

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL
January 18, 2011

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall. Mayor Elbert L. "Whit" Whitley, Jr. presided, and the following Councilmembers were present, to-wit: Troy E. Alexander, Martha Sue Hall, Judy Holcomb, Jeanette M. Napier, Jack F. Neel, and T. Ed Underwood. Absent, Dexter Townsend.

The Mayor made a presentation of Retirement Certificates to the following:

Larry W. Taylor- Department of Public Utilities- 9.7 years of service
William Prevatte-Department of Public Utilities-16.3 years of service
Kenneth Shepherd-Department of Public Works-27.2 years of service
Jeffrey J. Swink-Police Department-26.3 years of service
Robert H. Sasser-Planning and Community Development Department-34.3 years of service
Benjamin McNair-Department of Public Works-35.4 years of service

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the minutes of January 4 regular session were approved as submitted.

Mayor Whitley stated that City Council has a copy of the monthly departmental reports in their agenda packets and asked if there were any questions.

The Mayor and City Council considered an appointment to the Albemarle ABC Board held over from the January 4 meeting. This is to fill the unexpired term and new term of ABC Board Chairman Don Frey who is retiring from the ABC Board effective January 31, 2011. The City Manager recommended that the appointee to replace Mr. Frey be appointed to fill the remainder of his unexpired term as well as for

the full term, which would be for 3 years and expire on March 16, 2014 and also to appoint a Chairman for the ABC Board.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Neel, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved waiting until next meeting to vote due to Councilmember Townsend's absence tonight.

The Mayor and City Council received a report on the City's response to the winter Storm. The City experienced a snow and ice event on January 10 and 11 with persistent very low temperatures following the event.

The City Manager noted that the City did not close or reduce hours at City Hall, and we were able to continue to serve citizens. Also, he noted that Public Works treated problem areas on the streets with brine prior to the event, and then salted and plowed streets as needed after the event. After the streets were cleared, Public Works cleared the sidewalks at City facilities and in problem areas downtown as time permitted.

The landfill was closed on Monday and Tuesday with a two hour delay on Wednesday since waster haulers were not operating during this time. The landfill will be open all day on Saturday with full service to accommodate waste haulers and citizens who were not able to work earlier in the week.

The City Manager also stated there was one power outage from Monday through Thursday as a result of the weather. This was an approximate two hour outage on Tuesday morning which affected four customers. Water and Sewer Systems Division had to repair eight water line breaks during this time period as a result of the extreme temperatures.

The City Manager concluded by saying that he would like to commend all of the City employees who worked hard during and following this event to maintain and restore City services, and to help return to normal conditions.

The Mayor and City Council review the proposed FY 2011-2012 Budget Preparation schedule. The City Manager noted that this is very similar to the schedule that we have utilized the past few years.

Councilmember Hall asked that the City Council Budget work session that are scheduled for March 8 and 10 begin at 5 pm. Councilmember Underwood asked that the City Council Planning Retreat scheduled for February 19 begin at 8 am. All Councilmembers agreed on the schedule and the times brought forth.

The Mayor and City Council considered a suggestion to replace the alternate on the Rocky River RPO Transportation Advisory Committee. Councilmember Hall has suggested that the City Council consider replacing the alternate on the TAC so that the City will have a voting representative present at the next meeting on January 20. The City Manager noted that the current delegate is Councilmember Hall and the current alternate is Councilmember Neel, both of whom will be attending the NCLM legislative advocacy conference in Raleigh that day. The City Council could reappoint Councilmember Neel as the alternate at a future meeting of City Council.

Councilmember Holcomb moved to not appoint a replacement alternate for Councilmember Neel on the Rocky River RPO TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee) to be a voting representative present at their next meeting on January 20. Councilmember Underwood seconded the motion. Voting for the motion were Councilmembers Alexander, Holcomb, Napier, Neel, Townsend and Underwood. Voting against the motion was Councilmember Hall. The motion carried.

Councilmember Neel stated if an alternate was appointed, they could vote on January 20 at the RPO meeting. Councilmember Hall explained that due to her, Councilmember Neel and Councilmember Townsend being at a NCLM meeting in Raleigh on that day, if no one is appointed, Albemarle will not have a vote.

Councilmember Neel also stated that Dana Stoogenke with the RPO called needing to make sure there is quorum for the meeting in Marshville.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed proposed Welcome to Albemarle Signs. These signs would replace the current signs as a result of the 2010 1AA AHS Football Championship. The City Council had requested that the City Manager confer with AHS Principal Dave Bright regarding options for the sign to recognize the AHS football team.

The City Manager noted that he provided Mr. Bright with the three options that Council received, and he conferred with the coaching staff regarding these options. The coaching staff prefers the third alternative, which includes all five of the championship years. The cost of the signs would be \$126.74 each for a total of \$633.75. The cost of the signs is not currently budgeted but a budget amendment can be processed to appropriate this from the General Fund fund balance if City Council so desires.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Neel, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the third alternative sign choice and approved a budget amendment in the amount of \$126.74 each for a total of \$633.75 as follows:

Home of the Bulldogs
2001 2002 2003 2009 2010
1AA Football State Champions

On a related matter, the City Manager also asked Mr. Bright about the preferred Council meeting date for the team to come to the meeting for the presentation of the resolution that was adopted by City Council. He is conferring with the coaching staff on this and will be getting back in touch with me.

The Mayor and City Council considered attendance at the NCMIPA#1 Regional meeting. The City Manager noted that the nearest meeting will be in Concord on Thursday, February 24, 2011 at 5:30 pm. The North Carolina Municipal Power Agency #1 is holding three regional meetings for member elected officials and staff. City Council received a memo from Steve Shelton with ElectriCities regarding these meetings. The City Manager noted that he plans to attend this meeting and would encourage members of City Council to consider doing so if their schedules permit.

Councilmembers Holcomb, Napier, and Neel affirmed their attendance. Councilmember Hall due to her schedule will attend one of the other location meetings. Mayor Whitley stated that he would let the City Manager know.

The Mayor and City Council received a reminder of the meeting for the Concord Kannapolis Albemarle Water Line Project. The City Manager noted that this meeting will be held in the Community Room at City Hall beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 26, 2011. This meeting and similar meetings in Concord and Kannapolis are being held to provide an opportunity for public comment regarding the environmental assessment that will be done by this project, conducted by WK Dickson

Engineers. City Council was encouraged if their schedule permits, to attend this presentation and hear any comments.

The Mayor and City Council were informed that the City had received a grant from ElectriCities of NC for the ADDC. This grant is in the amount of \$2,165 for the ADDC facade grant program. The City Manager noted that the City applied for a grant from ElectriCities which had funding available to support programs of this type. We did not have to provide any match since the \$2,500 already budgeted and provided to the ADDC in the current fiscal year served as the match for this grant. This will enable the ADDC to grant more requests for facade improvements in the downtown area.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council agreed to have a Thank-you letter sent to ElectriCities.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed information on the Duke Energy and Progress Energy merger announcement on January 10, 2011. City Council received a copy of a news release regarding this merger along with a statement from ElectriCities regarding this matter. The City Manager noted that due to the critical relationship that NCMAPA#1 has with Duke and NCEMPA has with Progress, the ElectriCities staff is going to be monitoring this merger for threats/opportunities relative to the two power agencies.

The City Manager also noted on a related matter, Duke Energy customers received a base rate increase of 3.25% that went into effect on January 1, 2011. This follows a 3.76% increase that Duke Customers received on January 1, 2010. City of Albemarle electric customers are not affected by this rate increase.

The Mayor and City Council received information concerning the response from the US Department of Transportation acknowledging the receipt of the letter sent by the Mayor and City Council regarding changes to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The Mayor received a letter from the USDOT regarding the letter that the City sent expressing concern over the George Bush Administration mandates regarding size, font, and reflectivity and capitalization of street signs. The letter advises that the City's letter will be entered into the docket in this matter.

Mayor Whitley mentioned receiving calls concerning the privatization of ABC boards. Some people are asking that City Council consider sending a letter to our legislators in Raleigh opposing privatizing of ABC boards.

Councilmember Hall asked that Council wait and see how the NC League of Municipalities handles this. This issue will definitely be discussed later this week at the Advocacy Goals Conference.

Councilmember Hall asked about the status currently on the appointment of Curtis Ragsdale to the Planning Board. Mayor Whitley stated that he had talked with Mr. Ragsdale and the Mayor thinks he will be accepting.

Planning and Community Development Director Keith Wolf came before City Council and stated that he had spoken with Mr. Ragsdale and he stated that he would like to come and sit in on the next Planning Board meeting and observe and then he would probably accept his appointment after that.

Councilmember Hall stated that she feels that at one of the Centralina Council of Governments regional meetings, there will also be some conversation about the privatization of ABC boards.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Napier, and unanimously carried, the City Council adjourned to a closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318 (a) 5 concerning a real estate matter.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Hall, and unanimously carried, the City Council reconvened to open session. Mayor Whitley announced a closed session was held pursuant to NCGS 143-318 (a) 5 concerning a real estate matter that there was nothing to report at this time.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Underwood, seconded by Councilmember Holcomb and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.