

**REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL**

June 5, 2023

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, June 5, 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.

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Mayor Michael called the meeting to order.

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The Mayor gave the invocation.

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**AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

The Mayor called for a motion to move reconsideration of bars in the CBD to after unannounced delegations and add N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) consult with the City Attorney to closed session.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Dry and unanimously carried, Council approved the motion.

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Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, Council approved the May 9, 2023 special budget workshop session minutes, the May 15, 2023 regular and closed meeting minutes, the April 3<sup>rd</sup> closed personnel minutes as previously corrected, the April 17, 2023 closed personnel minutes, and the closed minutes from May 1, 2023 as submitted.

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**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Ordinance 23-14 – Consideration of Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget

The Mayor opened the public hearing. No one came forward.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, Council closed the public hearing.

NOTE: Council continued review of the budget later in the meeting.

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## UNANNOUNCED DELEGATIONS

The Mayor called Amber Harley forward. Ms. Harley, residing at 1239 Magnolia Street in Albemarle, came in front of Council to express concern about safety guidelines at City pools, particularly the “flotation device rule.” The City in recent history had a strict “no flotation device” policy which was replaced by a policy where flotation devices had to be built into swimwear, which she complied with for her very young son at the time. She added that this year the City is going back to no flotation devices in City pools. She felt that parents of young or inexperienced swimmers should not be restricted for safely allowing their kids in the water. She noted that the CDC, American Pediatric Association and other nationally recognized entities recommend flotation devices as safety precautions for young children or inexperienced swimmers, and she felt that she shouldn’t have to fill out forms and wait 3 days to have her kids enjoy swimming in City pools. She felt that the City’s “no flotation devices” rule as outdated and unsafe and declared that she would not be using City pools this year.

Per a question from Council, Ms. Harley confirmed that she has engaged Parks and Recreation staff on this issue, but maintained that she has gotten different answers from different people in the department regarding the City’s stance on allowing flotation devices in City pools, and was frustrated by the inconsistent feedback she was getting from Parks and Recreation staff.

The Mayor requested that she provide her information to the Clerk for staff to contact her.

The Mayor called Stoney Benfield up. Mr. Benfield, residing at 1144 Autumn Lane in New London, wanted to speak in opposition to Council reconsidering the text amendment allowing bars in the CBD. He made the following points:

- He introduced himself as a pastor with Prospect Baptist Church and began with a Scripture quote regarding government’s function in keeping the community safe.
- He thanked Council for its “no” vote on the item at the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- He asked Council to stand by its decision on May 15<sup>th</sup>
- He tied increased alcohol use to increased incidents of domestic violence, drug use, other crime and drunk driving
- He read off a series of statistics he researched tied to drinking and the use of alcohol:
  - In a 2019 survey 25.8% of adults 18 and over admitted to binge drinking (5+ drinks in a 1-2 hour span);
  - 52% of 18-22 year olds have admitted to drinking in the last month;
  - Approximately 20% of college students meet the criteria for alcoholism;
  - In a 2021 study, 14,000 deaths were attributed to drinking while driving fatalities;
  - 690,000 incidents of assaults among 18-24 year olds have been attributed to drinking and the use of alcohol;
  - 10.5% of children aged 17 or under live in a domestic situation where there is a drinker living with them;
- He equated alcohol use by an adult in a domestic living arrangement as contributing to children being removed from homes and being placed in a burdened foster care system;
- 14,000 adults are reported to have an alcohol disorder;

- 93,000 deaths annually are attributed to the use of alcohol;
- He questioned Council whether the City had the resources for safety personnel like police officers for the possibility of increased issues and crime stemming from adding bars in the CBD.
- He ended his remarks by saying a prayer for Council.

The Mayor called Adam Hatley. Mr. Hatley residing 20605 Austin Road in Oakboro came forward to make remarks in opposition to the consideration of bars in the CBD. His remarks included:

- He noted he is a pastor with West Albemarle Baptist Church.
- He appreciated Council voting down the issue at the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- He noted that the Scriptures look down on drinking.
- From personal experience as a past volunteer firefighter and pastor he knows that drinking leads to problems.
- He related personal stories related to family and friends where alcohol played a role in people's suffering.
- He asked Council why they would stretch City resources with a yes vote?
- He asked Council to say no to alcohol by saying no to reconsidering bars in the CBD.

The Mayor called forward Danny Laws. Mr. Laws who resides at 2218 Woodhurst Lane in Albemarle came to speak in opposition to Council reconsidering bars in the CBD. He made the following remarks:

- He is a longtime resident of Albemarle.
- He has served 3 baptist churches as a pastor.
- He understands the responsibilities of leadership but also the effects of alcohol on people.
- He noted that he has witnessed people doing drugs and drinking alcohol in City parks.
- His son works for the Albemarle Police Department and knows that his son puts his life on the line because of people who abuse alcohol.
- He has witnessed the effects of his own family ruined by alcohol.
- He stated that he believed that lives of adults and children are ruined due to adults drinking at bars.
- He encouraged Council to stand for what is right and stand against alcohol.

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Text Amendment (TA) 23-01 – Bars in the Central Business District (CBD)

Mayor Michael briefly summarized the current status of this proposed text amendment and the rationale for this item coming back for Council reconsideration. Twenty years ago through a City referendum based on state law, the City allowed bars and social clubs to operate but not in the CBD. However more recently the General Assembly changed that law allowing municipalities to make their own laws regarding social clubs and bars within the structure of new state law.

An applicant representing a downtown tap room submitted an application for a text amendment wishing to change the definitions of social clubs and bars and allowing them to operate in the CBD. After being recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Board in May 2023, this item came to Council at the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

At the May 15<sup>th</sup> Council meeting for the public hearing for this proposed text amendment, Council turned down approval of amending the City Code of Ordinance's definitions of Profit Club/Bars and to allow them in the Central Business District as well as in zoned districts General Highway Business District and Shopping Center District with a vote of 3 for and 4 against. Mayor Pro Tem Hall, a member of the majority vote on this issue, requested the matter be brought back up for Council discussion. This procedural move was researched by the City Attorney, who has advised Council if they wish to reconsider this item, a new public hearing would need to be scheduled and advertised.

The Mayor opened the discussion for Council. Mayor Pro Tem Hall asked if Council approves moving forward with the text amendment request again would that mean there would be a bar on every corner? That would be an inaccurate understanding. At the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting Council leaned toward bars in the CBD via a Special Use Permit (SUP) which would allow Council to make a case-by-case decision.

Councilmember Aldridge commented that he still planned to vote no tonight on the request. Part of his opposition to the request was if Council decides to allow bars by SUP that would create a conundrum on Council on which bars to pick and choose to operate or not in the CBD.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall commented that the text amendment public hearing was advertised for May 15<sup>th</sup> and no one showed up to that public hearing, but at least is glad that people showed up today.

Councilmember Townsend asked if Council moved this issue forward and ultimately approved it via SUP who would impose conditions? Council would impose conditions in that scenario.

Councilmember Bramlett commented that he still was concerned about reopening the issue. He couldn't recall a time when Council voted something down and then turned around at the next meeting and reopened consideration of the issue again. Currently breweries operate with no food and the City approved a social district where people could walk around with drinks and he doesn't see a problem with that. He noted that the General Assembly currently is considering legislation to legalize marijuana and online gambling – where is the state headed with these propositions?

Councilmember Townsend reminded Council that a local business owner came to Council with this request as a way for certain downtown businesses to sustain themselves. With Council promoting and trying to build on downtown activities, and with local eateries losing business because they can't sell liquor and breweries losing money because they can't serve food, Council needs to consider this facet of the issue too. He added that Badin Brews with 2 special events last year brought in the most downtown business that Albemarle has seen in years. With the way the Code of Ordinances is currently written the City is not preventing drinking without eating. If the City loses Badin Brews then the City may end up going backwards on the growth they have encouraged so far.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall asked the City Attorney what the Council would be deciding on tonight. The City Attorney advised Council that the only thing under consideration by Council tonight would be whether to set another public hearing on the proposed text amendment or not.

The Mayor asked if anyone on Council wanted to make a motion.

When no motion was moved forward the Mayor announced that due to lack of a motion the item was considered closed.

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## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### Municipal Calendar

Council received an updated Council calendar. The Mayor asked if any Council member had questions or comments.

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### Ordinance 23-14 – Consideration of Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget continued

This item was continued from earlier in the meeting. The Mayor opened the item up for discussion.

Councilmember Dry made a motion to approve Ordinance 23-14 and the Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget as revised and submitted for this meeting, which was seconded by Councilmember Whitley.

The Mayor asked if there was any other discussion on the item. Councilmember Bramlett asked where the fund balance was included in the budget. The City Manager explained that the fund balance does not appear in the budget unless it's being drawn upon for revenue or expenditure purposes. The City Manager further noted that his recollection was that for the end of the previous fiscal year the General Fund balance was at approximately 33%.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall had a series of comments. She first noted that some of her comments were based on an email thread Council and the City Manager had about clarifying aspects of the budget being considered. She noted that she had asked about a cost for an IT study to be done in the budget for this coming fiscal year, but she thought that there was an IT study done a few years back but was never implemented. She then wanted to go over some highlighted points brought up in the May 9<sup>th</sup> budget work session noting that the meeting was not recorded. She noted that the City Manager's budget presentation was not publicly distributed. She again raised a concern that \$282,000 in fund balance is being used to balance the next fiscal year's budget instead of using the over \$5 million in ARPA funds the City has received.

She commented that there was \$80,000 being spent for a Parks and Recreation master plan when Parks and Recreation events last week drew in about 2,000 people and underscored more immediate needs in the City's Parks and Recreation program such as the lack of bathrooms at City facilities.

She commented that the City was in the last year of the WM contract which the City Manager confirmed. She added that there have been annual increases in service fees based on contractual obligations.

She noted that there were increases in water and sewer rates but that they are comparable to other similar municipalities in the county.

She noted the increase in vehicle tax but added that over 200 townships in the state charge this rate, and is the result of the General Assembly taking away municipalities' right to tax residents thus limiting towns and cities to collect revenue through user fees. She further noted that the fee increase would not be enough to fund the City's road improvement and maintenance costs.

Per the City Manager's budget overview presentation from the May 9<sup>th</sup> Council budget workshop, Mayor Pro Tem Hall had a few requests for clarification:

- With the proposed \$15 annual vehicle fee how much revenue would that generate? \$224,000. Will this revenue go into the road paving fund? Yes it will. Councilmember Dry commented that the price of materials for road maintenance have increased and so more money needs to be put in the road maintenance budget, leaving the City limited means to pay for an item like this without touching the local tax rate.
- Where are the costs for STAR Resources found in the budget? They are in multiple funds.
- The \$12,000 going to volunteer fire departments – is that considered revenue? The City Manager confirmed that it would be considered revenue.
- Going back to the Parks and Recreation facility needs statement, she noted that due to increased foot traffic in places like City Lake Park and Don Montgomery Park, those facilities need more bathrooms. She added that those 2 parks also need more lighting.

The Mayor noted that with the agreement with the Wampus Cats some of the Montgomery Park needs could be explored such as the need for nets for the foul lines for the baseball fields.

Councilmember Aldridge also commented that since Parks and Recreation events were heavily attended and are now pulling people from the region in and the facilities need improvements, then perhaps use budget funds for Parks and Recreation needs.

Councilmember Bramlett noted again that funding arts and culture should be a consideration in the budget process, and asked if there was room in next year's budget for \$20,000 supporting arts groups. The City Manager replied that \$20,000 out of a \$21 million General Fund budget could be doable. Councilmember Townsend asked what the current City support of the Arts Council was, which the City Manager noted was \$1,500. Mayor Pro Tem Hall was in support of Councilmember Bramlett's advocacy for adding City funds for specific arts organizations in that activities in Albemarle are not getting the exposure and recognition in the county events calendar or through the Stanly Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The Mayor then asked the City Attorney if the City could legally allocate public funds to groups which are nonprofits. She advised Council that a better approach would be to set aside an amount and create a committee to grant those funds to groups for distribution like the downtown CATALYST grant program rather than picking recipients of City funds. The City Manager replied that the concept was a sound one for these funds, but would be yet another committee City staff would need to

support, and organizational capacity is a concern. Council and the City Manager further discussed the concept and there was consensus to still add specifically named groups but add in a proviso in the motion that the recipient groups named need to be legally registered nonprofits and the City Attorney researched the legality of such an allowance.

Councilmember Bramlett amended Councilmember Dry's motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget with the additional condition of allocating \$5,000 each to the following arts and culture groups: the community organizations, community concerts, the community band, Uwharrie Players, and the talent company with the proviso that they be legally registered nonprofits and the City Attorney researched the legality of such an allowance.

Councilmember Townsend noted that Councilmember Bramlett's motion would miss other community entities which could be deserving of City funds for arts and culture. He would be in favor of allocating a set amount of funds to be distributed through a committee like the CATALYST Grant Committee. He is afraid that the City would exclude someone and Council would be in a position to have to defend the process. Councilmember Bramlett replied that he is in favor of allocating to specifically named organizations. Councilmember Townsend countered that it would appear to the public that Council cherry-picked organizations to receive these funds.

The Mayor stated that there is a motion on the floor. Councilmember Townsend replied that since there is an amended motion to add funding for the arts now, should Mayor Pro Tem Hall's suggestion to remove the \$80,000 allocation for the Parks and Recreation master plan be included in the amended budget motion or treated as a separate motion? The Mayor then raised a concern if Council removes that funding for an updated Parks and Recreation Plan would the City still qualify for parks trust fund grants? The City Manager replied that those grants do require a master plan which the City has, but couldn't comment on how the City's application would be received with an aged master plan for parks and recreation.

The Mayor recommended to Council that if the Parks and Recreation master plan allocation was still an issue for Council, Parks and Recreation Director Lisa Kiser be consulted first and address Council on this issue, and then Council could do a budget amendment in the new fiscal year to move funds if needed.

On the topic of parks and recreation, Mayor Pro Tem Hall asked if the department received funds from the County this year. The Mayor answered that the City was not eligible for these funds this year. The City Manager clarified that Parks and Recreation applied for 2 County grants: 1 was funded but the 2<sup>nd</sup> application was not funded. The City does support parks and recreation as much as it can, and noted that the City does not charge for use of its parks, which then limits the number of projects the City can support any given fiscal year. He noted the County just recently began funding these parks and recreation grants at a very low level. Since the City still has essentially half the population, municipal taxpayers are paying for recreational opportunities for the entire county.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall seconded the motion with the added comment that she still had too many unanswered questions about the budget. She added that she would entertain an alternate motion depending on the vote of the current motion.

The City Manager asked for clarification of the amended motion on the table as to whether that motion was actually to approve the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget. The Mayor confirmed that approval of the budget was contained in the amended motion.

The Mayor called for the vote. Mayor Pro Tem Hall asked a point of clarification if this vote was for the original motion or the amended motion. The vote was for the amended motion put forth by Councilmember Bramlett. Upon a vote of 3 Councilmembers for the motion and 4 against, the motion was defeated. Council members voting for the motion were Mayor Pro Tem Hall, and Councilmembers Bramlett and Whitley. Those voting in opposition were Councilmembers Townsend, Aldridge, Dry, and Hunt.

Then Mayor entertained the original motion on the budget, whereupon Mayor Pro Tem Hall introduced an alternate motion to table the vote on the budget ordinance and the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget to Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup> due to the questions and issues Council raised tonight about the budget. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Aldridge. The Mayor asked if there were further questions before the vote. Councilmember Bramlett asked when the budget needed to be approved. The City Manager replied that the budget needs to be adopted by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Upon a vote, with 5 Council members voting for the motion and 2 Council members voting against, the motion passed. Councilmembers voting for the motion included Mayor Pro Tem Hall and Councilmembers Aldridge, Townsend, Bramlett, and Hunt. Council members against the motion were Councilmembers Dry and Whitley.

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## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Mayor asked Council if anyone wished to remove any items from the consent agenda.

### Consider Adoption of ARPA Policy Resolutions

The agenda packet included policies required to be adopted by recipients of ARPA funds. The City of Albemarle is using the funds to replace lost public sector revenue (which is an eligible use of the funds). Policies include: eligible use for ARPA funds; conflict of interest management; nondiscrimination in use of ARPA funds; record retention guidelines; and allowable cost and cost principles.

[Resolution 23-07 – Eligible Use of ARPA Funds]

[Resolution 23-08 – Conflict of Interest ARPA]

[Resolution 23-09 – Nondiscrimination ARPA]

[Resolution 23-10 – Records Retention ARPA]

[Resolution 23-11 – Allowable Cost and Cost Principles ARPA]

### Consider Road Closure for Stanly County History Center Big Truck Day



The Stanly County History Center will host their annual Big Truck Day on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm on Second Street.

Road closure include Second Street from West Main Street to North Street.

Ordinance 23-15 – To Establish a Project Budget for Stormwater Little Long Creek Watershed Study # 1 (NCDEQ)

Council recently accepted the grant and approved contracts with W.K. Dickson to fund the Little Long Creek Watershed Pilot Study 1. The City is establishing a special revenue fund for reporting purposes.

[Ordinance 23-15 – To Establish a Project Budget for Stormwater Little Long Creek Watershed Study # 1 (NCDEQ)]

Ordinance 23-16 – To Establish a Project Budget for Stormwater Little Long Creek Watershed Study # 2 (Golden Leaf)

Council recently accepted the grant and approved contracts with W.K. Dickson to fund the Little Long Creek Watershed Pilot Study 2. The City is establishing a special revenue fund for reporting purposes.

[Ordinance 23-16 – To Establish a Project Budget for Stormwater Little Long Creek Watershed Study # 2 (Golden Leaf)]

Ordinance 23-17 – To Establish a Project Budget for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation and Conversion Project

Council recently approved moving forward with the engineering designs for the Water Treatment Plant Comprehensive Rehabilitation project. The budget ordinance being considered is for the engineering fees only, but also establishes a project budget for tracking and reporting purposes. As the project progresses and other costs and sources of revenue are finalized the project budget will be amended.

[Ordinance 23-17 – To Establish a Project Budget for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation and Conversion Project]

Ordinance 23-18 – To Establish a Project Budget for the Albemarle Business Center Site Ready Project

Council previously voted to accept and proceed with the Golden Leaf Grant for site ready project at the Albemarle Business Center. This is a 100% grant funded through the Golden Leaf Foundation, The project cost includes the construction as well as the engineering, permitting, and other soft costs.

[Ordinance 23-18 – To Establish a Project Budget for the Albemarle Business Center Siter Ready Project]

Ordinance 23-19 – To Establish a Project Budget for the Purchase of Radios

Council recently approved the use of ARPA funding for the purchase of Motorola radios. For reporting and tracking purposes, the City is establishing a capital project fund for this project.

[Ordinance 23-19 – To Establish a Project Budget for the Purchase of Radios]

Ordinance 23-20 – Establishment of ARPA Grant Project Fund

This is a grant project ordinance for ARPA funds. This has been built using a template form the UNC School of Government. In April 2022, Council approved an ordinance electing to take the standard allowance for revenue loss which allows the City to reimburse itself for salaries and benefits using the Federal ARPA funds. This does not change the procedure the City is using to select projects for which to use ARPA funds, but reduces the burden of reporting and paperwork.

[Ordinance 23-20 – Establishment of ARPA Grant Project Fund]

Ordinance 23-21 – Amending the Operating Budget for ARPA Project Appropriation

This budget amendment to the City’s operating fund to move monies received from ARPA to the various projects Council has voted to fund this year. They include:

- Water and Sewer Fund for Albemarle Business Center project: \$1,223,625
- Electric Fund for Courthouse Plaza project: \$52,550
- General Fund for the following projects: Courthouse Plaza project \$561,595; public safety radios \$1,501,720; and stormwater pilot study 2 \$250,000

[Ordinance 23-21 – Amending the Operating Budget for ARPA Project Appropriation]

Upon a motion by Councilmember Bramlett, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge and carried with a vote of 6 Councilmembers for the motion and 1 against, Council approved the following:

- ARPA policies as described above with the adoption of the following resolutions: 23-07, 23-08, 23-09, 23-10, and 23-11;
- Road Closure for Stanly County History Center Big Truck Day Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> as detailed in the special event permit application;
- Ordinance 23-15 – To Establish a Project Budget for Stormwater Little Long Creek Watershed Study # 1 (NCDEQ;

- Ordinance 23-16 – To Establish a Project Budget for Stormwater Little Long Creek Watershed Study # 2 (Golden Leaf);
- Ordinance 23-17 – To Establish a Project Budget for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation and Conversion Project;
- Ordinance 23-18 – To Establish a Project Budget for the Albemarle Business Center Siter Ready Project;
- Ordinance 23-19 – To Establish a Project Budget for the Purchase of Radios;
- Ordinance 23-20 – Establishment of ARPA Grant Project Fund; and
- Ordinance 23-21 – Amending the Operating Budget for ARPA Project Appropriation.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall voted against the motion to approve the consent agenda.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution 23-12 – To Join and Incorporate the Yadkin-Pee Dee Water Management Group

The City of Albemarle, along with several other water providers along the Yadkin-Pee Dee River chain have been members of the Yadkin-Pee Dee Water Management Group since its origination in 2016. Public Utilities Director Jay Voyles has provided a background memo on the partnership in the agenda packet for Council consideration.

Staff recommends supporting the incorporation of the Yadkin-Pee Dee Water Management Group due the valuable resources the group provides to its members. In the agenda packet are also the group’s proposed bylaws, a memo from the Group’s legal counsel, and a draft resolution for Council to consider.

Public Utilities Director Jay Voyles came in front of Council to take questions. He first outlined the City’s history in this group. The City was among the founding members in 2016, when the group was operating under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Now the group would like to incorporate into a nonprofit which would require all members to approve this move. The group’s mission has been to pool resources for water management in the region and to locate opportunities for grants and funding for water management.

Councilmember Bramlett commented that he felt like some of the larger municipal members of the group might be leveraging the group to gain foothold on the Yadkin/Pee Dee River system for sources of water for their residents. Mr. Voyles replied that the assumption would be that all members of the group would pull from the river chain.

The Mayor asked if the change was operational in nature, to which Mr. Voyles replied that the organizational structure of the group only was changing, and that some of the members felt that the influential pull of other members could affect the finances of the group.

How much are the dues? Dues are based on the amount of metered customers. The City’s annual contribution is \$7,500 and the City is a current active member of the group.

After asking about the list of members of the group and reviewing them, Councilmember Bramlett commented that he still was concerned about the larger municipalities in the group.

Councilmember Whitley asked about the City's level of authority and control with the move to the group becoming a nonprofit. He also asked what the City would be bound to with the nonprofit designation, and what effect if any would the change to a nonprofit affect the City's current operations in water management.

Mr. Voyles noted that Council had many good questions that could not be answered tonight but could be taken to the next meeting of the group on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Mayor advised Council that if they had questions they could decide to table the approval of the organizational change until their questions were satisfied.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Aldridge, seconded by Councilmember Dry and unanimously carried, Council tabled a decision on this item until the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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### COMMENTS

The Mayor brought to Council's attention that a few people had a misperception that the Walk of Fame concept only included living people as eligible. He asked if anyone else on Council when the concept was discussed initially recalled whether Council only wished living people to be considered for the Walk of Fame. Mayor Pro Tem Hall stated that she had no memory that Council wanted to limit the Walk of Fame eligibility to living people only.

The Mayor stated for the public record that Walk of Fame eligibility doesn't restrict deceased people from being considered and honored.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall – She commented that the City Manager had included 3 pages of corrections to the FY 2023-2024 budget as part of the meeting materials tonight. Would Council need to fix them in order to accept them? The City Manager responded that the document in question detailed changes updating and bringing organization to the budget, not corrections.

Councilmember Townsend:

- He asked Councilmember Whitley if there was an update on the CATALYST grant process. Councilmember Whitley noted that he would provide an update when it was his turn to comment.
- He congratulated Fire Chief Pierre Brewton on being awarded the most respected person in the most recent Leadership Stanly class.
- He congratulated the Albemarle High School girls track team for winning the state championship.
- He congratulated all class of 2023 graduates in Stanly County

The Mayor congratulated Parks and Recreation staff for a very successful week of events to start off the summer.

Councilmember Bramlett:

- He attended 2 Wampus Cats baseball games this past week and had a great time.
- He congratulated Albemarle Police Chief Jason Bollhorst on his lecture at an event memorializing Law Enforcement Week.

Councilmember Aldridge:

- The Wampus Cats ballgames have been a lot of fun with a lot of people and excitement.
- He thanked the community who came out tonight to voice their feelings about the text amendment request for changing the bar/social club definition in the CBD. Council needs folks to come out and express their wishes and applauds citizens who do engage with local government.

Mayor Pro Tem Hall:

- Last week's Food Truck Friday had music and she gave accolades to Parks and Recreation staff on that.
- She noted that at the first Wampus Cats game which was estimated to have brought out around 700 people, a resident asked her to describe in 1 word how she felt about the event. She thought that "community" was appropriate in that the game and attendance signified a sense of complete community that night. She added that in the latest edition of Stanly magazine put out by SNAP there is a feature article on the Wampus Cats.
- Has the Badin Road demolition burn debris been cleared yet? Staff will update Council on that.
- She gave an "attaboy" to Norwood hosting the most recent Stanly County COG meeting. It was a phenomenal program including local business representatives reporting out.
- She gave an "attagirl" to the West Stanly High School softball team which won the state championship. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in 3 consecutive years they have won the championship.

Councilmember Whitley:

- He noted that Parks and Recreation staff have been running hard in the last 2 weeks with activities such as the Wampus Cats games, Food Truck Fridays among their usual seasonal offerings to the public.
- He gave a CATALYST grant review of efforts thus far this grant season. The CATALYST grant committee reviewed 8 applications submitted this spring and have chosen grant awardees but will allow formal notification of grant awards to occur before announcing them. He thanked members of the Committee who included Tammy Branch, Gene Starnes, Tom Nunley, Pam Poplin, and Sandy Selvy-Mullis as well as City staff for all their work this grant season. The Committee also made some changes to grantmaking procedures including providing a longer timeframe in which to process checks to awardees and adding more criteria to award selection, such as changing the access to handicap accessibility criterion.

Councilmember Dry:

- He enthused about the Albemarle High School girls track team win over the weekend and noted that the City should be proud of them.
- He announced that at the Sports Hall of Fame event this summer, former Albemarle High School star T.A. McLendon will be inducted. Council conducted a count of interested members in attending the event, scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup>. Those attending should let the City Manager know in order to obtain tickets.

Councilmember Hunt:

- He noted that the son of retired Albemarle police officer won the state cross country championship.

Councilmember Aldridge added that he would like to see the girls high school track team recognized by Council with a resolution. The Mayor asked Council to help provide details to go into a resolution for it potentially to be held at the July meeting schedules willing.

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**CLOSED SESSION**

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Hunt, unanimously carried, Council approved moving into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) consult with the City Attorney and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel.

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**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Upon a motion by Councilmember Dry, seconded by Councilmember Aldridge, 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)(3) consult with the City Attorney and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel.

There was nothing to report.

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The Mayor announced that Council would adjourn to Monday, June 19, 2023 at 6:30 pm in City Hall and called for a motion to adjourn.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hunt, seconded by Councilmember Hall, unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.