

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL  
November 19, 2018

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, November 19, 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.

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Mayor Michael called the meeting to order.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the November 5 called session, November regular session, and November 5 closed session minutes were approved as submitted.

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**Announced Delegations**

**Esther House - To Thank Albemarle Police Department**

Ms. Donna Miller, Executive Director of Esther House came forward to speak about the Albemarle Police Department and their acts of kindness and leadership skills they possess. She stated they go over and above the call of duty and she mentioned several events and the support they give. Ms. Miller said that the Albemarle Police officers attend training, listen, work with children, attend kid's day camp, and even ride horses with kids at events.

They are heroes she said and she thanked them all for what they do.

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**Bobby and Gail Garner, 1932 Snuggs Park Road - To Request  
a Water Line Extension**

The City Manager noted that the decades long policy for water line extensions is through the assessment process, where there is a cost-sharing arrangement with those receiving the benefit of a public water system extension. He also noted that the assessment process is laid out in State Statute and is a way for units of government to consider extension of public services. The Statutes detail and very specific process that involves multiple hearings, notifications, attorney fees, record-keeping and other activities. If an assessment is approved, all property owners receiving the benefit of the extended public service are required to pay their proportionate share, whether they want to or supported the project.

The City Manager stated that Mr. and Ms. Garner are seeking a water line extension to serve their property. The extension would affect 4 properties owned by 2 parties. The Garners would like to accelerate this process and do not want to burden the other property owner and have agreed to pay the full assessment amount up front themselves. It allows the City to avoid a great deal of expenses associated with newspaper publications, notifications, mailings, and legal fees. It also saves considerable staff time and Council meeting times.

The City Manager stated that the proposed extension covers 555-feet of assessable property (frontage on both sides of the road). At \$7.00 per foot the total would be \$3,885.00. If this were an assessment project, the policy allows for property owners to pay in full and receive a 10% discount. A discount has been extended in this type of situation in the past. The 10% reduction would bring the total to \$3,496.50.

Upon receipt of this amount the City's Water & Sewer Systems Division will schedule the project and begin as soon as they are able. Upon questioning, Mayor Michael said the City will order the materials needed for this project and then try to start as soon as possible bases on the weather.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a water line extension for Bobby and Gail Garner, 1932 Snuggs Park Road and their agreement to pay the full assessment amount up front themselves with a 10% totaling \$3,496.50. Upon receipt of this amount the City's Water & Sewer Systems Division will schedule the project and begin as soon as they are able.

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

Councilmember Whitley asked about the Fire Dept. Report concerning the month of October where they continued to respond to a large number of overdose responses in the City. During the month they responded to 23 overdose related incidents

and administered naloxone on 16 of those incidents. The report stated that this compares to administering naloxone on three incidents in October 2017. The Fire Chief was not present to answer this question but will get answer for Councilmember Whitley.

Upon questioning by Councilmember Hughes, Finance Director Colleen Conroy stated that the audit is here and she will meet with the auditors next week and hope they will have a draft ready for review.

Councilmember Townsend asked about events at the Central School Auditorium. Parks and Recreation Director Lisa Kiser mentioned the Tour of Homes on Sunday, December 9 and there will be a showing of the Polar Express in the auditorium of three times with schools during the day and times with families in the evening.

Councilmember Hall stated that we need to promote the Central Auditorium with a new job as Community Program Supervisor coming on board. She asked if programs are scheduled for January – June 2019. Parks and Recreation Director Lisa Kiser stated that there are a few activities scheduled between January and June next year. Ms. Hall stated that we need to get more people into the auditorium and do whatever it takes to fill.

Councilmember Hall asked that Ms. Kiser speak with the Director of the Stanly County Arts Council and she is located at the Agri-Civic Center.

Mayor Michael stated that he is still looking for names and addresses for volunteers for the event planning committee and asked that Council continue to relay any names to him.

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### **New Business**

#### **1) Consider Adoption of Street Maintenance and Preservation Plan for FY 18/19**

It was noted that the City is now in its third year of the plan and it is time again to decide on an implementation strategy for the year. As with any plan, there are options available to City Council regarding implementation. City Council reviewed three files providing various options. The first, allows the City to address the greatest number of miles and is almost exclusively micro-surfacing. The second is a mixture of micro-surfacing and other methods. The third is a worst first approach. The worst-first approach is similar to what the City has done for years and got away from based on what we learned about the life-cycle of a street. The mixed approach is the method that the NCDOT takes. The final approach touches

the greatest number of road miles and is what we have implemented the last two years but is primarily micro-surfacing. When a method is chosen by Council, staff will begin moving forward with implantation.

Council received the information below of the actual work of each recommended treatment.

1. Crack seal = Crack Seal
2. Preservation = Micro-surfacing / Slurry Seal
3. Rehab (Minor) = This is 2" mill & fill
4. Rehab (Major) = This is 4" mill & fill
5. Rehab (Major) Comp = This is 4" mill & fill on composite pavement (asphalt over concrete)
6. Reconstruction – FDR = Full Depth Reclamation
7. Reconstruction – Comp = This is reconstruction of composite pavement (Removing concrete panels and rebuild subgrade)

Public Works Director Ross Holshouser came forward and explained to Council the street assessment study. The Mayor, City Manager, and Mr. Holshouser answered any questions that Council had.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Bramlett, seconded by Councilmember Dry, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the adoption of the Street Maintenance and Preservation Plan for FY 18/19 using the blending approach of a mixture of micro-surfacing and other methods, covering an approximate 11.30 miles of resurfacing of streets.

## **2) Introduction of Nyki Hardy as the new Assistant City Manager**

The City Manager introduced Ms. Hardy and stated that she started work for the City on Tuesday, November 13, 2018. He said that Mr. Hardy went through a rigorous assessment to be chosen.

Mr. Hardy came forward and stated that so far everything has been great and everyone has been very welcoming and encouraging. She said Albemarle is a great community and she is ready to help make Albemarle all it can be.

Mayor Michael stated that Mr. Hardy has already moved to Albemarle.

## **3) Consider Attendance at the Stanly County COG Meeting**

The next meeting will be hosted by Norwood on Tuesday, November 27 at 6:30 in the Community Building on West Turner Street with a meal served at 6:30 p.m.

Councilmember Hughes stated that she will let the City Manager know and everyone else including the Mayor affirmed their attendance.

#### **4. Information - Recycling Usage and Volume Statistics**

The City Manager noted that the City re-instituted curbside recycling July 1, 2017. Since that time we have had updates on the program, but he recently asked Waste Management to provide information in greater detail. He said he is pleased to say that it looks like we have extremely high participation in the recycling program. Below are the usage statistics:

##### **Recycling Volume**

- FY 17/18 - 43.76 tons per month
- FY 18/19 to date - 62.42 tons per month

##### **Recycling Participation Rate**

93.22% participation rate over a recent count of two collection cycles.

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##### **Comments**

Bishop Richardson of Saints Delight Church came forward and thanked everyone for a good job on Council. He mentioned some of the previous Councilmembers that have passed away including Ed Underwood and Jack Neel who recently passed. Also, he stated that he is 75 years old and thankful.

Bishop Richardson mentioned Summit Avenue being a death trap either going up or down the hill and he hopes in the near future, the City will spend some time looking into this.

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Councilmember Townsend wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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Councilmember Hughes wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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Councilmember Aldridge wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilmember Aldridge asked everyone to keep law enforcement in our prayers and mentioned the shooting of a firearm into a police car on Sunday, November 11 and thankful no one was hurt. He asked that the City give the police officers the resources they need to stay safe.

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Mayor Michael stated that the City struggles to hire qualified employees. We need to determine what we can do to enhance our recruitment and get it back to full strength.

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Councilmember Hall thanked Human Resources for the recent information concerning the employees benefit package. She said this is a plus for all our employees having all the benefits that the City offers including major medical and retirement benefits. The City supplies a great package for our employees.

Councilmember Hall stated that Interim Public Utilities Director Judy Redwine does a great job in leading and supporting her department including the “Day of Caring” in October. She has a great staff working with this.

Councilmember Hall asked if staff had an electric rate study update and it was noted that it has not yet been completed.

Councilmember Hall asked if the band for the Beach Blast had been selected yet and it has not per Parks and Recreation Director Lisa Kiser.

Councilmember Hall wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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Councilmember Whitley stated the Albemarle Downtown Christmas event last Friday was great and also the weather was great.

Councilmember Whitley reminded everyone of the Breakfast with Santa event sponsored by Stanly County Partnership for Children on Saturday, December 1, 2018 from 8:30 am until 11 am.

Councilmember Whitley reminded everyone of the event sponsored by Monarch for opioid abuse this Wednesday at Atrium Health.

Councilmember Whitley stated that there are still panhandlers on Leonard Avenue at the stoplight of NC 24-27. Mayor Michael stated that due to state law, the only thing the City can enforce is that they remain out of the streets.

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Councilmember Bramlett stated that maybe talking about the opioid issue at a Stanly County Council of Governments meeting would be a good idea.

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Councilmember Dry stated that this would be his last full meeting and he walked down into the audience and shook the hands and thanked each department head and the Assistant City Manager Nyki Hardy for all that they do and it was a privilege to work with the best staff, making a Councilmember's job easy. The City has the best staff anyone could have.

Councilmember Dry stated that he is not going away and he is thankful to have had the opportunity and he will miss everyone.

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Mayor Michael asked the City Attorney if he had the agreement for the City to use the King Parking lot and agreement with Mr. Maner ready. The City Attorney stated that he will get with the Mayor tomorrow and have the agreements ready at that time.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Hughes, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and unanimously carried, the City Council adjourned the meeting.