

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL

April 15, 2019

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, April 15, 2019 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, Martha E. Hughes, Shirley D. Lowder, Dexter Townsend and Chris Whitley. Absent, none.

Mayor Michael called the meeting to order.

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

To Consider Abandoning the City's Interest in the Unopened Portion of Spaulding Street

This hearing is to consider closing a portion of the unopened right of way that separates 2 parcels of property owned by the City. The parcels have already been declared surplus and gone through the upset bid process. If the unopened right of way is abandoned by City Council, the intended buyers of the City property will move forward with their land purchase and the right of way dividing the parcels can be abolished. No one spoke for or against this hearing.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Lowder, unanimously carried, the City Council closed the public hearing.

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

(Resolution 19-05. To Consider Abandoning the City's Interest in the Unopened Portion of Spaulding Street)

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

(Ordinance 19-12. To Consider Abandoning the City's Interest in the Unopened Portion of Spaulding Street)

PUBLIC HEARING

Consider Ordinance 19-13 - Map Amendment portions of Tax Records 28537 & 28558 from R-8/R-10 to GHBD

It was noted that this is approving a City initiated map amendment to rezone portions of tax record 28537 & 28558 from R-10/Single-Family Residential District and R-8/Two-Family Residential District to GHBD/General Highway Business District. The request was unanimously approved by the Planning & Zoning Board. No one spoke for or against this hearing.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the City Council closed the public hearing.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the City Council voted to approve the following ordinance and consistency statement:

(Ordinance 19-13. To rezone Tax Records 28537& 28558 from R-8/R-10 to GHBD.)

CONSISTENCY STATEMENT

The Albemarle City Council finds the action to amend portions of land on the City's Zoning Map tax record numbers 28537 and 28558 from zone R-8/Two-Family Residential District and R-10/Single-Family Residential District to GHBD/General Highway Business District to be consistent with the adopted 2028 Land Use Plan. The 2028 Land Use Plan calls for neighborhood residential/commercial uses on the parcels of interest. The portions of land are adjacent to existing commercial property and have proximity to a major thoroughfare. The City's GHBD zone will assist the parcels of interest reach their intended goal of onsite neighborhood residential/commercial by promoting interconnected commercial development; therefore being reasonable and in the public interest.

Announced Delegations

1. Ms. Carmen Rivers, 820 Mill Street - To Request a Peddler License.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a peddler license for Carmen Rivers to make and sale lemonade.

2. Consider Fee Waiver for Stanly YMCA Badin Tri(Athlon)

Stanly YMCA will hold its annual Badin Tri (Athlon) on Saturday, June 1st. Organizers are asking for fee waiver of the special events permit fee (\$25). Bicycle portion will occur inside the city limits of Albemarle. Riders will come up Badin Rd. to Northeast Connector to Ridge St. to Airport Road. The Police Department will assist with traffic control where necessary inside the City.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved waiving a special events permit fee of \$25 for the Stanly YMCA Badin Tri (Athlon).

3. Consider Fee Waiver and Street Closures for Dinner on Main Event

Dinner on Main will host their annual event on Saturday, June 8th on 2nd Street in Downtown. The event is a farm to table outdoor dinner to raise money for a local charity. Event organizers are asking for fee waivers of Special Events Permit and Street Closures (\$75) and street closures of Main St. from 1st St to 3rd St. and 2nd St from North St. to King St.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hughes, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved fee waivers for a Special Events Permit and Street Closures (\$75) and street closures of Main Street from 1st Street to 3rd Street and 2nd Street from North Street to King Street.

4. Nancy Hatley, Stanly County Schools - To Provide an Update on Virtual Education Activities

Ms. Hatley stated that SCoVE is a new school for Stanly County Schools. It is designed to meet the individual academic needs of those students and parents who prefer to homeschool and/or private school their child, yet provide an opportunity to utilize public school courses (seated and/or virtual) that one may have difficulty teaching or that would not otherwise be possible in the home setting. Students must be enrolled in two or more courses. SCoVE is tuition-free for Stanly County residents. These courses can be all seated, all on-line, or a blend of both. Students living outside of Stanly County would pay the out-of-county tuition as determined by the Stanly County Board of Education. She stated that for 2017-18, there were 1,089 students home schooled in Stanly County and 419 students attended a private school in this county.

Students enrolled in SCoVE that are middle school and high school age must be enrolled in at least three courses to play SCS sports. Details and procedures for middle and high school students are determined by NCHSAA and SCS Board of Education. The decision on school location for participation is based on the district residency of the students.

Ms. Hatley answered any questions that Council had.

The Mayor and Council thanked Ms. Hatley for coming tonight.

5. Stacy Hale, Windstream - To Discuss Windstream Services in Albemarle

Mr. Hale said that they had placed \$1m of fiber across the streets of Albemarle. He handed out a flier for their promotion “GIG Sign up Party” on Thursday, April 12 from 8:30-5pm at their Albemarle Windstream office at 250 N. First Street. He said speeds up to 200 mbps would be \$36 up to speeds of 1 Gig for \$66 and speeds in between. This would include unlimited fiber internet, locked rate for 12 months, no contract, and a 30-day money-back guarantee. With voice added, it would be an extra \$20/month. If someone signs up for the lower mbps, they will get 1 Gig free for the first 3 months as a trial.

He answered any questions that Council had.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Hale for coming to the meeting.

Unannounced Delegations

Ms. Essence Price came forward concerning a water leak in her home at 227 Leonard Avenue and requested consideration of a discount for the water overage. City Council reviewed her billing statement, plumbing repair statement, and annual inspection completed by the Public Housing Department. It was noted by our customer service department that per City policy, adjustments cannot be made for commode issues and attached leak as presented. City Council will have to determine any adjustment if any.

Ms. Price answered any questions that Council had.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hall, unanimously carried, the City Council approved an adjustment for Ms. Price of ½ of the current water billing charge and ½ of the next water billing charge not yet to billed and full amount of adjustment to be determined by the City’s customer service department.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Bramlett seconded by Councilmember Lowder, unanimously carried, the City Council approved a 30 day extension of payment for Ms. Price from today which is April 15, 2019.

The City Manager introduced Glenn (Skip) Smallwood who is working on behalf of International Economic Development Council and US Economic Development Administration to assist Albemarle evaluate the impact of flooding from recent hurricanes. He will prepare a report on his findings and make recommendations.

Mr. Smallwood has worked in the utility industry for over 37-years and held management positions in business development, industrial sales/marketing, and customer service. Skip has earned a Master of Science in Engineering and Technology Management from Oklahoma State University and a Master's in Business Administration from Webster University. In addition, he has earned professional designations in economic development, energy engineering, and manufacturing engineering. Mr. Smallwood holds memberships in the International Economic Development Council (IEDC); Senior Member of the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE); Professional Member of the Institute of Industrial and System Engineers (IISE); and Professional Member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME). He has held leadership roles in local and state economic development organizations and serves on numerous civic and community boards/foundations.

Mr. Smallwood stated his services this week through Thursday will not cost the City anything.

Monthly Departmental Reports

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

Unfinished Business Consider Method of Non-Partisan Election

At the March 4 City Council meeting, the City Council voted to proceed with non-partisan municipal elections. Council did not select an election method and asked that the cost of each type be provided as part of the decision-making process. The three methods for Council's consideration are:

1. Plurality method
2. Run off-election method
3. Non-partisan with primaries method

Mayor Michael has confirmed with Bob Joyce with the UNC-CH School of Government that since we are not on the traditional municipal election cycle, if we were to choose method 2 or 3, all elections would coincide with the same schedule as the state elections.

Councilmember Hall moved to approve the Plurality method for their non-partisan elections and for the City Attorney to create a resolution to be reviewed by the Stanly County Board of Elections and then brought back before City Council for review at its May 6 meeting. Councilmember Hughes seconded the motion. Voting for the motion were Councilmembers Aldridge, Hall, Hughes, and Whitley. Voting against the motion were Councilmembers Bramlett, Lowder, and Townsend. The motion carried with a 4-3 vote. After the resolution is reviewed and approved by Council at its next meeting, a public hearing can be set.

New Business

1. Consider Proclamation for Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive on May 11, 2019

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

(Proclamation)

2. Consider Proclamation for the National Day of Prayer

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Lowder, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the proclamation.

(Proclamation)

3. Ordinance 19-14 - To Allocate Insurance Proceeds for Vehicle Repairs

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

(Ordinance 19-14. To allocate insurance proceeds for Vehicle Repairs in the Police Dept.)

4. Reminder - City Offices will be Closed on Friday, April 19 for the Good Friday Holiday.

COMMENTS

The City Manager stated that the Phase III Inflow & Infiltration project and improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant have begun with 700 feet being replaced by Thursday. After that, Snuggs Park Road water extension will begin on Monday, April 22.

Councilmember Townsend stated that the Friends of the EE Waddell Community Center had a Cook-off this past Saturday and it was a great success and everyone had a great time. The weather was not cooperating.

Councilmember Townsend stated that the Community Cleanup will be held April 13-17. Volunteers to clean up trash along roads are needed and the Clean-up supplies will be provided.

Councilmember Hughes thanked the new Human Resources Director Dana Chaney for her detailed report this month.

Councilmember Hughes stated that 1776, the musical was this past week at the Agri-Civic Center and was great and very impressive.

Councilmember Hughes stated that Stanly County Schools Jazz Band had a free concert on April 11 at 7 pm at Central School Apts. Auditorium. These students are from Albemarle, West and South high schools. They will also play at Courthouse Square on Thursday, April 18 at 4 pm.

Mayor Michael stated that the City will receive a replica of the Declaration of Independence free of charge and will later be displayed at City Hall or possibly the Courthouse Square Park. Six monuments are being replicated.

Councilmember Aldridge stated that Josh Baldwin was nominated for a K-LOVE Fan Award! His song "Stand in Your Love" was nominated for Breakout Single of the Year.

Councilmember Aldridge stated that with all the recent car break-ins, please everyone lock your car doors and garage doors also.

Councilmember Hall reiterated about 1776, the musical was this past week at the Agri-Civic Center with 1,000 students being able to see this last Monday and Tuesday.

Councilmember Hall mentioned the closing of Hi-Lites and Sweet Frogs moving to a different location.

Councilmember Hall spoke about the Stanly County Recycling/Electronics Event this past Saturday, April 13 at the Agri-Civic Center.

Councilmember Bramlett and Public Works Director Ross Holshouser stated that the event was a success.

Councilmember Whitley congratulated the Stanly County Schools Jazz Band on a successful concert on Thursday, April 11 and also The Friends of the EE Waddell Community Center and their cook-off on Saturday, April 13.

The Mayor and Councilmembers Aldridge, Bramlett, Hall, Hughes and Whitley confirmed their attendance at the Legislative Breakfast.

Councilmember Bramlett stated that the Stanly County Convention and Business Bureau use to be in charge of a community calendar. They have evidently dropped this.

Councilmember Bramlett also reminded everyone of the Community Cleanup (Adopt-A-Highway Spring Litter Sweep) to be held April 13-17

Councilmember Lowder stated that some Council members are political and some evidently are not. She stated that she does not feel the non-partisan decision made by Council is good for the citizens of Stanly County. She asked, what is the purpose in doing this? She further stated that the vote this evening to choose the plurality method with a 4-3 vote will not change.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Bramlett, and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Council adjourned to a Closed Session Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a) (3) (5) (6) – To Consult with City Attorney, Real Estate and Personnel.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Lowder, and unanimously carried, 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) (3) (5) (6) – To Consult with City Attorney, Real Estate and Personnel.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Bramlett, and unanimously carried, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, the Mayor and City Council approved the City purchasing Neon Beach Sun Spa building located at 311 Pee Dee Avenue in the amount of \$115,000.

The Mayor stated that Martin Starnes and Associates, our new auditing firm has sent a questionnaire they would like filled out by all elected officials and he had printed and placed a copy at the desk for each of them.

The Mayor, Chris Bramlett, Martha Hughes and the City Manager met with Uwharrie Bank last week and they provided us a summary of their investment and employees in Albemarle.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Lowder, and unanimously carried, the City Council adjourned until Wednesday, April 17 at 6:30 pm at the Rosebriar Restaurant for the joint meeting with the Planning Board.