

**HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024
6:00 PM
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: Thomas Neville, Greg Stewart, David Jenkins, Mackenzie Webb

1. Call to Order

Mayor Guinn called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

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 Martin to adopt the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Comments from Attendees

David Jenkins spoke to the council about his concern for traffic and speeding on Jefferson Street and asked what the city council could do to combat speeding in that area. Jenkins put forth the idea of a speedbump, however, Mr. McQueen explained that this solution is not possible due to the liability issues. City Manager Christian stated that a police device could be moved to the area to actively monitor speed and get some data to help inform enforcement efforts.

New Business

6. Public Hearing – Vaughn Rezoning: 1679 E US 74 HWY

Mayor Guinn opened up the public hearing for the rezoning of the Vaughn property. Attorney Thomas Neville represented the owners of the property and gave comments regarding the mix of commercial and residential uses in the area surrounding the property. He showed that a re-zoning for the property would be consistent with the future land use plan. Following Mr. Neville's comments, Mayor Guinn closed the public hearing.

7. Consistency Statement & Decision of Vaughn Property Rezoning

Mayor Pro-Tem McQueen asked City Attorney Morphis if everything was in order from a legal standpoint. City Attorney Morphis affirmed that it was and expressed his appreciation for the level of perspective that Mr. Neville offered. City Manager Christian also stated that all advertising and posting of the property has been completed in accordance with the city ordinance.

Mayor Pro-Tem McQueen motioned, seconded by Council Member Sellers that re-zoning the property to B-2 was consistent with the current business development in the area and the "Neighborhood Mixed Use" category indicated on the Future Land Use Map. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Covington motioned to approve re-zoning of the Vaughn property from RA-20 to B-2, seconded by Council Member Stuart. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Appointment of Senior Center Advisory Council Members

Council Member Covington motioned to appoint all the applicants including, Catherine Bethea, Dewey Brower, Lisa Luckey, and Edith Purcell. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem McQueen and unanimously passed.

9. Consideration of Garbage Truck Bids & Budget Amendment

The bid for the garbage truck was more than had been originally budgeted for, therefore a budget amendment was required to allow unspent capital outlay funds to be used to purchase the truck. The budget was \$180,000 while the bid was \$219,031. The city has not purchased a garbage truck since the 19-20 fiscal year therefore, a new truck is necessary to maintain the city's level of services.

Mayor Pro-Tem McQueen motioned, seconded by Council Member Sellers to award the bid to Amick Equipment. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem McQueen motioned, seconded by Council Member Stuart to approve the budget amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Consideration of Budget Amendments

Manager Christian reviewed the budget amendments for each fund. In addition to some routine transfers, the general fund budget amendment included a new rotary broom to assist with road and sidewalk maintenance. Council Member Sellers asked if we had the staff to operate this equipment and Manager Christian confirmed that it was an attachment for a tractor that multiple people would use.

Council Member Covington motioned, seconded by Council Member Stuart to approve the budget amendment, allowing for a new capital purchase from the general fund. The motion passed unanimously.

Manager Christian reviewed the budget amendment for the enterprise fund. A large amount was included for a clarifier repair, and other amendments were routine. Mayor Pro-Tem McQueen motioned, seconded by Council Member Stuart to approve the enterprise fund budget amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

The final budget amendment reviewed was for the ARP fund. In a prior meeting, the Council authorized the City Manager to enter into a contract with Withers Ravenel for the survey, engineering and design of the City Lake trail, not to exceed \$150,000. However, the final contract was more than Council's authorization. Manager Christian added that the City was awarded a \$400,000 Rural Transformation Grant for this project, but those funds can only be used for construction. Council Member Martin stated that since we have purchased the "Lakeside Venue" building we should proceed with the trail and other projects to make the best use of City Lake.

Council Member Martin motioned, seconded by Council Member Covington to approve the budget amendment increasing the City Manager's authorization to enter into a contract for the City Lake Trail by an additional \$35,900. The motion passed 4-1, with Council Member Sellers in the opposition.

11. Proclamation Honoring Black History Month

Mayor Guinn read the proclamation recognizing and honoring Black History Month, including the past and present contributions and rich history of the African American community in Hamlet.

Other Business

12. City Manager's Report

City Manager Christian stated that the Downtown Streetscape Plan Survey closed with approximately 300 responses, he then thanked everyone who responded and contributed their thoughts. He stated that an additional public workshop is tentatively scheduled for the first Friday in April during the TGIF food truck Friday event at the Hamlet Visitor Center. He reminded everyone that the annual budget process would begin with the first budget work session meeting on February 27th at 5:30pm. He also noted that Parks and Rec baseball registration would open February 19th and that everyone is looking forward to a great season.

13. Comments of Council

Council Member Martin to help with an opening season game night for American Legion Baseball and got support from the rest of the City Council.

Council Member Stuart expressed his love and honor for his hometown hero, John Coltrane. He then encouraged citizens to come and participate in City Council meetings.

Council Member Sellers wanted to thank the Hamlet Police Department and showed his appreciation for Chief Brown and his staff's hard work and dedication.

Council Member Covington stated that she could not say enough good things about the people that work for the city and thanked everyone who has a part in making the city a success.

Mayor Pro-Tem McQueen had no comments.

14. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Guinn spoke about all of the activities going on at the Hamlet Senior Center and encouraged everyone to participate in the spring gift basket raffle currently happening to raise money for senior center events. Tickets for the raffle are \$5 and the winner will be announced on April 22nd. She also encouraged people to participate in the City Lake Clean-Up day on March 18th from 1-4pm.

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

Council Member Covington motioned, seconded by Council Member Stuart to go into Closed Session. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem McQueen motioned, seconded by Council Member Sellers to end Closed Session. The motion passed unanimously.

16. Motion to Adjourn

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