

**HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024
6:00 PM**

DRAFT MINUTES

Governing Body Present:

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

Staff Present:

City Attorney	TC Morphis
City Manager	Matthew Christian

Others Present: Gerard A. Morrison, Thomas Neville, Mackenzie Webb

1. Call to Order

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

2. Invocation/Moment of Silence

The Council conducted a Moment of Silence.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Council Member Covington motioned, seconded by Council Member Stuart to adopt the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Consent Agenda

Council Member Covington motioned, seconded by Council Member Stuart to adopt the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Comments from Attendees

Gerard Morrison spoke to the Council regarding the need for diversity on committees that represent the city. He reminded everyone that February is Black History Month and spoke about an educational lecture he is conducting at the Hamlet Senior Center on February 2nd. Mr. Morrison requested three hours to conduct the event, he was allotted an hour and a half by the Senior Center Director. Council Member Sellers offered a solution by suggesting splitting the event between different facilities.

New Business

6. Audit Presentation

Ken Anderson delivered the audit presentation to the Council, including the fund balance, tax collections, and revenue. He showed that the revenues exceed the expenditures in the general fund, but the water and sewer fund took a loss. He stated that the city currently has no debt from capital leases or installment as well as no budget expenditures. He stated that all work for the audit was received on time. Along with the audit, Mr. Anderson presented a data workbook and what deficiencies have emerged. There was a deficiency in the enterprise fund due to the depreciation of fixed assets. Some of the differences also included chemical costs and salary increases. One of Mr. Anderson's main concerns was the depreciation of assets for the water and sewer fund. A corrective action plan must be drafted and signed by the City Council and City Manager to show how the city plans to manage the issue going forward.

7. Planning Board Applications

The City Council reviewed the applicants for the Hamlet Planning and Zoning Board and moved forward with the nominations.

Council Member Covington nominated Curtis Ingram as a regular in-city Board Member, seconded by Council Member Stuart. **The nomination passed unanimously.**

Council Member Stuart nominated Tammie Griffin as a regular ETJ Board Member, seconded by Council Member Sellers. **The nomination passed unanimously.**

Mayor Pro-Tem McQueen nominated Valerie Davis as an Alternate in-city Board Member, seconded by Council Member Sellers. **The nomination passed unanimously.**

There were no further applicants to fill the remaining Alternate ETJ Board Member seat.

8. Agreement to Install Flock Cameras

Police Chief Brown provided City Council with a written memo in his absence, describing the request to enter an agreement with Flock Safety, license plate reading technology tool. The existing budget for installation of cameras would cover the initial expense of the agreement.

Council Member Martin motioned to accept the agreement, seconded by Council Member Sellers. **The motion passed unanimously.**

9. Consideration of Calendar for Budget Work Sessions

Council Member Stuart motioned to approve the calendar for budget work sessions, seconded by Council Member Sellers. **The motion passed unanimously.**

10. Martin Luther King Jr. Proclamation

Mayor Guinn read the proclamation honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Other Business

11. City Manager's Report

City Manager Christian attended the Martin Luther King Jr. event on January 15th and stated that it was a wonderful event, and that the city is proud to be a sponsor of the celebration. Looking forward he

expressed his hope for a good budget process for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. He also extended his appreciation for the police, fire, and building departments for all of their hard work and dedication during recent storms and the work of the public works department in the aftermath. He stated that Basketball season is underway at the Parks and Rec Department with 19 teams registered. City Manager Christian also stated that the meter survey will be wrapping up and will have data for meter in the system, including tests for lead and copper. He reminded everyone that the city's downtown streetscape survey will close at the end of the month, but it had collected roughly 300 responses so far. The city will also start advertising for applications for the Hamlet Senior Center Advisory Board.

12. Comments of Council

Council Member Martin expressed that he hoped everyone had a good holiday season and he looks forward to the work at Hamlet Memorial Park for the upcoming baseball season.

Council Member Stuart encouraged everyone to come out to support the kids at parks and recreation, where he is currently coaching a team. He thanked the city for supporting and sponsoring several Dr. Martin Luther King events. He also honored the legacy and work of Dr. King and the many others who contributed to the Civil Rights Movement and fight for equality. He thanked the city for all that it does and encouraged citizens to continue coming to and watching meetings online.

Council Member Sellers congratulated the Martin Luther King Foundation for putting on a great event commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., he encouraged those who did not have a chance to attend to experience it next year.

Council Member Covington attended a Martin Luther King Jr. Service on Sunday night and commended the speaker for doing a wonderful job. She also stressed that whether the city be facing a storm or conducting an event, the city's biggest asset is its employees.

Mayor Pro-Tem McQueen noted that in the upcoming months the Council will begin working on the upcoming budget, determining how to spend the tax-paying citizen's money and encouraged everyone to attend these meetings. He also expressed concerns if there was an existing City of Hamlet TikTok account and asked the City Manager to investigate.

13. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Guinn thanked all employees who worked hard during and after the storm. She also thanked all those who submitted applications for the Planning and Zoning Board. She expressed her appreciation in attending a conference conducted by the UNC School of Government and the League of Municipalities, stating it was a great learning and networking opportunity. She was also honored to be able to bring greetings on behalf of the city to the MLK Day luncheon event.

14. Motion to go into Closed Session per NCGS §143-318-11(a) (3)(6) for attorney-client privilege, personnel, and real estate.

Mayor Pro-Tem McQueen motioned, seconded by Council Member Covington to go into Closed Session. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Council Members Sellars motioned, seconded by Council Member Stuart to end Closed Session. **The motion passed unanimously.**

15. Motion to Adjourn

Council Member Covington motioned, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem McQueen to adjourn. **The motion passed unanimously.**