

**HAMLET CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2024
6:00 PM
MINUTES**

Governing Body Present:

Mayor	Amy Guinn
Council Member	Eddie Martin
Mayor Pro-Tem	Jesse McQueen
Council Member	Oscar Sellers
Council Member	Abbie Covington

Staff Present:

Interim City Manager	W. Lane Bailey
Assistant City Manager	Mackenzie Webb
City Attorney	TC Morphis

Others Present:

1. Call to Order

Mayor Guinn called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Invocation

Bishop Thomas Lee McDonald offered the invocation.

3. Recognition of Jesse McQueen

At the recent City Council Meeting on October 8th, Jesse McQueen announced his decision to step down after his dedicated service of over 14 years as a Council Member. His tenure began in 1991 as a Police Officer, and later transitioned into his role as a Council Member in 2005, subsequently re-elected in 2013. McQueen's contribution to the City of Hamlet, especially as Mayor Pro-Tem, has been instrumental in shaping the community.

Reflecting on his years of service, McQueen expressed his deep affection for Hamlet, emphasizing that the city will always hold a special place in his heart. During Tuesday's meeting, heartfelt tributes were paid by the Mayor and Council Members, with Mayor Guinn presenting McQueen with a plaque and the key to the city as tokens of appreciation for his unwavering dedication.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

Council Member Covington motioned to adopt the agenda. Council Member Sellers provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Consent Agenda

Council Member Covington made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda, Council Member Sellers provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Comments from Attendees

Denise Cozart would like to have an event to clean up the Spring Street area. She plans on speaking to Robert Brown to get streets cleaned on a regular basis in her area. She also reminded everyone about the Doc Hills Community Cookout on October 12th from 1-5pm stating everyone is invited.

Jennifer Everett from Mega Park reminded everyone about their event October 12th 7-9pm to grow culture in the area with emphasis on Jazz. There will also be an event on November 9th 7-9pm introducing a new exhibit.

Esco Latimer would like suggestions for residents and the city to work together to get the City of Hamlet cleaned up. He is planning a tentative clean up event on April 5, 2025. He also wants to address cars being parked in front yards which isn't in our ordinance currently.

Gerard Morrison thanked all who attended the John Coltrane Edutainment event stating it was a huge success.

New Business

7. Our Daily Bread Food Drive

Mari Bennett, the Director of Our Daily Bread gave a report on their service to the community serving 365 families a month with limited resources from the government. They are currently collecting food for the families in Western North Carolina. She stated they need volunteers, canned food drives and dry food. She also provided a list of their most needed items.

8. Consideration of Richmond County Interlocal Agreement and resolution 2024 – 06

Assistant City Manager Webb gave a summary of the request for split jurisdiction stating this happens when a parcel has 2 zoning jurisdictions. Under Chapter 160D-203 the owners have requested Richmond County have the zoning authority.

Council Member Covington made a motion to accept the agreement for zoning, Council Member Sellers provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Opera House Discussion

Interim City Manager Bailey submitted a proposal from David Gall of \$17,750 to preserve the Opera House.

Council Member Covington made a motion to accept David Gall's proposal to determine what needs to be done to fix the Opera House. Council Member Martin provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Discussion of City Council Vacancy

Interim City Manager Bailey recommended receiving letters of interest through October 31st for the City Council vacancy.

Council Member Martin made a motion to accept letters of interest through October 31st. Council Member Sellers provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

11. City Manager's Report

Interim City Manager Bailey presented an agreement with WithersRavenel with a recommendation to approve the LCID Landfill Permit Renewal Agreement Amendment.

Council Member Covington made a motion to accept the proposed LCID Landfill Permit Renewal Agreement Amendment with WithersRavenel for \$26,300, Council Member Martin provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

Interim City Manager Bailey also spoke on Dalton Millen, Code Enforcement Officer and how he had been working diligently to get properties cleaned up in Hamlet.

Lastly, he recognized Mechelle Preslar and Mackenzie Webb for their hard work on the grant of \$210,000 we received for lighting for Memorial Park baseball field.

12. Comments of Council

Council Member Martin thanked Foundation of the Carolinas for our grant for lighting at Memorial Park field. He also thanked Lane, Mechelle, Mackenzie and Megan for their hard work on getting the grant submitted.

Council Member Sellers had no comments.

Council Member Covington stated she hopes citizens tune in to see how their tax dollars are spent.

13. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Guinn made everyone aware of our newsletter that went out with the water bill highlighting city happenings and thanked Mackenzie and Mechelle for their hard work to make it happen.

14. Closed Session per NCGS § 143-318.11 (a)(3)(6) for attorney-client privilege and personnel.

At 7:15 pm, Council Member Martin motioned, seconded by Council Member Covington to go into closed session for attorney-client privilege and personnel. The motion passed unanimously.

Return to Open Session

At 7:35 pm, Council Member Sellers motioned to return to Open Session, seconded by Council Member Covington. The motion passed unanimously.

15. Motion to Adjourn

Council Member Sellers motioned, seconded by Council Member Covington, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously at 7:35 pm.