

ADJOURNED MEETING CITY COUNCIL  
February 27, 2013

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in an adjourned session on Wednesday, February 27, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the City Hall. Mayor Elbert L. Whitley presided and the following Councilmembers were present, to wit: Troy E. Alexander, Martha Sue Hall, Judy Holcomb, Ronnie Michael, Jack F. Neel, Dexter Townsend and T. Ed Underwood. Absent, none.

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The Mayor and City Council held a Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Planning and Budgeting Work Session in the Conference Room of the City Hall with the following Departments presenting: Parks & Recreation, Police, Public Utilities, Planning and Community Development, and Public Works.

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Parks and Recreation Director Toby Thorpe came before City Council and reviewed his FY 2012-2013 budget covering facilities, funding, planning, policies, and programs. He covered resurfacing and phase completions, the beginning of the Jesse F. Niven Center renovation project, any funding secured or submitted, negotiations with Norfolk-Southern Railroad for abandoned rail corridor for future completion of the greenway, and participation in bike and pedestrian transportation planning.

Mr. Thorpe stated that the ordinance had been adopted making the City of Albemarle Parks tobacco-free.

Also, Mr. Thorpe mentioned continued national certifications for Tree City USA and Playful City USA, beginning a 12 month series of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary programs, and implementing a procedure of program evaluations.

Next, Mr. Thorpe covered his FY 2013-2014 immediate needs, short-term needs and immediate to long term needs for his department.

His immediate needs facility issues consist of backflow prevention at Rock Creek Park and the Waddell Center, Greenway expansion, and fiber connection to the Waddell Center. His immediate funding issues consist of increased utility/personnel from Niven Center move and vehicle replacement of one truck and one van. His immediate planning issues consist of assess site options for an athletic field complex and determine the location. It was stated that

grants are available through the EPA's Brownsfield Program. Immediate program issues consist of expanded programming using the Niven Center facility. His immediate policy issues include exploring fees for facility usage by private and non-Albemarle schools and credit card payment/online registration to help staff and to meet customer needs.

Mr. Thorpe briefly covered his short term goals and intermediate to long term goals with Council including the future disposal of the Rock Creek office, completion of computer labs at the EE Waddell Center, replacement of the nautilus equipment at the EE Waddell Center, a master plan for an athletic field complex, phase 2 of the Waddell Center Master plan, lighting of soccer field at Stanly Community College and expanding the property by purchasing adjacent property.

Mr. Thorpe answered any questions that Council had.

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Chief of Police William Halliburton came before Council to discuss his department's priorities for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. He asked that Council allow an investigator position be unfrozen and to be able to purchase four new vehicles.

Chief Halliburton further discussed the Gang Grant Award with the City's match of \$10,563 the first year, \$30764 the 2<sup>nd</sup> year and \$28,827 the third year. He stated we must also look at what happens if we do not get the grant. With 14 newly hired offices and 11 promotions from last year, training for personnel is imperative for the new supervisory, Detective, and new recruit positions.

Councilmember Hall came into the meeting at this time.

Chief Halliburton explained to Council about the department's restructuring and of \$17,000 in overtime costs and allows filling a much needed Evidence Custodian position. Other departmental initiatives include being in the first year of the Stanly/Albemarle Gang Initiative with an increase in federal prosecutorial cases. Our first of many call-in's is scheduled for April 16 at City Hall. The Chief gave items such as uniforms, travel, training, overtime, special investigations, vehicle repair, supplies, and part-time wages and which one of those will increase for the new budget with a total increase of \$18,000.

Chief Halliburton answered any questions that Council had.

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Public Utilities Director Ellen Huntley came before City Council and first spoke of the departmental achievements in customer service/administration, electric, and water and sewer systems. Ms. Huntley continued to speak about existing projects in the Water/Sewer Plants Division, Long Creek WWTP, US 52 WTP, Tuckertown WTP.

Critical projects to consider for FY 2013-2014 in the Electric Division was next and the costs of each as follows:

1) Replace 14.4kV Regulator Controls	\$ 55,000
2) 4kV Circuit Conversion	490,760
3) Old Parker Rd (Ca #2) – Mann Rd (Ca #1)	500,288
4) Reconductor behind Albemarle Crossing Mall with 336.4 ACSR	130,476
5) Electric System Coordination Study and 10 Yr. System Study	108,000
6) Replace 80 existing street lights with new LED Street lights	50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,334,524</b>
Contract Labor using Lee Construction Inc (included above)	490,000
Asplundh Tree Expert Company	449,263

Critical projects to consider for FY 2013-2014 in the Water and Sewer Plants Division was next and the costs of each as follows:

1) Extend Raw Water Intake Line at TTWTP	\$ 150,000
2) Bubble Mixing System at West Oakwood Tank	70,000
3) Stripping towers at TTWTP	300,000
4) Flocculators at TTWTP	32,000
5) Sediment Basin at TTWTP	100,000
6) Security Cameras	30,000
7) Replace Sodium Bisulfite Feed System at LCWWTP	80,000
8) Biosolids Study for Alum Sludge at WT Plants	50,000

Critical projects to consider for FY 2013-2014 in the Water and Sewer Systems Division was next and the costs of each as follows:

1) Contracting Sewage Lift Stations Services	\$ 40,000
2) Contracting Cross-Connection/Backflow Preventer ORC & FOG Control Device Inventory	30,000
3) Snuggs Park Road (not including labor)	170,000

4) Mill Street	25,000
Departmental Equipment Requests for Electric Division (Vehicles and Trencher replacement)	340,000

Departmental Equipment Requests for Water and Sewer Division ( Boring Rig, Jet Truck, Portable Trash Pump, Portable Diesel Generator, Pad Mount Generator, Manhole Vents, and AMR Meters)	659,500
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**\*\*\*The Jet Truck is a have to replace this year if possible\*\*\*\* \$ 410,000**

Ms. Huntley ended her presentation with future projects as the Raw Water Line from Old Whitney to Hwy 52 WTP. She stated the cast iron pipe is well over 50 years old and it does not all run along DOT R/W. As the City increases sales to Concord and Kannapolis and the US 52 WTP needs to increase production to provide for our local customers, increased pressure is going to cause breaks. Being near homes, sheds, etc. it is a liability to the City.

She recommended that the Water and Sewer rates have 5% minimum increase in all categories and with additional wholesale electric increase, she recommends that the maximum amount possible be passed on to the consumer, taking effect on July 1 instead of October 1, 2013.

In closing, Ms. Huntley stated that with three positions retiring this year, we are not replacing the Assistant Water and Sewer Systems Superintendent position or a meter reader position, saving \$80,000. Biosolids savings of tipping fees should be a cost savings and cut in half. She asking to wait to explore planting trees or pursuing solar energy at the TTWTP due to problems of Alum Sludge disposal.

Ms. Huntley answered any questions that Council had.

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Planning and Community Development Director Keith Wolf came before City Council and first explained the diversified responsibilities of his department including the following meetings and duties:

- Planning Board and Planning Board Dinner Meetings
- Zoning Board of Adjustment Meetings
- Historic Resources Commission and Minor Works Meetings
- Community Appearance Commission Meetings
- Attend meetings of the Development Review Committee
- Attend meetings of the Stanly County Review Committee

Applications  
Minimum Housing Code Violations  
City Coordination Forms  
Sign Permits and Violations  
Review of Building Plans for New Development Projects  
Subdivision Plat Reviews  
Responding to numerous questions from the public daily

Appearance Awards for Community Clean Up  
Graffiti Removal  
Maintenance of City Hall

Mr. Wolf stated that the workload in his department has significantly increased and he needs to hire an experienced planner who can take over some of the important and time critical responsibilities within the department. He also stated that all three current employees are stretched to the limit. Also, he continued by giving Council nuisance violations for 2012, letters sent on problem cases, second violation notices sent, and sign violations. He stated that the maintenance personnel in his department has completely separate duties and his budget also included maintenance and utility bills and some service contracts for City Hall and other buildings.

Mr. Wolf stated that his three major requests for the upcoming 2013-2014 budget year is an additional employee at the Planner II or Senior Planner level, training and travel allowance for all three planner positions, and an increase in the maintenance line item to cover repair costs.

Mr. Wolf answered any questions that Council had.

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Public Works Director Mike Lambert came before City Council and stated that he has three budgets including his General Fund, Powell Bill, and the Solid Waste. He explained the divisions within his department as Streets, Downtown Services, the Warehouse providing citywide fuel distribution and inventory, Fleet maintenance of service and maintenance of City vehicles and equipment inventory, and Solid Waste.

Mr. Lambert spoke of his street division and that \$200,00 will be spend on resurfacing 10 streets in the current fiscal year and he is running under

budget at the current time and may come back before Council. Also, this division has added \$40,000 in sidewalks and he mentioned the ones at the Albemarle Middle School. Also, he stated that the Powell Bill Fund Balance is solid with an excess of a \$300,000 balance.

Under Downtown Services, Mr. Lambert commented on the property maintenance and property management his department handles, downtown events, and tree lighting of the downtown. He stated that there were a doubled number of trees lighted this year and he want to continue this.

Under Warehouse Services, Mr. Lambert stated that his department continues to provide citywide fuel distribution and inventory management as well as fleet maintenance in servicing all City vehicles and doing the equipment inventory. He said there were 1200 work orders last year.

Upon questioning, Mr. Lambert stated that he wants to be shovel ready to add the sidewalks on Leonard Avenue from NC Hwy 24-27 to East Main Street. He is requesting a survey for right of way within 10 feet of the curb and gutter on both sides of the road. The City will have to have the right of way in hand before NCDOT will issue a grant to us.

Under the Solid Waste Division, he commented on operational improvements, recycling sales of \$50,000 each year, and tipping fees that are modest and competitive and that it supports itself. Also, he reviewed the purchase of 105 acres that was paid with existing revenue to use as a buffer between the landfill and adjacent property not owned by the City. They will have a partial harvest of trees at any given time, where it is never completely bare.

Mr. Lambert stated that since 2008 to current, his department has cut 8 full time employees through attrition and retirements. He also stated that his Assistant Director Nina Underwood and he would in the next few years probably be considering retirement.

Mr. Lambert in closing reviewed his current budget of \$5.7 million and that 31% or \$1.78 million is the total payroll including benefits of that budget.

Mr. Lambert answered any questions that Council had.

Councilmember Hall moved that the trees stay lighted this year until April 15, 2013 from dusk to 9:30-10:00 pm and to look at later this year when to re-light the tree again. There was no second to the motion. The motion died for lack of a second.

Councilmember Holcomb stated that she would like to know the costs of the tree lighting before making a decision on the time frame.

Mayor Whitley stated that this will have to be estimated by the City Manager and brought before us at the next Council meeting on Monday, March 4.

The City Manager asked Public Works Director Mike Lambert and Public Utilities Director Ellen Huntley to look into this cost estimate.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Underwood, seconded by Councilmember Holcomb, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.