

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL
January 7, 2019

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, January 7, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor G. R. Michael presided, and the following Councilmembers were present, to-wit: Bill Aldridge, Chris Bramlett, Martha Sue Hall, Martha E. Hughes, Shirley D. Lowder, Dexter Townsend and Chris Whitley. Absent, none.

Mayor Michael called the meeting to order.

Mayor Michael gave the invocation.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Bramlett, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the December 17 regular session minutes were approved as amended, and December 17 closed session minutes were approved as submitted.

Agenda Adjustments

1. NCLM Town and State Event
2. E. H. King Heirs, LLC Agreement

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the agenda adjustments.

Announced Delegation
Presentation of City Employee United Way Campaign Results

Tanner Denton serves as the City's Campaign Coordinator and Finance Director Colleen Conroy presented the result of the campaign to Council due to Mr. Denton being sick and unable to attend. It was noted that Anita Almond from the Police Department helped Mr. Denton with the campaign. All money raised comes directly through employee donations. In the past, the City Council has provided a day of vacation to the Campaign Coordinator(s) for the work in voluntarily taking on this responsibility. Ms. Conroy stated that \$26,000 was collected from City employees.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Whitley, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the City Manager administering a day of vacation to the Campaign Coordinators, Tanner Denton and Anita Almond and any employee on the committee that helped with the campaign in voluntarily taking on this responsibility.

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

Unfinished Business
Property at 608 Summit Avenue

The property in question is owned by Mr. Bobby Rorie. The City Council discussed this property on several occasions and last discussed this matter in July. At that time Mr. Rorie's representatives was told to show a good faith effort and progress, though now specific deadline was provided. He also

provided a timeline for various improvements. None of the progress we would like to see has occurred and the item is placed back on the agenda for Council to discuss. A public hearing has already be held, so the City Council can proceed with approval of the original Ordinance authorizing condemnation and demolition

Upon a motion by Councilmember Bramlett, seconded by Councilmember Lowder, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the following ordinance.

(Ordinance 19-01. To authorize the zoning officer to condemn and demolish the property at 608 Summit Avenue.)

Discussion of Traffic Warning Options at MLK Drive and Richardson Street

It was noted that at the previous meeting, the City Council asked for an estimated cost of an engineered traffic study at this location and also for the cost of potential physical improvements / changes.

Engineering Study - Director of Public Works Ross Holshouser reached out to Teague Engineering. Their estimate for a traffic study at this intersection is \$1,500 - \$2,000. That would consist of engineering services for monitoring the intersection with a traffic camera for two days, analyzing the footage and any additional data provided by the City, preparing recommendations, and travel expenses.

Physical Improvements - Public Utilities estimates the cost of installing a caution light at \$3,900 (\$1,200 labor and \$2,700 materials). Warning signs as drivers approach the intersection is estimated at \$300 by Public Works.

The City Manager also decided to reach out to a contact with the NCDOT and see if they would be willing to take a quick look and make suggestions. He provided the traffic analysis report and the accident history to them. Based on the information provided, they said that if the City wanted to do something, a good first move would be advance warning signs from both directions on MLK (signs warning motorist they are approaching an intersection). They did note the low traffic and accident results do not point to a significant problem at the intersection. There was also discussion at the last meeting that it may be wise to wait to make any improvements until after the road work on NC Highway 24/27 and on East Main Street is complete.

Council had further discussion of past actions including lowering the speed limit there. There is now a sign up stating limited sight distance.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Bramlett, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved placing a sign westbound, leaving the eastbound sign in place and decided to not do anything else until after the NC Highway 24/27 and East Main Street projects are complete.

New Business

1) Consider Requests of Piedmont Natural Gas for Main Extensions

PNG is requesting:

1. An extension of 205-feet on South Second Street, turning onto Aquadale Road and extending an additional 830-feet.
2. An extension of 1,750-feet, with a majority in the Badin Road right of way.

Piedmont Natural Gas also provided an information package regarding each request. Both requests have been reviewed by Public Utilities and Public Works and are acceptable. Also, PNG has provided a project status update for their work in Albemarle.

Ms. Kathy Faircloth, Distribution Project Specialist and Mr. Jimmy Bowen, Construction Project Coordinator, came before City Council to request main extensions for two locations and provide an update on the Piedmont Natural Gas line replacement project in Albemarle describing current projects and their status.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved extensions for South Second Street, turning into Aquadale Road and the Badin Road right of way.

2) Chuck Morehead and Rock Creek Pool - Basin Repairs

City Staff is recommending repair of the Chuck Morehead Pool before the 2019 season begins and repair of Rock Creek Pool before the 2020 season. This has been discussed in past budget sessions as an upcoming need and feel it is time to address this. Staff does not know if there will be any issues this upcoming pool season if we do not undertake this project, but did not want Council caught unaware if there was a problem that impacted pool season. Carolina Pool Plastering, Inc. gave a quote of \$45,939 for plastering the basin at Chuck Morehead Pool. This does not include crack repair. Crack repair will be billed at \$33.75/foot. Carolina Pool Plastering, Inc. gave a quote of \$54,130 for plastering the basin at Rock Creek Pool. Parks & Recreation staff are still researching vendors for quotes for this type of work.

Mayor Michael stated that Council will have to look at the repair of Rock Creek Pool in next year's budget.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Bramlett, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved to plaster the pool basin and repair cracks for the Chuck Morehead Pool before the 2019 pool season begins.

3 High School Firefighter Program

City Council reviewed a memo and MOU for information concerning the firefighter program being implemented at Albemarle High School from Fire Chief Oke. This is based on a program the City approached the System about previously. It is recommended the City Manager be authorized to execute the agreement. Approval of the agreement will authorize the City's participation.

Fire Chief Oke answered any questions that Council had.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved authorizing the City Manager to execute the MOU agreement for the fire fighter training program.

4) Information - The City Host a NCLM Regional Broadband Meeting on Monday, January 28 at 6:30

The City has coordinated with the NC League of Municipalities and will be hosting a regional broadband conversation in the City Hall on Monday, January 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Promotional information being pushed out by the NCLM - The speaking tour is being organized by the Community Broadband Networks Initiative at the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, a national research and technical assistance organization, in collaboration with NC Broadband Matters and NC League of Municipalities.

Ms. Dawn Melton with Uwharrie Bank came forward with the flier called "Let's Connect" sponsored by NCLM and Councilmember Hall handed these out to Council.

Councilmember Hall asked that a copy of the flier be placed on the website and that it be shared with all other Managers and Administrators in Stanly County. The Mayor asked that the City Manager add this flier to all the City's social media.

5) Reminder - The Annual Martin Luther King Unity Prayer Breakfast will be held Saturday, January 19th

The event is hosted by the Stanly County Chapter of the NAACP and will be held once again at the City's EE Waddell Community Center from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.

6) Reminder - City Offices will be Closed on Monday, January 21 for the MLK Holiday Observance

Comments

Mayor Michael stated that the NCLM Town and State Event will be Wednesday, February 20 in Raleigh and registration will begin at 2 pm. There will be a speaker and training in the afternoon with dinner at 5:30 pm. We will leave City Hall around noon and be back around 10 pm.

Please let the City Manager know if you will be able to attend.

Councilmember Hall affirmed her attendance.

Mayor Michael stated that he left a copy of the E. H. King Heirs, LLC lease agreement at each Councilmembers place at the dais and said the agreement will be sent to the King family for their signature if Council approves. The agreement is for the City to lease the parking area and behind the buildings on West Main Street, South Second Street and King Alley as well as make improvements to this area.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Bramlett, seconded by Councilmember Lowder, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the E. H. King Heirs, LLC lease agreement and to send to them for signature.

Mayor Michael stated that at the last meeting, Council talked about how to recognize individuals. Main Street Manager Joy Almond requested that we do a mural. We would have to establish guidelines.

Councilmember Townsend asked Council to consider possibly having a Walk of Fame.

Mayor Michael asked Council to think about this and it will be discussed at our Strategic Planning Session.

Councilmember Townsend expressed thanks to the ML24 group from Charlotte that assisted Albemarle Parks and Recreation in establishing a Pollinator Garden at City Lake.

Councilmember Hall stated that Pfeiffer's groundbreaking will be Thursday, January 17 at 10 am. The City Manager stated he had already RSVP'd a place for Mayor and City Council.

Councilmember Hall stated that the electric linemen program will be starting back at Stanly Community College.

Councilmember Hall stated that the Connection Summit with ElectriCities will be held February 20-22 in Raleigh also.

Councilmember Bramlett welcomed Chris Miller who is new and reporting for the Stanly News and Press and in attendance tonight.

Councilmember Lowder gave a shout out to Officers Esposito and Morris with the Albemarle Police Department who chased and apprehended a suspect near OfficeMax and Applebees last week.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hughes, seconded by Councilmember Lowder, and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Council adjourned to a Closed Session Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (5) (6)- Real Estate 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 (5) (6) - Real Estate and Personnel and there was nothing to report at this time.

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