

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL
October 15, 2018

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

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the October 1 regular session were approved as submitted.

Announced Delegations

Mr. Wayne Sasser- To Request City Adopt Resolution of Support for 1/4 Sales Tax Referendum to Increase Funding to County School System

Councilmember Whitley moved to approve the ¼ cent sales tax referendum to increase funding to the Stanly County School System for safety and education. Councilmember Aldridge seconded the motion. Voting for the motion were Councilmembers Aldridge, Dry, Hall, Hughes, Townsend, and Whitley. Voting against the motion was Councilmember Bramlett. The motion carried with a 6-1 vote and following resolution was approved:

(Resolution 18-18. To support the ¼ cent sales tax referendum to increase funding to Stanly County School System for safety and education.)

Mayor Michael explained how the existing customer service policy works with allowing a water/sewer adjustment for residential customers of one month only. Council could make changes to the policy which would allow staff to adjust two months instead of just one.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Dry, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved changing the existing customer service policy which would allow staff to adjust two months of water and sewer usage instead of just one month without having to bring before Council for approval.

Mr. Calvin Cagwin, 1204 Hillcrest Avenue - To Request a Sewer Adjustment Beyond the City Policy

The City Manager stated that Mr. Cagwin had a water line leak and has since had it repaired. He received the standard adjustment of 50% water overage and 100% of the sewer overage for his bill due in September. By the time the leak was repaired and the bill adjusted, the next bill had been accumulating and also had extreme usage. In Mr. Cagwin's email, he is seeking assistance again with the sewer, since it was a water leak and never entered the sewer system. He is asking for \$300 off his sewer charge.

Mr. Cagwin came forward and upon questioning, he stated he will see the Utility Customer Service Coordinator Scott Hopkins to determine the refund on his second month billing after the leak to apply that amount to his billing.

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

Councilmember Hughes had questions concerning the 20% increase in calls for service with the Fire Department as compared to the same time period one year ago. She also stated she is concerned about all the overdose calls they are receiving. She said Council needs to look further into these issues at budget time. She also had concerns involving the Niven Center, the Central Elementary Auditorium rentals, and the Roger F. Snyder Greenway Project in the Parks and Recreation Department. These concerns were addressed.

Consent Agenda

Upon a motion by Councilmember Bramlett, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the following consent agenda items:

1. A policy change to Parks & Recreation Youth Programming Refund Policy
2. 2018 Pool Season Summary - Information on the 2018 Pool Season
3. Approval of a Preliminary Plat for a 4 Lot Subdivision MJSR-001-18
4. Ordinance 18-37 - To Amend the FY 18/19 City of Albemarle Budget

Unfinished Business

Update on Richardson Street

The City Manager stated that at the last meeting, Mr. Howard Spencer spoke to Council about trees along Richardson Street and some visibility issues. There have been ongoing maintenance in the area and some additional things that have taken place since the last meeting to share with Council. The City Manager stated that overall, the area has been cleaned up again and opened up even more with more aggressive trimming along the right of way. The City removed a couple low hanging limbs over the road but have not removed the tree canopy over the street. If the canopy is high enough not to interfere with vehicles, we do not have a policy of cutting this type of growth.

The City Manager noted that Public Works has cut back the growth from the undeveloped lots that was encroaching on the sidewalk and edge of the road and the street sweeper serviced the street again. Public Works removed the illegal dumping they came across. Finally, Public Works sent the vacuum truck to Richardson to clear more litter that was uncovered when the vegetation was cut back.

Mr. Spencer thanked City Council for acting on this issue so quickly. It looks so much better and residents will continue to police the area.

Councilmember Townsend thanked Public Works Director Ross Holshouser and his staff for their cleanup on Richardson Street.

Chambers Engineering Contract - ABC Design

Chambers Engineering has prepared a contract for the Preliminary and Final Design for Phase 1 of the Albemarle Business Center. The projected cost is \$316,670 of which \$238,170 is lump sum and \$78,500 is expected reimbursable expenses. The Lump Sum of \$238,170, mentioned above, is divided as: a. Preliminary Design Phase \$31,756 and b. Final Design Phase \$206,414. Finance will prepare a budget amendment for an upcoming meeting. At this meeting, reserves will be appropriated on a proportionate basis. The proportions will be based on the cost of water and sewer design (Water and Sewer Fund) and road design (General Fund). It was noted that the City Attorney has reviewed the contract.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Bramlett, seconded by Councilmember Dry, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the contract with Chambers Engineering for the Preliminary and Final Design for Phase I for the Albemarle Business Center in the amount of \$316,670, of which \$238,170 is lump sum and \$78,500 is expected reimbursable expenses.

New Business

1) Information on Park Storm Damage from Hurricane Florence

Parks & Recreation Director Lisa Kiser gave a report regarding the impacts Hurricane Florence had on Albemarle Parks & Recreation facilities. The City Manager provided an update to City Council recently advising that the City is awaiting a determination from our insurance provider as to what will be covered. We are also hopeful the City will receive federal and state disaster recovery assistance.

The City Manager noted that one of the main issues we want to point out is the potential impact on the programs we provide and to those who utilize our facilities. We need to continue to aggressively pursue repairs if the school system is going to be able to use our ball fields for high school games. If not, the school system will need to begin looking for other arrangements. The other reason we want to bring this to Council's attention is because if we continue to push with repairs and disaster assistance and insurance does not cover all the costs, the expenses will exceed budget. We want Council to be aware before we start incurring major expenses that restoration of the parks could very well lead to budget amendments.

Mayor Michael stated that Council will review this in the next couple of meetings and if by then we do not receive disaster assistance and insurance monies, we will have to gradually do some on our own with no assistance from NCLM.

Upon questioning, Parks & Recreation Director Lisa Kiser stated that they would need to start repair work by early November.

Mayor Michael asked Ms. Kiser to move forward with the bid process.

City Attorney David Beaver recommended that the City Manager write a letter to NCLM on what the City is facing and the timeline.

2) Consider Attendance at the NC League of Municipalities Advocacy Goals Conference

The conference will be held on November 29 from 10:00 - 4:00 at the Raleigh Convention Center. The purpose is to discuss and vote on which policy issues will become the top priorities for the NCLM when meeting with and lobbying state legislators and other state offices in 2019/2020. City Council will need to designate a voting delegate and a backup for the conference.

The Mayor and Councilmembers Bramlett, Whitley, and Hall confirmed their attendance. The Mayor asked that anyone else wanting to attend the conference, to let the City Manager know.

Comments

Mayor Michael thanked all employees especially Public Utilities, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Police, and Fire and all staff involved in Hurricane Michael and Hurricane Florence aftermath.

The City Manager also thanked all employees especially Public Utilities, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Police, and Fire and all staff involved in Hurricane Michael and Hurricane Florence aftermath.

Councilmember Hughes stated that the summary was great on the City pools concerning Rock Creek Park and Chuck Morehead given by Parks and Recreation Director Lisa Kiser.

Councilmember Hughes also thanked everyone for all their hard work during both hurricane events.

Councilmember Hughes asked that Council have a work session concerning the Commercial Maintenance Code. Mayor Michael stated that Planning and Development Services Director Kevin Burleson and Mr. James Luster is working on this and will bring before Council.

Councilmember Aldridge thanked everyone for all their hard work during both hurricane events.

Councilmember Aldridge commented that he is glad to see the Pfeiffer University sign up at Five Points.

Mayor Michael commented that the City works with Retail Strategies in bringing in new retail to the City. They are starting to bring in additional retail such as Planet Fitness going in where the old God's Country was, Meineke Muffler and several restaurants.

Councilmember Hall stated there are a lot of events going on in Stanly County as:

Uwharrie Players presents On Golden Pond at 110 N Main Street, Norwood
Friday October 12, Saturday October 13, and Sunday October 14
Friday October 19, Saturday October 20, and Sunday October 21

Stanly County Arts Guild presents Peter Pan Jr. performed by The Talent Company at the Agri-Civic Center - October 20, 26, and 27 at 7pm and October 21 and 28 at 3 pm

Councilmember Hall asked about the Public Power Week "Day of Caring". Mayor Michael stated that staff will be making a delivery to each resident on the list.

Councilmember Hall stated she visited Benson, NC recently and they also are an ElectriCities City. She could see the benefits of what ElectriCities is doing there. The Galot Motor Speedway made a lot of money there with ElectriCities name on items they sell.

Councilmember Hall stated that she attended an annual retreat as a RMS Trustee last week. She thanked Fire Chief Shawn Oke because he has suggested for the past several years that the City provide LIFESCAN Physicals for City Firefighters. She went on to say that this has shown to be both a great physical for the individual and a great cost effective tool for the City now that our insurance is self-funded.

Councilmember Hall asked Police Chief Bowen if the speed trailer was ready yet. Chief Bowen stated that they have received the speed trailer and are getting it ready. Ms. Hall stated that we need a speed trailer at North Sixth Street from Hawthorne to Albemarle High School.

Councilmember Dry thanked everyone for all their hard work during both hurricane events. He asked that we not forget our friends/neighbors who have suffered in this county and may not be able to recover all their loss. Some families did not have proper insurance and/or flood insurance. Please keep everyone in all of our prayers.

Councilmember Whitley thanked everyone for all their hard work during both hurricane events.

Councilmember Whitley commented on new signs being up for new businesses. He is happy to see older run down properties being bought and fixed up.

Councilmember Whitley stated that there will be a meeting this Tuesday at the EE Waddell Community Center concerning information on the ¼ cent sales tax referendum that will be on the November ballot.

Councilmember Whitley stated that early voting begins next Wednesday, October 17 and ends November 3. He asked that everyone go out and vote.

Councilmember Bramlett stated there have been shootings in schools way before now and why have we waited so long to do something about this.

Councilmember Bramlett stated he attended the California Toe Jam Concert on Thursday, October 11 at Central School and the acoustics are great.

Mayor Michael thanked Fire Chief Shawn Oke for re-working a grant and resubmitting for new SCBA equipment and a fire apparatus.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Council adjourned to a Closed Session Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (1), (4) & (6) - To Prevent Disclosure of Confidential Information, Economic Development and Personnel.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, the Mayor and City Council reconvened to open session. Mayor Michael stated that a closed session was held Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (1), (4) & (6) - To Prevent Disclosure of Confidential Information, Economic Development and Personnel and there was nothing to report at this time.

Mayor Michael stated that someone has submitted formal plans to the City concerning placing a business at the old What-A-Burger site on East Main Street.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hughes, seconded by Councilmember Dry, and unanimously carried, the City Council adjourned until Monday, October 22 at 5:30 pm for a work session and a joint meeting with the Planning Board at 6:30 pm at Rosebriar.