

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL
January 16, 2018

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Ronnie Michael presided, and the following Councilmembers were present, to-wit: Mayor Pro Tem Martha Sue Hall, Bill Aldridge, Chris Bramlett, Benton H. Dry II, Martha E. Hughes, Dexter Townsend and Chris Whitley. Absent, none.

Mayor Michael called the meeting to order.

Special Presentations

Presentation of NC League of Municipalities Retirement Certificates

William R Hopkins	Water Treatment Plant Operator I, II	16 Y
Grover M Cook	Elec Line Tech I,II,III, Elec Line Supervisor, Elect Distribution Supervisor	30 Y 5 M
P. Allen Thompson	Laborer II, Equipment Oper I, Elec Line Tech I, II, Underground Tech Underground Supervisor	31 Y 1M
Toby D Thorpe	Parks & Rec Program Supv, Supt Rec, Dr of Parks & Rec	26Y 2 M
Michael L Mullis	Utility Mech, Plant Maint Mechanic	6Y 3 M
Douglas F Blalock	Auto Mech, Auto Mech Supt.	31 Y 11 M
Michael D Devlin	System Analyst, Sr, System Specialist	8 Y 4 M
Jeffrey L Dick	Water Plt Oper I, II, III, Chief Water Plt Oper, Treatment Plt Supv.	25 Y 3 M
Charles D May	Firefighter I, II, III, Fire Captain	28 Y 5 M
Mark S Efird	Elec Line Tec I, Laborer II, Utility Maint. Worker II	11 Y 9 M

Presentation of City of Albemarle Retirement Certificates

Kim Burleson - Retired after 15.34 years of service to the City. Was serving as a Utility Maintenance Crew Leader in the Public Utilities Department upon his retirement.

Sandy Burris - Retired after 16.59 years of service to the City. Was serving as Finance Accounting Specialist upon her retirement.

Roger Morton - Retired after 26.50 years of service to the City. Was serving as a Fire Engineer upon his retirement.

Wayne Rummage - Retired after 25.09 years of service to the City. Was serving as Electric Meter & Substation Crew Leader in the Public Utilities Department upon his retirement.

Charles Burris - Retired after 38.17 years of service to the City. Was serving as Electric Distribution Superintendent in the Public Utilities Department upon his retirement.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the December 18, 2017 regular session and January 9, 2018 adjourned session minutes were approved as submitted.

Agenda adjustment

1. **Unannounced Delegation** – Mitchell Cook concerning Urban Archery Ordinance
2. **Mayor/Council Comment Section** - Proposed Summer schedule

Announced delegation

Ms. Ellen Lambert came before Council to discuss the opioid crisis and request a resolution be adopted. She stated the major concerns of the opioid abuse problem with doctors now checking the prescription database before they prescribe opioids to patients. Ms. Lambert spoke with Council about the NC Harm Reduction Self Surrender Act of 2018 and the harm reduction program which includes the syringe exchange program, the community based overdose protection project, law enforcement, education, fair chance hiring, and harm reduction.

She stated that new provisions need to be in place to aid in allowing the addict to surrender to a law enforcement officer in exchange for mandatory treatment, without the addicted citizen fearing incarceration. This would enable the law enforcement officers and addicted citizens with the option that is a compromise to the addict and the State.

City Council reviewed the NC Harm Reduction Self Surrender Act and a copy of a proposed resolution that she asked City Council to support.

Ms. Lambert answered any questions that Council had.

Mayor Michael stated that Senator McInnis is helping sponsor the Strengthen Opioid Misuse Prevention (STOP) Act and we need to look further into this before making a decision.

Councilmember Hall stated that Jennifer Layton, health education specialist for the Stanly County Department of Health, is leading a group concerning this issue.

Councilmember Dry thanked Ms. Lambert for taking a proactive approach to this problem.

This will be researched further before Council makes a decision on supporting a resolution.

Mayor Michael thanked Ms. Lambert for coming.

Mr. Mitchell Cook, Nelson Mountain Road, came before Council as an unannounced delegation to request Council to review the urban archery ordinance that presently only allows for areas of consent (hunting areas) greater than five (5) acres in area and may be comprised of contiguous parcels or tracts. He asked if Council would consider lowering the acreage to one acre because most residential owners within the City limits of Albemarle do not own 5 acre tracts.

Councilmember Hall asked that staff contact our local wildlife representative with this acreage question. Councilmember Aldridge asked that staff check to see what the acreage requirements are for counties/cities around us.

Mayor Michael asked the City Manager to contact our local wildlife representative and report back to Council.

The Mayor and City Council received a copy of the December Monthly Departmental Reports and asked if anyone had any questions.

The Mayor and City Council received a copy of the municipal calendar for January – April 2018.

New business

1) Consider the Request of Piedmont Natural Gas for Gas Main Extensions

Kathy Faircloth, Distribution Project Specialist and Jimmy Bowen, Executive Chef and General Manager with Piedmont Natural Gas came before Council to request extension requests for the replacement of existing lines. It was noted that the replacement of existing lines does not need Council approval as these are required to meet City standards and their requests are review by City staff. The request for an extension of line into a new area requires Council approval. PNG is seeking approval for the extension of service line on a portion of Henson Street, Groves Street and Amhurst Street. They are also requesting an extension on Yadkin Street between North Third Street and North Second Street. Both extension requests will connect existing sections of line.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved gas main extensions on a portion of Henson Street, Groves Street, Amhurst Street, and requesting an extension on Yadkin Street between North Third Street and North Second Street.

2) Consider Recommendation for Firm for Design Services for the Albemarle Corporate Center

Economic Development Director Mark Donham developed an RFQ to solicit proposals from interested firms for the design of the Albemarle Corporate Center. It was noted that the work will be to design the extension of infrastructure to and within the property. The plans will also allow the City to take a phased approached to development. Mr. Donham, along with Public Works Director Ross Holshouser and Public Utilities Director Mike Leonas, formed a committee to evaluate the proposals. Public Works and Public Utilities are the Departments that will be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the infrastructure installed. The Committee made a recommendation of the top firm and the two runner ups.

Top 3 Firms:

Chambers Engineering – Stephen Chambers
Burton Engineering – Carlton Burton
Timmons Group – Michael Solomon

The firm recommended was Chambers Engineering, LLC in Albemarle, NC.

Councilmember Bramlett made a motion to recommend Chambers Engineering, LLC as the firm to negotiate price and contract stipulations for design services of the Albemarle Corporate Center. Councilmember Dry seconded the motion. Voting for the motion were Councilmembers Aldridge, Bramlett, Dry, Hall, Hughes, and Whitley. Voting against the motion was Councilmember Townsend. The motion carried 6-1.

3) Consideration of Special Event Permit - Albemarle Parks & Recreation Mini Medley Relay

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a special event permit for Albemarle Parks and Recreation mini-medley relay in Albemarle on March 17 from 7:30 – 12:30 pm with street closings as follows:

3rd from North to E Cannon
4th from North to E Cannon
North St between 3rd and 4th Streets
East Cannon between 3rd and 4th Streets
Montgomery Ave between 3rd and 4th Streets

4) Introduction of Ross Holshouser as New Public Works Director

Mr. Holshouser was appointed to succeed Nina Underwood as Public Works Director. The City Manager stated that the City received applications and narrowed down applicants to participate in the assessment process and Mr. Holshouser was chosen.

Mr. Holshouser came before Council and thanked them for the opportunity and the City Manager's confidence in him to perform the job. He stated that he is excited about this opportunity and if Council needs anything or has a question to feel free to call, text, or email him.

5) Consider Designation of an Alternate to the Rocky River RPO Technical Coordinating Committee

The City Manager is the current delegate to the Rocky River RPO TCC and Nina Underwood served as the alternate for the last few years. With Nina's retirement, the City Manager recommended that Public Works Director Ross Holshouser be appointed to serve as the alternate delegate to the Rocky River RPO TCC.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Bramlett, and unanimously carried, the City Council appointed Public Works Director Ross Holshouser to serve as the alternate delegate to the Rocky River RPO TCC.

6) Consider Setting a Date for Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for the Renovations at the EE Waddell Center Gymnasium

Tentative plans are to hold the ceremony around 11:00 or 12:00. If City Council will select one of the dates, we will move forward with the event planning and confirm the day and time with the Albemarle Rotary.

- Friday, February 23
- Friday, March 2
- Friday, March 9
- Friday, March 23

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved Friday, February 23, 2018 as the date to hold the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for the Renovations at the EE Waddell Center Gymnasium around 11:00 am or 12:00 pm. The City Manager said he would notify the Rotary about this event and Parks and Recreation will be finalizing the time and providing invitations.

Mayor Michael stated that he had emailed each Councilmember with a proposed summer schedule meeting only one time during these months as follows: June 11, July 9, and August 6 at 6 pm. We would then go back to our normal schedule of two meetings each month starting in September on the 4th and 17 at 7 pm.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Bramlett, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the following summer meeting schedule for regular session:

June 11, July 9, and August 6 at 6 pm, then returning to our normal regular session schedule of two meetings each month starting in September on the 4th and 17 at 7 pm.

Mayor Michael thanked all City staff crew members involved during the deep freeze temperatures repairing water main breaks, etc.

Councilmember Townsend thanked everyone for attending the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast on Saturday, January 13. He stated the turnout was great.

Councilmember Townsend asked if there were statistics of the number of residential households taking advantage of the recycling. The City Manager stated that he will speak with Waste Management to see if they have recorded this.

Councilmember Hughes thanked all City staff crew members involved during the deep freeze temperatures repairing water main breaks, etc.

Councilmember Hall thanked everyone for attending the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast on Saturday, January 13 and attendance was great. She also thanked Councilmember Dexter Townsend for all his time and efforts on the Dr. MLK, Jr. breakfast and for recognizing the Rotary Club for donating money for the gym floor at the EE Waddell Community Center.

Councilmember Hall thanked all City staff crew members involved during the deep freeze temperatures repairing water main breaks, etc.

Councilmember Hall thanked the fire department and the police department for all their hard work.

Councilmember Dry thanked all City staff crew members involved during the deep freeze temperatures repairing water main breaks, etc. and Councilmember Townsend for his hard work with the Dr. MLK, Jr. breakfast.

Councilmember Whitley thanked all City staff crew members involved during the deep freeze temperatures repairing water main breaks, etc. and the fire and police department staff for all their hard work. He also thanked Councilmember Townsend for his hard work with the Dr. MLK, Jr. breakfast.

Councilmember Bramlett thanked all City staff crew members involved during the deep freeze temperatures repairing water main breaks, etc. and the fire and police department staff for all their hard work. He also thanked Councilmember Townsend for his hard work with the Dr. MLK, Jr. breakfast.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Whitley, and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Council adjourned to a Closed Session Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3)(4)- To consult with City Attorney, Economic Development and (a)(1) to Prevent Disclosure of Confidential Information.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hughes, 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)(3)(4)- To consult with City Attorney, Economic Development and (a)(1) to Prevent Disclosure of Confidential Information and there is nothing to report at this time.

Mayor Michael gave an update of the meeting with the City grant writers and the Dept. of Commerce.

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