

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL
December 15, 2014

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, December 15 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.

Mayor Michael stated that City Manager Raymond Allen will be retiring on Friday, December 19, 2014. He worked for the City 33+ years and 28 of those years were as City Manager. He stated that Mr. Allen was a very loyal, honest and trustworthy person. The Mayor further stated that he had mixed emotions of Mr. Allen's retirement. He wishes Mr. Allen the best but does not want to see him leave.

Each City Councilmember made their special comments to Mr. Allen.

Mayor Michael recognized former Mayor Whitley and former Councilmembers Judy Holcomb and Ed Underwood in the audience. Also, he recognized Senator Purcell from Laurinburg, Concord City Manager Bryan Hiatt, Kannapolis City Manager Mike Legg, Gaston County Assistant County Manager Phil Ponder and Ralph Messera, Public Works Director for the Town of Matthews.

Concord City Manager Bryan Hiatt and Kannapolis City Manager Mike Legg came forward and presented Raymond Allen with a piece of pipe that represents the pipeline running from Richfield to Concord and Kannapolis in the Concord, Kannapolis, and Albemarle (CKA) waterline partnership.

Former City Manager of High Point and Chairman of NCMPA#1, Strib Boynton, Mr. Matt Schull, ElectriCities Vice President, NCMPA#1 and Roy Jones, COO ElectriCities also presented Raymond Allen with a desk lamp with meter from ElectriCities.

The Mayor presented the following certificates to retiring City Manager Raymond I. Allen:

1. City of Albemarle Retirement Resolution
2. The Order of the Long Leaf Pine which is among the most prestigious awards presented by the Governor of North Carolina
3. Naming the City Hall Community Room the Raymond I. Allen Room in honor of Mr. Allen's 33+ years of service to the City and the Community.

Pictures were taken of Mr. Allen and his family with former Mayor Whitley and Councilmembers Judy Holcomb and Ed Underwood, and the current Mayor and Councilmembers.

Mr. Allen came forward and stated that he was overwhelmed by these presentations and all his friends that were there. He stated that 33 years ago he was fresh out of graduate school and had no clue he would be spending his entire career here in Albemarle. He also stated that he had had great Mayors, Councilmembers, and employees to work for and with and he was sincerely grateful.

Ms. Dawn Allen, Ray's wife, came forward and stated that Ray was Assistant City Manager while they were dating. Then Jack Neel retired as City Manager and Ray became the new City Manager at that time. He has been the City Manager their entire married life. She thanked all Mayors, Councilmembers, and staff for allowing her and Ray to stay in Albemarle and raise their family.

Newly appointed City Manager Michael J. Ferris stated that he is thankful to Mr. Allen for hiring him 19.5 years ago and he thanked Mr. Allen for all that he had done.

Mayor Michael called for a short recess.

Mayor Michael brought the meeting back to order.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved November 25 adjourned session and December 1 regular session minutes submitted.

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

The Mayor and City Council considered approval of change order no. 3 to the construction contract with Dellinger, Inc. for the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation, Phase I (I&I Project) for a decrease of \$62,538.51. The net difference in the construction contract amount between bid opening and substantial completion as a result of change orders yields an increase of \$72,350.90 or a net increase of 2.5%. This net increase is well within the contingency budgeted for the project and as such no increase in the project budget is anticipated.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a change order No. 3 to the construction contract with Dellinger, Inc. for the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation - Phase I (I&I Project) for a decrease of \$62,538.51.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed the Capital Construction Project Update for the Public Utilities Department. Public Utilities Director Mike Leonas came forward and gave a Power Point presentation to update Council on the status of projects.

Mr. Leonas reviewed the projects completed and their final cost and current projects in progress.

- 1) Old Whitney Pump Station
- 2) Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project – Phase I
- 3) Electric Delivery III – August 2014

Current Projects in Progress:

- 1) Headworks at Long Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant
- 2) West Oakwood Water Storage Tank
- 3) CKA Waterline
- 4) US Hwy. 52 Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Leonas answered any questions that Council had.

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

Ordinance 14-40. To amend the position and classification pay plan to implement a cost of living pay increase of 1.5% effective with the Pay Period beginning January 4, 2015.)

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the following Ordinance adding a hold harmless clause to the ordinance. This clause allows the departments to agree to hold the City harmless where the City would normally be liable for damages incurred.

Ordinance 14-41. To provide for twelve paid holidays each year.)

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

Ordinance 14-42. To Amend the FY 2014-2015 Budget to appropriate City share of funds for NCDOT sidewalk grants from General Funds and Powell Bill Funds.)

The Mayor and City Council considered approval of a new City of Albemarle Industry Recognition Program. Some of the industries in Albemarle were noted as IAC, Preformed Line Products, Martin Gear and Sprocket (Conveyor Components), Gentry Mills, American Fiber and Finishing, Tru Motion Products, Martin Industries, Triton Glass, Southern Mechanical Services, Pro Build, Enforge, and Nabell. Since coming to work in Albemarle, Economic Development Director

Mark Donham has made visits to most of these companies. Mr. Donham noted that an important part of an Industry Retention and Expansion Program is an Industry Recognition Program. He also noted that this program will help build

relationships between the community and industries. Learning about our industry improves our citizens understanding of how the local economy works. We will choose 2 industries each quarter, for a total of 8 each year to recognize.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Dry, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the Industry Recognition Program.

The Mayor and City Council considered the unsealing of Closed Session minutes. The NC General Statues require that once the purpose for which a closed session is held no longer applies; closed session minutes should be unsealed. The minutes were given to Council for review and are proposed for unsealing. Some of the minutes can be unsealed as a complete set, while others have portions that are now eligible for unsealing.

Please consider the unsealing of the proposed sets of minutes:

- Group 1 - 2014 Closed Session
- Group 2 - 2013 Closed Session
- Group 3 - 2012 Closed Session
- Group 4 - 2009-2011 Closed Session

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Dry and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the following sets of minutes to be completely unsealed or partially unsealed:

Completely unsealed: 11/12/14, 11/10/14, 11/13/14 I, 11/13/14 II, 8/9/14, 3/17/14, 12/16/13, 12/2/13, 10/21/13, 4/1/2013 I, 3/18/13, 11/5/12, 6/4/12, 10/17/11, 9/19/11, 9/6/11 (16 sets)

Partially unsealed: 11/17/14, 7/7/14, 2/17/14, 1/6/14, 10/7/13, 9/6/13, 9/3/13, 8/5/13, 10/15/12, 5/21/12, 4/16/12, 2/25/12, 9/6/11, 3/7/11, 2/1/10, 5/4/09, 4/20/09, 4/6/09, 6/15/09, 3/16/09 (20 sets)

The Mayor and City Council considered setting a City Council Planning and Priority Session for some time in January to begin working on collective goals and priorities by reviewing the various City plans. These plans include the Downtown Master Plan, Bike Plan, Pedestrian Plan, Safe Routes to School Plan, Parks and Recreation

Master Plan, Economic Development Plan, and the list of goals and objectives from the planning session the City Council held last February.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Whitley, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved an adjourned session for Tuesday, January 6 at 6:30 pm to begin working on collective goals and priorities by reviewing the various City plans.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed a draft letter to First Lutheran Church pursuant to City Council's request drafted by the City Manager. It was consensus of City Council to approve and each member signed the letter.

The Mayor and City Council considered attendance at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast on Saturday, January 17 at the EE Waddell Community Center. Everyone confirmed their attendance.

The Mayor and City Council discussed attendance at the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference to be held in Washington, D.C, from March 7-11, 2015. The purpose of this meeting is to focus on federal legislative issues affecting cities, and to provide an opportunity for municipal officials to interact with their Congressional representatives.

Councilmember Hall will register by Friday, December 19 to get her discount. All other Councilmembers will need to register before January 30, 2015 for the early bird registration.

The Mayor and City Council were reminded of the 2014 Employee Christmas Luncheon from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the EE Waddell Community Center. Members of City Council are invited to help serve during part of this time if your schedules permit. City employees will also be collecting non perishable food donations for Stanly Community Christian Ministries prior to and at the event.

The Mayor and City Council were reminded that the City Offices will be closed on December 24-26 in observance of the Christmas Holidays and closed on Thursday, January 1, 2015 for the New Year Holiday.

Councilmember Hall stated that Mayor Michael, Assistant City Manager Michael Ferris, and she attended the NCLM Advocacy Goals Conference in Raleigh on December 11 and it was very interesting. She said that they participated in the process of narrowing the top legislative goals from 40 down to 25.

Councilmember Whitley wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilmember Dry asked that Parks and Recreation Director Toby Thorpe come before Council concerning the fundraising for the proposed Wiscasset project.

Mr. Thorpe came forward and stated that there 10 volunteers in the fundraising group with a goal to raise funds for the proposed Wiscasset facility. They are identifying needs and the group hopes to attend a City Council meeting in January to discuss and further identify those needs.

Councilmember Dry stated that the fundraising group will present a marketing program to Council in January. They will be forming a Parks Foundation so people soliciting sponsorships will be able to tell donors they can count as a deductible expense.

Upon questioning, Councilmember Alexander noted that the City of Albemarle is 100% tax deductible.

Mayor Michael stated that this meeting was difficult this evening due to the retirement of Raymond Allen as City Manager.

Mr. Allen stated that he is appreciative of City Council's presentations and reception held this afternoon and evening. He also thanked the City employees for their participation in preparation of the reception.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Whitley, seconded by Councilmember Dry and unanimously carried, the City Council adjourned to a closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) 6 to discuss personnel matters.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Alexander and unanimously carried, the City Council reconvened to open session. Mayor Michael announced that a closed session was held pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) 6 to discuss personnel matters and there was nothing to disclose at this time.

Finance Director Colleen Conroy noted that she had checked the Powell Bill reserve funds and found there are not sufficient funds to appropriate to cover the City's share of the Leonard Avenue and US Highway 52 sidewalk projects.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Alexander the City Council unanimously amended Ordinance 14-42 to provide the City's share of the project be allocated from both Powell Bill and General Fund Fund Balance accounts:

(Ordinance 14-42 – To appropriate Powell Bill reserves and General Fund Fund Balance for City's share of the Leonard Avenue and US Highway 52 sidewalk projects.)

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hughes and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned to January 5, 2015.