

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL  
August 20, 2012

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, August 20, 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, Martha Sue Hall, Judy Holcomb, Ronnie Michael, Dexter Townsend, and T. Ed Underwood. Absent, Councilmember Jack F. Neel.

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Mayor Whitley called the meeting to order.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the minutes of the August 6 regular session and August 13 adjourned session minutes were approved as submitted.

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Ms. Thelma Randall, 28928 Sweet Home Church Road came before Council to request water service outside the City limits. Ms. Randall had previously appeared before City Council on August 6. She is interested in hooking onto the City's line, but she is 520 feet from the end of the City's line which is in front of Sweet Home Church. The City Manager noted at the August 6 meeting that the cost to extend the City's line would be between \$20,000-\$25,000 all costs included. Also, he state that this is not the City's obligation since it is outside the City limits and would be a cost to the City's current ratepayers

Ms. Randall stated that she had spoken with the City Manager last week to advise that NCDOT is going to allow her to get an easement in the DOT right of way in order to construct a private line, which would be cheaper so she now wants to move ahead with the option of the private line. It was noted that this will need City Council approval, and she will need to obtain the easement, pay the tap fee in advance and sign the intent to be annexed form.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved water service outside the City limits to the Randall's at 28928 Sweet Home Church Road with the Randall's obtaining the easement, paying the City tap fee in

advance, signing the intent to be annexed form, and to pay outside the City water rates.

Councilmember Holcomb added that the Randall's will not receive police or fire protection from the City.

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

Councilmember Alexander had a question about the revenue and expenditures to date in the Solid Waste Disposal Fund. The City Manager said that the City recently purchased additional property for the landfill, which explains the expenditures being out of line for this point in the fiscal year. A budget amendment will be forthcoming to address this. The City is receiving more revenue than budgeted because Alcoa is bringing large amounts of C&D material to the landfill.

Councilmember Alexander inquired about the 457 plan in the Human Resources monthly report. The City Manager said this is a more recently implemented employee funded retirement option. Councilmember Alexander had questions on how this differed from the 401(k) plan and the City Manager said he would provide information at a later date on the differences.

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The Mayor and City Council discussed a request for a 25 miles per hour speed limit on Spring Street. City Council laid over consideration of this item from the August 6 meeting. The City Manager noted that Ms. Sadie Banks attended that meeting to request to lower the speed limit on Spring Street from 35 mph to 25 mph. She stated that due to the amount of people who are using Spring Street as a cross over to Fifth Street, they are concerned for the children who play and walk on this street.

The City Manager noted that the computer on the speed trailer is not functioning, so we have not been able to gather speed statistics on this street. The Police Department has sent this off to be repaired and as soon as it is received back, we will use it on this street.

Information Systems Director Owen Squires stated that the new software has been loaded on the speed trailer and is functioning as of today.

Police Chief Halliburton stated that the speed trailer will be placed on Spring Street.

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The Mayor and City Council considered an adoption of a Social Media Policy. This policy was presented by Administration Intern Nasser Rahimzadeh at the August 6 Council meeting. The City Manager noted that consideration of the policy was laid over until this meeting so that this policy could be reviewed in comparison to the Police Department policy required by CALEA. Nasser has made this review in conjunction with the APD, and there does not appear to be any conflict.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Michael, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the Social Media Policy.

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

(Ordinance 12-27 - To adopt a project budget ordinance relating to the Central Avenue Delivery 3 for Public Utilities.)

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Councilmember Holcomb moved that Ordinance 12-28 pass second reading. Councilmember Townsend seconded the motion. Voting for the motion were Councilmembers Alexander, Holcomb, Michael, Townsend, and Underwood. Voting against the motion was Councilmember Hall. The motion carried and the following Ordinance passed second reading and was duly adopted:

(Ordinance 12-28 - To establish the hour of 6:00 pm as the time of regular City Council meetings starting at the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of September, 2012 year round.)

Councilmember Hall stated that in her absence at the last Council meeting, she understands that Councilmember Neel voted against Ordinance 12-28

at its 1<sup>st</sup> reading knowing that she would not be in favor. She stated that she does not support meetings starting at 6 pm but does support them starting at 7 pm.

Councilmember Holcomb stated that by having the meetings at 5:30 or 6 pm the local radio news media have been able to attend the meetings and not be in conflict with the County meetings he also attends. Also, the earlier meetings help conserve energy and allows everyone to get out earlier.

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The Mayor and City Council received Public Utilities Project Updates.

Concord Kannapolis Albemarle Waterline Project, Hwy 52 WTP  
Equalization Basin  
Long Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

Public Utilities Director Ellen Huntley came forward and answered any questions that Council had.

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The Mayor and City Council considered an award of an Electric Division bucket truck bid. Council received a copy of the Bid Tabulation Sheet and the recommendation that the bid for the Aerial Device Bucket Truck be awarded to Cooper Kenworth for \$189,180.00.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a bid tabulation 2012-03 for an Aerial Device Bucket Truck be awarded to Cooper Kenworth in the amount of \$189,180.00.

(Bid Tabulation)

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The Mayor and City Council received a report on the sale of surplus copper wire. The City Manager noted that due to a mistake in the sample of wire given to the bidder, they were unable to honor their bid, so the City will plan to sell this wire as surplus at a later date when we have accumulated other surplus wire to go with it.

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The Mayor and City Council received a report on the discussion of tobacco use at Market Station. Councilmember Hall asked that this issue be referred to the ADDC Board of Directors to ask them to consider restrictions on smoking at Market Station. The City Manager noted that the ADDC Board discussed this at their meeting on August 13 and currently, smoking is prohibited inside the depot building.

In addition, the City Manager noted that smoking is prohibited by the farmer's market rules under the shelter during the time the market is in operation. One suggestion is that each event can set their own rules for tobacco products, without a total prohibition. The ADDC Board did not make any decisions, but plan to discuss this further.

Councilmember Holcomb stated that this should be left up to the Albemarle Downtown Development Corporation (ADDC).

Councilmember Hall stated that the Albemarle Parks and Recreation uses this facility for spring/summer Thursdays at the Station. She stated there have been some problems at these events. She asked that the City Manager, Mayor Whitley, and Mayor Pro Tem Alexander recommend this to the ADDC board since they are ex-officio members of the board.

Councilmember Michael stated that this will have to be left up to the ADDC board because they own the property.

Councilmember Townsend stated that if the City endorses tobacco free at all of its facilities, we should encourage other entities to do the same.

Mayor Whitley stated that the City gives \$40,000/yr to the ADDC budget per the City Manager and we can recommend that they make this facility tobacco free.

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The Mayor and City Council set an adjourned meeting to discuss the Economic Development Task Force. At its meeting on August 6, the City Council indicated it wished to hold a special meeting to review and consider applications to this Task Force, and asked that the City Manager recommend dates to be considered. The City Manager is recommending that this meeting be held on August 21, 22, 23, 29, or 30, with a recommended start time of 5:30 pm or 6:00 pm, whichever is most convenient to City Council.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Underwood, seconded by Councilmember Michael and unanimously carried, the City Council approved holding a special meeting to review and consider applications to the Economic Task Force on Wednesday, August 22 at 6 pm in the Executive Conference Room at City Hall.

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The Mayor and City Council reviewed information regarding Citizens Academies. Councilmember Neel mentioned this issue a few months ago and asked staff to do some research on this. The City Manager began doing this research and then had to suspend his efforts during the budget process. The City Manager gave Intern Nasser Rahimzadeh the information and then asked him to do additional research. Council received a copy of Mr. Rahimzadeh's findings and information.

Councilmember Hall stated that she is not sure about doing this due to someone having to be designated to handle this. She talked about "Leadership Stanly" that the Chamber of Commerce offers yearly and that they cover a lot of information about the City. This is limited to 25 people each year.

Councilmember Michael stated that this program was not included in the FY 2012-2013 budget, but that it could be considered next year. Also, he said that someone would have to be designated and he is not sure who that would be.

Mayor Whitley stated that due to time constraints and cost, maybe Council should not consider citizen academies at this time.

Councilmember Townsend asked that Council take a look at this at a later date and maybe have a shared venture with the Chamber of Commerce.

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The Mayor and City Council discussed attendance at the Congressional Business and Economic Development Summit. This will be held on September 10th and 11th in Washington, D.C. No one expressed an interest in attending this meeting.

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The Mayor and City Council considered attendance at the Stanly County Council of Governments meeting. This meeting will take place at the Stokes Student Center in Misenheimer at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 28.

Mayor Whitley and Councilmembers Alexander, Hall, Holcomb, Michael, Townsend, and Underwood confirmed their attendance.

The City Manager asked that everyone meet at City Hall at 6 pm to carpool if they wanted to go with the group.

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The Mayor and City Council considered attendance at the NC League of Municipalities Annual Meeting. This meeting will be held in Charlotte from Sunday, October 21 to Tuesday, October 23. Council received information regarding this meeting. The City Manager stated that everyone can carpool each day if we have enough attendees.

Mayor Whitley and Councilmembers Alexander, Hall, Michael, and Townsend affirmed their attendance.

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The Mayor and City Council considered attendance at the Centralina COG Board of Delegates Meeting. This meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12 at the Charlotte University Hilton. Councilmember Hall has advised that the CCOG Board of Delegates is inviting elected and appointed officials in the CCOG region to join them for this dinner meeting.

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The Mayor and City Council were informed that the updates to the Code of Ordinances are now available and are requested to bring their code books to Ms. Bowers to be updated. The Code of Ordinances are also available online and the online version is updated quarterly.

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The Mayor and City Council received a reminder that the City Offices will be closed on Monday, September 3 in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.

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Councilmember Hall stated that a resident asked her about updates and plans for the sidewalks downtown. She stated that on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street the sidewalks extend to the Bank of Stanly at the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Salisbury Avenue. She asked that the City take a look at maybe extending the sidewalks to Stanly Commons and Stanly Regional Medical Center in the future.

Councilmember Michael asked if maybe the grant for improvements from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to Albemarle High School can be looked at again.

Mayor Whitley stated that we need sidewalks on 1<sup>st</sup> Street at the Community Table. People walk in the road in this area due to no sidewalks.

Councilmember Townsend referenced the crossroads of Leonard Avenue and Lennox Street going toward Applebee's should also be studied.

Councilmember Holcomb stated that maybe having a bicycle trail if there is not enough money for sidewalks.

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Councilmember Hall mentioned ElectriCities Annual meeting on August 9 and thanked everyone that attended. She also stated that Public Power week will began the week of October 7. Mia Bailey with ElectriCities has already been in contact with Assistant Public Utilities Director Judy Redwine. She asked if anyone has ideas to send them to Public Utilities Director Ellen Huntley or Assistant Public Utilities Director Judy Redwine.

Councilmember Hall asked Police Chief Halliburton to give a report on the Dancing with the Stars event coming up.

Chief Halliburton stated that he had been asked to chair this event. Also, he said that he had chaired an event like this previously in Statesville. Chief Halliburton stated that there had been funding loss with The Butterfly House and the Dancing with the Stars event was chosen as a fundraiser. This will be held at the Agri-Civic Center on Saturday, September 8 with heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks at 5:30 pm and Dancing with the Stars at 7:30 pm. The proceeds will benefit The Butterfly House.

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Councilmember Hall also stated that the Tour de Elvis event was great this past Saturday night at City Lake Park.

Also, Ms. Hall stated that Judge Kevin Bridges' mother passed away and the funeral will be tomorrow.

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Mayor Whitley stated that he had spoken with Oscar Hinson about his property next to City Lake Park and that there is possible interest in the City purchasing this property to make an entrance into City Lake Park. This parcel is only one acre, not 3 acres as originally thought. The Mayor stated that he has not heard back from Mr. Hinson at this time.

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The City Manager stated that he had placed at the Council dais a copy of the Charlotte Regional Economic Guide. This is published twice a year and we have prime spot this year on the 1<sup>st</sup> page. This should raise the City's profile.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Alexander, and unanimously carried, the City Council adjourned until Wednesday, August 22 for an adjourned meeting concerning Economic Task Force applications at 6 pm.