

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL
September 15, 2008

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, September 15, 2008, 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, Judy Holcomb, Jeanette M. Napier, Jack F. Neel, T. Ed Underwood and T. E. White. Absent, Councilmember Martha Sue Hall.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Napier and unanimously carried, the minutes of the September 2 regular session, September 2 closed session and the September 3 adjourned session were approved as submitted.

Mr. Tony Upchurch, Battalion Chief, Fire Department, was present to request the City Council approve 15 days of leave as incentives for the fair share givers in the City Employee United Way Campaign.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Neel, seconded by Councilmember Napier and unanimously carried, the City Council approved 15 days of leave as incentives for the fair share givers in the City Employee United Way Campaign.

Ms. Valerie Jones, Lady Riders, was present to request the closing of Love Street between Lowder Street and Bost Street on Saturday, September 27 from noon until 11:00 p.m. for a fundraising event to benefit the needy. She said Lady Riders is a non-profit organization in North Carolina. They provide food assistance and plan to work with the United Way. Ms. Jones answered upon questioning that she had talked to the affected residents about this proposed street closing and they did not object. She also said she was in contact with the Chief of Police about a permit for live music.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Underwood, seconded by Councilmember White and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the request to close Love Street between Lowder Street and Bost Street on Saturday,

September 27 from noon until 11:00 p.m. for a fundraising event to benefit the needy.

Mr. Chris Bramlett, 315 South Third Street, appeared before the Mayor and City Council to request the installation of curb and gutter on the south side of Hearne Street between South Third Street and South Fourth Street. Mr. Bramlett said there are only two property owners involved and the other owner has not expressed an interest in curb and gutter, therefore he is not eligible to use the City's petition process. He requested Council approve the installation of curb and gutter along the length of his property and that he is willing to pay the full amount up front, but requested the 10% discount as has been given to others in the past who pay the full amount up front.

Councilmember Neel asked about the trees lining his property on Hearne Street. Public Works Director Michael Lambert said that if 25-foot curb and gutter is installed, the trees would not have to be removed but the roots may have to be trimmed. Mr. Bramlett said he and his wife have discussed this and are fine with proceeding, even if tree roots have to be trimmed.

Councilmember Holcomb moved to approve the request for curb and gutter on the south side of Hearne Street along only Mr. Bramlett's property. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Underwood.

Councilmember Neel said he does not support the request because it does not include curb and gutter for a full block. He asked if the drainage could be sufficiently handled if curb and gutter was not installed for the full block. Mr. Lambert said he has been on site and believes the drainage can be accommodated.

Upon a vote on the motion, the City Council approved the request for the installation of curb and gutter on the south side of Hearne Street between South Third Street and South Fourth Street along the property of Mr. Chris Bramlett, 315 South Third Street. Voting in favor of the motion were Councilmembers Alexander, Holcomb, Napier, Underwood and White. Voting in opposition to the motion was Councilmember Neel.

Mr. Mickey Drye, Chairman, Veterans' Day Parade, appeared as an announced delegate to request approval for a Veterans' Day Parade on November 11.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember White and unanimously carried, the City Council approved allowing a Veterans' Day Parade on November 11.

Mr. Chris Lambert, Director of the Stanly County Convention and Visitors' Bureau, appeared before the Mayor and City Council to provide an update on the activities of the organization. Accomplishments during the last year include development of the first ever travel guide for the county, redesign of the CVB website, and a redesign of the visitors' guide. Future activities include the first ever outdoor expo. Mr. Lambert concluded his update by reviewing travel and tourism statistics and the impact of tourism on Stanly County.

Councilmember Neel said the number of direct deposit participants in the Human Resources monthly report is listed as zero. The City Manager said this is not correct and that this information will be updated.

Upon a motion by Councilmember White, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the following Ordinance passed second reading and was duly adopted:

(Ordinance 08-31, To permit campers and RVs on residential lots in emergency situations.)

Councilmember Neel reported a camper being used as a place of residence at North Albemarle Baptist Church. The City Manager said this is not permitted and the City would investigate.

Mayor Whitley indicated a member of Council had requested the City hold over consideration of the proposals received to conduct an annexation study to the October 6 meeting.

The City Manager provided an update on the status of the City Hall construction and renovation project. He said the steel for the new building has been promised to arrive on Tuesday and Wednesday. If this takes place, it can begin to be erected on Wednesday. The general contractor has been working very diligently to get the steel on site. He also mentioned there will be another batch of change orders coming before Council at the next meeting. He indicated he believes this will be the last large group of change orders. Even with these change orders the project is still within budget and under the amount budgeted for contingencies.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed a proposal to serve as an incentive for the installation of a residential sprinkler system. Councilmember Holcomb wondered if the City should survey the public to determine the interest in residential sprinklers. She said she was concerned about the cumulative cost of the discounts the City would be providing as an incentive. Councilmember Neel said the City wants people to install residential sprinkler systems. It will improve resident and fire fighter safety as well as reduce property damage.

Upon questioning, Councilmember Neel said the cost of installation for new construction is approximately \$2,000.00 for an average sized home. Chief McDaniel indicated the cost was about \$1.50 per square foot for new construction and that retrofitting and existing home would be more expensive.

Upon a motion by Councilmember White, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved amendments to the City's Utility Customer Service Policy to provide incentives to those installing residential sprinkler systems.

Director of Public Utilities Ernie Borders discussed a possible ribbon cutting ceremony for the Vickers Store Road Sewer Lift Station.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Napier and unanimously carried, the City Council voted to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony and asked staff to notify the Mayor and Council of the day and time selected for this event.

Upon a motion by Councilmember White, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Agreement for renovations to the EE Waddell Community Center.

Councilmember White commended the Parks and Recreation Department for their work in securing this grant. Councilmember Neel asked about the next step in this process. The City Manager said the firm that was hired to develop the EE Waddell Community Center Master Plan has been contacted about performing the architectural services for the grant, and a proposal from this firm would be presented to the City Council.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Neel and unanimously carried, the City Council approved proposed language for signage to be posted at all City Parks and Recreation facilities prohibiting sex offenders from the facilities.

The City Manager provided an update on the preparations for loose leaf collection. A meeting was held with City staff and Waste Management assured the City they would have the equipment and personnel available to provide proper services. They also said they could call upon additional resources if needed.

The Mayor and City Council considered a request for children at play signs to be posted on Kingsley Drive. The City Manager said he received this request and the resident indicated that he is willing to pay the cost of the sign installation, per City policy.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the posting of children at play signs on Kingsley Drive upon receiving payment for the signs.

Mayor Whitley said he received a request to hold over appointments to various City Boards and Commissions to the October 6 meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilmember White, seconded by Councilmember Napier and unanimously carried, an Ordinance entitled (Ordinance 08-33) "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE, NORTH CAROLINA, PROVIDING THAT THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE BE AMENDED BY REVISING SCHEDULE XXVIII, CHAPTER 77, OF SAID CODE TO RESCIND THE SCHOOL LOADING ZONES ON NORTH THIRD STREET IN THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE" passed first reading.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember White and unanimously carried, an Ordinance entitled (Ordinance 08-34) "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE, NORTH CAROLINA, PROVIDING THAT THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE BE AMENDED BY REVISING SCHEDULE XXIX, CHAPTER 77, OF SAID CODE TO RESCIND THE COMMERCIAL FREIGHT LOADING ZONES ON NORTH STREET AND NORTH THIRD IN THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE" passed first reading.

Upon a motion by Councilmember White, seconded by Councilmember Neel and unanimously carried, an Ordinance entitled (Ordinance 08-35) "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE, NORTH CAROLINA, PROVIDING THAT THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE BE AMENDED TO PROHIBIT PARKING AT ALL TIMES ON A SECTION OF NORTH THIRD STREET AND REVISING SCHEDULE XXXI, CHAPTER 77, ENTITLED "PARKING PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES" TO INCLUDE THEREIN THE AFORESAID SECTION OF NORTH THIRD STREET" passed first reading.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember White and unanimously carried, an Ordinance entitled (Ordinance 08-36) "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE, NORTH

CAROLINA, PROVIDING THAT THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE BE AMENDED TO DECLARE THE SECTION OF NORTH THIRD STREET FROM THE INTERSECTION WITH NORTH THIRD STREET TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH MONTGOMERY AND THEN THE SECTION OF NORTH FOURTH STREET FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH MONTGOMERY AVENUE IN THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE ONE WAY STREETS: REVISING SCHEDULE XX, "ONE WAY STREETS AND ALLEYS" OF SAID CODE TO INCLUDE THE AFORESAID STREETS THEREIN AND TO RESCIND AND REMOVE THEREFROM THE ONE WAY STREET RESTRICTION ON BERRY STREET" passed first reading.

The City Council held over designation of an individual to serve on the Centralina Council of Governments Recycling Advisory Board to the October 6 meeting.

The Mayor and City Council discussed their preference concerning a proposal on compensation for members of the ElectriCities Board of Directors. Councilmember Neel said the North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency has experienced recent large rate increases. To help with costs, they have voted not to provide compensation for the Board members. Councilmember Neel said compensation was begun in the mid-1990's as a way to increase interest in serving on the ElectriCities Board of Directors. He also noted that the North Carolina Municipal Power Agency One members have much further to travel to get to Raleigh for the meetings and recommended that the City support continued compensation for the Board.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember White, the City Council authorized its Power Agency Delegate Raymond Allen to vote for continue compensation for NCMAPA1 members on the ElectriCities Board of Directors. Voting in favor of the motion were Councilmembers Alexander, Napier, Neel, Underwood and White. Voting against the motion was Councilmember Holcomb.

The City Council was advised the City will be provided with an electric vehicle for the week of October 12 through 18.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council adjourned to a closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) 4 and 5 to discuss economic development and real estate matters.

Upon a motion by Councilmember White, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council reconvened to open session. Mayor Whitley announced a closed session was held pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) 4 and 5 to discuss economic development and real estate matters and there was nothing to disclose at this time.

Councilmember White said there are holes at the back of the EE Waddell Community Center where a fence was once located that the holes are a safety hazard. The City Manager said the City staff will look at this and take necessary action.

Councilmember Alexander said there was a letter to the editor in the Stanly News and Press objecting to the new stop intersections on Pee Dee Avenue. Mayor Whitley said he travels this route regularly and believes motorists are getting accustomed to the stop intersections.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Underwood, seconded by Councilmember Alexander and unanimously carried, the City Council adjourned to September 17 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.