

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL - CORRECTED

January 23, 2023

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, January 23, 2023 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 Chris Bramlett, Chris Whitley, Dexter Townsend, Bill Aldridge, David Hunt, and Benton Dry.

Mayor Michael called the meeting to order.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation In Appreciation of the Golden Leaf Foundation Funding in Albemarle and Stanly County

The Mayor noted that tonight there would be a special presentation to recognize the Golden Leaf Foundation through proclamation. He called for a motion to adopt the proclamation and Resolution 23-01.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Dry, unanimously carried, Council adopted the proclamation and Resolution 23-01.

Mayor Michael asked Mr. Charles Brown to come forward. The Mayor noted that he brought Mr. Brown forward because he sits on the Board of Directors of the Golden Leaf Foundation. He then told the audience about the nature of the Foundation's support of the City of Albemarle and Stanly County over the years, including supporting all levels of education in the region to include annual funding of school systems across the state to keep them operating and scholarships to the area community colleges and universities.

He invited Mr. Brown to describe Golden Leaf Foundation's efforts and support. Mr. Brown noted some examples of the Foundation's activities and support which include: providing grants totaling over \$440,000 to Stanfield/Locust and \$763,100 to the City of Albemarle for vital projects in the last 3 months. Other examples of the Foundation's support of the region include: \$500,000 in pass-through funding for the downtown Pfeiffer University Health Sciences Campus project; a new water tank and upgraded water system in Oakboro; their efforts to push other projects along around the region; and their partnerships with government entities such as the NC Department of Commerce and the Rural Infrastructure Authority.

The Mayor read aloud the proclamation recognizing the Golden Leaf Foundation for its local support of the City of Albemarle and the region. He then began speaking about Mr. Brown's longtime support of the City of Albemarle and region. Mr. Brown has supported the community as an attorney for 56 years, is a former Eagle Scout, and has been involved in economic development and education as long as the Mayor has known him. He has been a member of the Education Foundation for

many years, is a member of the Albemarle Rotary Club, chairs the Rural Infrastructure Authority, and is on the Board of Directors of the Golden Leaf Foundation.

The Mayor read aloud Resolution 23-01 honoring Mr. Brown and his accomplishments.

Mr. Brown received a standing ovation from the audience.

The Mayor invited Council to make remarks:

- Councilmember Bramlett – The recognition is well deserved.
- Councilmember Dry – He has personally known Mr. Brown for many years and hailed him as a loyal friend, an advocate for the County, and part of a family who has contributed to the county for 100 years. He told Mr. Brown don't go anywhere because people still need him. He thanked Mr. Brown for all that he does for the community.
- Councilmember Whitley - He has known Mr. Brown for a long time since he moved here and worked in the banking industry. He has always appreciated Mr. Brown's professionalism. He has always respected that regardless of who it is or what they represent, Mr. Brown's goal is to help the county and state.
- Councilmember Townsend – Over the years he always heard people say “Charles is the man” and now he knows why Mr. Brown is the man. He thanked him for all the work that he's done and may the work he does continue.
- Councilmember Aldridge – He's known Mr. Brown all his life and it's an extreme honor to call him his friend and mentor. Mr. Brown has been there for him through thick and thin. The majority of things he does for the community are never seen, and he knows that Mr. Brown doesn't do it for the glory. He does it because his heart is in the right place. Mr. Brown is an asset to the community and he appreciates him, and thanked him for all he does.
- Councilmember Hunt – He thanked Mr. Brown for what he's done for the City and the county in the past and what he will continue to do, and as stated by another Councilmember, don't go anywhere because the community still needs him.
- Mayor Pro Tem Hall – She recounted a date in the past that changed her life and where Mr. Brown was instrumental in helping her. He helped lay a foundation for her personally and professionally and has continued to support her to this day. She thanked him personally and for all that he does in the community and for folks in the community.

The Mayor stated that everyone is sincere in what they say because Mr. Brown means so much to so many. He then invited Mr. Brown to make any remarks if he wished.

Mr. Brown thanked Council for honoring and recognizing the Golden Lead Foundation. He has been honored to serve at the Foundation and gave accolades to the professional staff both at the state and Foundation who have treated everyone royally.

Wonderful things have been said about him and his family, and he has been the beneficiary of many wonderful relationships over the years. He stated he was speechless tonight as a result of this recognition. His hard work has been preceded by having 2 wonderful children Palmer and Courtney. His sons are the most ethical people he knows and are fine citizens. He also recognized Jude and his grandchildren. He thanked everyone.

The Mayor called a brief recess.

[Proclamation In Appreciation of the Golden Leaf Foundation Funding in Albemarle and Stanly County]

[Resolution 23-01: Honoring Charles Brown]

The Mayor called the meeting back to order.

The Mayor called for a motion to approve minutes from the January 3, 2023 stormwater special meeting and January 9, 2023 regular and closed meetings. Councilmember Whitley noted that he left the meeting early for the January 3rd stormwater session and thought the minutes should be reflected as such.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall noted that for the January 9th regular meeting minutes for the stormwater discussion, in the last paragraph on page 3 she requested that the sentence about her using the timeline provided to go over Council decisions should be amended to specifically state that she went through every meeting date and which Councilmember called a motion and which Councilmember seconded a motion and all votes on stormwater for those meetings.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Dry, unanimously carried, the minutes of the January 3, 2023 stormwater special meeting and January 9, 2023 regular meeting were approved as corrected. The minutes from the January 9, 2023 closed meeting were approved as submitted.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

The Mayor stated that there were 2 items to be added to New Business: discussion of the landfill compactor rebuild and bid for lead and asbestos testing for the Public Housing sewer rehabilitation project. He called for a motion.

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

UNANNOUNCED DELEGATION

Jean Dennis – To Discuss Waste Management (WM) Collection Service Issues

Ms. Dennis, residing at 211 Chestnut Street, came forward and noted that for her street there are only 4 properties all with seniors living in them, including her home. Since she is disabled she can't maneuver the bins well so she has house pick up on file with WM. She noted for the last garbage collection day for her street, only 1 property's bins were picked up while the other 3 were left.

She also noted that she has seen the WM trucks toss the bins on the ground and knows it costs money to have them replaced. She told WM to do their job that folks pay them money to do.

Council thanked her for her comments.

ANNOUNCED DELEGATION

Waste Management – To Provide Update on Contracted Services

Marilyn Wells, along with Tim Davis, Travis McClung, and Kurt Dutton, came in front of Council to provide an update on WM collection service issues.

The issues at this point are:

- Delays in service.
- Days when service does not even run.
- Citizen comments that customer service staff is telling citizens to call the City and elected officials.
- Complaints that WM voicemail is full.
- WM is not returning customer calls.
- City staff reports to WM which are not acknowledged or addressed.
- Constant missed services and commitments to rectify that are not followed up by action.

The Mayor began by letting WM representatives know that citizens and Council continue to see horrible services. Leaf and limb pick up are weeks behind, and garbage/recycling collection is late. Council, City staff, and citizens want and expect more from WM.

Councilmember Aldridge thanked Ms. Wells for her responsiveness, but did let WM know that enough is enough. Citizens are paying for services that are not being rendered, and so WM better figure out solutions quickly.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall also thanked Ms. Wells for her responsiveness, but noted that the “old” excuses, such as COVID and staffing issues, are just excuse after excuse. With recent discussions about stormwater, Mayor Pro Tem Hall tied in lack of collection services for leaves and limbs clogging culverts and drains, adding to potential flooding issues. She wondered aloud if at this point the City should withhold money from WM.

Councilmember Dry thanked WM for being here tonight to address the complaints and concerns about collection services. He would like to see a person in the Albemarle office. He recounted a recent phone conversation he had with the WM phone representatives, telling the WM team that the reps were a bit defensive and should receive more training in customer service skills.

Councilmember Townsend noted that there has only been recent improvement, but was encouraged to see the same faces in front of Council as the last time they attended a Council meeting. He noted though that in fact things have not improved, and he asked why Public Works Landfill staff are reporting that WM drivers only cross the scales 2 or 3 times a day instead of more. Why is service so bad

now? WM needs to stop with the excuses and bring solutions. The City and its citizens are not getting the services for which WM has been contracted, and they should be held responsible.

Councilmember Whitley stated that he is getting complaint phone calls about WM and normally he doesn't get that many phone calls at all.

Ms. Wells provided an update to Council on where WM stood in relation to addressing the concerns Council and the citizens have raised. She thanked everyone for their candid input and feedback, noting that honesty is something she personally values. She stated that WM shares the desire of the City, Council and public to get collection services back on track. She gave the following information:

- The CDL driver shortage does create backlog of trained drivers, as drivers need weeks of training before being released on route;
- There are 22,000 service points a week in the City;
- Travis has come back as Senior District Manager, while Tim remains, and WM has hired a new route manager for this area Kurt Dutton. Kurt will be out with drivers coaching and training them.
- Leaf collection is currently in Zone 7 this week. November and December were challenging for leaf collection due to the frequency of rain and earlier leaf fall, creating strains on the routes and equipment.
- For limb collection WM is not seeing as much as they are used to seeing in terms of volume, and they will work on accountability with the drivers.
- For customer service calls they do oversee the call logs and the toughest month per their records was the summer months last year. In 4th quarter last year they have had more applicants for call center reps so hope to address this.
- WM began seeing more driver applications in the 3rd and 4th quarters last year, and announced they have hired 7 drivers for Albemarle, with 3 in training and 4 starting soon going right into training.

WM took questions from Council and answered as follows:

- How many staff should be dedicated to 22,000 collection points/week? WM has targeted 8-9 drivers for leaf collection, and 2 each for bulk, garbage, and recycling, and they are looking to hire 2 more staff for consistency in routes.
- Are Tim and Kurt responsible for just Albemarle, or Albemarle and Kannapolis? They are responsible for both.

Ms. Wells commented that the customer service calls seem to have decreased over the past months. City Manager Michael J. Ferris responded that the City offices have seen an increase in calls over the past month and thought perhaps that may be a reason why WM is seeing a decrease in calls. He further commented that the City just wants the service to be done and to become routine, so much so that it is in the background because it is consistent. This has occurred in the past and demonstrates it can be done once again.

- How many trips to the landfill should a WM truck make? Usually 400 to 500 homes would require a WM truck to dump in the landfill.

- Is it the responsibility of citizens to report missed collection? Even with technology on the trucks WM would not know about all instances of missed collection so it would be beneficial for folks to report it. The number to the local WM office is 704-982-1224.

Council discussed next steps, including having the City Attorney review the service contract.

The Mayor asked about an update on bin repairs. Ms. Wells replied that WM was up to date through last Wednesday. If the bin/s is/are left streetside then WM can come by and fix it that day. If the bin is not available, WM will leave a note for the occupant to bring the bin curbside for repair.

Councilmember Dry commented that a written response from WM would be ideal. Ms. Wells replied that this could be done by the end of this week and would be sent to the City Manager.

Council consensus was to have WM come back to a Council meeting in February or March for another update, depending on when WM staff can schedule this.

Council thanked the WM team for coming tonight.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Update on Downtown Alleyway Project

Assistant City Manager Darren Rhodes came in front of Council to provide an update on the project. As background, this project arose from the Streetscape Master Plan concept.

Currently the team has had preliminary meetings and consulted with the City Attorney about next steps with bidding and contracting the work. The award needs to be bid out. The contract then needs to be approved and executed, and the project budget needs to be revised. Finally, once the contractor is retained, regular construction meetings will be held, coordinating schedules with the contractors.

He took questions from Council. Does the team have figures? Yes the team has figures for the work. When would the project be completed? If the weather holds once the contract is executed the work could be done in 6 months.

Councilmember Bramlett questioned why City staff couldn't do the work, and commented that a planning study circa 1958 spoke of an alleyway concept, showing that the City has been attempting this concept for 58 years. City Manager Michael J. Ferris replied that although he is unaware of this earlier study, the concept was conceived much more recently as part of the Streetscape Plan that was developed. As to Councilmember Bramlett's staffing question, Mr. Ferris replied that per Council's request, this project will be executed by contractors, with the exception of the electrical work which will be done by Public Utilities crews.

Is the City using ARPA funds for this? Mr. Ferris replied that per Council approval yes ARPA funds will be used for the project. Staff went back to the contractor with the lowest bid to see if the earlier bid can be honored.

Public Works Director Ross Holshouser came in front of Council to answer further questions and clarify some points about the current status of the project. Staff is currently working on a budget amendment ordinance which they anticipate coming before Council at the first meeting in February. The bid will also need to be awarded to the contractor at that time.

Council thanked staff for the update.

Update on Public Housing Projects

Public Housing Director Dr. Kim Scott provided an update on the sewer rehabilitation project and other activities.

For the sewer project, Council received hard copy of the Stogner Architects proposal for lead and asbestos testing bids. Lead and asbestos testing is the first phase of the sewer project so that there is assessment of which units may need lead and/or asbestos abatement as part of the sewer rehabilitation work. The abatement and sewer rehab work would occur at the same time.

Council and Dr. Scott discussed the lead/asbestos testing bid information provided by Stogner. The Mayor noted that One Source Environmental was the low bidder, with a \$10,000 contingency. One Source would take assorted samples from a selection of apartments. Dr. Scott pointed out to Council that One Source would be able to start work on February 13th, but the other two higher bid companies stated they could start at the end of January.

Council discussed the 3 bids in terms of the sample sizes proposed for the price listed, including how big the testing sample size should be. Councilmember Dry and City Manager Michael J. Ferris both noted that the apartments were built at the same time and so there should not be too much variation in samples taken to require a larger sample size.

Councilmember Whitley asked for clarification on whether the City would get a written report of the results of the testing. The Mayor replied that it is one of the requirements of the solicitation for the contractor to deliver a written report.

Mr. Ferris added that in discussions with Stogner there was an emphasis on testing the units identified for sewer rehab work, however all apartments will be tested to check for lead and asbestos issues throughout the complexes so the City already has the answer to that issue in order to provide abatement in the near future.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall requested that Dr. Scott to remind Council which units are slated for sewer rehab first. There are 7 units previously identified and noted to Council. As of today, 2 families are slated to move out of affected units this week, and Dr. Scott stated that all 7 units should be vacant by next Monday (January 30th).

The Mayor called for a motion to accept the low bid per Stogner's proposal of the company One Source Environmental for lead and asbestos testing of Public Housing units.

Councilmember Townsend made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hall. Before the vote there was clarification on the proposed start date for the lead and asbestos testing process, which is February 13th.

Upon a vote, which was unanimously carried, Council approved One Source Environmental for lead and asbestos testing of Public Housing units.

[bid tabulation insert here]

Update on Construction Progress for Albemarle Business Center

City Manager Michael J. Ferris gave Council an update on progress on construction at the Albemarle Business Center.

1. Contractor Work

- a. Installation of gravity sewer outfalls continue; work stands at around 60% complete.
- b. Roadway work and installation of storm drain piping underway. NJR working currently on the double 60" RCP crossing
- c. Contractor has been asked to update their schedule to reflect current expect timelines

2. City Electrical Installation

- a. General discussion held concerning schedule of City activities for electrical installation. The following was discussed in detail:
 - i. Cross Pipes/ Conduits – NJR agrees to install electrical conduit crossings with the City providing all conduit material.

3. Contractor will coordinate a pre-construction meeting with NCDOT prior to work activities commencing on US Hwy 52.

4. General discussion held concerning blasting operations. Contractor reviewed general procedures concerning blasting which include obtaining a blasting permit from the Fire Marshal. Contractor also stated that efforts are made to contact prior concerned entities of any blasting operations.

5. Golden LEAF Grant

- a. City participated in training session regarding reporting requires, timelines, forms, and many other Golden LEAF grant issues.
- b. Contract for and submitted an updated Phase 1 environmental report
- c. Submitted executed Grant Agreement to our Golden LEAF

Foundation.

- d. Completed and submit required Golden LEAF progress workbook.
- e. Received and reviewed proposed scope and contract for to design and prepare bid documents for the site-work

Councilmember Bramlett asked if there were any prospects yet. Mr. Ferris replied that there is a lot more interest now because the site is under construction. The City has been shortlisted on some business development projects more recently, and ElectriCities will update the signage there.

Departmental Monthly Reports

Council received departmental monthly reports for December 2022. The Mayor asked if any Council member had questions or comments.

Councilmember Townsend pointed out a typographical error in the position changes portion of the Human Resources report.

Councilmember Aldridge brought up the traffic and speeding data in the Police Department report and reiterated that APD would refocus efforts on traffic issues per the presentation they gave at the last Council meeting. He also noted that per the Public Utilities report there were 26 water main breaks over the Christmas weekend and gave a “shout out” to the Public Utilities and other City crews working on them over that holiday weekend.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall relayed the information from the Fire Department report that the Badin Road condemned property will not be burned next week, and let HR know that there is a wellness center in Mooresville, which is a city that also uses a self-insurance fund.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consider Road Closures for the Mini Medley Relay

The Mini Medley relay will take place on Saturday, March 18, 2023 at Central Elementary School. The Mini Medley relay is a ten-mile team race, with teams from most Stanly County Schools competing. This event is the largest one-day youth athletic activity offered by Albemarle Parks and Recreation.

Road Closures requested for this event:

- * Fourth Street from E. Cannon to North St.
- * Third Street from E. Cannon to North St.
- * North Street between Third Street to Fourth Street
- * East Cannon Ave. from Third Street to Fourth Street

* Montgomery Ave. from Third Street to Fourth Street.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall made the motion to approve the road closures for the Mini Medley Relay to be held on March 18, 2023, which was seconded by Councilmember Aldridge.

Before the vote, Mayor Pro Tem Hall recounted how many residents who lived along the route last year complained about the kids trampling on their lawns and announced to any families watching to remember to have their kids avoid walking on folks' lawns. She also reminded residents who are along the route to stake their lawns or put up cones to alert the kids to not walk there.

Upon a vote, Council unanimously passed the motion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consider Strategic Work Group Recommendations for Safety and Security Improvements

City Manager Michael J. Ferris gave Council a recap of this part of the ARPA Work Group recommendations. At a previous meeting, City Council took action on the 2 of the Work Group recommendations by approving additional funding for the alleyway project and denying funds to use on the radio purchase. The recommendations also included improvements to the City Hall and Parks & Recreation facilities that were not acted upon. The improvements related to safety and security are on page #3 of the workgroup recommendations.

The improvements at the City Hall would involve construction to create barriers between exposed employees and the public. In Administration, walls would be constructed as well as a transaction window to place the administrative support position on the secured side of the employee area. The same would be done in Planning & Development Services, as well as adding a second path of access for the Planning staff. Finally, a transaction window would be constructed in Public Utilities Administration to allow the doors to the employee suite to be closed. Public access to all these employees areas would therefore be controlled. In Parks & Recreation, we would add cameras to areas where there is high public traffic and not always a great deal of employee presence. Cameras can act as a deterrent and therefore a form of protection for the public and our employees.

The recommended improvements to City Hall were noted in a NCLM security review as well as by the City's Safety and Risk Officer. The architectural firm for City Hall construction developed the potential improvements at our request, as well as provided the preliminary estimate cost estimate \$140,000.

Councilmember Bramlett voiced his opinion that City government should not be separated from the “client”(the public). Mr. Ferris responded by stating that the City will continue to serve the public like it always has, but that not all areas are open to the public. Councilmember Aldridge agreed with the recommendation stating that although City staff should be available to the public to do the people’s business, there also should be barriers for certain types of public transactions much like access to a vault in a bank where there are protocols.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Whitley, seconded by Councilmember Dry, and passed with a vote of 6 Council members for the motion and 1 against, Council approved the ARPA work group recommendations for safety and security improvements at City Hall and at Parks and Recreation facilities. Councilmember Bramlett voted against the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Approval of a Lease for Collegiate Wood Bat Team

Parks and Recreation Director Lisa Kiser came in front of Council to give a summary of the lease agreement and take questions from Council. The agreement is good for a 3-year term, which can be extended for another 3 years.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, unanimously carried, Council approved the lease for use of Don Montgomery Field for a Collegiate Wood Bat Team.

After the vote Ms. Kiser announced that the team owner Greg Sullivan was present tonight and wanted to introduce himself to Council.

Mr. Sullivan came forward to make a few remarks. He noted that for the Albemarle team he has already recruited college players for a full roster and is excited to be able to keep some of these players local over the summer instead of leaving their hometown to play in regional leagues elsewhere. Mayor Pro Tem Hall asked what his elevator pitch would be for this team. He replied that he would say that it is a gathering place for the community, and an activity where everyone can come out and have a good night out. When asked who the team would play, he noted the following teams would be on the schedule for play: his current team in Winston-Salem, teams in the Charlotte region, the Wilmington Sharks, the Boone Bigfoots, the teams in Rock Hill, SC and Greensboro, and the Mooresville team.

Council thanked Mr. Sullivan for bringing the idea to Albemarle and for coming tonight to talk to them more about the concept.

Consider a Request for a Street Name Change

Councilmember Townsend received a request for the City to consider renaming Glendale Avenue to Bishop J.E.R. Drive. He explained that the original request was to rename the street Bishop James E. Richardson Drive, but was subsequently told that there is a Richardson Drive in the County and wouldn't want to confuse Stanly County EMS. So the church decided that Bishop J.E.R. Drive would be an appropriate street name. This road has no residential dwellings and includes the original church building of Saints Delight Church where Bishop Richardson pastored for many years before the Church moved to the current location on Wall Street.

If City Council agrees to proceed with the change, a public hearing will need to be set for February 20th and an Ordinance drafted for consideration following the public hearing.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Dry, unanimously carried, Council approved setting a public hearing on Monday, February 20, 2023 to consider a street name change from Glendale Avenue to Bishop J.E.R. Drive.

Consider Services Agreement with Chambers Engineering

The agreement is for Chambers Engineering to design, bid, and inspect construction to prepare a 15-acre building site at the Albemarle Business Center. This is being paid 100% through Golden LEAF Foundation funds the City was awarded in the amount of \$763,100.

The project must be completed and all funds expended by January 2024, so the City must move quickly. Chambers Engineering designed the ABC and is performing inspections and has the greatest familiarity with the site. For these and many reasons, utilizing Chambers Engineering for the site project is the most logical firm to use. The proposed agreement totals \$84,030.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Whitley, and passed with a vote of 6 Council members for the motion and 1 against, Council approved the Chambers Engineering agreement to design, bid, and inspect construction to prepare a 15-acre building site at the Albemarle Business Center. Mayor Pro Tem Hall voted against the motion.

Discuss Dates for Special Presentation on Development Trends and Long-Range Planning

City Manager Michael J. Ferris gave an overview of the request to Council. The City's annual operating budget includes several significant projects. Of all the critical items, the funding for a process to develop a comprehensive plan for the City touches almost everything we do, incorporates other existing plans, and has a tremendous impact on our future. The Planning Department would like

to conduct a meeting with the City Council to review this project and growth-related matters. Available meeting dates include February 15th, 16th, 21st, or 27th.

This meeting could be conducted in the Ray Allen Room for a presentation of:

- Recent trends in residential growth through to the present.
- Upcoming projects and forecasting growth for the next year(s).
- Timeline and process for developing a comprehensive plan to help the City proactively plan for growth in the coming decade and beyond.

Councilmember Bramlett asked what the difference was between this proposed plan and the plan the City is currently using. He further noted that he is suspicious of planning processes that have occurred in the past. Planning and Development Services Director Kevin Robinson came forward to respond to Councilmember Bramlett. The current plan being used is the 2028 Land Use Plan, which is geared towards land use. The proposed planning process being raised now will be a comprehensive planning process and will tie in different functions and uses of space instead of just land use and zoning. Mr. Ferris added that as an example the process could look at the use of streets not only from a land use standpoint, but would also tie in police and parks and recreation functions.

Upon discussion, Council reached consensus for holding the meeting on February 27th at 5:00 pm in City Hall.

Landfill Compactor Rebuild

Public Works Director Ross Holshouser and Landfill Superintendent Darren Preslar came in front of Council to provide a summary of the situation. An informational packet was sent to Council prior to the meeting and hard copies packets were available to them in meeting.

The rebuild is underway and unexpected issues have been found in the rebuild process that require additional work and therefore additional funding. Addressing the recently discovered needs will require a budget amendment of \$139,860.72. The funding would come from our landfill reserves. The rebuild is critical because we are operating with one compactor while a new one is on order and the rebuild is in progress.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Dry, unanimously carried, Council approved Ordinances 23-01 and 23-02 to authorize fund transfers and a change work order for the Landfill compactor rebuild.

[Ordinance 23-01 - Amending A Project Budget Relating To Landfill Certified Compactor Rebuild]

[Ordinance 23-02 - Amending The Operating Budget For Fiscal Year 2022-2023]

Planning and Development Services Director Kevin Robinson came in front of Council noting that Badin Brews owner Joshua Hicks had wanted to come in front of Council tonight but was not clear on the process to be heard, and so he was passing along Mr. Hicks's request on his behalf.

Mr. Hicks is interested in pursuing an ordinance change in order to add bars as an approved establishment downtown, and is working with Planning to develop a text amendment request to bring in front of Council should they be interested in pursuing the request further. Currently bars are not allowed, only tasting rooms which serve beer and wine only.

A text amendment would add bars as an allowable establishment which could serve liquor as well.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall thought that next steps for Council would be to bring the concept back to council at the February 6th meeting with a request to set a public hearing. Mr. Robinson replied that the text amendment process would take longer, where there would be a forum for a public hearing, but staff could refine the request for the first meeting in February.

Councilmember Townsend asked if there were other similar downtown businesses which are interested in this request. Mr. Robinson replied that the 2 axe throwing businesses, Armadillo and Tomahawk Axe Throwing owners also have expressed an interest.

Council agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Hall's recommendation to place this request on the February 6th agenda.

COMMENTS

Councilmember Aldridge:

- He gave a shout out to all NFL staff and players who played in the playoffs this weekend, among them General Manager Brandon Beane of the Buffalo Bills and Cincinnati Bengals player BJ Hill, both of whom grew up in Stanly County. Also mentioned was Chandler Harkey.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall:

- She reminded Council that the Stanly County Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting is coming up on February 2nd, as well as the Town and State Dinner sponsored by NCLM in Raleigh on February 22nd, where Council should let the Clerk know to be registered.
- She requested that the Alleyway Project Budget Amendment be prepared for the February 6th meeting for Council consideration.
- She reminded Council of the sponsorship lists passed to them in December to start gathering support for Food Truck Fridays.

- She moved forward a request from some citizens that during Council meetings sometimes the video feed does not pick up what Council members are saying and to make sure they are talking into their microphones so that they can be heard.
- She asked if the special meeting would be recorded. It would not.
- She noted that Collins Drive/Bethany Road area 4 new houses have been built there. She wondered if there would eventually be more traffic congestion at that intersection once the houses are occupied.

CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Whitley, unanimously carried, Council approved moving into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) Economic Development, N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5) Real Estate, and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Hunt 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)(4) Economic Development, N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5) Real Estate, and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel.

The Mayor called for a motion to cancel the February 6th public hearing for Project Finishing.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the motion passed.

The Mayor announced that Council will adjourn until Monday, January 30th at 5:00 pm in City Hall for a closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) – To Prevent the Disclosure of Confidential or Privileged Information, followed by a discussion of options for a stormwater management plan in open session. He called for a motion to adjourn.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned until Monday, January 30, 2023 at 5:00 pm in City Hall.