

201 West Main Street
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**CITY OF HAMLET REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
HAMLET CITY HALL- COUNCIL CHAMBERS
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 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	Lydia Lavelle
City Manager	Matthew Christian

Others Present: Chris Hawks, Howard Wallace, Samuel Hawks, Kayla Scott, Josephine Wallace, Trey Goodwin, Richard Lassiter

1. Call to Order

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

2. Invocation/Moment of Silence

Pastor Chris Hawks conducted the invocation for the meeting.

3. Adoption of Agenda

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

4. Consent Agenda

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

5. Comments from Attendees

There were no comments from attendees.

New Business

6. City Clerk Oath of Office

Mayor Guinn offered the Oath to Mrs. Hawks.

7. Front Street Parking Striping Discussion

Last month, the City Council discussed the speed limit along Front St. and decided to change the speed limit from 35mph to 20mph. After being approached by a Front St. business owner about parking, City Manager Christian brought the issue to the attention of the City Council. City Manager Christian discussed adding parking space stripes adjacent to the building side of the road, estimating 14 parallel spaces where there are currently none. He sought feedback from the City Council to move forward in the process of adding the parking stripes.

Council Member Covington clarified that the spots would only be in front of the building and not along any of the curved part of the road. City Manager Christian assured that this was correct. Mayor Pro-Tem McQueen suggested also painting spots in front of the Seaboard Station Restaurant, ensuring that neither drive-way accesses would be blocked. City Manager Christian agreed that if the Seaboard Station requested it, the spots could be added.

Council Member Sellers suggested parallel spots on West Hamlet Avenue as well, stating that parallel spots make the street very narrow and potentially hazardous. City Manager Christian reminded the City Council that staff are currently working on the Downtown Streetscape Master Plan, stating it would address some of the parking concerns. City Manager Christian reminded council he was looking for consent on the parking space stripes. Council Member Martin suggested allowing parking on the side adjacent to the buildings then placing no parking signs on the track side. He stated that a no parking zone was already formally voted on in a previous City Council meeting, but signs were never placed to ensure enforcement. City Manager Christian suggested going back into past minutes to ensure that the no parking zone ordinance had been properly adopted and then have the signs posted as necessary.

Other Business

8. City Manager's Report

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City Manager Christian thanked city staff and volunteers for their participation in the City Lake clean-up. He toured the National Guard Armory with City Council members and thanked the command staff for inviting them. He stated we received two more police cars and thanked council for their support. He also announced TGIF food trucks and Downtown Streetscape workshop going on this Friday, April 12th going on from 11am-7pm. He encouraged citizens to come out and share their input at the workshop. He congratulated Mechelle Preslar on the grant she received from the Richmond Community Foundation to repaint the locomotive and possibly the caboose. He thanked the Depot Board and Richmond Community Fund for their support.

9. Comments of Council

Council Member Martin congratulated Heather Hawks on becoming the new City Clerk. He reminded everyone that opening day for American Legion baseball will be May 31st. He encouraged everyone to come out and support.

Council Member Stuart welcomed Heather as the new City Clerk and gave a shout out for the success of the Pop-up Market last weekend. He also stated he is looking forward to the TGIF food trucks the Hamlet Senior Center's Wellness Festival this Friday.

Council Member Sellers thanked all the attendees. He thanked Hamlet EMS and Fire Department for their excellent work during an incident at the Hamlet Masonic Lodge, saving a life. He specifically thanked Richard Lassiter and Chief Trey Goodwin who were present at the meeting. He also congratulated Heather Hawks as the new City Clerk.

Council Member Covington gave a shout out to Hamlet Senior Center Director Amanda Kempen for all she is doing for participants at the Senior Center and in the community. She also encouraged everyone to participate in the upcoming Wellness Festival on April 12th from 9am-2pm. She also highlighted The Herald for more information.

Council Member McQueen welcomed Heather as the new City Clerk and expressed his appreciation for Chief Trey Goodwin and Richard Lassiter, who were present at the meeting. He also thanked Major Chitwood for volunteering his time at UNCP.

10. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Guinn reminded everyone about Walk-N-Wag Saturday, April 27th at 9am. She also gave a shout out for National Librarians Day and our library here in Hamlet, highlighting all of the important work that they do for the community.

11. Motion to go into Closed Session per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3) for attorney-client privilege

At approximately 6:25pm Mayor Guinn asked for a motion to go into Closed Session.

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Council Member Covington made the motion. The second was offered by Council Member McQueen. The motion passed unanimously.

Return to Open Session

At approximately 7:15pm, Council Member Martin made a motion to return to Open Session. The second was given by Council Member Stuart. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Motion to Adjourn

Council Members Covington and Sellers provided the motion and second to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimously approved.