

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL

January 5, 2009

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, January 5, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Annex. 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.

Bishop James Richardson of Saints Delight Church delivered the invocation.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the minutes of the December 15 regular session was approved as submitted.

The Honorable Kevin Bridges, Superior Court Judge, came forth to deliver the oath of office to newly appointed Councilmember Dexter Townsend.

At this time, Councilmember Townsend came forward to join the Councilmembers and participate in the remainder of the City Council meeting.

(Oaths and Signatures)

Mr. Kenneth R. Anderson, CPA, came before City Council to present the City's audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2008. Mr. Anderson briefly

reviewed the handout given to Council about the available fund balances, tax collection percentages, and other audit information.

Mr. Anderson reviewed the 3-year trend table including periods from June 30, 2006, June 30, 2007 and June 30, 2008 in comparison for the fund balances and tax collection percentages. Also, Mr. Anderson explained items of the audit report giving location within the audit to find each one. He stated that the City received an unqualified opinion on their June 30, 2008 financial statements which is the highest audit opinion that can be rendered. He also covered the net change in the fund balance general fund and the enterprise funds, changes in long term liabilities, and compliance audits. The City audit was submitted to the Local Government Commission on November 25, 2008 and was accepted.

Councilmember Alexander commented on pages 1-11 being an excellent summary of the City of Albemarle.

Councilmember Hall asked what the Local Government Commission's suggestion is for the fund balance percentage. Mr. Anderson stated between 32-36 %. City Manager Raymond Allen stated that 8% would be the minimum and an average would be in the 30% range.

Councilmember Townsend asked if Council had addressed all items that need amendments. Mr. Anderson confirmed this in regards to last year.

Mr. Anderson concluded his presentation by noting that he found staff to be very responsive, good financial controls in place and the City's finance function operating as it should.

Mr. Peter Ascutto, Uwharrie Running Club came before Council to request the closing of Depot Street between North Street and West Main Street for the Beach Blast 5K on May 9, 2009 from 6:30 am to 9:30 am. Closing the block from North Street to King Avenue on Second Street for a few minutes at the start of the race. This 5K run is being held in conjunction with the annual Beach Blast downtown festival.

Mr. Ascutto stated positive comments on the Greenway Project for the City.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved

the request to close streets for the Beach Blast 5K Run on May 9, 2009 from 6:30 am until 9:30 am in conjunction with the annual Beach Blast downtown festival.

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

(Ordinance 09-01, To amend the FY 2008/2009 Budget to increase appropriations for an annexation study, funding to outside agencies and Greenway Project.)

(Ordinance 09-02, To amend Ordinance 01-31, the Greenway Project Budget.)

The Mayor and City Council considered a request for water service for a lot in Running Creek Estates outside the City limits. This would serve a lot outside the corporate limits where there is no adjacent water line, which requires City Council approval. The City Council approved a request to serve this lot with sewer service at their December 15 meeting. A decision was laid over regarding permission for water service pending a study to determine if the water pressure from the nearest line in Crystal Village would be adequate to serve this lot.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Napier, the City Council approved a request for water service for a lot in Running Creek Estate outside the City limits provided that the property owner be responsible for boosting the water pressure necessary to serve his house.

Ms. Hall asked about the water pressure in this general area on the City's system. Public Utilities Director Ernie Borders came before Council and stated that the water pressure in this area is not very good, and lower than other parts of the City. He also stated that this area is serviced by the West Oakwood water tank. The results of the study revealed the water pressure at this location would be approximately 6 psi and the water must overcome approximately 58 ft. of elevation. It is recommended that a minimum of 40 to 50 psi be maintained for

residential use. Therefore, it is further recommended that the proposed owner look at installing a residential booster pumping station to maintain a constant acceptable water pressure which would be at the owner's expense.

Real Estate agent, Mark Thomas with Remax, Steeplechase stated that his concern was mainly due to a neighbor's property having arsenic in his well. Therefore worried about the owner having to dig a well versus having security with using the City water system.

Mayor Whitley stated that using a booster pumping station is not uncommon. Also, that it must be understood that the City cannot supply the adequate pressure needed if approved and this would be the expense of the property owner.

Councilmember Neel stated that this should be put in writing and recorded at the courthouse and should go with the property from owner to owner over time. City Attorney David Beaver stated that this could be placed in an ordinance or in the minutes and he would talk with the Assistant City Manager Michael Ferris further about this. Mr. Neel stated that it is dangerous to honor requests outside the City and that these properties should be annexed. He also stated that there will be a hearing by the Legislative Study Committee on Annexation on January 6 and 19. He also stated that our current laws are in great jeopardy and the City should wait until decisions are made by the state.

Upon voting the Council approved the request for water service for a lot in Running Creek Estates. Voting for the motion were Councilmembers Alexander, Holcomb, Napier, Townsend and Underwood. Voting against the motion were Councilmembers Hall and Neel.

The Mayor and City Council considered procedures for the adoption of the Land Use Plan. The City's new Land Use Plan has been recommended for adoption by the Planning and Zoning Board. The draft Land Use Plan was presented to City Council on August 25, and has been in a process of review since that time. Some revisions have been made to the original draft, and the final draft was approved by the Planning and Zoning Board in November. The final draft was presented to City Council on December 15. A public hearing will be required to adopt the Land Use Plan.

Councilmember Hall moved to set a public hearing to consider the proposed Land Use Plan for Monday, February 2, 2009 at 7 pm. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Neel.

In further discussion, City Manager Raymond Allen stated that the minimum requirement would be for the City Council to set a public hearing before the adoption of the Land Use Plan could occur. He also said that Council can hold a general input meeting with discussion before setting a date for public hearing if Council prefers.

Councilmember Townsend asked if the Land Use Plan could be uploaded to the City website for public viewing and/or displayed for in-person viewing. The City Manager said this could be posted on the City website.

Upon a vote the Council unanimously agreed to set public hearing for Monday, February 2, 2009 at 7 pm.

The Mayor and City Council considered the appointment of an alternate to Centralina Council of Governments Board of Delegates. At its meeting on December 1, the City Council appointed Councilmember Martha Sue Hall as the delegate for the City, but decided to defer appointment of an alternate until January. The 2009 scheduled meetings for the CCOG Board of Delegates which meets quarterly are February 11, May 13, August 12, and December 9.

Councilmember Townsend asked when and where the Centralina Council of Governments Board of Delegates meetings are held. Councilmember Hall stated that these meetings are held in Charlotte and also near Gastonia on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm eight different times a year. Mr. Townsend stated that he would like to serve as alternate to this Board of Delegates.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Neel, seconded by Councilmember Holcomb and unanimously carried, the City Council appointed Councilmember Townsend as alternate to the Centralina Council of Governments Board of Delegates.

City Manager Raymond Allen gave a status report on the City Hall Project. All of the stud walls have been installed in the existing City Hall, and some in the new building as well. Most of the electrical conduit, sprinkler piping,

plumbing and ductwork are complete in the existing building and portions of these have also been installed in the new building. The retaining wall in front of City Hall is complete except for the cap, and the brick have started to be laid on the west facing wall of the south wing of the new building. With the installation of many of the stud walls, you can now get a good picture of how the building is laid out. If anyone on City Council would like to tour the facility, they were asked to let Jon Mendenhall or the City Manager know, and one of them will make arrangements to provide a tour of the building.

Councilmember Holcomb stated what a great job was being done. City Manager Raymond Allen said that the construction crews were working every weekday and on Saturdays.

Councilmember Neel said he was proud of the new City Hall and everyone should be for many decades to come.

Councilmember Townsend asked the scheduled completion date for the new City Hall. Mayor Whitley stated that this was an 18 month project from beginning to completion and should be completed by November of this year.

Director of Public Housing Garry Lewis and Architect Wayne Stogner came before Council to answer questions concerning the next stages of the proposed Capital Improvements in the Department of Public Housing.

Director of Public Housing Garry Lewis explained that the project is proposed to be funded out of the Capital Program Funds on hand, and \$350,000 from reserves. The Public Housing staff has confirmed with HUD that the City can use these funds from Public Housing reserves, and then replenish all or a portion of these when they receive their 2009 capital funding from HUD. He reviewed the handout given to Council from Stogner Architecture, PA. He asked that Council give the Department authorization to use available funds from the Capital Funds Project from 2006, 2007 and 2008 and \$350,000 of conventional program reserves.

The siding, window replacement, soffit and fascia replacement, and other exterior improvements are part of this proposed project at Amhurst Gardens. The color is going to be the same as what was just installed at Elizabeth Heights. Overall, this project at Amhurst Gardens is similar to what was just completed at Elizabeth Heights.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Napier and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the proposed Capital Improvements in the Department of Public Housing.

Mr. Wayne Stogner with Stogner Architecture, PA came before Council to point out the total estimated construction costs of \$1,128,168.63 which is using \$350,000 of Conventional Program Reserves. These funds should be received by September 2009. Bids will be taken in January 2009 and contracts ready to execute February 2009 with actual construction beginning in March 2009.

Public Utilities Director Ernie Borders provided a brief report to City Council on a recent training session he attended at the NC Rural Development Center. The Rural Center encourages reporting back to the governing boards.

Mr. Borders explained that attending this “how to” workshop at the Rural Center he gained knowledge of the types of grants available and the process of applying. The Rural Center administers two programs to help rural communities develop the water and sewer systems they need to ensure a reliable supply of clean water.

1) Supplemental Grants Program enables local governments and qualified non-profit corporations to improve local water and sewer systems.

2) Planning Grants Program which provides funding for local governments to undertake planning efforts that support strategic investments in water and sewer facilities. The maximum grant amount for this program is generally \$40,000.

3) USDA Grants which the City is not eligible for because we exceed the 10,000 or less population requirement.

Mr. Borders also stated that the City was awarded \$40,000 for water system mapping and modeling which would allow Public Utilities to expand the project that was already in progress. In regard to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Grant application referred to as the Clean Water Partners’ Infrastructure Program, the total grant amount is \$4,352,245.00. It is broken down into City Funds \$352,245, Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) \$3,000,000, and NC Rural Center \$1,000,000. The City recently applied for the \$1,000,000 from the NC Rural Center and the City was turned down due to not having a letter of commitment from the CWMTF for the

additional \$3,000,000. Once the NC Rural Center has the CWMTF backing, the NC Rural Center will award the City the \$1,000,000 grant money.

Mr. Borders said that federal economic stimulus for infrastructure, such as construction worker positions proposed by President Elect Obama, is a separate item from this. Mr. Borders said that Public Utilities is working very hard to have items ready when the opportunity presents itself.

Councilmember Hall stated that NC Governor Elect Beverly Purdue is requesting all project items be on her desk as soon as possible to pass on to the federal government.

Councilmember Alexander asked if this is a federal program which will go through the state government. City Manager Raymond Allen stated that typically they work this way but that the National League of Cities has requested the funds be sent directly to the City governments from the federal government.

The Mayor and City Council considered the acceptance of a grant from NC Rural Development Center for water system mapping and modeling. The City has received notification that it has received a \$40,000 grant from the NC Rural Development Center for this project. This will require a \$40,000 match from the City's Water and Sewer Fund reserves to receive the grant. The City Council authorized application for this grant in July.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Napier and unanimously carried, the City Council approved acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$40,000 from NC Rural Development Center for water system mapping and modeling with the City matching these funds.

The Mayor and City Council considered a resolution to authorize grant application to NC Rural Development Center. This resolution is to authorize application for a planning grant in the amount of \$40,000 to conduct an inflow/infiltration study of the City's wastewater system. The City's match of \$40,000 would come from Water Sewer Fund retained earnings if the grant is approved. The City Council voted to authorize Stephen Chambers of Chambers Engineering to prepare this grant application at its meeting on December 1.

Public Utilities Director Ernie Borders in his memorandum to Council recommended that Chambers Engineering be retained to complete this project. Mr. Borders stated that the maximum amount you can apply for on a planning grant is \$40,000.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Neel, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the following Resolution was duly adopted:

(Resolution 09-01, To authorize a Rural Center Grant application for an Inflow and Infiltration Study.)

The Mayor and City Council considered Bid 2008-06 for the purchase of a street sweeper in the Department of Public Works, Street Division. The City's current street sweeper is a 2002 model and was budgeted for replacement in the current year budget.

Public Works Director Mike Lambert stated that the City only received one bid for this purchase. This is proposed to be acquired on a lease purchase on a five year basis, and the first year's lease payment is included in the current year budget.

Councilmember Hall asked if this means that 4 payments will be owed after this initial 1st payment and Mr. Lambert stated that this is correct.

Councilmember Townsend asked Mr. Lambert if this new sweeper meets the same criteria as the existing one the City has and Mr. Lambert stated that it would be exactly the same, just newer.

Mr. Lambert stated that this had been advertised in the newspaper and that anyone could pick up a bid package. Public Works Supply Equipment was the only one submitting a bid of two companies that carry these sweepers. He requested the bid be awarded to Public Works Supply Equipment. Mr. Lambert distributed a list of options that he noted were left of the bid tabulation sheet. He recommended the inclusion of the options, bringing the total bid price to \$191,897.00.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Underwood, seconded by Councilmember Napier and unanimously carried, the City Council voted to

approve award of the bid purchase for a street sweeper to Public Works Supply Equipment in the amount of \$191,897.00 to be delivered June 1, 2009.

(Bid Tabulation)

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, an Ordinance entitled (Ordinance 09-03) "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE, NORTH CAROLINA, PROVIDING THAT THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE BE AMENDED TO ABOLISH THE NO PARKING ZONE ON THE NORTH SIDE OF GIBSON STREET FROM THE INTERSECTION OF AREY AVENUE WESTWARDLY A DISTANCE OF 143 FEET IN THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE, NORTH CAROLINA", passed first reading.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, (Ordinance 09-05) "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE, NORTH CAROLINA AMENDING SECTION 31.25-4 OF THE FIRE PROTECTION CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE, NORTH CAROLINA TO ADOPT BY REFERENCE THE 2009 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE", passed first reading.

In further discussion, Councilmember Neel asked if the City was including any local ordinance changes in the update. Fire Marshall Brian Taylor advised him yes that the only local ordinance we had to the fire code is the use of the appendixes in the fire code and it is included.

Police Chief Ronnie Michael reported to City Council of a previous surplus equipment sale and requested to declare additional equipment surplus for sale.

Police Chief Ronnie Michael reviewed the list of vehicles that was previously declared surplus and the amount received for each vehicle or piece of equipment. Mr. Michael also referred to the vehicles and equipment list of items to be surplus which also included various items that had been grouped together in lots.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Neel, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council declared surplus additional equipment to be sold.

(Surplus List)

The Mayor and City Council reviewed the proposed conservation easement for the Don Montgomery Park storm water facility. Engineering Services Director Jon Mendenhall came before Council and stated the approximate size of the conservation easement is 1.09 acres. He stated that this is for a Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant to install a facility behind the ball field at Don Montgomery Park. The facility will help to clean water going into the creek, and will act as a flood retention basin to allow floodwaters to gradually be discharged. The Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) requires a conservation easement for this area to ensure that it will not be built upon in the future.

Councilmember Neel asked if this is to be located where the playground is now and Mr. Mendenhall said no but is where the horseshoes use to be. He also said that the exit would be into Little Long Creek.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the City Council voted to approve the Don Montgomery Park Storm Water Project Conservation Easement.

The Mayor and City Council received an introduction of the City's New E-Gov Service from Assistant City Manager Michael Ferris. This service

will be available to the public as of January 5 and will provide a new electronic way to communicate with the City.

Assistant City Manager Michael Ferris came before City Council to comment on the new E-GOV link on the City of Albemarle's website which will provide an easy way for residents and businesses to make suggestions, request information, and/or request action any time of day or night using the internet. Mr. Ferris said that a press release was sent out to the Mayor and City Council and local media from City administration on Friday and a copy of that release was in their agenda packet. Mr. Ferris stated that there are three locations on the website to go to the E-GOV link which are What's New, Contact Us or Services. This information will be in the bill stuffer in February. He asked that Council call or come by his office if they have any questions or want to learn more about this.

Councilmember Townsend asked if the requester is required to give their name and Mr. Ferris stated that as of now the name and phone number are required fields to fill in and this will aid departments if return contact is needed to the requester.

The Mayor and City Council considered a resolution to replace Resolution 08-40 honoring 2008 AHS Football Team. There was an error in Resolution 08-40 adopted on December 15. Councilmember Holcomb has contacted the AHS football coach to ask him to notify the team's players that this resolution will be presented at the January 26 meeting of City Council.

Councilmember Townsend asked if other high school sports teams received championships, could there also be resolution honoring them. Mayor Whitley said this would apply to any team sport championship with a separate resolution created for each one.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the following Resolution to honor the Albemarle High School Football Team was duly adopted:

(Resolution 09-02)

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the following Resolution to honor the Albemarle High School Men's Soccer Team was duly adopted:

(Resolution 09-03)

Councilmember Hall stated that it would be good to honor both the football team and the soccer team on the same night at the next City Council meeting on January 26, 2009. Ms. Hall also said that Council could sign the soccer team resolution at their next meeting with the Planning and Zoning and Board of Adjustment joint meeting on Wednesday, January 21.

The Mayor and City Council considered attendance at a meeting with state legislative delegation on January 15, 2009. The Town of Norwood is coordinating this meeting for municipal officials to discuss annexation authority and other municipal issues. The meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15 at 8:00 am at Mac's Breakfast Any Time in Albemarle. Senator Purcell and Representative Burr are confirmed for the meeting.

City Manager Raymond Allen said that if anyone would be able to attend this meeting, just to let him know. City Councilmembers Alexander, Hall, Holcomb, Napier, Neel and Underwood confirmed their attendance at this meeting on January 15.

The Mayor and City Council discussed a proposal to request that NC Department of Transportation install a traffic signal at Ridge Street and the Northeast Connector. Councilmember Neel requested that discussion of this proposal be placed on the agenda for City Council.

The Mayor mentioned Mr. and Mrs. Rummage being killed at this same intersection of Ridge Street and the Northeast Connector just recently.

Councilmember Alexander moved to request the NCDOT look into adding a traffic signal at the intersection of Ridge Street and the Northeast Connector. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Underwood.

In further discussion Councilmember Neel mentioned the limited sight distance for motorists traveling north on Ridge Street when they look back to the east and also the speed limit of 55 mph is too high and needs to be 45 mph.

Councilmember Holcomb asked if the speed limit on the Northeast Connector had previously been voted on by the City Council and Councilmember Neel stated that Council had requested the NCDOT post the speed limit at 55 mph on this section of the road. Mr. Neel also stated that there were too many intersections coming off of the Northeast Connector to have a speed limit of 55 mph and that traffic has increased on those intersections.

Mayor Whitley asked if NCDOT considers our request, will the speed limit automatically change. Councilmember Neel said that it would not and there needed to be a dual request of a traffic survey for the traffic signal and for the speed limit.

Councilmember Hall stated that there was a Reduce Speed Ahead sign on the Northeast Connector near the Ridge Street intersection but something needs to be done about the Ridge Street intersection. This is a state maintained road and this is something that they will have to correct.

Upon a vote, the motion to request the NCDOT look into adding a traffic signal at the intersection of Ridge Street and the Northeast Connector was unanimously carried.

Councilmember Neel moved to request the NCDOT look at lowering the speed limit on the Northeast Connector from 55 mph to 45 mph. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hall.

Upon further discussion, Councilmember Hall said we should request NCDOT do a traffic study first and give feedback to us. Councilmember Neel stated that NCDOT will automatically do a traffic study to determine if the need for a traffic light and or speed limit needs to be changed.

Upon voting on the motion, the request to have NCDOT look at lowering the speed limit on the Northeast Connector from 55 mph to 45 mph was carried. Voting for the motion were Councilmembers Alexander, Hall, Neel and Townsend. Voting against the motion were Councilmembers Holcomb, Napier and Underwood.

The Mayor and City Council discussed the 2009 City Council Budget/Planning Retreat. The City Council has typically held a retreat in February to discuss priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. This retreat has usually been a four or five hour session held in town on a Saturday. This can be held on a weekday or on a Saturday, at City Council's preference.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Neel and unanimously carried, the City Council voted to hold their fiscal year 2009/2010 Budget/Planning Retreat on Saturday, February 28 at 8:00 am at the City Hall Annex.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed a letter of thanks from the Stanly County Chamber of Commerce relating to the 2008-2009 appropriation to the Chamber for economic development.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed a letter from Time Warner Cable regarding a rate increase. A letter was sent to the City Manager from Time Warner Cable regarding this issue.

Mayor Whitley stated that these rates are for information only and that local government cannot regulate these rates.

Councilmember Alexander stated that he saw on TV where Time Warner Cable was removing 19 stations in the Charlotte area. The City Manager said that TWC was negotiating with those networks on price and none of them have been eliminated. The Networks wanted more money to fund those programs but all of them are still on and will not be removed.

Councilmember Napier moved to annex Stanly Community College at City expense. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Holcomb.

Councilmember Neel asked Councilmember Napier if this was a request of the College. Ms. Napier said it was not but they want to be annexed in to the City and have requested this. Mr. Neel said that SCC needs to make a formal request by application to the City Manager Raymond Allen.

Councilmember Hall stated that when the SCC Board of Trustees met, Dr. Taylor reported wanting to be annexed into the City limits but would hold off due to the cost factors. Councilmember Neel said that this is something that the college should pay for which would be the state's responsibility.

Councilmember Townsend asked when the annexation study would be completed. Assistant City Manager Michael Ferris, who is heading the annexation study, came forward and stated that there was another meeting this

week and it is being determined exactly what is economically feasible and legally possible and should be completed by early March this year.

City Manager Raymond Allen indicated the college had requested voluntary annexation of its property, and Council voted to require the college pay the full cost of the annexation. Councilmember Alexander asked if SCC rejected this due to them paying the fees of annexation. The City Manager Raymond Allen said no and that the college may wait for the completion of the annexation study. The cost of the annexation would be between \$2,000-\$4,000 including legal fees. Mr. Alexander said that the City should just hold off on the annexation of SCC and wait until the annexation study is complete. Councilmember Neel stated that this is not a critical issue to Dr. Taylor with SCC to be decided upon this month. It can wait until the annexation study is complete in early March.

A substitute motion was made by Councilmember Napier, and seconded by Councilmember Holcomb to annex Stanly Community College into the City with SCC and the City of Albemarle splitting the costs of the annexation fees. Upon a vote, the substitute motion failed. Voting for the motion were Councilmembers Holcomb, Napier and Underwood. Voting against the motion were Councilmembers Alexander, Hall, Neel and Townsend.

Councilmember Townsend stated that he is honored to be allowed the opportunity to serve as City Councilman for District 1. He stated that he had attended many meetings in the Council Chambers over the last 13 years. He stated that Mr. T.E. White had done a remarkable job and he accepted this appointment with great compassion and hoped to be a part of directing the City in a positive way.

Councilmember Alexander asked about the stretch of roadway from the bridge at NC 24/27 bypass to the split of South First Street and South Second Street and if this section of road was maintained by NCDOT. City Manager Raymond Allen stated that this area of South Second Street is maintained by the state. Mr. Alexander said that this section of roadway is very rough and bumpy and would Mr. Allen please check with NCDOT on repairs for this section of road.

Councilmember Underwood stated that there were City fire hydrants still needing to be uniformly painted. Councilmember Neel said that this is in progress and it may take some time to complete, but all of the fire hydrants within the City will be painted the same color.

Councilmember Hall said that she attended the 113 Battalion ceremony in Monroe earlier today and stated that it was excellent. She said that Channel 14 did an exposé about this and she has printed material if anyone should like to see this.

She also asked the City Manager if anyone would be attending the North Carolina League of Municipalities meeting this coming Friday. The City Manager said that he, Michael Ferris, Mayor Whitley and Councilmember Neel would be attending in Concord. Ms. Hall asked if registration had been made for her to attend the one in Pinehurst and Mr. Allen said reservation had been made and she should have received an email confirmation.

Councilmember Hall asked Council if they had received any comments or concerns about the new stop signs on Pee Dee Avenue. There were positive and negative comments mentioned, but most were positive from the residents on Pee Dee Avenue.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council adjourned to a closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318(a) 2 and 5 to prevent the premature disclosure of an honor or award and to discuss real estate negotiations.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council reconvened to open session. Mayor Whitley announced that a closed session was held pursuant to NCGS 143-318(a) 2 and 5 to prevent the premature disclosure of an honor or award and to discuss real estate negotiations and that there was nothing to report at this time.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Underwood, seconded by Councilmember Napier and unanimously carried, the City Council adjourned to January 21 at 6:30 p.m. for a meeting with the members of the Planning and Zoning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment at the Rosebriar Restaurant.