

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL

December 5, 2022

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, December 5, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Ronnie Michael presided, and the following members were present, to-wit: Mayor Pro Tempore Martha Sue Hall and Councilmembers Bill Aldridge, Benton Dry, Martha E. Hughes, Dexter Townsend, Chris Whitley, and Shirley D. Lowder.

Mayor Michael called the meeting to order.

Minister Ron Loflin from Uwharrie Community Church gave the invocation.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hughes, seconded by Councilmember Lowder, unanimously carried, the minutes from the November 15th Council special meeting and the November 21, 2022 regular meeting were approved as submitted.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

The Mayor noted the following additions:

- Council action on whether to accept a Golden Leaf Foundation award;
- Closed session categories N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(2) to prevent disclosure of an award and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) personnel.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, unanimously carried, Council approved the agenda adjustments

COMMENTS – OUTGOING COUNCIL

The Mayor thanked both Councilmember Hughes and Councilmember Lowder for serving on City Council, noting that it has been a pleasure working with both of them.

The Mayor then asked if Councilmembers Hughes and Lowder would like to make any comments.

Councilmember Lowder stated that she has been blessed to serve on City Council. She noted that she would continue to sing Council's praises. The audience gave her a round of applause.

Councilmember Hughes reflected on 9 years on City Council, noting that she learned a few things over the years: a wealth of knowledge; openmindedness; and to value others' opinions. She noted that it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the City of Albemarle. She offered many thanks for the support of City staff and colleagues on Council. In terms of a highlight of her time on Council, she remembered a Council meeting which included a discussion of animals. She remarked that residents here do have a love of all kinds of animals (horses, dogs, cats, pigs, etc.). She noted that there is more work to be done for the City of Albemarle, and she is looking forward to seeing all the great things City Council will do in the future. She closed her remarks by quoting Oliver Wendall Holmes. The audience gave her a round of applause.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Lowder, unanimously carried, this portion of the meeting was adjourned.

Councilmembers Hughes and Lowder left the meeting.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Swearing In of Newly Elected and Re-elected Officials

The Honorable Kevin Bridges, Superior Court Judge, came forward to swear in Councilmembers Chris Whitley, David Hunt, and Dr. Chris Bramlett.

[Oaths of Office – Councilmember Whitley, Councilmember Hunt, and Councilmember Bramlett]

The meeting reconvened with the newly sworn City Council. Mayor Ronnie Michael presided, and the following members were present, to-wit: Councilmembers Bill Aldridge, Martha Sue Hall, Dexter Townsend, Chris Whitley, Benton Dry, Chris Bramlett, and David Hunt.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

COMMENTS – INCOMING COUNCIL

The Mayor asked if any of the newly elected or reelected Council members would like to make some remarks.

Councilmember Chris Whitley began by stating that he is pleased and honored to be back on Council for another 4 years. He is glad that some things Council has worked on have come to fruition. He was appreciative of all those who voted for him and have supported him over the years.

Councilmember Chris Bramlett said that he appreciated the privilege to serve the City again. The City is a great place to live and be.

Councilmember David Hunt said he is looking forward to serving on Council. He knows he has a lot to learn, but is looking forward to it.

Election of Mayor Pro Tempore

Councilmember Aldridge moved to dispense with the written ballot as the method to select the Mayor Pro Tempore. Councilmember Townsend seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion was unanimously carried.

Councilmember Townsend moved to re-appoint Martha Sue Hall as Mayor Pro Tem. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dry. Upon a vote, the motion was unanimously carried.

Appointment of City Manager

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Whitley, unanimously carried, Council reappointed Michael J. Ferris as City Manager.

Appointment of City Attorney

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, unanimously carried, Council reappointed Britt A. Burch as City Attorney.

Appointment of Other City Officials

The City Manager stated it is his intention to make the following appointments:

- Finance Director – Jacob Weavil
- Assistant Finance Director – Kimber Hurlocker
- City Clerk – Cindy Stone
- Deputy City Clerk – Darren Rhodes and Michael J. Ferris
- Tax Collector – Richard Lanzillotti

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Hall, unanimously carried, Council voted to leave the appointment of the Finance Director, Assistant Finance Director, City Clerk, Deputy City Clerk, and Tax Collector to the City Manager.

Consider City Representation on Boards and Commissions

Following are the local and regional boards and commissions on which the City has representatives and can make appointments:

Centralina Regional Council:

- Delegate - Martha Sue Hall
- Alternate Delegate - Chris Whitley

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, unanimously carried, Council approved maintaining the delegate placement of Mayor Pro Tem Hall and alternate placement of Councilmember Whitley on the Centralina Regional Council.

Stanly County Convention and Visitors Bureau:

- Delegate - Tiffany Dahle
- Delegate - Martha Hughes

Due to Council lack of clarity on whether it was known if members of this board were elected to terms and who qualified for a seat, Council tabled this vote until more information was obtained.

Councilmember Whitley added that the Stanly County Transportation Advisory Board is another board on which he sits and wondered if that seat should be considered by Council also. Council agreed that more information should be collected about this board for Council consideration and action at a future meeting.

NC Municipal Power Agency Board of Commissioners:

- Delegate- Michael Ferris
- Alternate - Ronnie Michael
- Alternate - Martha Sue Hall

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Dry, unanimously carried, Council approved the delegate and alternates as noted.

NC Municipal Power Agency Rate Committee:

- Delegate – Recommend Jay Voyles as Delegate
- Recommend Michael Ferris as Alternate

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, unanimously carried, Council approved the delegate and alternate as recommended.

Rocky River RPO TAC:

- Delegate - Chris Whitley
- Alternate - Martha Sue Hall

Upon a motion by Councilmember Bramlett, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, unanimously carried, Council approved maintaining the delegate placement of Mayor Pro Tem Hall and alternate placement of Councilmember Whitley on the Rocky River RPO TAC.

Rocky River RPO TCC:

- Delegate - Recommend Kevin Robinson for appointment
- Alternate - Ross Holshouser

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Hall, unanimously carried, Council approved the delegate and alternate as recommended.

The Mayor called for a short recess.

The Mayor called the meeting to order.

MUNICIPAL CALENDAR

Mayor Michael and Councilmembers received the municipal calendar prior to the meeting. The Mayor asked if Council had any questions or comments about the calendar.

CONSENT AGENDA

Accept Abstract of Votes from City General Election

The abstract of votes from the Stanly County Board of Elections was provided in the agenda packet.

Request to Approve Incentive for City Employee United Way Campaign

Over the past four years, the City of Albemarle City employees have personally donated over \$100,000 to the United Way to support health, education, and poverty relief programs in Stanly County. Our employees consistently demonstrate their commitment to the community through this effort.

The City of Albemarle traditionally provides an incentive of 1 vacation day (United Way Day) for those employees donating their "Fair Share" contribution to the United Way. A "Fair Share Giver" contributes one hour's pay per month for twelve months. We request that Council approve the United Way vacation day incentive for those employees who make a "fair share" donation during 2023.

The HR Department along with the Finance Department are coordinating the City's campaign this year.

Consider Approval of Bid 2023-03 Bales of Surplus Hay

Public Utilities requests City Council's approval of the surplus bales of hay that are sourced from the Long Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant property. The bid was opened on November 14th, 2022 at 2:30pm and resulted in 1 bidder for \$7.00 per bale of 175 bales. The bid sheet was provided in the agenda packet.

Request Approval of Street Closures for Still Runs Car Show

The 5th Still Runs Car Show is scheduled for Saturday, May 13, 2023 from 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Tomahawk Throwing Range and Pinups and Pumps are sponsoring the car show.

Streets requesting to be closed:

- W. Main St. from Depot St. to Third St.
- First St. from North St. to King Ave.
- Second St. from North St. to King Ave.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Dry, unanimously carried, Council approved the following:

- The abstract of votes from the Stanly County Board of Elections for City Council seats from the 2022 election;
- An incentive of 1 vacation day (United Way Day) for those employees donating their "Fair Share" contribution to the United Way;
- Bid 2023-03 for surplus bales of hay; and
- Road closure for the Still Runs Car Show on Saturday, May 13, 2023.

[bid tabulation Bid 2023-03]

NEW BUSINESS

Fiscal Year 2022-23 Street Resurfacing List

The Street List provided in the agenda packet is scheduled for FY22/23 Pavement Maintenance. The list includes 2.3 miles of roadway improvements. Previous discussion had been to focus more of the funding this year on construction and roadway improvement work and not as much on preservation, which is of course more expensive. This year the City will combine unspent funding from last fiscal year with this FY 22/23 fiscal year funding and will focus on "Mill & Fill Resurfacing" streets. Public Works staff is currently working with the City's pavement consultants and are preparing construction spec documents as well as preparing to start the bid process by early January 2023.

Public Works Director Ross Holshouser came up to answer questions from Council. Councilmember Aldridge commented on 2 spots that seem to have issues: North 2nd Street near Ludlow and Salisbury, and South 2nd Street as well. He thanked Public Works staff for paying attention to these spots and for overall work they have done on the roads.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall thanked Public Works staff for their due diligence on this.

The Mayor noted that the budget is for mill and fill for every road this year, and that full mill and fill of the specified roads on the list will be completed.

When will this process start? Mr. Holshouser replied that it is scheduled to be a springtime project.

GFOA Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The City's Finance Department has been awarded a Certificate of Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This is the 5th consecutive award won by the Finance Department.

The Mayor introduced this item by stating that this is a very significant achievement for the City and demonstrates a commitment to the City's vision of offering sound management, transparency, and good stewardship of resources.

Finance Director Jake Weavil came before Council to make brief remarks. He thanked his colleagues in the Finance Department, as well as City staff for working with Finance as a team to maintain fiscal controls.

The Mayor presented Mr. Weavil with a certificate.

COMMENTS

Mayor – He congratulated Chen Vang for receiving the Operator of the Year award from the NC Waterworks Association.

Councilmember Townsend:

- He welcomed the newly elected and reelected Council members.
- He offered prayers to the Moore County community.

Councilmember Bramlett:

- He stated that he is visible and has a to do list.

Councilmember Aldridge:

- He congratulated Councilmember Whitley on his reelection and welcomed Councilmembers Bramlett and Hunt. He expressed confidence in the Council of the last few years but also confidence in moving forward with this Council.

Councilmember Hall:

- She congratulated Councilmember Whitley and welcomed the new Council members.
- She expressed prayers for Moore County.
- She announced that the Stanly County Concert Band is having a concert Thursday night.
- She stated that the parade is this Saturday at 4 pm. The Mayor added that Council should line up at 3:30 pm.

Councilmember Whitley:

- He welcomed Councilmembers Bramlett and Hunt. He stated that he is looking forward to the next 4 years and said that it will be a learning experience.

Councilmember Dry:

- He sent prayers to Moore County.
- He welcomed back Councilmembers Whitley and Bramlett and welcomed Councilmember Hunt. He is looking forward to new perspectives from Councilmembers Bramlett and Hunt.
- He announced that a Jersey Mike's Subs store is opening this coming Wednesday

Councilmember Hunt:

- He is excited to be part of City Council and is looking forward to the next 4 years.

CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Dry, unanimously carried, Council approved moving into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) to prevent disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential, N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(2) to prevent disclosure of an award; N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) consultation with the City Attorney and William Furr et al vs the City of Albemarle, N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) Economic Development, and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, Council returned to open session. The Mayor stated that a Closed Session was held pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) to prevent disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential, N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(2) to prevent disclosure of an award; N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3)

consultation with the City Attorney and William Furr et al vs the City of Albemarle, N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) Economic Development, and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel.

There was nothing to report.

The Mayor requested that Council consider acceptance of a grant award of \$756,100 from the Golden Leaf Foundation for ABC site development.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Townsend, unanimously carried, Council approved the award.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned to Monday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers in City Hall.