

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL
April 16, 2012

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, April 16, 2012, at 7:00 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 Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the minutes of the April 2 regular session and April 2 closed session minutes were approved as submitted.

Dr. Brenda Kays, President, Stanly Community College came before City Council to request a letter of support for the establishment of an electric lineman curriculum at Stanly Community College. Stanly Community College Mr. Mike Hogan, Dean of Pre-College at SCC, and Kathy Gardner, Dean, Student Outreach, Career Planning and Placement were also present.

Dr. Kays stated that the college has applied for an NC Rural Center Grant in the amount of \$100,000 to support a lineman curriculum at Stanly Community College. She informed Council of a focus group meeting held in February of students pursuing this program to gather insight from their perspective. Also, the Centralina Workforce Development Board held a meeting at the college on March 15. Centralina Executive Director David Hollars participated along with representatives from SCC, ElectriCities, City of Albemarle, and local utility and power suppliers on the establishment of an electric lineman program at SCC.

Dr. Kays stated that she is asking for a couple of things including:

- 1) A signed letter from City Council to the NC Rural Center in support of the program
- 2) Endorsement of City Council with a (MOU) Memo of Understanding for use of City bucket truck as a backup if needed.

3) City guidance of subject matter expertise.

Dr. Kays introduced Mr. Mike Hogan, Dean of Pre-College at SCC who came before Council and stated that the college is looking at 18-30 year olds that would benefit from a program such as this. The electric lineman program would consist of 8 weeks of study. Upon questioning, Mr. Hogan stated that the students would come away with three certificates which include a career readiness certificate (CRC), commercial driver license (CDL), and electric lineman certificate. Mr. Hogan answered any questions that Council had.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a letter of support for the establishment of an electric lineman curriculum at Stanly Community College, a Memo of Understanding (MOU), and City guidance of subject matter expertise.

Ms. Gina Martin, Chairman, Board of Directors and Ms. Kathy Almond, Executive Director, Albemarle Downtown Development Corporation came before City Council to provide ADDC update, recommend appointments to the Board of Directors, and request a street closing.

Gina Martin gave a brief update on ADDC yearly activities and thanked City Council for all of their support. She stated that she would be completing her term as board chairman and Blake Martin will be the new board chairman starting July 1, 2012.

Ms. Martin stated that the ADDC Board has voted to recommend reappointments and appointments to City Council for their consideration. Blake Martin and Sandy Selvy are eligible for reappointment, and the Board recommends their appointment. Chris Bramlett and Barbara Bowers have served two consecutive terms and are not eligible for reappointment. The Board has also revised its bylaws to add up to 3 additional members but is requesting to add only one additional member at this time. The four recommendations are as follows:

Michelle Cumming, 315 North Fifth Street, Albemarle,
Melissa Eudy, 18453 Martin Village Road, Norwood
Catherine Spence, 441 Pee Dee Avenue, Albemarle.
Keondra Drye, 119 Church St., Albemarle.

She also stated that in addition, ADDC Director Kathy Almond will make a request to close Railroad Street on Friday, June 1 for a fish fry fundraiser for the ADDC.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Michael, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved reappointing Blake Martin and Sandy Selvy to the ADDC Board with terms expiring July, 2015 and newly appointing Michael Cumming, Melissa Eudy, Catherine Spence, and Keondra Dry replacing Chris Bramlett, Barbara Bowers, Barbara Thomas and adding a new member.

ADDC Director Kathy Almond came forward and requested the following street closing:

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the closing of Railroad Street from W. Main Street to Market Station for Fish Fryday on Friday, June 1 from 4pm-10pm.

Councilmember Michael asked if Council could go ahead and approve the closing of Railroad Street for any Market Station event and this be at the discretion of the City Manager and just to notify Council of the events.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Michael, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the closing of Railroad Street for any Market Station event in the future be at the discretion of the City Manager and just to notify Council of the events.

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

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

(Ordinance 12-14. To define and regulate drop boxes and other receptacles as a CU in the City GHBD.)

(Ordinance 12-15. Budget Amendment for the 2010
Capital Funds of Public Housing.)

The Mayor and City Council considered a resolution to adopt the 2007 Local Water Supply Program. The City Manager noted that the City submitted this plan in 2007 as required, but the state is significantly behind in reviewing these plans and have only recently reviewed our 2007 plan. They have approved it, and have asked that we adopt a resolution adopting the plan.

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

(Resolution 12-13. The adoption of the 2007 Local
Water Supply Program.)

The Mayor and City Council considered a board resolution to approve Public Housing FY 2012 Annual Agency Plan update. The Department of Public Housing FY2012 Annual Agency Plan and board resolution requires City Council approval before submission to the Dept. of HUD.

Public Housing Director Garry Lewis stated that at the City Council meeting on April 2nd, the FY2012 agency plan and updates were presented as information to City Council so that Council would have time to review the updates before the public hearing that was held on April 5, 2012 at the Public Housing administrations office on South Bell Avenue and at the Elizabeth Heights office. The Housing staff reported that there were no major questions pertaining to the updates or changes in the policies. The 2012 agency plan will continue to be open to the public for review.

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

(Resolution 12-14. The approval of the Public
Housing FY 2012 Annual Agency Plan update.)

The Mayor and City Council considered an appointment for an expired term on the Albemarle ABC Board. The three year term of Mr. Joe Calloway expired at the end of last month. The City Manager noted that he had received an inquiry from Karen Cranford a couple weeks ago to ask if Mr. Calloway had been reappointed and I advised we would calendar this for City Council consideration.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved reappointing Joe Calloway to the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board with term expiring, March 2015.

The Mayor and City Council considered a proposal from Robert S. Segal, CPA for cost-cutting and revenue enhancement services. The City Manager noted that this is a very good time to consider services like this and we would be doing our due by ensuring we are collecting all the revenues we are due as a City. Council received a copy of the proposal and a list of the types of services this firm provides as well as a reference list.

Assistant City Manager Michael Ferris came before City Council and stated that Mr. Segal recently met with him and City Manager Raymond Allen regarding the services his company offers. Segal helps organizations by making special recommendations on findings for revenue and expense items. Council reviewed sample recommendations for savings and one time refunds, credits, or rebates.

Mr. Ferris stated if hired, Segal will furnish a written report of any recommendations that may be made. The City will then determine which (if any) of these recommendations they wish to implement. Segal would then assist in the implementation of these recommendations to achieve funds. The City would then agree to pay Segal on each recommendation, a fee equal to fifty (50) cents of every dollar saved, credited, refunded or additional revenues during a 24 month period immediately following the implementation of the recommendation.

Mr. Ferris stated if approved the City would sign a letter of agreement with Segal. He answered any questions that Council had.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a

letter of agreement with Robert S. Segal, CPA, PA for cost-cutting and revenue enhancement services.

The Mayor and City Council considered declaring surplus unit #606, a 2000 Chevrolet Pickup in the Water and Sewer Plants Division which has 198,000 miles. The City Manager noted that this department had not planned to replace it in the current FY, but the transmission is now slipping and repairs will be needed soon. Due to the truck mileage, repairs would probably exceed the value of the vehicle.

Public Utilities has received three bids on a replacement truck, and the low bidder is Friendly Chevrolet Buick of Albemarle. The funds to replace the truck are coming from a transfer from other current line items, so no new appropriation is needed. The cost of the truck with trade in (which is \$1500) is \$19,328. We are requesting that Council declare the old unit surplus so that we can offer it as a trade in.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Neel, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the request to declare Unit #606, 2000 Chevrolet Pickup surplus to offer it as a trade-in on new replacement vehicle.

The Mayor and City Council discussed state mandated ethics training for Mayor and City Council. Councilmember Neel asked that the City Manager check on the status of this state mandated training for the Mayor and City Council. The City Manager noted that the law requires that all located elected officials take this training following each time they are elected. Mayor Whitley and Councilmembers Alexander, Townsend and Hall were all re-elected in 2011 and are required to take the training within 12 months of their election, so they will need to take this by November 2012. This will be offered at the NCLM Annual meeting in Charlotte in October. Councilmember Michael took this at the Essentials of Municipal Government course a few weeks ago so he has satisfied the requirement.

The Mayor and City Council considered attendance at the Stanly County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast. This event will be on Monday, June 25 at 7:15 am at Stanly Regional Medical Center. The City Manager noted that we can RSVP for any board members who plan to attend.

Councilmember Neel stated that he would not be able to attend. Councilmembers Alexander, Hall, Holcomb, Michael and Underwood affirmed their attendance.

The Mayor and City Council considered approval of Wednesday, May 16 for annual City employee picnic from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm.

Councilmember Michael stated that he thinks it would be a good idea to invite retirees to the City picnic and each department can make their retirees aware of this. Councilmember Hall asked how far back in time are we going to invite retirees. Mayor Whitley stated that he has no problem in doing this. Councilmember Neel asked why not go ahead and invite the retirees to the Christmas function each year also.

City Manager Raymond Allen asked if Council is also approving an invitation to the City board members to attend the Christmas function and picnic in May each year. This was affirmed in a motion.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Neel and unanimously carried, the City Council approved Wednesday, May 16, 2012 for the annual City employee picnic from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm and to invite all the City board and commission members and all City retirees to the annual Christmas luncheon in December and the annual picnic in May each year.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed a letter from the Chairman of the Stanly County Board of Commissioners. The Mayor received this letter in response to the two letters that the Mayor and City Council previously sent to the Board of County Commissioners regarding appointments to the Stanly County EDC.

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

sending another letter requesting consideration for an appointment on the Economic Development Board in January 2013 and to send a copy of the letter to the EDC Commission chairman and the Stanly County Commissioners chairman.

Mayor Whitley stated that Councilmember Townsend had previously stated that Council should look into setting up our own economic development committee. The City Manager stated that City staff is looking into this and will bring before City Council.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed a report on the process for All American City Applications. Councilmember Hall expressed an interest in the City considering this process at the last Council meeting, and reference was made to the study performed by Assistant City Manager Michael Ferris to an earlier similar request by City Council. City Council received a copy of the Power Point that Michael made to City Council in February 2011. Mr. Ferris had recommended that City Council send a small delegation to that year's awards to begin this process, but City Council declined to pursue the matter any further at that time.

City Council discussed but did not make a decision at this time.

The Mayor and City Council received a thank you letter from the Stanly County Chamber of Commerce for a grant they recently received in the amount of \$2,060.00.

Councilmember Alexander stated that the Executive Director of the Chamber is a member of the ADDC Board and has been very helpful.

Councilmember Hall stated that on Monday, April 30, the General Government Legislative Committee meets. This starts at 9 am with the legislative breakfast and the meeting then starts around 10:30 am in the Community Room at City Hall. They anticipate 35-40 people being here for the meeting at City Hall. The NCLM will breakfast and lunch and the City is supplying the use of our facility.

Councilmember Hall stated that she loves the items placed in the bill stuffer and asked who designs it. The City Manager stated that he designs the bill stuffer with assistance from various departments and public utilities publishes it.

Councilmember Hall mentioned the NCLM Legislative Update this coming Wednesday, April 18 in Charlotte and asked what Councilmembers will be attending. The City Manager stated that Assistant City Manager Michael Ferris, Councilmembers Hall, Michael, Neel, Townsend, and I will be attending and we will leave around 10 am.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Underwood, seconded by Councilmember Alexander and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Council adjourned to a closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) 5, 6 to discuss real estate and personnel matters.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Michael 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) 5, 6 to discuss real estate and personnel matters and there was nothing to report at this time.

Councilmember Holcomb stated that she would like to start having the regular meetings at 5:30 pm as we did several years ago. Councilmember Michael stated that hopefully more people would attend and not less. He also stated that staff liked having the meetings at 5:30 pm. Council discussed how soon this would be considered to go in effect and Councilmember Holcomb stated starting with the 1st meeting in June, 2012.

Councilmember Townsend has concerns with two Councilmembers working full time and when Council has public hearings he has strong concerns that it may affect the public in being able to attend.

Councilmember Neel stated that this is too quick to make a decision tonight. Maybe just have the meetings at 5:30 pm for the summer months. Councilmember Holcomb stated that if the time change does not work, it can always be changed back to 7 pm.

Councilmember Hall stated that she wished that she had been aware of the possibility of this motion before this moment because she would like to express those sentiments with Council. She also said that only two of the Councilmembers, herself and Councilmember Townsend, work a full time daily job, and it will affect her the most because she works outside of Stanly County.

Councilmember Holcomb moved to have the regular session meetings at 5:30 pm starting the first Council meeting in June, 2012. Councilmember Michael seconded the motion. Councilmember Neel offered a substitute motion to have the regular session meetings at 5:30 pm for the months of June, July, and August and revisit the motion at the 1st Council meeting in August. Voting for the motion were Councilmembers Alexander, Holcomb, Michael, Neel, Townsend and Underwood. Voting against the motion was Councilmember Hall. The motion carried.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council adjourned to Wednesday, April 18 at 6:30 pm at the Rosebriar Restaurant for a meeting with the members of the Planning and Zoning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment.