

ADJOURNED MEETING CITY COUNCIL
March 12, 2008

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in an adjourned session on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. at the Rosebriar Restaurant. 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, T. Ed Underwood and T.E. White. Absent, none.

The City Council held a dinner meeting with the members of the Planning and Zoning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Planning and Zoning Board Vice-Chairman Elworth Plyler called the meeting to order.

Director of Planning and Community Development Bob Sasser distributed a memorandum to the Boards that he presented previously to the Mayor and Council addressing signs around the City and Stanly Regional Medical Center that questions have been raised about. He said the Boards have discussed these issues for a while and wanted to provide up to date information on each sign an issue was raised about.

Planner II Keith Wolf discussed issues with large, inflatable pools. He said these are fairly new and becoming more popular and can have the same issues as other pools that are currently addressed in the Zoning Ordinance. The Planning and Zoning Board has recommended the City treat these pools as above ground pools, which would require their being placed in the backyard, but not to require the construction of a fence around the pools.

Councilmember Hall inquired about the number of gallons held by such a pool. Mr. Wolf read an example of one that contained 5,000 gallons. Councilmember White wondered if there should also be a minimum lot size that should be met before constructing such a pool. Mr. Wolf said they could enforce a side-yard setback of ten feet. He also added the public could be made aware of these regulations through an upcoming utility bill stuffer and press release, prior to

the beginning of warm weather and the filling of the pools. Councilmember Hall concurred it would be good to notify people of the regulations prior to the pools being located and filled.

Councilmember Neel said his primary concern with such pools is safety. He said he felt that anything over six-inches deep should be fenced. Councilmember Holcomb felt fencing was too great an expense in comparison to the cost of the pool.

Mr. Wolf was asked about other municipal ordinances on this matter. He said research indicates regulations vary from non-existent, to enforcing full pool standards; that the degrees of regulation depends on the local preference.

The Planning and Community Development Department was asked to draft proposed language for the review of the Boards. The City Manager noted an Ordinance change would take some time and that would not allow the City to get the new regulations out to the public prior to warm weather and the season for pool usage.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.