

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL
December 20, 2010

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, December 20, 2010 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, Dexter Townsend and T. Ed Underwood. Absent, none.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Holcomb and unanimously carried, the minutes of December 6 regular session were approved as submitted.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the minutes of November 15 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.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the following ordinances passed second reading and were duly adopted:

(Ordinance 10-38. A budget amendment for a KSB grant awarded to Hearne Park.)

(Ordinance 10-39. To amend the Snyder Greenway Project Budget to appropriate an additional \$56,777 in federal funds.)

The Mayor and City Council considered the designation of a voting delegate and alternate delegate for the NCLM Advocacy Conference on January 20. Upon questioning, it was determined that Councilmembers Hall, Neel and Townsend would be attending the Advocacy Conference in January.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Napier and unanimously carried, the City Council approved Councilmember Townsend as the delegate and Councilmember Hall as the alternate delegate for the NCLM Advocacy Conference on January 20.

The Mayor and City Council received an update of the Residential Curbside Recycling Project between the City and Green Pieces Recycling. Assistant City Manager Michael Ferris and Green Pieces owner Steve Megson have been working on this program.

The City Manager noted that Council adopted a non-exclusive residential curbside recycling franchise to Mr. Megson in September. This franchise arrangement is different in that Mr. Megson is not providing the service with funding from the City or its taxpayers. The City identified a need to secure a curbside recycling provider to offer citizens wanting to recycle and has developed this unique and cooperative arrangement with Green Pieces Recycling.

Assistant City Manager Michael Ferris came before Council and said that it had been quite a few years since the City had curbside recycling due to the cost and amount of participation. This program where the City works with Green Pieces will only cost the customers that choose to recycle and will not cost the City money in the budget. Information about the curbside recycling will be placed on the City website and was in the December City bill stuffer.

Steve Megson owner of Green Pieces Recycling came before Council and stated that Green Pieces has been in business for two years. He gave information about his business and stated that there are plans for routine recycling drop off events in the City. This will be a monthly or quarterly drop off location for all at no charge, even if they do not have the recycling service provided curbside. He also stated that this will promote recycling awareness and education to the public.

Mayor Whitley thanked Mr. Megson and stated that he appreciates all the work he has done for recycling.

Councilmember Hall asked about the pink roll out carts that she had seen in the Oakboro and Locust area. Mr. Megson stated these pink carts are for breast cancer awareness and are available here in Albemarle. These carts are to be used for recycling only. Ms. Hall stated that Saturday, December 25, Christmas day there will be the 19th community dinner at First Baptist Church downtown from 11 am – 2 pm. Also she stated that this will be the first year doing a recycling event at the annual Christmas dinners.

She commended Mr. Megson in working with the committee on this event on Christmas Day.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Underwood, and unanimously carried, an Ordinance entitled (Ordinance 11-01) “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE, NORTH CAROLINA, PROVIDING THAT THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE BE AMENDED BY REVISING CHAPTER 77, SCHEDULE XIV-A (NAMING OF STREETS) TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL STREETS IN THE ANDERSON RIDGE SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE, NORTH CAROLINA” passed first reading.

The Mayor and City Council considered a resolution for a Special Order by Consent for improvements to the US 52 Water Treatment Plant. The City Manager noted that at the November 1 Council meeting Stephen Chambers presented City Council with information regarding the discharge when the filters at the US 52 WTP are backwashed. Most of the flow from this goes into the sanitary sewer system, but due to the volume some of this cannot be accommodated and includes solids in excess of what is permitted under the City's discharge permit.

The City Manager also stated that Ernie Borders, Stephen Chambers and he met with NCDENR staff in Mooresville a couple of weeks ago to discuss this issue. NCDENR staff is willing for the City to enter into a Special Order by Consent agreement to provide time to evaluate alternatives and devise a solution to this problem. The first step in obtaining an SOC is the adoption of a resolution and the submission of an application.

Stephen Chambers with Chambers Engineering came before Council and stated that this consent will allow the City time to study and evaluate alternatives without a violation. He stated that Council would need to approve the resolution for a Special Order by Consent and he will also submit the application.

Upon questioning, the City Manager stated that in addition to the resolution, an application will be sent where you request the amount of time needed.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Neel and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the following resolution and the submission of an application.

(Resolution 10-36. A Special Order by Consent with NCDENR for improvements to the US Hwy 52 Water Treatment Plant.)

The Mayor and City Council received a report on a complaint regarding garbage collection at Elizabeth Heights. At the Council meeting on December 6 Councilmember Neel had reported a complaint he had received from a volunteer at the congregate meals site at Elizabeth Heights about the garbage truck servicing the Elizabeth Heights apartments blocking parking during the time that meals are served or picked up for home delivery. The City Manager noted that Public Housing Director Garry Lewis checked into this complaint and talked with the garbage truck driver. The driver has agreed to alter his route to try to avoid being at Elizabeth Heights during the time that meals are being served and picked up. Mr. Lewis will be monitoring the progress.

The Mayor and City Council considered a request from the Police Department to donate and transfer two surplus computers to the ADDC. The City Manager noted that the City has several old computers that have been taken out of service. While out of warranty and no longer needed by the City, they are much better than anything the ADDC has. The City would get very little for these in any surplus sale. Chief Michael talked with Director of Information Systems Owen Squires and determined we can help them greatly by donating these computers to them.

The City Manager stated that Finance Director Colleen Conroy and Chief of Police Ronnie Michael have looked at the process involved in donating these computers which include posting a notice of intent and a resolution to donate computers to ADDC. The resolution will be brought back before Council at its next meeting for formal approval.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Neel, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved donating two surplus computers to the ADDC.

The Mayor and City Council discussed changing the Welcome to Albemarle signs. The City Manager noted that Council may want to consider changing the wording on these signs as a result of the Albemarle High School football state championship for 2010. The current signs have wording for being the 2009 1AA

Football State Champions. He also noted that he had been in contact with the Department of Corrections which manufactured these signs and they have advised that the current signs cannot be altered. These signs are 84" X 16" and are \$126.75. The total cost would be \$633.75.

Councilmember Neel congratulated the Albemarle High School Bulldogs football team on winning the State 1AA Football Championship two years in a row. Also, he added winning the state championship 5 times in the last 10 years is quite an accomplishment. This is a program that has been used with Coach Gaster, Coach Morris and now Coach Atkins. The middle school and JV teams were also undefeated this year. He stated that this is a program that starts with kids around 10 years of age forward.

Mr. Neel also said that he would like to see the City pass a resolution and have the football team come to a Council meeting and have the resolution presented to them. Also, Mr. Neel stated the football team exhibited high sportsmanship and he would like to congratulate the coaches and principal.

Several Councilmembers stated ways to create the new welcome signs to include the years the high school received the state football championship.

The City Manager stated that the message board signs would have to be redone because NCDOT cannot edit the signs. Mayor Whitley stated that there needs to be some conversing with NCDOT on the signs. Councilmember Neel suggests that Principal Dave Bright or his representative get involved in the approval of the sign and lettering. The City Manager stated that he would contact Mr. Bright.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Neel, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a resolution be written and presented to the Albemarle High School football team on their 2010 1AA State Championship.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed a draft letter to the Federal Highway Administration regarding street sign mandate. The City Manager by request of Council at the December 6 meeting drafted a letter for Council review and consideration. The City Manager noted that he had also contacted the NC League of Municipalities as requested by Council and talked with Charles Archer. Mr. Archer is responsible for federal matters with the League. He advised that the League staff is working with the NLC on this issue.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Neel and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the draft letter to the Federal Highway Administration regarding street sign mandates.

The Mayor and City Council considered attendance at the Stanly County Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting. This meeting will be on Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at 6:00 pm at the SRMC Family and Education Center. Mayor Whitley asked that any Councilmember interested in attending to let the City Manager know.

Councilmembers Hall, Holcomb, Neel and Mayor Whitley affirmed their attendance.

The Mayor and City Council were reminded that City offices will be closed in observance of Christmas and New Year's Holidays. These closings will be on Friday, December 24, Monday, December 27, 2010 and Monday, January 3, 2011.

The Mayor and City Council received a thank you letter from the Stanly County Chamber of Commerce. This letter is in regards to the economic development appropriation to the Chamber of Commerce in the current City budget.

Councilmember Townsend wished a Merry Christmas to everyone.

Councilmember Hall wished everyone a Merry Christmas. She also thanked everyone responsible for the Christmas lunch for the City employees.

Ms. Hall asked the City Manager for an update on the power outage this past Thursday. The City Manager stated that there was an equipment malfunction at the Duke Power delivery point located on US Hwy 52 which supports power to half of the City residents. Most of those out of power were switched over to the other delivery point at Lee Lynn Drive temporarily that evening. Duke Power partially repaired the US 52 delivery point and everyone had power restored by that same evening. This past weekend permanent repair was performed to the delivery point on US 52 and customers were transferred back to the US 52 delivery point by mid-morning.

Councilmember Neel thanked the Systems Division of the Public Utilities Department and how he appreciates the work they do repairing leaks and making repairs in the freezing temperatures we have had lately.

Councilmember Underwood wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilmember Alexander wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Whitley thanked the Superintendent of the Electric Division Charles Burris and his crew. He said that they did a fine job restoring power back after the power outage last Thursday.

Mayor Whitley also wished everyone a Merry Christmas on behalf of the City government and the City Council.

City Manager Raymond Allen stated that he would like to give Council notice of an ABC board member stepping down in January. Mr. Allen said that Don Frey ABC Board Chairman came by to see him last week and he has decided to retire in January. His term will expire March 16, 2011. Mr. Allen said that Council may want to consider a replacement. Also, Mr. Allen stated that the ABC made their last payment for the construction of the store on NC Highway 24-27 recently, which was 5 months shy of 5 years.

Councilmember Hall asked that interested candidates be brought before Council at the next meeting on January 4, 2011.

Councilmember Holcomb stated that if the NC ABC stores are privatized, they may not need to replace a board member and chairman.

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