

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL

January 22, 2013

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 22, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall. Mayor Elbert L. "Whit" 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.

Mayor Whitley called the meeting to order.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the minutes of the January 7, 2013 regular session and January 16, 2013 adjourned session minutes were approved as submitted.

Mayor Whitley noted that the monthly administrative reports were in the agenda package.

The City Manager stated that at the last City Council meeting, Councilmember Alexander requested detailed information about capital projects in the Public Utilities Department. The report that Council received tonight was placed at the dais for each Councilmember. Also, he stated that he or Public Utilities Director Ellen Huntley will answer any questions that Council has.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the following Ordinances passed second reading and were duly adopted:

(Ordinance 13-01. To appropriate fund balance to pay for the fire trucks received this current fiscal year.)

(Ordinance 13-04. To appropriate reimbursed funds for COA officers overtime work during the DNC convention in Charlotte, NC and to appropriate Smart Communities grant from ElectriCities.)

The Mayor and City Council considered a Memorandum of Understanding with Stanly Community College for the use of a City owned Digger Derrick Truck for the Electrical Lineman Curriculum. The City Manager noted that this would allow for the occasional use of one of the City's line trucks for the Electrical Lineman Curriculum program at SCC. This request has been reviewed by Public Utilities Director Ellen Huntley and Electric Superintendent Charles Burris and they are in agreement with the MOU.

Ms. Becky Wall with the Electrical Lineman program at SCC was present and answered any questions that Council had. Mayor Whitley thanked Ms. Wall for being at the meeting tonight.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Neel and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Stanly Community College as presented for the use of a City owned Digger Derrick Truck for the Electrical Lineman Curriculum.

The Mayor and City Council considered acceptance of a Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant. Albemarle Parks and Recreation, working along with the Land Trust for Central NC, has been notified of receipt of a \$35,000 grant from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

Parks and Recreation Director Toby Thorpe stated that this grant will require a \$19,600 match, which we are seeking from external sources. These funds will be combined with other grant funding to:

- 1-Acquire a strip of land to the west of the Rock Creek Park trail to prevent clear cutting
- 2-Possibly (dependent upon additional funds and landowner cooperation) extending the trail south to Moose Farm Road, utilizing the old Yadkin Railroad grade.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant in the amount of \$35,000, requiring a \$19,600 match that the City is seeking from external sources.

The Mayor and City Council considered the close-out of the Southern Aire Capital Fund Program Project in the Department of Public Housing. Assistant City Manager Michael came forward and stated that the replacement of 50-HVAC units at Elizabeth Heights is completed and the contract and project can be officially closed and City Council can approve the final contract as adjusted to reflect one change order and the net decrease in the final contract amount as it came in under budget.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a close-out of the Southern Aire Capital Fund Program Project in the Department of Public Housing.

The Mayor and City Council considered an approval of Bid 2013-08 for transformers in the Electric Division. Council received a memo from Jonathan Misenheimer regarding the transformer recommendations.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Michael, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved bid 2013-08 for Transformers in the Electric Division.

(Bid Tabulation)

The Mayor and City Council considered a City Council appointment to the Fire Department Relief Fund. The City Council will need to appoint a member to the Fire Department Relief Fund Board for a two year term. The City Manager noted that this election occurs every January as required by General Statue. Currently Mayor Pro Tem Alexander and Councilmember Holcomb are the Council's appointees. Mr. Alexander's term is the one that is expiring.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the City Council approved reappointing Mayor Pro Tem Alexander to the Fire Department Relief Fund.

The Mayor and City Council considered an award of Bid 2013-07 for Surplus Metal opened on Tuesday, January 8th for surplus railroad track, spikes, tie plates, and connectors removed from the Snyder Greenway route north of Salisbury Avenue.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Michael, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the highest bids for surplus metal opened on Tuesday, January 8th, entailing surplus railroad track, spikes, tie plates, and connectors removed from the Snyder Greenway route north of Salisbury Avenue.

(Bid Tabulation)

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, an Ordinance entitled (Ordinance 13-03) “ORDINANCE 13-03, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND FY 2012-13 BUDGET” passed first reading.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, an Ordinance entitled (Ordinance 13-05) “ORDINANCE 13-05, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND FY 2012-13 BUDGET” passed first reading.

The Mayor and City Council received a report on Duke Energy Data Center Sites. At the last City Council meeting Councilmember Hall shared some information she had received regarding data center sites in North Carolina, and

City Council asked that the City Manager discuss this with EDC Director Paul Stratos and suggest the former Wiscasset site as a potential location.

City Council received information regarding the Duke program that Information Systems Director Owen Squires located on the internet. The City Manager noted that these are not actually data centers that have been confirmed, instead, they are locations that Duke has identified as good locations for potential data centers due to proximity of power, broadband infrastructure and other considerations. Paul Stratos advised the City Manager that there will be 9 sites as part of the telecommunications study that is going on for the EDC, and these would include the current business parks in Stanly County including the Prime Power Park, but that other sites in Albemarle may be part of the 9 as well. Due to the floodplain and the adjacent railroad, it seems that the Wiscasset site would not be ideal for a data center location, but it could be considered along with other sites in Albemarle.

The Mayor and City Council discussed the format for the Mayor/City Council Budget Retreat. This retreat is scheduled for Saturday, February 9 at City Hall. The City Manager noted that we would like to know if there is any change in the format for this retreat that City Council would like to see, and if there is any additional information we can provide to make the retreat more useful to you. Also, City Council will need to determine the start time for the retreat.

By Council consensus, the retreat on Saturday, February 9 will begin at 8 am in the Executive Conference Room at City Hall.

In response to any added information being provided to make the retreat more useful for Councilmembers, Councilmember Michael asked that time be allowed to talk about Economic Development. Also, Mr. Michael asked if Human Resource Director Robert Whitley could inform Council if the new federal government health care reform will affect the City.

Councilmember Townsend stated that he would like to have time to visit the different departments and projects such as the ones in public utilities.

Councilmember Hall asked for information on the last capital improvement plan and what was accomplished.

The Mayor and City Council considered attendance at the Stanly County Chamber of Commerce annual meeting. Mayor Whitley and Councilmembers Neel, Holcomb, and Underwood confirmed their attendance.

Councilmember Hall stated that she would like to publicly thank Councilmember Michael for attending the last RPO meeting in Marshville for her.

Councilmember Alexander asked about his voting in Raleigh on Thursday, January 24 at the Advocacy Goals meeting. Councilmember Hall stated that she and several Councilmembers along with the City Manager will be there with him on Thursday.

Finance Director Colleen Conroy came before City Council and stated that when the City closed on the financing of the EQ Basin at the Highway 52 Water Treatment Plant, the money was placed in a money market account at Wells Fargo Bank. We now realize that the bank is charging a fee based on the average balance of the account for the bank's FDIC insurance. Ms. Conroy stated that it was decided to move the money to another bank that does not charge a fee.

She noted that she emailed Bank of Stanly, First Bank, First Citizens Bank and Home Savings Bank. Home Savings did not respond but the other three banks responded and Bank of Stanly appears to have the best interest rate at 0.15%. She requested moving the funds to Bank of Stanly but they are requiring authorization of the City Council by passing a resolution to open the account.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a resolution to place monies in a money market account with no fee at Bank of Stanly for the financing of the EQ Basin at the Highway 52 Water Treatment Plant.

(Resolution 13-04. To authorize the opening of a money market account at the Bank of Stanly to hold loan funds to be disbursed as needed for the EQ Basin project at the US 52 WTP.)

Councilmember Alexander asked about the 2% payroll tax being added to employees starting in January 2013. The City Manager stated that Human Resource Director Robert Whitley emailed to everyone information explaining congress requiring that its social security withholding be changed from 4.2% to 6.2% beginning in January 2013.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Michael, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned until Monday, January 28 at 6:00 p.m. for a presentation from the ED Task Force.