

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL
December 3, 2018

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, December 3, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Elbert L. "Whit" Whitley, Jr. presided, and the following Councilmembers were present, to-wit: Mayor Pro Tem Martha Sue Hall, Bill Aldridge, Chris Bramlett, Benton Dry, Martha Hughes, Dexter Townsend and Chris Whitley. Absent, none.

Mayor Michael called the meeting to order

Reverend Elizabeth Ayscue, First Presbyterian Church of Albemarle gave the invocation.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Dry, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the November 19 regular session minutes were approved as submitted.

Agenda Adjustments

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and unanimously carried, City Council approved adding a speaker to the end of the organizational meeting activities, to move new business items 7, 8, 9 and 10 forward after the organizational meeting activities. Also, to move the announced delegations to the end before new business items 11, 12, and 13.

Mayor Michael thanked Councilmember Dry for all he brought to the Council over the last 5 years. He stated he will be missed and to stay in contact.

Councilmember Aldridge echoed his thanks to Councilmember Dry for his service to Council and the community as a Councilmember. We still may need to rely on his expertise as a small business owner. He further stated that Councilmember Dry is a true inspiration and he looks at him as a friend.

Councilmember Hughes thanked Councilmember Dry for what he brought to Council with his expertise as a small business owner. She said that this takes a lot of time and she appreciates this and his willing to serve.

Councilmember Townsend stated that he concurred with all the comments for Councilmember Dry and that he is a true leader. He also said that he had learned a lot from him and he still has a lot to offer the City.

The City Manager stated that he appreciates all his hard work and support of the City and him personally.

Councilmember Dry stated that he enjoyed serving with all the Councilmembers and staff. It is great to have people like the City has to depend on.

Councilmember Bramlett thanked Councilmember Dry. He also said that he had learned so much from him and he thanked him for his service.

Councilmember Hall thanked Councilmember Dry for all his time, talents, and energy. Also, she stated that at the last Council meeting, Councilmember Dry went out into the audience and shook the hand of each department head. Ms. Hall stated what a difference Councilmember Dry had made and he had stated that the employees are the City's best asset.

Councilmember Dry stated that it had been a pleasure and honor to serve on City Council since 2013. The City has a monumental task in front of them and we have built a strong foundation for incoming Council members. We have reached beyond our grasp by challenging ourselves.

Councilmember Dry stated to newly appointed Councilmember Lowder that his best advice would be to listen, ask questions, and learn. He thanked his wife for all her support. He also thanked City Clerk Paulette Bowers for her support to Council.

Councilmember Dry wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and a safe 2019.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Bramlett, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

The Honorable Kevin Bridges, Superior Court Judge came forward to swear in Councilmembers Martha Hughes, Chris Whitley and Shirley D. Lowder.

(Oaths and Signatures)

The meeting reconvened with the newly sworn City Council. Mayor Ronnie Michael presided, and the following Councilmembers were present to-wit: Mayor Pro Tem Martha Sue Hall, Bill Aldridge, Chris Bramlett, Martha E. Hughes, Shirley D. Lowder, Dexter Townsend, and Christopher Whitley. Absent, none.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and unanimously carried, the City Council re-appointed Michael J. Ferris City Manager.

Councilmember Aldridge moved to dispense with the written ballot as the method to select the Mayor Pro-Tem. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hughes. Upon a vote, the motion was unanimously carried.

Councilmember Aldridge moved to re-appoint Martha Sue Hall as Mayor Pro-Tem. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Whitley. Upon a vote, the motion was unanimously carried.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council re-appointed David A. Beaver City Attorney.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council voted to leave the appointment of the Finance Director, City Clerk, Tax Collector, and Deputy City Clerk to the City Manager. The City Manager indicated that it was his intention to make the following appointments:

- Finance Director – Colleen Conroy
- City Clerk – E. Paulette Bowers
- Tax Collector – Richard Lanzillotti
- Deputy City Clerk – Nyki Hardy

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Whitley, and unanimously carried, the City Council re-appointed the City Manager as a Deputy City Clerk.

Mr. Tucker Osborne, representing NC House Representative Richard Hudson, came forward to present newly appointed Councilmember Shirley Lowder with a letter from Representative Hudson.

Councilmember Lowder stated that Councilmember Dry is a great person and he ran a great campaign.

Councilmember Hughes stated that it is an honor to be elected another four years and to serve with all the Councilmembers looking forward to all the projects ahead.

Councilmember Whitley said he was humbled during the election of all the support he had. Also, the City is working on a lot of projects and want to see them through to fruition.

Mayor Michael thanked everyone and that he is looking forward to the next few years.

Mayor Michael recessed the meeting to allow the new appointed member to converse with their family and friends that were in attendance.

Mayor Michael brought the meeting back in session.

Announced Delegation

Ms. Ellen Lambert came forward and addressed Council concerning the opioid crisis in Stanly. Ms. Lambert asked that Council agree that there is a major opioid issue in Stanly County. She asked that the City at least resolve to work with our County officials and State Legislators, etc. She offered her service and stated she would be glad to be a bridge between those affected by the drugs and government.

Mayor Michael stated that this is a major issue and we need a place to take patients for detox which would be away from the original source and exposure to people they currently are around and influenced by.

Unannounced Delegations

Mr. John Welsh, 36418 Old Salisbury Road, Chairman of American Legend Post #520, came before Council concerning the Wreaths Across America ceremony on Saturday, December 15, 2018 beginning at 11 am at Liberty Gardens. Mr. Welsh stated that they place 8 wreaths representing the following: Army, Navy Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines, POW's, MIA's, and the Gold Star.

Mayor Michael thanked Mr. Welsh for coming.

Municipal Calendar

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

NEW BUSINESS

Albemarle Police Department (APD) Leadership would like to equip officers with an AR-15 style Patrol Rifle while on duty. APD currently use this type of rifle on the Special Response Team. Officers that would carry this type of weapon would be required to complete a Patrol Rifle class and qualify with a score of 90% or better before they would be allowed to carry the weapon on duty. APD has a policy in place that restricts the type of call where this type of weapon can be deployed.

APD is requesting approval to utilize \$20,000 in Drug Seizure funds to purchase 15 patrol rifles and ammunition to send officers to the Patrol Rifle class. Currently, there are 9 officers that are already equipped with a patrol rifle. This purchase would bring the total number of officers equipped with a Patrol Rifle to 24. In the past, City staff had spoken about the possibility of purchasing a Crime Scene Unit with the Drug Seizure funds; however; given recent events, this is a more pressing issue to keep officers safe in the field.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the following ordinance:

(Ordinance 18-39- Budget Amendment in Police
Department for Purchase of Patrol Rifles)

**Consider Approval of Abstract of votes for November 6,
2018 Municipal Election**

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by
Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the
abstract of votes for November 6, 2018 municipal general election.

**Reminder - Employee Christmas Luncheon will be Wednesday,
December 12**

This annual event will be held on Wednesday, December 12 from
11:30 - 1:30 at the EE Waddell Community Center. The Mayor and Council are
invited to serve the employees.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by
Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved
extending the audit contract until December 31, 2018.

The City Manager gave a report on Waste Management and that as
of last check, the loose leaf collection is on schedule. He stated that Waste
Management utilized their overtime this past week-end and got ahead on leaf pick
up. They have a new supervisor over the routes this year.

Mayor Michael stated that the Tour of Homes is Sunday, December
9 from 2-6 pm. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 the day of the event.

Councilmember Townsend welcomed Councilmember Lowder. He stated that his advice as a new Councilmember would be listening, learning, and asking questions being the key as Councilmember Dry stated.

Councilmember Hughes echoed a welcome to Councilmember Lowder. She asked about any updates from Pfeiffer.

Mayor Michael stated that the groundbreaking ceremony had been moved to January 17, not sure yet of the time.

Councilmember Aldridge welcomed newly appointed Councilmember Lowder and welcomed back Councilmembers Hughes and Whitley. All Councilmembers should have the same goal of no partisanship and moving the City forward.

Councilmember Hall welcomed newly appointed Councilmember Lowder.

Councilmember Whitley echoed the welcome of Councilmember Lowder.

Councilmember Whitley asked Council to take a look at the NCLM newsletter where the 15 goals chosen from the Advocacy Goals Conference that they attended previously.

Councilmember Whitley stated that the new Monroe Bypass is open and is charging toll fees.

Councilmember Bramlett stated that his wife Pat worked with Councilmember Lowder years ago in the school system and that Ms. Lowder was committed to the children of this County. She will have the same commitment to the people of Albemarle.

Councilmember Lowder stated that as she stated in her oath, she would do her best, so help me God.

Mayor Michael thanked everyone and he looks forward for the coming years and completion of projects ahead.

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