

ADJOURNED MEETING CITY COUNCIL
February 28, 2011

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in an adjourned session on Monday, February 28, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the City Hall. Mayor Elbert L. Whitley presided and the following Councilmembers were present, to wit: Troy E. Alexander, Martha Sue Hall, Judy Holcomb, Jeanette M. Napier, Jack F. Neel, Dexter Townsend and T. Ed Underwood. Absent, none.

The Mayor and the City Council held a meeting with the Stanly County Board of Commissioners and the North Carolina Department of Transportation to hear a proposal for the installation of two roundabouts on the Northeast Connector, one at Ridge Street and one at Mountain Creek Road.

Mayor Whitley called the meeting to order.

Councilmember Hall provided a welcome and overview of the purpose of the meeting. She said there have been numerous accidents and complaints concerning these two intersections on the Northeast Connector since it opened in 1999. With both of these intersections being located inside the City limits, the City Council has expressed concern to the NCDOT over the years regarding safety, noting there have been fatal automobile accidents at both intersections.

Ms. Pate Butler, a Traffic Engineer with the NCDOT, reviewed the crash history at these intersections. She noted that when the road first opened, the majority of accidents involved motorists running stop signs at the intersections. The NCDOT put up flashing caution lights at the intersections and also removed part of a bank that was impeding sight distance at Ridge Street and the NEC. This worked greatly to reduce the running of the stop signs; however, other forms of accidents persist.

Ms. Butler reviewed the types of traffic control measures the NCDOT considers when there are problems or complains at intersections. She noted that roundabouts are the most appropriate for these locations to address the issues. She noted they are designed for high capacity with low motorist delay and

noted they can handle as much traffic as a signalized intersection, while being much safer. She provided an overview of how they work with video demonstration. She indicated they are designed to handle any size vehicle permitted to be on the road in North Carolina. These facilities are designed with a truck apron that allows large vehicles to ride over the apron to navigate the roundabout.

The cost of the two roundabouts is estimated at approximately \$600,000 each. She said the NCDOT has received money to remedy high hazard issues and these intersections qualify. The NCDOT would be paying for the complete cost of construction, including any utility relocation required. If the project moved forward, the projects could begin this summer with completion for the summer of 2012.

Mayor Whitley asked what sort of action the City Council would need to take if they chose to support the projects. Ms. Butler indicated a Resolution of Support would suffice.

Upon a motion of Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council authorized the drafting of a Resolution of Support for the projects.

Upon a motion of Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council adjourned to 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 1 at Stanly Commons for a meeting with the Stanly County Board of Elections.