

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL
September 3, 2013

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Tuesday, September 3, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall. Mayor Elbert L. "Whit" Whitley 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.

Mayor Whitley called the meeting to order.

The Mayor and City Council were presented with the Municipal Electric Safety Award from ElectriCities of North Carolina by Mr. David Young with ElectriCities. This award recognizes no lost work days in the City Electric Division for 2012.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the minutes of the August 19 regular session and August 19 closed session minutes were approved as submitted.

Mr. Kathy Almond, Director, Albemarle Downtown Development Corporation came before Council to present the ADDC FY 2012-2013 Fiscal Year report, along with a street closing request for the Albemarle Parade on Monday, December 9. Ms. Almond has been selected as the replacement for Tom Ramseur as the Chamber of Commerce CEO. Her last day with the ADDC will be on September 13.

Mayor Whitley stated that Ms. Almond has done a fantastic job as Director of the ADDC and we will definitely miss her. She will be President of the Chamber of Commerce and we wish her well.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the street closing on Monday, December 9 for the Albemarle Christmas Parade from 4-7 pm. The parade route will begin at the YMCA on North First Street traveling south; turning left on

W. South Street; turning left on South Second Street; traveling north on Second Street to the end at the YMCA Park.

The Reverend Ron Horner, Pee Dee Regional Prayer Initiative came before Council to request a rolling street closing for a prayer walk event on Saturday, September 21 between 9-12 noon downtown. They will be starting at Stanly Commons and stop outside the YMCA briefly, outside City of Albemarle City Hall briefly, and outside the Stanly County Courthouse. Reverend Horner stated that NCDOT has signed off on this for the street closing.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a rolling street closing for a prayer walk event on Saturday, September 21 between 9-12 noon downtown for the Pee Dee Regional Prayer Initiative.

The Reverend James Bernacki, Christ Episcopal Church, came before City Council to request permission to offer communion at the World Communion Sunday service at Courthouse Square Park on Sunday, October 6.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the City Council approved permission to offer communion at the World Communion Sunday service at Courthouse Square Park on Sunday, October 6 at 4pm allowing the use of grape juice and wine during communion.

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

The Mayor and City Council considered a resolution honoring the service of Ellis Hankins to the NC League of Municipalities.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Neel and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a resolution honoring the service of Ellis Hankins to the NC League of Municipalities.

The Mayor and City Council considered a resolution honoring the service of Bishop James Richardson, Saints Delight Church.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Michael, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a resolution honoring the service of Bishop James Richardson, Saints Delight Church.

The Mayor and City Council considered approval of a 2.43 acre one lot subdivision at 206 North Third Street (Tax Record 28274) which would create a new lot for the old school buildings so that the school board can sell the property in the future. The new property line will allow a ten foot side setback for the existing building and the plat will meet the current subdivision regulations. The Planning Board recommended approval of this request at their meeting on Tuesday, August 27.

Stanly County School Board Attorney Mark Lowder was present and answered any questions that Council had.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Michael, seconded by Councilmember Alexander and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a 2.43 acre one lot subdivision at 206 North Third Street (Tax Record 28274).

The Mayor and City Council considered approval of a 1.50 Acre One Lot Subdivision at 1122 North Sixth Street (Tax Record 8772). The property owner has an opportunity to sell the dentist office on the property but the buyer is not interested in buying all of the land. The new lot will include the office and the remainder of the land will be available for future development. The plat will meet all current subdivision regulations. This property is in a Hospital-Medical Center District. The Planning Board recommended approval of this request at their meeting on Tuesday, August 27, 2013.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Alexander and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a 1.50 Acre One Lot Subdivision at 1122 North Sixth Street (Tax Record 8772).

The Mayor and City Council considered a public hearing for a map amendment to rezone 318 East Cannon Avenue (Tax Record 12035) to R-10 Residential. The Planning Board recommended approval of a requested text amendment by Judy Herrin Dick, property owner, to rezone 318 East Cannon Avenue (Tax Record 12035) from NBD/Neighborhood Business District and R-10/Single-Family Residential to R-10. The greater portion of the lot is currently zoned NBD and a small portion on the east side of the lot is zoned R-10. This was done at the Planning Board meeting on August 27, 2013.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Alexander and unanimously carried, the City Council approved setting public hearing for Monday, October 7, 2013

The Mayor and City Council discussed a Stanly Community College request regarding the Advanced Manufacturing and Industrial Technology Campaign. The City Manager stated that Judy Redwine, Charles Burris, Bryan Hinson and he met with Becky Wall and David Hinson of SCC to discuss any utility related matters that the City could assist SCC with for this new curriculum. Also, pursuant to City Council's request the City Manager discussed this initiative with Brenda Daniels, the Economic Development Director for ElectriCities. Ms. Daniels reviewed the proposed curriculum and building plans, and has advised the City Manager that there is not anything ElectriCities can do to assist with this capital campaign.

The City Manager noted that the project will not require any exterior water and sewer that the City can assist with. However, there is some electrical relocation, change in transformers and underground service that the City can assist with in the amount of \$44,500.

Councilmember Michael asked if the college will need expansion of asphalt and/or patching.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved any exterior water and sewer that the City can assist with and electrical relocation, change in transformers and underground that the City can assist with in the amount of \$44,500, along with any asphalt and patching needed.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed information on street resurfacing costs. The City Manager noted that at the August 19 meeting, City Council approved the street resurfacing list for FY 13-14. However, Councilmembers Hall and Underwood asked that we provide cost information for some other streets as well. Council received memos from Street Superintendent Jamie Burris and Interim Public Works Director Nina Underwood regarding this information.

Ms. Underwood came forward and answered any questions that Council had.

Upon questioning about Second Street, Councilmember Neel stated that the City can make a four or five year project of Second Street, setting aside so many thousands of dollars per year for this project.

Councilmember Michael stated that we should go ahead and repair the streets we approved at the last meeting and look at the other street request when considering the budget for next year. The City Council agreed to continue with the streets approved from last Council meeting and consider the other streets at budget time.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, an Ordinance entitled (Ordinance 13-37) "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND 2010 CKA PROJECT ORDINANCE 10-37 ", passed and was adopted, and ordered published as provided by law.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed information regarding compression release engine brakes. Pursuant to City Council's request, the City Manager noted that the Police Department has done some research on compression braking ordinances. Council received copies of some examples from North Carolina along with information about this topic.

The City Manager stated that Fire Chief Oke stated that the Fire Department uses compression braking and this will cause breakage wear if not able to use this. The City would make the Fire Department exempt from this ordinance if passed.

Police Chief Halliburton came forward and stated that most complaints had been received about trucks passing on US Hwy 52 North or NC Hwy

24-27 when they realize they are coming into the City limit at to high of speed and need to quickly slow down.

The City Manager stated that just by placing signage on these highways may be enough to correct this issue.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Michael, seconded by Councilmember Holcomb and unanimously carried, the City Council approved City staff putting together an ordinance against compression braking and bring back before Council at their next meeting.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed information regarding solar photovoltaic electric generation. At the City Council meeting on August 19, Councilmember Hall requested information on this topic.

The City Electric Division provided information to Council on renewable energy and ElectriCities is working on adding options for City's to consider in October.

The Mayor and City Council considered the designation of a voting delegate and alternate for the NC League of Municipalities Annual Meeting. Councilmembers Hall, Townsend, Michael and Neel plan to attend the meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Michael, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved Townsend as delegate and Hall as alternate.

Councilmember Michael stated that on the west side of US Hwy 52 on West Mason Street the catch basin is completely stopped up. The City Manager stated that he will check on this.

Councilmember Michael asked about the houses the City is looking at for condemnation for the next fiscal year. The City Manger stated that James Luster with COG, Keith, Michael, and he will be finalizing the list next week and will bring this list before Council.

Councilmember Hall asked about Albemarle being a walkable community. There are 7-8 counties involved in this and she said she will talk with our Parks and Recreation Director Toby Thorpe about this issue.

Councilmember Hall thanked Interim Public Utilities Director Judy Redwine in working with the Day of Caring this year. Ms. Hall stated that Public Power week will be October 6-12 and Ms. Redwine will be contacting Becky Weemhoff with Stanly County Social Services for October 8 to supply names of homes that can be visited from 8:30-12:30 pm. East Elementary and Central Elementary are scheduled to read big electric books sometime during Public Power week.

Councilmember Hall reminded everyone of the CONNECT Our Future workshops on September 10 at the Agri-Civic Center either at 9am, 1pm, or 6pm.

Councilmember Hall stated that the accomplishments for the City are due tomorrow to the NCLM. The City Manager stated that they have already been submitted.

Councilmember Hall stated that Mr. Ellis Hankins had been with the NCLM for 30 years. She said there is a group trying to establish a municipal scholarship at the School of Government in Mr. Hankins honor. Their campaign goal is \$30,000.

Councilmember Neel stated that he still has complaints about runners near the YMCA running into the street. He stated that most are without reflective clothing and they cannot be seen by drivers in the early morning hours.

Councilmember Holcomb stated that maybe we can have the City Manager write a letter to the YMCA to post on their bulletin board about this issue and runners needing to wear reflective clothing.

Councilmember Townsend stated that we can also contact Peter Ascitutto at Vac and Dash.

Councilmember Neel stated that at the corner of Sixth Street and Hawthorne Avenue there are utility guy poles there with two guy wires hanging down.

Councilmember Alexander stated that there are residents still not taking their trash cans from the curb up to 3-4 days sometimes. We need a reminder in the bill stuffer to residents about this issue.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Underwood, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Council adjourned to a Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) 3, 4, and 5 to consult with the City Attorney and consider matters of economic development and personnel.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Alexander 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) 3, 4, and 5 to consult with the City Attorney and consider matters of economic development and personnel and stated there is nothing to report at this time.

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