

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL

January 22, 2014

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Wednesday, January 22, 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, Benton Dry II, Martha Sue Hall, Martha E. Hughes, Dexter Townsend, and Christopher Whitley. Absent, none.

Mayor Michael called the meeting to order.

The Mayor and City Council presented the following City Retirement Certificates:

Michael E. Lambert, Department of Public Works – 29.25 years
Danny L. Scarboro, Department of Public Housing – 33.33 years

The Mayor and City Council presented the following North Carolina League of Municipalities Retirement Resolutions:

Richard L. Morris, Department of Public Works- 6 years
James L. Blalock, Police Department- 11 years
Michael E. Lambert, Department of Public Works- 29 years
Michael K. Bunting, Department of Public Utilities- 32 years
Garry M. Lewis, Department of Public Housing- 35 years

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Alexander and unanimously carried, the minutes of

the January 6 regular session, January 6 closed session, and January 15 adjourned session minutes were approved as submitted.

A public hearing to consider a map amendment to rezone 2817 US Hwy 52 North from GHBD to R-O/Residential Office was postponed until the March 3, 2014 meeting. This public hearing was held over from the December 16, 2013 meeting.

Mayor Michael stated that he had spoken with the owner and they are still cleaning up the property and asked that the public hearing be continued until the Monday, March 3, 2014 meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council decided to delay this public hearing until Monday, March 3, 2014.

Mayor Michael stated that item 8 on the agenda, Mr. Tom Hearne, 402 Woodcrest Lane to discuss residential solar photovoltaic project will be discussed at a later Council meeting.

Mayor Michael stated that there will be a closed session to discuss economic development at the end of the meeting this evening

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Dry, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the agenda adjustments.

Mr. Ronnie Wade and Commander Michael Stubbs with the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), Chapter 634 came before Council to request consideration in joining fellow towns in Stanly County to be a Purple

Heart City. Commander Stubbs is asking Council to join other cities in becoming a "Purple Heart City" and to adopt a proclamation.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Alexander and unanimously carried, the City Council approved becoming a purple heart city and adopting the proclamation as presented.

(Proclamation)

Mr. Mike Macomson, 32108 Austin Road came before City Council to request consideration of Urban Archery Season for Deer inside the City Limits. Mr. Macomson contacted Assistant City Manager Michael Ferris with this request. Mr. Macomson has also been in contact with Ken Knight, Supervising Wildlife Biologist with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. Council received an email from Mr. Knight along with information about Urban Archery Season.

It was noted that if Council would like to allow UAS inside the City limits, the City would first need to change its Ordinance dealing with the use of bow and arrows inside the City limits.

Mr. Mike Macomson and Mr. Knight answered any questions that Council had.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Dry and unanimously carried, the City Council approved setting a public hearing for Monday, March 3, to draft an ordinance pertaining to regular deer season and urban archery season (January 1 – February 5) for deer inside the City Limits, the City Manager to send a letter to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, and any restrictions or recommendations from the City Manager and Police Chief.

Mr. Cavin Holbrook with Holbrook Realty came before City Council to discuss proposed apartment complex on Leonard Avenue extension.

Mr. Holbrook stated that this is a proposed apartment complex of 64 units a request to reconsider a two lane not a four lane in compliance with the Uniform Traffic Control Code.

Mayor Michael is asking that staff consider a two lane road in compliance with the Uniform Traffic Control Code, sidewalks, and curb and gutter. If the City decides to annex this property, we would want the full length of the property (500') paved in front of the complex with a sidewalk, curb and gutter.

Mr. Holbrook stated that the developer does want to be annexed by the City for utilities, police and fire protection. The map depicts half (250') to be paved and the other half (250') to be a future road.

Upon questioning, Mr. Holbrook stated that a four lane requirement would be a deal killer with the developer.

Mayor Michael recommends that they build a road 24' wide with sidewalk, curb and gutter and for the developer to give the City a 4 lane ROW through their property line and to make a T not curve in road.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the developer having a two lane paved road to make a T not curve in the road, sidewalk, curb, and gutter and to follow the Uniform Traffic Control Code, to give the City a 4 lane ROW through their property line, and the City will consider annexing the property.

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

The Mayor and City Council considered a resolution for the Morehead Capital Improvement (contingent upon PARTF Funding). It was noted that this resolution commits the City to providing a 50% match should the Morehead Park PARTF grant be funded. In order for Albemarle to gain three (3) additional points on the PARTF application for Morehead Park, a CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) item must have been adopted by the local government for the proposed improvements. In the absence of an adopted citywide CIP, a resolution committing to funding the project contingent upon grant funding is acceptable.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Hughes and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a resolution for the Morehead Capital Improvement (contingent upon PARTF Funding).

The Mayor and City Council considered an appointment for the City Council District 3 Vacancy.

The Mayor stated that the City originally had eight applications, 6 candidates answered the email questionnaire, and 6 candidates came before Council for a presentation of why they would like to represent District 3 as a Councilmember. The six candidates were as follows:

Bill Aldridge
Rudolph Cranford, Jr.
G. Edward McDaniel
Debra Morgan
George White
Keith Wolf

The candidates below applied but did not respond to the questionnaire or presentation:

Tammie Rabon-Hudson
Catherin Kolk

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the City Council appointed Bill Aldridge to fill the unexpired term for the District 3 seat on City Council.

Mr. Aldridge will be sworn in on Monday, February 3.

Mayor Michael thanked all the candidates interest in serving the City of Albemarle.

The Mayor and City Council considered Bid 14-03 for construction of the Central Avenue Electric Delivery Point. Council received a copy of the bid tabulation, letter of recommendation from Southeastern, and HUB memo from Purchasing Coordinator Linda Lewis. Southeastern is recommending award to the low bidder, Sumter Utilities in the amount of \$357,935.23.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Dry and unanimously carried, the City Council awarded Sumter Utilities with the construction of the Central Avenue Electric Delivery Point in the amount of \$357,935.23.

(Bid 14-03 Tabulation)

The Mayor and City Council considered approval of the most recent Municipal Records Retention and Disposition Schedule and Amendment. This schedule is established by the State to regulate how long certain records must be kept and in what manner they may be disposed. The State has amended and added to the Municipal Records Retention and Disposal Schedule as of September 12, 2012. The City's last adoption of the retention and disposal schedule was made at the July 7, 2009 Council meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the September 12, 2012 Municipal Records Retention and Disposal Schedule.

The Mayor and City Council considered approval of the 2014 Governor's Crime Commission Grant Application. It was noted that this is for the Albemarle Police Department to apply for the 2014 Governor's Crime Commission Gang Grant Initiative award. Albemarle Police received this award with a 25% match requirement in the 2013 grant cycle. This grant was used to hire a Community Coordinator who began her duties in September of 2012. The Police Chief has advised that she has been a huge asset to the department in developing community relations throughout the City of Albemarle and Stanly County. If authorized, the Police Department will be seeking a similar grant award of approximately \$63,000.00 with an approximate \$15,000.00 match. A copy of the grant application is attached.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hughes and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the 2014 Governor's Crime Commission Grant Application award of approximately \$63,000.00 with an approximate \$15,000.00 match.

Chief Halliburton stated that the next Call-In is scheduled for Monday, April 7 and Council will receive information concerning this by email.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed the annual City Council trustee appointment to the Fire Department. It was noted that each January the fire department is required to have City Council appoint a member of the fire district to the Firefighter's Relief Fund board. City Council appointed former Councilmember Judy Holcomb to a two year term to the board in January 2012, her term expires this month. Therefore, the fire department relief fund is in need of a new two year appointment by City Council. The appointed member is not required to be on City Council.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Dry and unanimously carried, the City Council appointed Councilmember Townsend to the Firefighter's Relief Fund Board for a two year term expiring, January 2014.

The Mayor and City Council considered approval of a firm to conduct a joint Albemarle - Stanly County Branding Initiative. The County Manager Andy Lucas and City Manager Raymond Allen recommend the selection of North Star Destination Strategies for this project. This is because as a former textile/apparel community the City has struggled with how to identify and market ourselves to the outside world. The County was also interested in this, so a joint RFP was issued for this service, which provides a discount since there is overlap in much of the research and other work to develop this.

The City Manager noted that we received eight very good proposals, and interviewed two firms we thought had the best proposals with reasonable cost. The costs ranged from a low of \$45,550 to a high of \$150,000. Northstar, the recommended firm, was in the middle of the cost range at a cost of \$82,000. The City's share of the cost will be \$41,000 which is budgeted for this year. They have completed work for several jurisdictions in North Carolina. They have an excellent

reputation, and the references we checked were excellent, including Hickory and Catawba County and New Bern.

The City Manager noted that the Economic Development Task Force appointed by the City Council last year had as its number one recommendation conducting a branding initiative.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved North Star to conduct a joint Albemarle-Stanly County branding initiative costing the City \$41,000 for their share.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed the 2014-2015 budget preparation schedule. Outside of regular City Council meetings, the dates that involve City Council are the evenings of February 19-20, February 26-27, and May 7-8. The Mayor has already obtained approval of the times of 5 pm to 9 pm for the retreat on February 19-20 since these will take a full four hours.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Dry and unanimously carried, the City Council approved starting the budget meetings on February 26-27 and May 7-8 at 6 pm.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed plans for the 2014 Sprucing Up – Clean Up Week. The Community Appearance Commission has been planning this event and is presenting their recommendations to Council. It was noted that a new proposal is for a contest to encourage more participation from individual citizens and groups by the Appearance Commission. At the joint meeting with the Planning Board and ZBA some members of Council expressed concerns about the difficulty of having and judging this contest and suggested that

the Commission consider some other type of recognition such as a cookout to which all clean up participants would be invited.

Mayor Michael asked that the Community Appearance Commission discuss this again at their February meeting and come back before Council with more specific information on the awards at the February 17, 2014 meeting.

The Mayor and City Council discussed appointment to fill the expiring term of John McIntyre on the Albemarle ABC Board which expires on March 16, 2014.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Whitley and unanimously carried, the City Council reappointed John McIntyre to a second term on the Albemarle ABC Board which expires on March 16, 2017.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed information regarding a community video program. It was noted that this is a program endorsed by the National League of Cities and US Conference of Mayors that provides videos about communities to link to town websites. The City Manager noted that there is no charge to the City and the company that does the videos sells sponsorships to local businesses to pay for this. The City Manager was contacted by the company that does this to see if Albemarle wanted to participate this year.

Upon questioning, the City Manager stated that the branding process is a 2-3 month process and if we do not consider a community video program this year, we can consider doing this next year with this company. The City Manager was asked to get a confirmation in writing from this company that we can hold off a year if need to, if not, to go ahead and do the community video this year so as to not lose out on this opportunity.

The Mayor and City Council considered written comments to the NC Department of Transportation for transportation project priorities. NCDOT is seeking input from the public regarding recommendations for transportation projects by conducting a public input process for transportation project priorities.

The City Manager noted that this is an opportunity to provide input through the Rocky River RPO, but this is an additional opportunity that Mayor Michael and Councilmember Hall who are the City's RRRPO TAC representatives recommend we also utilize. In terms of major projects that could benefit the City, the two most important are the widening of NC 24-27 from Albemarle to the Pee Dee River, and the widening and relocation of US Highway 52 north of NC 49 including a bypass around Pfeiffer University. Other projects that have some benefit as well include the two programmed widening projects on NC 49 in Cabarrus and Stanly counties.

It was the consensus of Mayor and Council to proceed with the three priority recommendations stated and the City Manager to provide this priority recommendations to the Rocky River RPO for those NCDOT project items.

The Mayor and City Council received information concerning the City receiving a \$300,000 grant from ElectriCities of North Carolina. The City Manager noted that this grant is to reimburse the City for part of the costs for the upgrade of the Brooks Street substation from 4KV to 24KV. Because of the cost and the number of circuits involved, this has been a long term effort. Since 2010, the City has applied for and received 5 grants from this program, totaling \$425,960. This is more than any of the other 18 members of NCMAPA#1 has received. The City Manager commended Interim Public Utilities

Director Judy Redwine and the Public Utilities Department for their aggressiveness in pursuing these grants.

Councilmember Hughes thanked the Police Department for all that they do.

Councilmember Hughes welcomed Bill Aldridge, the new District 3 Councilmember.

Councilmember Townsend thanked everyone involved in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast.

Councilmember Townsend also welcomed Bill Aldridge, the new District 3 Councilmember.

Councilmember Alexander asked when a decision would be made on the new Economic Development Director for the City. The City Manager stated that there were 20 applications and they would narrow those down to attend the assessment center in February.

Councilmember Dry also welcomed Bill Aldridge, the new District 3 Councilmember.

Councilmember Dry thanked the Police Department for all that they do and mentioned a recent incident he had and how impressed he was with such a quick response.

Councilmember Whitley also welcomed Bill Aldridge, the new District 3 Councilmember.

Councilmember Hall congratulated Nina Underwood on her promotion as the new Public Works Director.

Councilmember Hall also welcomed Bill Aldridge, the new District 3 Councilmember.

Councilmember Hall stated that she had placed information on the dais for each Councilmember for understanding of what Centralina Council of Governments (COG) duties are and what they can do.

Councilmember Hall reminded everyone of the RPO TCC meeting in January and for Council to consider a new appointment and alternate. Their next meeting is the 3rd Thursday in March.

Councilmember Hall stated that she is thrilled the City is becoming a Purple Heart City.

Councilmember Hall stated that the Stanly County Habitat for Humanity BBQ is on February 27, same night of the Planning Board meeting.

The Mayor stated that the Stanly County government will also send a letter to the State legislation delegation regarding the SEI requirement due to its reporting requirements for family members.

Finance Director Colleen Conroy came before Council as a resident not an employee representing the deer asking not to allow having bows and crossbows in our neighborhoods.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Alexander and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Council adjourned to a Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11(a) 4 to discuss economic development.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Council reconvened to open session. Mayor Michael announced that a closed session was held pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11(a) 4 to discuss economic development and there is nothing to report at this time.

Mayor Michael asked that Council allow Mr. Bill Aldridge coming in as District 3 Councilmember to continue his police reserve duties and not lose his certification and be able to continue his yearly educational requirements and anyone else in this position by changing the City policy. He has worked in the reserves for 15-18 years as a volunteer.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Dry and unanimously carried, the Council approved allowing Councilmember Aldridge coming in as the district 3 representative, to continue his police reserve duties and not lose his certification and be able to continue his yearly educational requirements and anyone else in this position by changing the City policy.

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