

**HAMLET CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM  
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 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
Council Member	Maurice Stuart

**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**

Pastor Linda Ross offered the invocation.

**3. Adoption of the Agenda**

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

**4. Consent Agenda**

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

**5. Comments from Attendees**

Esco Latimer who lives at 98 Williams Street and has lived in Hamlet for 2 years had suggestions for things that can be done do to improve the appearance of the city. He suggested planting, pruning, removing trees and cleaning sidewalks. He would like to see the city do small things to capture dollars; for example, advertise local businesses better.

Gerard Morrison reminded everyone about the John Coltrane Edutainment Fest on October 5<sup>th</sup> celebrating its 16<sup>th</sup> year starting at 12pm.

Denise Cozart stated Doc Hills Family Care Home on Spring Street received their state license and doors are open for business. They have rescheduled a Community Fest cookout for October 12<sup>th</sup> from 1-5pm and will partner with Mega Park from 7-9pm. She thanked Hamlet Police for the speed check sign on Spring Street stating it has slowed traffic down dramatically. She handed out a booklet introducing SWELL, Stem Wellness Empowering Lifelong Learners where beautification is the goal.

The owner of Doc Hills Family Care Home asked about the nuisance property across the street because she is interested in buying the property.

### **New Business**

#### **6. Proclamation for Constitution Week**

Mayor Guinn read the proclamation honoring the Constitution of The United States of America.

#### **7. Discussion of Depot Office Space Rental**

Interim City Manager Bailey stated the current rate for an office space at the Depot is \$500 a month. The recommendation to rent an additional office is to include a 25% discount bringing the rate of the office to \$375.

Council Member Covington made a motion to accept the rate of \$375 for the office space at the Depot. Council Member Stuart provided the second. Council Member Sellers opposed. The motion passed 4 to 1.

#### **8. Recognition of Police and Fire personnel**

Chief Dennis Brown recognized Hamlet Police, Fire staff and EMS personnel for their heroic lifesaving actions during the shooting on August 30, 2024, stating their quick actions saved the child's life. He commended the staff stating we are fortunate to have these heroes working to protect our community.

### **Other Business**

#### **9. Post 49 Baseball Field Agreement and grant for lighting**

Interim City Manager Bailey stated Chip Gordon has agreed on the Post 49 Baseball Field Agreement in the Agenda Packet. He also thanked Mechelle and Mackenzie for working on a grant for new lighting at the stadium.

Council Member Martin made a motion to accept the Post 49 Baseball Field Agreement. Council Member Sellers provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **10. City Manager's Report**

Interim City Manager Bailey stated on October 5, 2022, there was an audit of lead/copper water meters by the city. A revision contract to clean up water meters has been sent and funds are available in ARPA if amendments are approved to the contract.

Council Member Covington made a motion to approve the amendments. Council Member Martin provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

Interim City Manager Bailey stated door hangers will be implemented to let residents know why debris wasn't picked at their home. There will be a phone number they can call with questions. The city doesn't pick up debris

mixed with building materials, etc. He stated Public Works is back to being fully staffed and we are trying to do a better job communicating with residents on these matters.

### **11. Comments of Council**

Council Member Martin commended Mechelle, Mackenzie and Interim City Manager Bailey for their hard work on the grant application for lighting for Post 49 baseball field.

Council Member Stuart thanked the citizens for coming to the meetings. He reminded everyone to support the Edutainment Fest on October 5<sup>th</sup>. He asked citizens to be sure they are registered to vote in the upcoming election.

Council Member Sellers thanked all attendees for coming and a special thanks to the First Responders.

Council Member Covington thanked all First Responders and the Hamlet Police for their service each day and for saving the child's life. She also extended her sympathy to the family of Robin Leviner. She thanked Denise Cozart and Esco Latimer for their contribution to our meeting tonight.

Mayor Pro-Tem McQueen stated he was reached out to about a streetlight being added on McLean Street because of a dark spot and recent criminal activity in that area. He extended his sympathy to the family of Robin Leviner stating he will be missed in our community. He thanked Mechelle and Mackenzie for working on the grant for lighting at Post 49 baseball field. He ended by asking for City Council to accept his resignation as Mayor Pro-Tem stating his last meeting would be in October. Council Member Martin made a motion to accept his resignation as Mayor Pro-Tem. Council Member Sellers provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem McQueen made a motion to appoint Council Member Covington Mayor Pro-Tem. Council Member Martin provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

### **12. Mayor's Comments**

Mayor Guinn gave a shout out for the Pop-Up Market success this month stating it was our largest one yet. She mentioned the National Guard Armory ribbon cutting on September 7<sup>th</sup> stating it was a success. She also asked for a nomination for Lumber River RPO Transportation Advisory Committee. Council Member Covington made a motion to appoint Mayor Guinn. Mayor Pro-Tem McQueen provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

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

At 7:17 pm, Council Member Sellers motioned, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem McQueen to go into closed session for attorney-client privilege and personnel. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Return to Open Session**

At 7:50 pm, Council Member Sellers motioned to return to Open Session, seconded by Council Member Stuart. The motion passed unanimously.

### **14. Motion to Adjourn**

Council Member Covington motioned, seconded by Council Member Sellers, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously at 7:50 pm.