

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL
November 5, 2012

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, November 5, 2012, 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, G.R. Michael, Jack F. Neel, Dexter Townsend, and T. Ed Underwood. Absent, none.

Mayor Whitley called the meeting to order.

Mayor Whitley presented resolutions honoring the service of the following former City Board and Commission members.

Barbara Bowers-Albemarle Downtown Development Corporation
Barbara Thomas-Albemarle Downtown Development Corporation
Chris Bramlett-Albemarle Downtown Development Corporation
Charley Hughes-Zoning Board of Adjustment
Charlie Frye-Zoning Board of Adjustment

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the minutes of October 15, 2012 regular session, October 15, 2012 closed session, and October 17, 2012 adjourned session were approved as submitted.

A public hearing was held to consider proposed financing of Equalization of Sedimentation Blowdown & Filter Backwash Waste Project and no one spoke for or against.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Michael, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Andrew Fusco, ElectriCities of North Carolina came before Council to provide updates on Solid Waste Disposal Facility methane to energy project and the Tuckertown Water Treatment Plant solar project.

Mr. Fusco stated that he would like to talk to Council about the two renewable energy projects with NCMPA1 assistance in Albemarle by giving a PowerPoint presentation. He spoke of the first project at the City landfill where by collecting the methane underground as it is produced by the decomposition of the waste in the landfill, then some purification, the methane can be used as a fuel in a reciprocating engine. The engine can be used to run a generator to produce electricity. This electricity is considered to be renewable energy. Expected energy production = 9,000,000 kWh/year. Proposals were received 10/19/12 and Potential construction in 2013

Secondly, he stated that NCMPA1 and Albemarle drafted an RFP for solar developers to construct a solar facility at the Tuckertown Water Treatment Plant and can provide 10 acres of open space for a 1 MW solar plant. Albemarle Public Utilities Director Ellen Huntley anticipates issuing the RFP in 2013. As with the first project a third party will construct the project. Union EMC will buy the output of the solar project which may also include renewable energy certificates. NCMPA1 and City of Albemarle working collaboratively to find opportunities for renewable energy development in Albemarle.

NCMPA1 and Albemarle looking to ensure that renewable energy projects provide benefits:

- Projects must be economically feasible
- All potential incentives must explored
- Opportunities to label Albemarle as “green community”

Mr. Fusco answered any questions that Council had along with comments from Public Utilities Director Ellen Huntley about the two projects.

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

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the following Ordinance passed second reading and was duly adopted:

(Ordinance 12-37 - To adopt a Project Budget Ordinance relating to the renovation of the Jesse Niven Center.)

The Mayor and City Council considered approval and award of bids for the construction of the US Hwy 52 WTP EQ Basin. The bid tabulation and bid award recommendation by Chambers Engineering was received by Council.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved low bidder, Gilbert Engineering Company from Statesville, NC in the amount of \$667,142.00 for construction of the US Hwy 52 WTP EQ Basin.

(Bid Tabulation)

The Mayor and City Council reviewed the financing bids results for the Equalization Basin and a recommendation from Finance Director Colleen Conroy.

A request for bid was sent to the following banks for financing on the Highway 52 Water Plant Equalization Basin, not to exceed \$1,400,000 over a ten year term based on the Engineer's estimates. The Bid results are as follows:

Bank of Stanly 2.54%
BB&T 2.09%
Home Savings Bank 2.925T
Fifth Third Bank No bid
First Bank No bid
First Citizens Bank No bid
PNC Bank 1.97% Low Bid
SunTrust Finance & Leasing Corp. No bid
Wells Fargo Bank 2.4%

It was noted that the City plans to submit all documents to the Local Government Commission by early next week for their review at the December 4, 2012 meeting and recommend accepting the low bid with PNC Bank at 1.97%.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the City Council approved low bidder, Pittsburgh National Corporation (PNC) at 1.97% for the financing of the EQ Basin at the US Hwy 52 WTP.

(Bid Tabulation)

The Mayor and City Council considered setting a public hearing for a taxi franchise. The City has received an application for a taxi franchise and a public hearing is required to consider granting a franchise.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the following City Council approved setting a public hearing to consider a taxi franchise for Patrick Howard (Howard Enterprises) on Monday, December 3, 2012.

The Mayor and City Council discussed a Department of Energy draft of proposed changes to the International Energy Conservation Code. Councilmember Neel requested that this issue be placed on the agenda for City Council to consider. The Department of Energy's (DOE) proposal would change water heater efficiency standards to eliminate the use of electric resistance water heaters in residential and commercial buildings. The American Public Power Association (APPA) opposes the proposal put forth by DOE to eliminate electric resistance water heaters and is encouraging its Public Power members to file similar comments to the DOE.

Councilmember Neel asked that Council support the NCMPA1 and ElectriCities on this matter and use the form letter provided to Council.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Neel, seconded by Councilmember Michael and unanimously carried, the City Council approved supporting ElectriCities and NCMPA1 in opposing the DOE's proposal to eliminate electric resistance water heaters by sending a letter similar to the one Council reviewed from ElectriCities.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Underwood, and unanimously carried, an Ordinance entitled (Ordinance 12-38) "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE, NORTH CAROLINA, ADOPTING A

GRANT PROJECT BUDGET ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT ." passed first reading.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed nominees for Electricities of North Carolina Board of Directors. Council received copies of these nominations and only one individual has been nominated in each category. The City Manager noted that as the NCMPA#1 Commissioner for Albemarle, it is his intention to cast the City's vote for these individuals unless the City Council feels otherwise.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Michael and unanimously carried, the City Council approved supporting the following nominees:

Latimer B. Alexander, Councilmember, High Point (weighted-vote seat) and Ron Hovis, Participant Ratepayer, Cherryville (majority-vote seat).

The Mayor and City Council considered approval of the write off of 2001 property taxes past the statute of limitations. It was noted that the County collects our taxes and the auditor did an entry to take the receivable off our books due to the statute of limitations. If the county collects any of this debt, we will take it directly into revenue rather than through accounts receivable. The total is \$15,245 that Assistant Finance Director Susan Bailey reported we must charge off. In the Revenue Collections Supervisor's memo, she noted that the final property tax collection percentage for 2001 was 99.69% with only \$15,007.74 uncollected out of a total levy of \$4,897,544.65.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the write off of 2001 property taxes past the statute of limitations in the amount of \$15,007.74.

(Write-Offs)

The Mayor and City Council considered setting public hearing to consider the adoption of the Albemarle Badin New London Comprehensive Transportation Plan. NCDOT has proposed this public hearing for the November 19, 2012 City Council Meeting. The City Manager noted that all of the work and NCDOT workshops have been

completed for this process and the CTP is now ready for approval, and the next step is a public hearing. This has been recommended for November 19.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Michael, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved setting public hearing to consider the adoption of the Albemarle Badin New London Comprehensive Transportation Plan for the November 19, 2012 City Council Meeting.

The Mayor and City Council considered sponsorship in the Hospice Festival of Trees. Council received information regarding this fund raiser for Hospice. The City Manager noted that for the past few years, the Mayor and members of City Council have personally sponsored a tree in the Festival of Trees. If we wish to do so again this year, the cost would be \$37.50 each.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the Council approved personally sponsoring a tree in the Festival of Trees in the amount of \$37.50 each.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved December 13, 2012 at the EE Waddell Community Center for the date of the Annual Mayor and City Council Employee Christmas Luncheon.

The Mayor and City Council received information about the Stanly County Board of Commissioners having made an appointment to fill the vacancy on the Stanly County Economic Development Commission. The City Manager noted that an article in October 30 edition of the Stanly News and Press stated that the Board of Commissioners had appointed David Smith to fill the vacancy on the EDC Board. Councilmember Holcomb read this article and requested that this be reported in the agenda for City Council's information. The City has previously sent letters to the Board of Commissioners requesting that the Mayor or another representative from the City be appointed to this board.

The Mayor and City Council received information concerning the CONNECT Open House drop in that will take place on Monday, December 3 from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Stanly County Agri-Civic Center. The City Manager noted that this is one of 30 sub regional open houses that will be held throughout the region to gather input from citizens about their communities for the CONNECT process. The City has been asked to publicize this event to attract as many area residents as possible to participate.

Councilmember Hall thanked the City Manager and Councilmember Townsend on attending the meeting last week and encouraged everyone to attend the open house at the Agri-Civic Center on December 3. Both Councilmember Hall and Townsend talked about using the news media to make everyone aware of the CONNECT event on December 3.

The Mayor and City Council received a copy of the Stanly County Convention and Visitors Bureau audit. This is for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 and provides an unqualified opinion with no findings.

The Mayor and City Council were reminded of the Albemarle Economic Development Task Force Meeting which will take place on Thursday, November 8 at 6 pm in the Community Room at City Hall. The Task Force has established the second Thursday of each month for their future meetings.

The Mayor and City Council were reminded of the City of Albemarle Blood Drive which will take place on Wednesday, November 7 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Fire Station One/East Community Police Offices.

The Mayor and City Council were reminded of the Veterans Day Parade in downtown Albemarle at 11:00 am on Saturday, November 10. The parade will follow the same route as in past years, beginning on North First Street near the YMCA.

Councilmember Townsend talked about the Stanly County Board of Commissioners making an appointment to fill the vacancy on the Stanly County Economic Development Commission. He said that we have discussed this item numerous times and the City is presently in the process along with the Economic Development Task Force (ETF) of promoting our local economy. We have issues that the County and the City need to work out together. Hopefully after the election and maybe by the 1st of year 2013. The City Council and the County Commissioners need to come together for the good of Stanly County.

Councilmember Hall stated that the Uwharrie Players production of “12 Angry Men” was great and this will run on November 2,3 and 4 and again on November 9, 10 and 11 at the Agri-Civic Center.

Ms. Hall also mentioned the Albemarle Christmas Parade will be on Monday, December 10 and she would like to ride on the new Fire Truck this year.

Ms. Hall also thanked everyone for their support with the death of her father.

Councilmember Alexander stated that we need to again place in the City bill stuffer information about limbs being placed separately from the leaves at the curb.

Councilmember Holcomb stated that we also need to contact the lawn contractors that do a majority of the residential homes also.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Council adjourned to a Closed Session Pursuant to NCGS § 143 318.11(a)6 – Personnel.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Michael, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Council reconvened to open session. Mayor Whitley announced that a Closed Session was held Pursuant to NCGS § 143 318.11(a)6 – Personnel and there is something Council needs to report at this time.

Mayor Whitley stated that Public Housing Director Garry Lewis will be retiring after 34 years of service and his last day is December 21. Mayor Whitley added that he will be missed and he has done a great job and the housing authority has fared well under his supervision. It will be tough for City Manager Raymond Allen and Assistant City Manager Michael Ferris to find his replacement.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.