

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL  
March 4, 2013

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, March 4, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall. Mayor Elbert L. “Whit” Whitley, Jr. presided, and the following Councilmembers were present, to-wit: Troy E. Alexander, Martha Sue Hall, Judy U. Holcomb, Ronnie Michael, Jack F. Neel, Dexter Townsend, and T. Ed Underwood. Absent, none.

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The Mayor delivered the invocation.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Underwood, and unanimously carried, the minutes of February 18 regular session and was approved as submitted.

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Mr. Randy Honeycutt came before City Council as an unannounced delegation concerning the pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection of Efird Street and US Hwy. 52 in Albemarle. He stated that he had contacted one of NCDOT’s traffic engineers at Division 10 about this issue and how dangerous and unsafe this crossing is. He mentioned viewing people as they cross there, especially if they were in wheelchairs. He also said he had contacted Raleigh and they are going to send someone to physically observe and do an analysis of this crosswalk.

Mr. Honeycutt told Council he will be glad to get a copy to Council. Mayor Whitley thanked Mr. Honeycutt for bringing this item before Council and that the City Manager will also be contacting NCDOT on this matter.

Councilmember Michael stated that at one of the RPO meetings, NCDOT had stated they are beginning to design medians in the center where someone can walk half way across and stop before continuing to the other side of the road.

Councilmember Hall thanked Mr. Honeycutt for contacting NCDOT on this issue and thanked him for his concern. She asked Mr. Honeycutt send his information to the City Manager.

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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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Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the following Ordinances passed second reading and were duly adopted:

(Ordinance 13-06. To transfer \$25,000 from the Plants Division to the of W/S Department to replace a part on the jet-vac truck.)

(Ordinance 13-07. To adjust the underestimation of the City's share of the grant which will come from the Police operating budget and will be transferred to this Grant Project Budget.)

(Ordinance 13-08. A budget amendment correcting amounts originally budgeted for the Police Department's Technology Grant from the Governor's Crime Commission.)

(Ordinance 13-09. The Engineer's preliminary estimates for the Inflow and Infiltration project of the sanitary sewer rehabilitation phase one.)

(Ordinance 13-10. A Capital Project Budget Ordinance relating to the Old Whitney Rehabilitation project.)

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The Mayor and City Council were reminded that the updates to the Code of Ordinances are now available for Councilmembers who have not brought their books in.

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The Mayor and City Council considered bids for the site clearing for the new electric delivery point for site grading and clearing at the Central Avenue to GS Development Corporation per recommendation from Southeastern

Consulting Engineers, Inc. The base bid of Carpenter Construction is slightly lower, but the cost of rock excavation is much higher with the potential for a much higher contract price, therefore, recommending the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest bidder, G.S. Development Corporation.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Michael, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved GS Development Corporation per recommendation from Southeastern Consulting Engineers, Inc. for the site clearing for the new delivery point for site grading and clearing, at the Central Avenue.

(Bid Tabulation)

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The Mayor and City Council considered declaring the biosolids (sludge) dryer surplus at the Long Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Councilmember Michael asked that this be held over until Council reviews the Biosolids Study for our WWTP which will be complete in June of this year.

Public Utilities Director Ellen Huntley read an email from Ben Clawson with Municipal Engineering on his analysis of why the dryer is not cost effective to bring back into service. Ms. Huntley stated that there were maintenance staff and operator negative issues on using the dryer. There was lint found within the wastewater which causes blockages on the dryer. The dryer is very large and we would have a very hard time moving it and there is no where to place it in storage.

Council also received a memo from Ms. Huntley stating that in 2003 the City completed a project for handling solids at the WWTP which included a centrifuge, dryer, and a new building. At that time natural gas was extremely high and the plant eventually stopped using the facility and began only land applying the sludge. The City was stopped in 2009 from land applying sludge by NCDENR. From that time until now it has been hauled from the WWTP to a facility in Cabarrus County and the City pays a tipping to them and they incinerate it.

Municipal Engineering is currently doing a Biosolids Study for our WWTP which will be complete in June of this year. It has been found that we can add polymer to the sludge and use the centrifuge to produce a dry enough cake

that we can haul to the landfill and dispose there. By being able to use the centrifuge will help to reduce the sludge handling costs but the dryer will have to be moved before we can use the centrifuge. Ms. Huntley is recommending that the City declare the dryer surplus and look at options for its sale and removal.

Ms. Huntley answered any questions that Council had.

Councilmember Holcomb moved that Council approve the biosolids (sludge) dryer surplus at the Long Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. Councilmember Alexander seconded the motion. Voting for the motion were Councilmembers Alexander, Holcomb, Neel, and Underwood. Voting against the motion were Councilmembers Hall, Michael, and Townsend. The motion carried.

(surplus)

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, an Ordinance entitled (Ordinance 13-11) "ORDINANCE 13-11, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE, NORTH CAROLINA, ADOPTING A CAPITAL PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE US52 WATER TREATMENT PLANT REHABILILTATIONPROJECT " passed first reading.

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The Mayor and City Council considered a street closure for the Mini-Medley Relay Race scheduled for Saturday, 3-23-2013 at Central Elementary School. This event will utilize North Third Street, North Fourth Street, East Cannon Avenue, and West North Street on its one-mile loop route. The Department has been sponsoring this youth event for over 25 years.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Holcomb and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a street closure for the Mini-Medley Relay Race scheduled for Saturday, 3-23-2013 at Central Elementary School, using North Third Street, North Fourth Street, East Cannon Avenue, and West North Street on its one-mile loop route.

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The Mayor and City Council reviewed and signed a draft letter in support of the Marketplace Fairness Act of 2013 that per City Council's request at

the February 18 Council meeting, the City Manager drafted for Senators Hagan and Burr and Congressman Hudson.

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The Mayor and City Council considered attendance at the 18th Annual YMCA Prayer Breakfast on Wednesday, March 27 at 6:30 am at the Family & Education Center at SRMC. Councilmembers Hall, Michael, Neel, Underwood and Alexander affirmed their attendance.

The City Manager stated that he will have a van at City Hall at 8:30 am for everyone to ride together to Town Hall Day in Raleigh after the YMCA Prayer Breakfast.

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Councilmember Townsend stated that a couple of meetings back there was discussion of a joint meeting with the Stanly County Economic Development Commission. He asked if there was any new information on this and the Mayor stated that there was no new information on this at this time.

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Councilmember Hall stated that Centralina Council of Governments awards the Region of Excellence awards. She stated that governments are encouraged to nominate innovative projects from their jurisdictions which have contributed to significant and positive advancements in the area. She asked that the City's department heads think about what the City may have done this past year and let her know. The due date is April 19, 2013.

Councilmember Hall asked the City Manager if he had any indication of effects from the sequester last Friday, March 1. The City Manager stated that he had not seen any at this point. He stated that the federal Safer Grant will not be threatened by this.

Councilmember Hall stated that she would like to continue discussion of leaving the downtown tree lights on. She asked for a report on the cost per day to do this. The City Manager stated that he has information from Public Utilities and Public Works with a best estimate of \$2.59/day to leave them on from 4-11pm which is around \$.37/Hour to run.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Michael and unanimously carried, the City Council approved leaving the downtown trees lighted from the time change in November until May 1 each year from dusk until 10 pm each evening.

Councilmember Hall thanked Public Utilities Director Ellen Huntley for the NC Water and Wastewater Rates Dashboard given to Council.

The City Manager stated that Ms. Huntley provided copies of the City's Cross-Connection Ordinance and information of the guidelines of Cross-Connection from NCDENR.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Council adjourned to a Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11(a) 5 to discuss real estate transactions.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Council reconvened to open session. Mayor Whitley announced that a Closed Session was held pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11(a) 5 to discuss real estate transactions and stated there is nothing to report at this time.

Councilmember Michael stated that Council needs budget information of the Stanly County Economic Development to move forward.

Mayor Whitley stated that he will see Commissioner Gene McIntyre on Thursday of this week and will inquire of this.

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