

**HAMLET CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM  
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2022  
5:00 PM  
MINUTES**

**Governing Body Present:**

Mayor	Bill Bayless
Mayor Pro Tem	Jesse McQueen (joined the Meeting at 5:20 pm)
Council Member	Eddie Martin
Council Member	Maurice Stuart
Council Member	Abbie Covington
Council Member	Oscar Sellers

**Staff Present:**

City Manager	Matthew Christian
City Clerk	Gail Strickland
Police Chief	Dennis Brown
Major	Hudson Chitwood
Lieutenant	Matthew Norris

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Bayless called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

Council Member Covington motioned to adopt the Agenda. Council Member Sellers provided the second. The vote 4-0.

**3. Approval of Minutes for August 9, 2022 Regular Meeting**

Council Member Sellers motioned to adopt the Minutes. Council Member Covington provided the second. The vote was 4-0.

**4. Work Session**

City Manager Matthew Christian announced the Work Session is to discuss a Police Trainee Program, changes in the Police Car Take Home Policy and water meters. He turned the meeting over to Police Chief Dennis Brown.

Police Trainee Program

The Chief reviewed the Police Trainee Program Document and Certification Training Expense Reimbursement Agreement given to Council. He acknowledged Lt. Norris and Major Chitwood for developing the program. Items discussed were the purpose of the program, selection of staff, the agreement, pay, supplies and material, employment prior to Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) and while in BLET, and the reimbursement agreement if the applicant did not complete the training. Chief Brown discussed additional steps that will be required of the applicants. They will take a written examination (National Police Officer Test), an abbreviated physical fitness test and undergo a comprehensive background check. Council had concern of recourse if the applicant was not successful. The Police Chief advised any failure would be considered on a case-by-case basis and suggested the City's Attorney give input. The City Manager added the City would need to have reasonable expectation of what

could be recouped. After Council and Staff's discussion of the potential colleges and length of BLET, Council Member Martin motioned to approve the Police Trainee Program and Certification Training Expense Reimbursement Agreement but to include BLET Classes cannot be at night. Council Member Sellers provided the second. The vote was 5-0.

#### Vehicle Take Home Policy

Chief Brown discussed the City's Take Home Vehicle Policy, stating it was previously established for 6 miles. He reported the limited mileage is not competitive with other police agencies; some have no restrictions. New Maverick trucks, to be used as the Sergeants' vehicles, will provide better gas mileage. Council discussed increasing the policy to 15 or 25 miles. Council Member Covington motioned to update the policy to 25 miles from the City limits, excluding South Carolina. The second was provided by Council Member Sellers. The vote was 5-0.

#### Water Meters

Matt Christian reported an issue with the water bills last week. Due to the loss of a meter reader, one-third of the meters were not read in time for the bills to be sent to the printer. It was discovered long-time water meter reader, Vic Robinson, did not know where all the meters are located. The situation has the bills going out late. The Manager wanted to make Council aware of the situation. He advised the City has 4500 meters and replace approximately 100 each year. To replace all would take 45 years on a mechanical device with a 10 – 15-year life expectancy. Also discussed was the amount of unmetered water that is unaccounted for each month. After discussing the efficiency of other systems and costs, Mr. Christian suggested starting the procurement process by obtaining Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) from qualified firms. Once received, Council and Staff can have work sessions to hammer out a contract that is tailored to the City's needs. He estimated the process would take at least 2 months. Council Member Covington stated the revenue projections are as important as the cost projections. The Manager stated he can have work sessions with staff to gather additional information and possible solutions. He also reported some of the water accounts had to be averaged to get the bills out. Council Member McQueen inquired if the late fee would be adjusted due to the delayed bills. Council gave consensus to delay applying the late fee for 1 day and then the Manager would consider any other issues on a case-by-case basis.

#### Ladder Truck

Mayor Bayless reported the Fire Department ladder truck will have to be replaced. The City Manager responded he has discussed the issue with Fire Chief Trey Goodwin who is looking at other options.

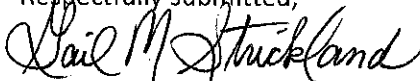
#### Lumber River COG

The Mayor announced he participated in an anniversary video at the Lumber River COG. He also reported money has been appropriated for the bypass around Laurel Hill.

#### **5. Motion to Adjourn**

At 6:25 pm, Council Members Sellers and Covington provided the motion and second to adjourn the meeting. The vote was 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Gail M. Strickland, City Clerk

