

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL

May 6, 2019

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, May 6, 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.

Invocation

Mayor Michael asked for a moment of silence to reflect on the Police Officer shot and killed recently at a routine traffic stop in Mooresville. Also, to reflect on the victims in a mass shooting at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte that killed two students and injured four others April 30, 2019.

Mayor Michael gave the invocation.

Special Presentations

2019 National Public Works Week Proclamation

National Public Works Week (NPWW) is a celebration of the tens of thousands of men and women in North America who provide and maintain the infrastructure and services collectively known as public works. Instituted as a public education campaign by the American Public Works Association (APWA) in 1960, NPWW calls attention to the importance of public works in community life. The Week (May 19-25) seeks to enhance the prestige of the often unsung heroes of our society. The professionals who serve the public good every day with quiet dedication.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall read the proclamation.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the 2019 National Public Works Week Proclamation:

(Proclamation)

Mayor Michael presented the proclamation to Public Works Director Ross Holshouser and his staff and thanked them for all that they do.

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Whitley, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the April 15 regular session as amended and April 15 closed session and April 17 adjourned session minutes were approved as submitted.

Municipal Calendar

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

To make correction to the May 16 RPO meeting which will be held at the Stanly County Commons.

Consent Agenda

Declare Scrap Metal Surplus To Be Sold

Public Utilities has the following items to be declared surplus located at the City Warehouse and LCWWTP to be sold.

- Approx. 15,000 lbs. scrap aluminum
- Approx. 2,000 lbs. scrap brass
- Approx. 5,000 lbs. scrap cast iron

Consider Resolution For The Local Water Supply Plan

North Carolina General Statute 143-355 (1) requires that each unit of local government that provides public water service or that plans to provide public water service and each large community water system shall, either individually or together with other units of local government and large community water systems, prepare and submit a Local Water Supply Plan

(Resolution 19-06. Requirement by North Carolina General Statute 143-355 that local government that that provides public water service either individually or together with other units of local

government and large community water systems, prepare and submit a Local Water Supply Plan.)

Ordinance 19-15 - Various FY 19/20 Budget Amendments Budget Amendment

(Ordinance 19-15. To increase appropriation in the landfill, to appropriate funds for the purchase of property at 311 Pee Dee Avenue per Council's approval, donation to City for the EE Waddell Center to be used toward new signage, and Public Housing to receive insurance proceeds to fix hail damage on the roof of the office building on South Bell Avenue)

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

New Business

Consider Contract Adjustment with Edifice for Police Headquarters Construction and Renovation

Edifice is our construction Manager at Risk for the project. Under this arrangement, they solicit and receive bids for construction. It was stated that only one local company submitted any bids which was by Garmon Mechanical and they were awarded the plumbing and HVAC components of the project.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Bramlett, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the contract adjustment with Edifice for the Police Headquarters construction and renovation subject to approval by the Local Government Commission (LGC).

The Mayor and City Managers answered any questions that Council had.

Presentation of the Proposed FY 19/20 City of Albemarle Budget

The City Manager distributed copies of his proposed 2019-20 Budget and letter to City Council. He stated that this budget of \$70,261,532 will once again be able to discharge all of its financial obligations in the current fiscal year and also present a proposed budget to do the same.

He reviewed some of the highlights of his letter with Council as follows:

Some of the Accomplishments in FY 18/19

Engineered plans for the development of the Albemarle Business Center

Began construction and renovation of the Police Headquarters Building

Repairs and improvements to the EE Waddell Community Center

Improvements to Leonard Avenue at the intersection of NC Hwy 24-27 to provide lanes for better traffic flow

Continued with the services of Retail Strategies for recruitment and retention of retail businesses to prevent leakage to other communities

Increased funding for street maintenance and repair by \$50,000

Budgeted for three police vehicles

Move to self-insured insurance which is now in the second year with no increase in FY 2017-18 or 2018-19. Any monies beyond actual cost are returned to the City no a profit for a private carrier.

See implementation of two projects as the new Pfeiffer building downtown and the agreement with Carolina Treetop Challenge.

Proposals for FY 19/20

The City Manager recommends no property tax increase

No electric rate increase

Proposes a \$1.82 increase to each resident for solid waste collection and disposal each month to keep these services self-funded

6.6% across the board water and sewer rate increase

\$1.00 per ton tipping fee increase for municipal solid waste and construction and demolition

\$25,000 increase in funding of street maintenance and repair

Lease purchase of a street sweeper and paving machine

Proposes a preventative healthcare service for all employees in the upcoming fiscal year

2% Cost of Living adjustment for all employees

Proposes a 1.0% adjustment for a variety of compensation issues as providing merit increases for top performers, issues of compression, issues of market competitiveness

He thanked the Mayor and City Council for the trust they placed in him to develop a budget to continue to serve the City residents. Also, he thanked Finance

Director Colleen Conroy, Assistant Manager Nyki Hardy and Assistance Finance Director Jacob Weavil.

Copies of the proposed budget will be able at the Albemarle Branch of the Stanly County Library, City Hall and the City's website for public inspection.

He answered any questions that Council had.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and unanimously carried, the City Council set a public hearing on the budget for Monday, May 20, 2019 at 7 pm.

Consider Change to Speed Limit on College Drive

The City Manager has been working to assist Stanly Community College and President John Enamait on a number of issues over the last few months. One is in regard to the speed limit on College Drive. This is a State roadway and in coordinating this with the NCDOT, it has been discovered there is no established speed limit for College Drive other than 35 mph.

It was noted that the NCDOT has studied the area and has proposed a 35 mph speed limit from West Main Street to the general area of the driveway to the Administration building. The remainder of the road is proposed for 25 mph. It is the NCDOT's custom to seek the concurrence of the local government regarding any such changes. The City Manager has spoken with President Enamait and he would like to see the changes move forward. If the City Council concurs, the City Attorney can be authorized to draft an Ordinance to make the change on our end. We will then provide the information to the NCDOT and they will formalize the change on their end.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Bramlett, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved proceeding with the change to the speed limit on College Drive and authorize the City Attorney to draft an ordinance.

Recommendation to Commissioner of Insurance for Appointment to Fire Department Relief Fund Board

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Bramlett, unanimously carried, the City Council approved placing this item back on the agenda for the May 20 regular session meeting for consideration.

Update on Cybersecurity Training

IS Director Owen Squires stated it has been almost one year since we implemented mandatory security training for all City employees that use our computer infrastructure for their day-to-day operations. He felt it is appropriate to update City Council on the status of that training. Mr. Squires gave a brief review of the City's existing policy, update on the City's security profile and training program, and what has changed since we began mandatory security-related training. He also gave examples of the evolving threat landscape such as email, social media and internet, trends, criminal groups and attack vectors.

The City employees have been involved in base line training with 90 days to complete, quarterly training beyond baseline and other training or simulated attacks to test employees.

Mr. Squires reviewed public incidents/high profile attacks in other cities and counties in North Carolina. Also, that it is important that we as an organization continue to learn about how we can help protect both the City of Albemarle's operations, and our own personal information.

He answered any questions that Council had.

Update on Water and Sewer Projects

The City Manager reported on the following:

1. The Water and Sewer Division has finished the complete replacement of 700-feet of 24-inch sewer line at the Waste Water Treatment Plant property. This work was performed by our in-house crews and is the first portion of the Phase 3 Inflow and Infiltration project.
 2. Water and Sewer crews have also begun work on the Snuggs Park water line extension that was requested by property owners and approved in the late fall by City Council. Work should be completed within a week to 10-days.
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Update on Street Preservation and Maintenance Program Activities

Director of Public Works Ross Holshouser came forward and gave a brief update of the street preservation and maintenance programs completed or in progress. He reported micro-surfacing is being done by Slurry Pavers and was completed last Thursday and the milling

and paving is being done by C. K. Earnhardt. Mr. Holshouser stated that everything should be completed by the end of May and definitely by June 30 at the latest.

Consider Sample Agreement Alleyway Repairs and Maintenance

As part of the overall project to have control and use of the large private parking area bounded by South First and South Second, and King and West Main, the following sample agreement has been drafted. This agreement will allow the City perform the labor if the property owners purchase the materials needed to repair the alleyway in this area extending to South First Street. This is a sample with the information of one property owner. If City Council approves the form, the agreement will be updated to provide the information of each individual party involved.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, unanimously carried, the City Council excused Councilmember Bramlett from this discussion due to his affiliation with Starnes Jewelers.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Whitley, unanimously carried with a 6-0 vote, the City Council approved an agreement for the City to have control and use of the large private parking area bounded by South First and South Second, and King and West Main for alleyway repairs and maintenance.

Stanly County Council of Governments - Meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 6:30 pm

The Town of Red Cross will host the next Stanly County COG meeting on Tuesday, May 28th at 6:30 p.m. in the Red Cross Baptist Church fellowship hall. A meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. followed by a short meeting at 7:00 p.m. We would carpool leaving from the City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

The Mayor and all Councilmembers except Councilmember Whitley affirmed their attendance.

Reminder - Stanly County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast

The event will be held on Monday, May 13 at 7:30 a.m. at Atrium Health, Albemarle.

The City Manager stated that this is our new Police Chief David Dulin's first Council meeting since moving into his new position. He asked that Chief Dulin come forward.

Chief Dulin came forward and stated that it is an honor and a privilege to be able to serve as Albemarle Police Chief. He said that his expectations are high and he is up to the challenge and hopes to bring the department into the 21st century.

Upon questioning, Police Chief Dulin said two convenience stores were robbed within an hour and a half of each other Monday evening around 10 pm on May 4 and they caught a man accused of robbing several businesses in the area. Chief Dulin said that they had strategically placed officers throughout the city due to the increased number of robberies in the last few weeks. Officials say this technique worked as officers were in the area within seconds and arrested David Carpenter as he was fleeing the scene of the robbery, according to a news release.

As the investigation continued, it was determined Carpenter was responsible for at least three other robberies including the two listed below. Carpenter has been charged with four counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon and four counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Councilmember Aldridge thanked the City staff and City residents for a great turnout to the Beach Blast this past Saturday. The weather was just not on our side.

Councilmember Aldridge spoke of an editorial in the local newspaper recently that upset him titled "Is it a field of dreams?" This editorial was concerning the Wiscassett Mills Athletic Complex project. He said that we are trying to make the City a better place to live and work and the article did not have the complete details. He asked that the paper print all the positive things happening in the City of Albemarle.

Councilmember Whitley reiterated comments about the Beach Blast on Saturday.

Councilmember Whitley commented about the excellent article in the Charlotte Business Journal about the City of Albemarle. He asked that this be posted to the City website.

Councilmember Whitley spoke about the possibility of having electric vehicle charging stations in support of Councilmember Bramlett's request. These are in cities around us and asked that research be done on the cost of these charging stations.

The Mayor stated that ElectriCities is doing research on this and they are also looking at grants to help cover the cost. It is estimated that a residential charging station would cost around \$2,000-5,000 and public charging stations up to \$25,000.

Councilmember Bramlett stated he attended this past week Tony's Art Shop open house. There are potential clients visiting or living on the river that drive into Albemarle to shop and dine for things as this.

Councilmember Bramlett said that SueJay's Soul Food will be opening this month.

Councilmember Bramlett stated that there will be on display at the Stanly County History Center at 157 N. Second Street the Nasa Apollo lunar rock from May 7-20 for the 50th anniversary of the Apollo Celebration.

Councilmember Lowder congratulated the City Manager on his proposed budget and letter to Council.

Councilmember Hall reiterated comments about the Beach Blast on Saturday. She said that due to rain it was moved to Market Station and she thanked the Fire Chief and his officers as well as Parks and Recreation Director Lisa Kiser and her staff for helping out and making sure everything went off smoothly.

Councilmember Hall stated that she attended Music on Main this past Friday night in Mooresville. She said this is evert first Friday night May-October. She said there were around 1,000 people there.

Councilmember Hall said that we were in the ElectriCities newsletter twice.

Councilmember Hall said she was also upset about the editorial in the local newspaper and others that had been written also.

Upon request, Police Chief Dulin stated we will not be holding the Police Officer Memorial in Albemarle this year due to the late start as Chief. The City will be participating in the Law Enforcement Memorial in Locust; it will be held at Mission Church 12444 Mission Church Rd. Locust, N.C. 28097. This event will take place on Wednesday, May 15th, 2019 at 10 am.

It was also stated that the Blue Line Silent Auction & Awards Dinner was held on May 2, 2019 from 6-9 pm. SRO Kim Cook received the 2019 Everyday Hero Award at the Thin Blue Line Awards Dinner held on Thursday, May 2nd, 2019 at 6pm.

Councilmember Hall stated that we need an update on the Public Housing issues brought before us recently.

Councilmember Hall stated that the Clock at Courthouse Square is being repaired with the ADDC finding someone who they believe can fix the clock.

Councilmember Hall stated that Waste Management is continuing to have issues.

Councilmember Hall said that the Albemarle Business Center for sale sign is to be changed.

She and the Mayor received an email today from Andrew Young who is keeping us informed on the progress and timing of the Articles of Freedom architectural drawing of the upcoming gift to the County/City. The architect should be in the City in the next couple of weeks to look at potential locations.

Councilmember Hall said Music at the Station will be held every Thursday evening at 7:30 pm until July 11.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Bramlett, 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(a) (3)– To Consult with the City Attorney.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, 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) – To Consult with City Attorney and there was nothing to report at this time.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the City Council adjourned the meeting until Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. for a budget work session in the Executive Conference Room.