

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL  
June 18, 2012

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, June 18, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall. Mayor Elbert L. "Whit" Whitley presided, and the following Councilmembers were present to-wit: Troy E. Alexander, Judy Holcomb, Ronnie Michael, Jack F. Neel, Dexter Townsend, and T. Ed Underwood. Absent at the start of the meeting, Jack F. Neel. Absent, Martha Sue Hall attending funeral out of state on June 18.

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Mayor Whitley called the meeting to order.

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The Mayor and City Council presented a retirement certificate to Roger V. Ridenhour retired on June 1, 2012 with 25 years of service. Mr. Ridenhour was an employee in the Water Sewer Systems Division from 1987 to June 1. He retired as a General Supervisor.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Underwood, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the minutes of the June 4 regular session and June 4 closed session minutes were approved as submitted.

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Mr. Jim Hodges, WHN Architects came before City Council to present the final plans for the renovation of the former Jesse Niven Center before they are submitted to Stanly County Inspections for approval and they go out for bid.

Councilmember Neel joined the meeting at this time.

Mr. Hodges answered any questions that Council had and stated that he will submit the drawings to the Stanly County Inspections for a permit.

The City Manager stated that a tour can be arranged for Council of the Niven Center if they would like. Council chose 9 am on Thursday, June 21 for the tour.

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

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

(Ordinance 12-21, Grant Ordinance for the 2012 Capital Fund Program in the Department of Public Housing.)

(Ordinance 12-22, Ordinance to amend the FY 2011/2012 Budget for the purchase of a canine in the Police Department.)

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The Mayor and City Council discussed information regarding the Just Us Kids Program. The City Manager noted that he had contacted Ms. Vinson to invite her to the June 18 City Council meeting and to request again a copy of this program's most recent audit and non profit designation. He noted that he also sent emails to her on June 7 and June 11 regarding this request.

The Mayor stated that a memo was just sent to the City Manager from Ms. Vinson which Council received a copy of tonight.

Parks and Recreation Director Toby Thorpe came forward and stated that Ms. Vinson had also spoken with Billy McRae and stated she no longer has plans to use the EE Waddell Center for her program.

Councilmember Holcomb asked that the City Manager check to see if Just Us Kids is a legal business in North Carolina.

Councilmember Michael asked that the City contact the Department of Public Instruction for a copy of Just Us Kids audit as he had requested at a previous meeting. This City Manager said he had not as he assumed this was a moot point with the program no longer using City facilities. It was the consensus of the City Council that DPI still be contacted and the City staff still pursue acquisition of an audit for Just Us Kids.

Upon questioning, it was confirmed by Mr. Thorpe, that Ms. Vinson had turned in the keys to the EE Waddell Center per Billy McRae.

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The Mayor and City Council decided to postpone discussion of appointments to City Boards and Commissions until their next meeting on July 2 since Councilmember Hall was not present.

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The Mayor and City Council discussed acquiring door prizes for ElectriCities Annual Meeting by City Council. Councilmember Neel had requested that this item be placed on the agenda for further discussion. The City Manager noted that to date, Councilmember Townsend has provided two golf shirts from Preformed Line Products, and Councilmember Hall has stated she will either donate and/or solicit donations of wine from the local wineries.

Upon discussion, the City Manager stated that typically items are donated to us to take to the ElectriCities Annual meeting. Councilmember Neel was asked to inquire if the Stanly County CVB can donate any item.

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The Mayor and City Council considered approval of the Southeastern Consulting Engineers contract for a new electric delivery point. The City Manager noted that the adopted budget provides for the construction of a third electric delivery point for the City's electric system to be constructed on City owned property at the corner of NC 24-27 and Central Avenue.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Neel unanimously carried, the Council approved the Southeastern Consulting Engineers contract for a new electric delivery point.

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The Mayor and City Council reviewed a proposal from Sanford Holshouser for economic development consulting. The City Manager noted that this proposal is to coordinate the efforts of an Albemarle Economic Development Task Force suggested by Councilmember Townsend during the budget process. Sanford Holshouser has worked with the City in the past, and are experienced economic development consultants. They also work closely with ElectriCities, and because of this the proposal is discounted 10% from their usual fees. The cost of the proposal is \$11,500 plus travel and expenses, but ElectriCities has agreed to contribute \$2,500 towards the cost of the study.

City Council discussed the selection of members for the Albemarle Economic Development Task Force.

Councilmember Michael asked the Mayor if the City Manager can do a press release about this.

Upon questioning, the City Manager stated that this feature can be added to “What’s New” on the City website for interested candidates to sign up.

Mayor Whitley stated that the newspaper and radio can also be made aware of this information.

Councilmember Neel stated that a press release should be used to inform the public but not for application.

Councilmember Townsend stated that the City could design an application for interested candidates in participating on the task force.

Council discussed what to include in the press release and if it should be for information only or to have candidates apply.

The City Manager said that we can use Councilmember Townsend’s idea of preparing an application and if volunteers are interested, they can contact the City for an application. Then the applications can be submitted to Council for review.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Neel and unanimously carried, the Council approved the proposal from Sanford Holshouser for economic consulting in the amount of \$11,500 with ElectriCities contributing \$2,500 of this cost for a total cost of \$9,000 to the City.

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The Mayor and City Council considered a joint meeting with Towns of Badin and New London to review the draft for the Albemarle Badin New London Comprehensive Transportation Plan. The City Manager noted that additional work has been completed and NCDOT would like to hold another meeting with the three towns to review a draft of the plan before it goes to public hearing. July 9 has been tentatively suggested as a meeting date.

Council approved by consensus of a joint meeting with Towns of Badin and New London to review the draft for the Albemarle Badin New London Comprehensive Transportation Plan on July 9 at 5:30 pm at City Hall in the Community Room.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Michael, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the following Resolution was duly adopted:

(Resolution 12-19, To adjust the landfill disposal fees for FY 2012-2013)

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Neel, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the following Resolution was duly adopted:

(Resolution 12-20, To adjust the electric rates for FY 2012-2013)

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the following Resolution was duly adopted:

(Resolution 12-21. To adjust the water/sewer rates for FY 2012-2013.)

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The Mayor and Council reviewed a proposed schedule for Planning Board dinner meetings for FY2012-2013.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Holcomb and unanimously carried, the approved the proposed schedule for the Planning Board dinner meetings for FY 2012-2013.

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The Mayor and City Council considered approval of a Proclamation declaring June as Small Cities Month. Councilmember Hall had requested that City Council consider approval of recognizing June as Small Cities Month, which is being promoted by the National League of Cities.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the Council approved a Proclamation declaring June as Small Cities Month.

(Proclamation)

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The Mayor and Council considered the delegation of appointment of tax collector to the City Manager. The Finance Department has requested that Revenue/Collections Supervisor Lindsay Carter be appointed as Tax Collector. Lindsay has worked in the Collections area as well as the accounting area. Susan Bailey has served as Interim Tax Collector following the resignation of the previous Tax Collector and if authority is delegated it is the City Manager's intention to appoint Lindsay Carter as Tax Collector.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Michael, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the Council approved the delegation of appointment of Tax Collector to the City Manager.

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The Mayor and City Council considered a request to close streets for the Forest Hills Independence Day Parade. This parade is proposed for Wednesday, July 4 from 10 am to Noon.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the Council approved the closing of streets for the Forest Hills Independence Day Parade on Wednesday, July 4 from 10 am to Noon.

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The Mayor and City Council reviewed draft letters to Electricities of North Carolina pursuant to City Council's request.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Michael and unanimously carried, the Council approved a letter to Electricities in appreciation of two energy efficiency grants which will be used for the conversion of 4KV circuits to 24KV, and for the replacement of outdoor lighting at a water treatment plant with more energy efficient fixtures.

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The Mayor and Council reviewed information regarding the Connect/HUD Sustainable Communities Grant Update received from Centralina COG on June 13.

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The Mayor and Council received information on the proposed FY 2012-2013 ABC System Budget. The City Manager noted that a public hearing was held on this proposed budget on June 6 and the proposed budget will increase the after profit distributions to the City of Albemarle from \$8,000 per month to \$10,000 per month.

Councilmember Neel stated that he was glad to see the increase of \$2,000 to the City each month from the ABC Board.

Mayor Whitley asked that the City Manager express Council's appreciation to the ABC Board.

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The Mayor and Council were reminded of the ADDC Volunteer Appreciation Event which will take place at Market Station in downtown Albemarle on Tuesday, June 19 at 6:00 p.m. The City Manager noted that there

are reservations for this event for Mayor Whitley and Councilmembers Alexander, Hall, Holcomb, Michael, Neel, and Underwood.

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The Mayor and Council were reminded of the Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast which will be on Monday, June 25 at 7:15 am at the Stanly Regional Medical Center Family and Education Center in Albemarle. The City Manager noted there are reservations for Councilmembers Alexander, Hall, Holcomb, Michael, Townsend and Underwood for this event.

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The Mayor and Council were reminded of the NC 24-27 Project Public Officials Meeting which will be held on Thursday, June 21 from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm at Stanly Commons in Albemarle. This meeting will provide an update on the NC 24-27 widening project from Albemarle to Troy by NCDOT. Council received a notice for the public officials meeting along with a notice of the public meeting which is later that afternoon at 4:30 pm.

Councilmember Michael stated that he will be out of town and not be able to attend.

Mayor Whitley encouraged all Council members to attend if possible to see the current design proposed by NCDOT.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Michael, seconded by Councilmember Neel and unanimously carried, the City Council recommends to NCDOT that the design for NC 24-27 widening between NC 740 and Sweet Home Church Road be a five lane urban section instead of a divided highway design.

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Council discussed that several members had no internet service over the last few days.

Councilmember Michael moved that each Councilmember either continue with the City's internet service provider or an equivalent stipend to choose their own internet provider. Councilmember Underwood seconded the motion. Voting for the motion were Alexander, Michael, and Underwood. Voting against the motion were Councilmembers Holcomb, Neel, and Townsend. With a



tie vote, the Mayor voted against the motion to break the tie. The motion did not carry.

Mayor Whitley stated that IS Director Owen Squires has been working on this per Council request and will bring a report before Council. We can wait to hear from Mr. Squires on this matter.

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Councilmember Michael stated that he would like to thank Janie Mann for handling the video of Council meetings and that this is her last night due to changes at Stanly Community College.

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Councilmember Holcomb stated that Janie Mann will be missed but Council will continue working with her for their group photographs.

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Councilmember Townsend stated that City job postings are displayed at each City facility except the EE Waddell Center. He asked that the EE Waddell Center be added to the list of facilities posting new jobs.

Councilmember Townsend also stated that December 2012 Council discussed creating a mobile application for the City and asked when Council should receive a report on this.

Assistant City Manager Michael Ferris came before Council and explained exactly what a mobile app is and what it would be used for. He stated that this app could be used on a tablet or smartphone showing City happenings for residents or visitors. This will be developed specially to our City information.

Mr. Ferris also introduced Nasser Rahimzadeh, a MPA graduate student who is working an internship for the City. He is doing his graduate studies at UNC- Greensboro. Mr. Ferris stated that Nasser is gathering information presently on the cost, implementation and coordination of creating a City application.

Mayor Whitley stated that it is nice to have Nasser Rahimzadeh on board.

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Councilmember Neel stated that he sees a lot of old TV's at the curb of residents. He asked what happens with these items since most people do not know what to do with them if they are not paying for recycling.

The City Manger stated that this issue has been in the City bill stuffer explaining to residents that they can take items as this to the landfill or at certain times events such as the Household Hazardous Waste Day or any recycling event the City has.

The City Manager also stated that if such items are placed at the curb, the Public Works Department places a door hanger and sends them a letter of what they need to do.

The City Manager stated that starting July 1, 2012, construction materials of up to 4 cubic yards will be picked up by Waste Management under the new contract.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Underwood, seconded by Councilmember Alexander, and unanimously carried, the City Council adjourned to Monday, July 2 at 5:30 pm at City Hall.