

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL

November 4, 2019

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, November 4, 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 Lowder, Dexter Townsend and Chris Whitley. Absent, none.

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Mayor Michael called the meeting to order.

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Mayor Michael gave the invocation.

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**Presentation of NC League of Municipalities Retirement  
Resolution**

The City Manager noted that the City submits names each year to the NCLM for this recognition and the City invites each individual to attend to receive their resolution if they like. Former Police Chief Danny Bowen came forward and the Mayor presented his framed resolution.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Hughes, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the October 16 adjourned session and October 21 regular session minutes were approved as amended.

Councilmember Hughes asked that the October 16 adjourned session minutes be amended correcting the voting concerning changes to the ordinance to exempt existing businesses with less than 50 parking spaces instead of 10.

Councilmember Hall asked that the website calendar be changed concerning the City Council tour of Albemarle High School to November 15 at 9am.

Councilmember Hall also asked for a change on the October 21 regular session minutes to the date the COG Grant workshop is to be held is Tuesday, November 12.

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## **AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

1. Add discussion of the Walk of Fame
2. Add discussion concerning action taken on September 16 for 2620 West Main Street concerning the horses.

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

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## **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.

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## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Adoption of Proclamation to Recognize Albemarle High School  
Principal Emily Shaw**

**(Proclamation)**

**Rescheduling of the Second Meeting in January to January 21,  
due to a Conflict with the MLK Holiday**

January 20, 2020 is a City holiday and offices will be closed. Council has traditionally rescheduled the meeting to the following day, which in this case would be to Tuesday, January 21st at 7:00 p.m. If this day and time do not work, Council can remove this item from the Consent Agenda and select another day and time

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

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## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Central Auditorium Naming**

#### Background:

At the August 6, 2019 City Council Workshop, Council requested that staff advertise naming rights and seat sponsorship opportunities via social media, utility bill inserts and the City's website. Here are the actions that we have taken:

August 14, 2019- Advertisements placed on the City's website and Facebook. The ad was boosted on Facebook to reach a larger audience.

August 28, 2019- Central Auditorium webpage created. ADDC's "Downtown Venues" linked to the Central Auditorium webpage.

October 2019- Bill inserts were included in the October utility bills.

November 2019- Bill inserts have been created to promote purchasing sponsorship as a Christmas gift.

21 of 247 seats have been sponsored prior to the recent ad campaign.

As of 10/30/19 there have been no inquiries into naming rights or seat sponsorship.

At the October 7, 2019 City Council meeting, Council requested to bring this item back at the first regular meeting in November 2019. Staff was asked to review the lease agreement to confirm that there are no restrictions to renaming the auditorium. No such restrictions were found in the lease.

Naming recommendations from City Council Members:

- Shirley Lowder: The Auditorium at Central
- Bill Aldridge: Albemarle Neighborhood Theatre

Someone also suggested Albemarle Auditorium

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved naming the Central School Auditorium Albemarle Neighborhood Theatre.

Councilmember Hall thanked the Assistant City Manager for all the hard work on this.

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## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1 Consider Request of Pfeiffer University for the City to Set Poles**

The City Manager noted that he had been contacted by the University's Softball Coach Monty Sherrill. Mr. Sherrill is trying to make many facility improvements and is soliciting assistance from the community. He has requested the City set utility poles they intend to purchase from us to be used in constructing new safety netting for balls hit out of play. The City Manager noted he discussed this with the City's Public Utilities Department and this can be performed if City Council so chooses.

Councilmember Bramlett moved to approve a request of Pfeiffer University for the City to set poles that Pfeiffer intends to purchase from the City to be used in constructing new safety netting for ball hit out of play. Councilmember Hall seconded the motion. Voting for the motion were Councilmember Aldridge, Bramlett, Hall, Hughes, and Whitley. Voting against the motion were Councilmembers Lowder and Townsend. The motion carried with a 5-2 vote.

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### **2 Quarterly Business Update**

Planning and Development Services Director Kevin Robinson came before Council and reviewed his update of new and existing businesses for the third quarter of 2019. He stated that there had been four change of ownership, nine new businesses, and two business expansions with a total of 40 new jobs.

It was noted by Council that we have a new pizza restaurant, Roma Pizza, at 801 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Harmanco's has changed ownership.

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### **3 Report on Partnership between Albemarle Parks & Recreation and Stanly Community College**

Director of Parks & Recreation Lisa Kiser came before Council and gave a brief overview of the partnership between Albemarle Parks & Recreation and Stanly Community College's Heavy Equipment Operator program for the improvements of parking areas at Waddell Center. The program students will supply the labor for the paving of parking lots.

Ms. Kiser reviewed the map with Council of the new parking lots and stated that Public Works Director Ross Holshouser as well as Planning and Development Services Director Kevin Robinson worked with her on this project.

It was noted that a MOU would be drafted to formalize the arrangement and would be placed on a future agenda for Council's consideration.

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### **4 Consider Attendance at Stanly County Council of Governments Meeting on Tuesday, November 24**

The next Stanly County COG meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 26th at Loves Chapel Methodist Church located at 808 S Love Chapel Rd, Stanfield.

The Mayor and City Council all confirmed their attendance.

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### **5 Reminder- City Offices will be Closed on Monday, November 11 for Veteran's Day**

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### **6 Information - 2019 Employee Christmas Luncheon- December**

This annual event will be held on Wednesday, December 18 from 11:30 - 1:30 at the EE Waddell Community Center. Council typically serves the food at this event.

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## **Agenda Adjustments**

Mayor Michael asked Assistant City Manager Nyki Hardy to give a Walk of Fame report to Council.

August 6- Staff presented a draft Walk of Fame policy to City Council. Council provided feedback for revisions.

September 16- Staff presented the revised Walk of Fame policy to City Council. Council made and approved additional changes and approved the policy.

Because the Committee is appointed entirely by City Council, when the new City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager is hired, that person will be responsible for managing the Walk of Fame Program.

### **Moving Forward:**

Plans to implement the Walk of Fame Program include:

- Developing an organizing document for the committee: bylaws: roles, responsibilities, attendance, voting procedures, meeting schedule, etc.
- Recruitment of committee members and appointment by City Council
- Development of program budget; (medallions and installation, promotion, induction ceremony)
  - 24” Medallions cast in bronze plaques - \$1300 ea.
  - 12” Medallions cast in bronze plaques- \$400 ea.
  - Doesn't include cost to engrave
  - Brick pavers to affix medallions to concrete
- Development of a communication campaign

Ms. Hardy noted that in talking with other local governments who have done this, on average it takes a couple years to get it fully up and running. Some local governments inducted for a few years before having a ceremony and installing the medallions. So there are several things that will need to be examined and determined throughout the planning process.

Mayor Michael stated that Planning and Development Services Director Kevin Robinson had received a request from Dr. Harbeson at 2620 West Main Street concerning the time period being extended on relocating a pasture fence for her horses.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, and unanimously carried, the City Council approved allowing Creative Counseling until January 31, 2020 to change the fencing location with the Planning and Development Services Director Kevin Robinson determining the distance.

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City Council was reminded of the Albemarle High School Tour on Friday, November 15 at 9 am.

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The City Manager reminded City Council of the Fall Budget Work Sessions on Tuesday, November 19 and Wednesday, November 20 at 4 pm each day in the Raymond I. Allen Room at City Hall.

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Councilmember Hughes asked about the Charters of Freedom. Councilmember Hall stated that you can go onto their website and see that this is in the works but not when it will be completed.

Mayor said that the organization contact is checking with the contributor of the program and see if he would allow a design and sketch of the potential location for our consideration as to the location.

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Councilmember Hall stated that Centralina Council of Governments Grant Workshop is Tuesday, November 12

Councilmember Hall stated that the Special Events Committee needs feedback and comments on what Council would like them to do going forward. She stated that Main Street Manager Joy Almond and Parks and Recreation Director Lisa Kiser are City staff committee members and Councilmember Bill Aldridge and Martha Sue Hall are also committee members. There will be a follow up meeting on Tuesday, November with the committee.

Councilmember Hall stated that the Parks and Recreation staff came out and helped with the Fall Extravaganza and she stated what a great job they all did and thanked them and Parks and Recreation Director Lisa Kiser. She stated that the attendance was not that great for some of the activities.

Councilmember Hall stated that the City is only 20% percent from making our United Way donation goals.

Councilmember Hall thanked Public Works Director Ross Holshouser for the paving of Rock Creek Park.

Councilmember Hall asked about the walking routes and Parks and Recreation Director Lisa Kiser said this should be completed by June 2020. Also, she said they hope to place the medallions January-February 2020.

Councilmember Hall asked for a sewer update concerning Miller Street and Pee Dee Avenue. The City Manager stated that in the budget, the City had planned to slip line sewer lines on these two streets. Sections of each line have both deteriorated to the point where sections could not be slip-lined. This week we will be digging these sections up and replacing the damaged pipe. This work will be performed by our forces, then we will have the company come in and slip line the entire sections as originally intended. We hope the slip-lining company will be on-site in December to do this work.

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Councilmember Bramlett spoke concerning the Special Events Committee and that the Mayor had asked all Councilmembers to supply names of anyone interested in being a part of this committee and participating and helping out in the events. He said the turnout was good on Thursday and Friday night of the Fall Extravaganza but not on Saturday night.

Councilmember Bramlett stated he attended a breakfast recently and he was the only County/City elected official there. He stated that Stanly Atrium is one of our best assets and we need to support our hospital.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Hall, 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) – Legal and Real Estate.



Upon a motion by Councilmember Hughes, seconded by Councilmember Hall, 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) – Legal and Real Estate.

Mayor Michael stated that Council has two items to consider as follows:

1. Approve resolution concerning mediation with Holden Building Company concerning the Albemarle Landfill Employee Facility.

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

(Resolution 19-26. To sign a mediation agreement with Holden Building Company concerning the Landfill Employee Facility.)

2. Authorize the City to proceed concerning an agreement with Stanly County School Board in the sale of property at the corner of Wall Street and NC 24-27 to Hampton Inn which was deeded to the City by the Stanly County School Board.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Whitley, and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Council authorized staff to proceed forward in negotiating a portion of the property at the corner of Wall Street and NC 24-27 with the Stanly County School Board in its sale to Hampton Inn to construct a new hotel.

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Mayor Michael gave an update on 503 Old Charlotte Road. The new owner is to come into compliance per the Planning and Development Services Director Kevin Robinson. Mr. Robinson is working with them on this.

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