facing communication system for the City. Information Service Director Owen Squires asked several of City staff members to join a team to offer their insight on the attributes needed for the new combined communications platform for the City. The members who participated in the conversations were:

Anita Almond - Albemarle Police Department  
Danny Bowen - Albemarle Police Department  
Michael Devlin - Information Systems Department  
Mark Donham - Administration Department  
Michael Ferris - Administration  
Jake Furr - Fire Department  
Bruce McCauley - Information Systems  
Owen Squires - Information Systems  
Toby Thorpe - Parks & Recreation  
Nina Underwood - Public Works  
Keith Wolf - Planning & CD

After the initial scoring was completed, they met and determined the

top two respondents. Those vendors met with staff to answer questions from the team. Both respondents spent approximately two hours answering our questions and offering their perspective on how the project could proceed. After hearing both presentations the team met to discuss everyone's thoughts and to determine the best path for the City to move forward. The team's unanimous choice was the Vision Internet proposal. Council received a copy of the proposal.

Mr. Squires recommended that Council authorize the City Manager to move forward with the five-year agreement for the development and hosting of communications services. The cost for services provided will be \$13,290 yearly, but that will be offset by our being able to stop maintenance and support on existing systems saving \$9,000 yearly. The development process will take up to 26 weeks, which means this fiscal year we will continue to use both old and new communication sites and systems. This development timeline will allow taking advantage of design and graphical elements coordinated through the branding initiative currently in process.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved an agreement with Vision Internet to consolidate, migrate, and to develop a common web-facing communication system for the City.

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The Mayor and City Council received an update on the implementation of the Business Development Task recommendations. Assistant City Manager Michael Ferris organized a team to work on the implementation of the BDTF recommendations and made a report to the Mayor and City Council.

Mr. Ferris came before City Council to give a report of the progress on the Improvement 30 day plan at this point. He organized a team to work on the implementation of the BDTF recommendations as follows:

- Public Utility Director Mike Leonas
- ADDC Director Shannon Johnson
- Fire Marshal Brian Taylor
- Engineering Technician David Bowers
- Planner Carolyn Martin
- Information Systems Director Owen Squires
- Director of Planning and Community Development Keith Wolf
- Economic Development Director Mark Donham

Mr. Ferris covered each task being performed and who is involved in each and the timeline of each one.

Mr. Ferris reviewed the new Coordination Form, the Zoning Use table showing permitted and conditional uses by specific use per zone, and the Community Development Customer Satisfaction form.

Mr. Ferris answered any questions that Council had.

Mr. Ferris stated that we are continuing to work on the 60 implementation plan.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the following ordinance.

(Ordinance 14-25. Budget Ordinance for the third year of the SAGE Gang Eradication Grant.)

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the following ordinance.

(Ordinance 14-26. To amend the FY 14-15 Budget to appropriate a \$5,000 grant from the National Association of Drug Diversion to the Albemarle Police Department.)

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The Mayor and City Council discussed ideas for a ribbon cutting and dedication for the Central Avenue Electric Delivery Point. Councilmember Townsend stated that we could consider having a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony for the Central Avenue Electric Delivery Point during Public Power Week, October 6-10.

It was the consensus of Council to have the dedication ceremony the week of October 6, Public Power Week.

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The Mayor and City Council were informed concerning a letter from NCDOT Division Engineer Louis Mitchell. NCDOT has approved the City's request to install handicap curb cuts on West Main Street. It was noted that the City Manager received a letter this week from NCDOT Division Engineer Louis Mitchell in response to the City's request to install handicap curb cuts and detectable warning devices at those intersections on West Main Street lacking these. Assistant District Engineer Marc Morgan advised the City Manager this week that they hope to have these completed by this fall.

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The Mayor and City Council were reminded of the National Night Out event sponsored by the Albemarle Police Department that will be held on Tuesday, August 5 from 6 pm to 9 pm at Roosevelt Ingram Park.

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Mayor Michael stated that it has been a custom of the present administration upon the retirement or departure of a department director, to offer to meet with any employee of that department to hear their ideas before considering how to proceed. The City Council would like to continue this tradition and allow any City employee or anyone from the public the opportunity to speak with City Council regarding the hiring of the next City Manager. The purpose of these individual meetings is to give an employee/public an opportunity to meet with Council if they choose to do so and to provide input into the direction that they think the City should go, and what qualities the City should look for in a new City Manager.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved City employees or anyone from the public the opportunity to speak with City Council.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the employee executive session for Tuesday, August 19 beginning at 6 pm and the public wishing to speak to Council will speak at the regular session meeting on Monday, August 18, 2014 beginning at 7 pm.

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Councilmember Townsend asked Information Systems Director Owen Squires is it possible to get Wi-Fi for the community room in the EE Waddell Center. Mr. Squires stated that the initial Wi-Fi is at the EE Waddell Center and we just need to run cable to the large community room.

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Councilmember Hughes expressed her thanks to the Police and Fire Department, City Manager Raymond Allen, Michael Leonas, Scott Hopkins, and Tanner Denton for coming in after 4 am on Friday, August 1 to man the phones during the rain storm and power outages.

Councilmember Hughes stated that she read in the Charlotte Observer a great article concerning great places in NC to retire. The program allows cities to become Certified Retirement Communities. Nine cities now have this designation. She would like to talk with Economic Development Director Mark Donham and look at Albemarle working toward this goal.

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Councilmember Dry stated that months ago we became a Purple Heart City. He asked about stating this on our City of Albemarle signs. The City Manager stated that we would probably need to order these signs if that is what Council would like. Mayor Michael asked the City Manager to contact NCDOT to see if they will allow this and get back with City Council.

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Councilmember Whitley stated that he attended the last CONNECT our Future COG meeting and they have approved a growth concept for the region. Council received a handout pertaining to this.

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Councilmember Hall stated that she noticed today on the City website that "Pay Utility Bill" will be offline for scheduled maintenance for last Saturday and that this is now out of date.

Councilmember Hall asked about one of the properties on the demolition list located on US Hwy. 52 North has a For Sale sign. Mayor Michael stated that this property has been up for sale 2-3 times by different realtors.



Councilmember Hall stated that she has door prizes for the ElectriCities Conference in Pinehurst this upcoming weekend.

Councilmember Hall stated that U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx will hold a virtual town hall meeting on Wednesday, August 6 from 1 PM to 2 PM EDT. The conversation will focus on building support for the administration's GROW AMERICA plan. The meeting will be streamed live on the web, but the secretary is accepting questions in advance via Twitter — using the hashtag #InvestNow — or by email to [publicengagement@dot.gov](mailto:publicengagement@dot.gov). Individuals can sign up for the town hall at [www.dot.gov/townhall](http://www.dot.gov/townhall).

Councilmember Hall thanked the Police Department and Stanly County Health Department Director Dennis Joyner for the drop-off box that citizens can safely dispose of their unused or outdated medications.

Councilmember Hall stated that the City should have great opportunities to do a lot of good things in conjunction with ElectriCities for Public Power week in October, 2014.

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Upon questioning, Mayor Michael stated that it would be fine to invite Representative Justin Burr to the next COG meeting on August 26 that the City of Albemarle is hosting.

Mayor Michael stated that the new City Hall has been made handicap friendly as you enter the east side of the building facing Third Street.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.