

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL
April 15, 2013

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

Mayor Whitley stated that an explosion involving two bombs had occurred earlier today at the Boston Marathon. It was noted that 3 people were killed and more than 100 were wounded.

Mayor Whitley asked that everyone observe a moment of silence in regard to the bombing earlier today in Boston before proceeding with the City Council meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Underwood, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the minutes of the April 1 regular session, April 1 closed session I, and April 1 closed session II minutes were approved as submitted.

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

Councilmember Alexander asked about the \$43,000 collected from delinquent bills from the State of NC. Finance Director Colleen Conroy came before Council and stated that \$43,919.32 had been collected through the NC Debt Set Off Program. With it being tax season, this program is able to garnish more monies from individuals based on tax refunds.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Holcomb and unanimously carried, the following Ordinance passed second reading and was duly adopted:

(Ordinance 13-13. To move appropriated funds from W/S Plants division to Systems Division; to receive and appropriate Contribution of Land on Dunlap Street for Public Works and on East Mason Street for Parks/Rec. Also to appropriate funds received for Bullet Proof Vest Program.)

The Mayor and City Council consider a resolution to accept a State Revolving Fund Loan for the Long Creek WWTP Headworks Project in the amount of \$3,664,395. This is a 20 year loan at an interest rate of 2% to construct new headworks at the wastewater treatment plant. Council received a copy of the resolution, and cover letter from NCDENR. The City Manager noted that this amount of funding will also allow the replacement of additional screw pumps at both the A and B stations that were not included in the original contract so that all of the screw pumps will have been replaced.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a State Revolving Fund Loan for the Long Creek WWTP Headworks Project in the amount of \$3,664,395 and the following Resolution was duly adopted:

(Resolution 13-07)

The Mayor and City Council considered a request from NC Air National Guard Fire Training Facility for donation of used utility poles. The City Manager noted that the City has been contacted by the NCANG about the donation of six used utility poles to be used to construct some of their fire training facilities. Public Utilities has confirmed that these are available and have put a hold on these pending Council approval.

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

request from NC Air National Guard Fire Training Facility for donation of six used utility poles to be used to construct some of their fire training facilities.

The Mayor and City Council considered adoption of updates for the Department of Public Housing Agency Plan. HUD requires an annual review and update of the Agency Plan which includes changes to policies and procedures, as well as the Department's 5-Year Capital Plan.

Assistant City Manager Michael Ferris answered any questions that Council had. Council discussed the possibility of allowing a review of income as the income of the residents change instead of only on an annual basis at re-exam time, which is currently done. Council suggested there be two income reviews per year.

Also further discussed was a proposal from HUD that there be two people per bedroom regardless of age or gender. City Council suggests there two children per child's bedroom only if they are the same sex.

Councilmember Hall moved to approve the Department of Public Housing Agency Plan with two amendments. 1) To have a hearing panel instead of one hearing officer for grievances, 2) two children per child's bedroom only if they are the same sex. Councilmember Alexander seconded the motion. Voting for the motion were Councilmembers Alexander, Hall, and Michael. Voting against the motion were Councilmembers Holcomb, Neel, Townsend, and Underwood. The motion did not carry.

Councilmember Holcomb requested that Mr. Ferris contact several other municipalities to see what they are doing with HUD strongly encouraging one bedroom for every two people, regardless of age or gender for Section 8 units and how often they are allowing income verification.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, an Ordinance entitled (Ordinance 13-14) "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND 2011 GRANT ORDINANCE 11-30 PUBLIC HOUSING CAPITAL FUND," passed first reading.

The Mayor and City Council were introduced to Cedric Baldwin as the new Director of Public Housing by Assistant City Manager Michael Ferris. Mr. Cedric Baldwin begins his tenure as the City's Director of Public Housing today and he is here to meet the Mayor and City Council.

Mr. Baldwin came before City Council and stated his appreciation for the opportunity being presented to him as the City's new Public Housing Director.

Mayor Whitley stated that he and Council look forward to working with him.

Councilmember Hall applauded the Public Housing staff for being present this evening and supporting Mr. Baldwin.

The Mayor and City Council considered attendance at the Sports Hall of Fame Banquet sponsored by the Stanly County Chamber of Commerce on Monday, April 29 at 6:00 pm at Stanly Regional Medical Center. The City Manager noted that reservations can be made for any other board member planning to attend.

Councilmembers Alexander, Hall, Holcomb, Michael, Neel, and Underwood stated they would be attending.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed a draft letter regarding the Rural Transportation Planning Organization ethics requirements pursuant to City Council's request.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Michael and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the letters the City Manager drafted to Senator Gene McLaurin and Representative Justin Burr regarding the Rural Transportation Planning Organization ethics requirements.

The Mayor and City Council were informed of the City employee picnic which will be held on Thursday, May 16 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at City Lake Park.

Upon questioning, it was noted that each department is responsible for inviting retirees from their department and also any commission or board member their department is responsible for.

The Mayor and City Council were reminded of the Stanly Albemarle Gang Eradication Call In which will take place in the City Council Chambers on Tuesday, April 23 at 6:00 pm.

The Mayor and City Council were reminded of the Uwharrie Storytelling Festival which will take place at Central United Methodist Church in downtown Albemarle on Saturday, April 27 from 2 pm to 5 pm.

The Mayor and City Council reminded of the Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony which will take place on Thursday, April 18 at Noon on West Main Street across from Market Station.

The Mayor and City Council were reminded of the joint meeting with the Economic Development Task Force which will be at 6:00 pm on Monday, April 22 in the Community Room at City Hall.

Councilmember Hall reminded everyone that the CCOG Region of Excellence Awards deadline is Friday, April 19th for nominating a jurisdiction for one of these awards to be given. The categories are as follows:

- 1) Controlling the Cost of Government
- 2) Growing the Economy

3) Improving Quality of Life

Councilmember Hall stated that she received an email earlier today concerning KISS 95.1 FM radio station coming to Albemarle this Friday, April 19 for a morning show from 6-10 am. This is their 3rd stop on their hometown tour. They started in Belmont, then Mooresville, then on to Albemarle. Ms. Hall also stated that KISS 95.1 had contacted the Mayor via email.

Councilmember Hall noted that at the last Centralina Council of Government's (COG) Executive Board meeting, the resolution in support of Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) Grants was approved.

Councilmember Hall applauded Finance Director Colleen Conroy and The Uwharrie Players in their performance of The Dixie Swim Club.

Councilmember Neel asked if his proposal made earlier this year at a previous meeting allowing a health cash stipend instead of health benefits for Councilmembers that are retired and over the age of 65 is being considered. He further stated that this could save the City \$3,000 per person/per year.

City Manager Raymond Allen stated that he will provide this information from Human Resource Director Robert Whitley and Council can decide at the next meeting or the next budget work session if they so choose.

Upon questioning, the City Manager stated that he will check with the NC League of Municipalities (NCLM) concerning health care or stipend for City Council and get back with Council.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council adjourned to Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 6:30 pm at the Rosebriar Restaurant for a meeting with the members of the Planning and Zoning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment.