

201 West Main Street
Post Office Box 1229
Hamlet, North Carolina 28345



Phone (910) 582-2651
Fax (910) 582-5815
www.hamletnc.us

**CITY OF HAMLET REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
HAMLET CITY HALL- COUNCIL CHAMBERS
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026
6:00 PM
Minutes**

Governing Body Present:

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

Staff Present:

City Manager	John Terziu
Asst. City Manager	Mackenzie Webb
City Attorney	TC Morphis
City Clerk	Heather Hawks

Others Present:

1. Call to Order

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

2. Invocation/Moment of Silence

Pastor Linda Ross provided the invocation.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington motioned to adopt the agenda. Council Member Stuart provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Consent Agenda

Council Member Stuart made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro-Tem Covington provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

5. Lady Red Rams Recognition and Proclamation

Council Member Stuart read the proclamation recognizing and honoring the Lady Red Rams.

6. Women's History Month Proclamation

Mayor Guinn read the proclamation recognizing and honoring women in observance of Women's History Month.

7. Appoint Hamlet Senior Center Advisory Board Members

The Advisory Council carefully reviewed all submitted applications and is recommending the appointment of the following individuals to fill the two available positions:

- **Ms. Karen Steen**, Director of Adult Protective Services
- **Ms. Jessica Mims**, Richmond County Hospice Social Worker

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington made a motion to appoint Karen Steen and Jessica Mims to the Hamlet Senior Center Advisory Board, Council Member Clewis provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

8. City of Hamlet/AWS \$1.5M Grant Acceptance

City Manager Terziu reported that the City of Hamlet received the memorandum for \$1.5 million from AWS for grant funding to improve the infrastructure and operational cost of a Hamlet Fire Substation.

Council Member Clewis inquired about the proposed location of the fire substation.

City Manager Terziu stated that the City is currently considering a five-acre site and that discussions are ongoing.

Mayor Guinn asked whether the City would be purchasing the land separately from the grant funding.

City Manager Terziu responded that Amazon will assist the City with the land.

City Attorney Morphis clarified that Council's action is to authorize the City Manager to receive the funds through approval of the Resolution and Special Project Ordinance.

Council Member Stuart asked whether this was the original offer from Amazon.

City Manager Terziu explained that the current offer of \$1.5 million is significantly greater than the original proposal from Amazon.

Council Member Stuart made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-06 accepting the \$1.5 million contribution from Amazon Web Services, Mayor Pro-Tem Covington provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington made a motion to approve Special Project Ordinance 2026-03 for the Amazon Web Services Fire Substation Project; Council Member Stuart provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Imperial Foods and John B. Fallaw Memorials Relocation

City Manager Terziu stated that the Imperial Foods Memorial and John B. Fallaw Memorial are located at City Lake, where several vehicle accidents have occurred, resulting in damage to the memorials. He recommended relocating the Imperial Foods Memorial to the Imperial Foods site on Bridges Street and relocating the John B. Fallaw Memorial to a location in front of the Police Station.

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington noted both memorials were originally placed at City Lake because it is a public park.

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington made a motion to approve the proposed relocation and new placement of the Imperial Foods and John B. Fallaw Memorials, Council Member Clewis provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Spring Street Signage and Plan

City Manager Terziu reported that Chief Carsto and the Public Works Director reviewed Spring Street and identified several safety concerns, including a high collision rate and pedestrian risks. He stated that more than 120 accidents have occurred on Spring Street since 2023. To address these concerns, the City is proposing the installation of four-way stop locations and no-parking signage to improve safety and awareness of City ordinance.

Council Member Stuart asked whether any parking would be permitted on Spring Street.

City Manager Terziu responded that an ordinance is already in place prohibiting parking on Spring Street.

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington stated that there is also an issue with vehicles parked on the street without proper tags.

City Manager Terziu stated that the Police Department is currently addressing the issue and will continue enforcing City ordinances.

Council Member Sellers noted that many people do not understand how a four-way stop operates.

Council Member Stuart stated that he believes this is an important improvement for Hamlet and expressed his support for the positive change.

Council Member Stuart made a motion to approve the installation of new street signage for Spring Street, Council Member Clewis provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

11. Public Comments

Don Norton expressed concerns regarding dim lighting in the parking lot at Memorial Park. Mayor Guinn responded that the lights must be manually turned on and stated that staff will check on the issue.

Amber Daniels announced that Girl Scout cookies will continue to be sold through April 5 to support several service projects.

Denise Cozart thanked the Fire and Police Departments for their assistance during Doc Hills' route evacuation practice and expressed appreciation for the efforts to improve safety on Spring Street with the installation of four-way stop signs.

12. City Manager's Report

City Manager Terziu stated the City of Hamlet is advancing major infrastructure projects, addressing long-standing redevelopment challenges, modernizing development regulations, aggressively pursuing external funding, and building the FY26/27 budget on operational stability. Upcoming projects included are as follows; the Water Treatment Plant, the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Grant Strategy & External Funding Initiatives, Condemnations, Unified Development Ordinance Update, and FY 2026-2027 Budget Development.

13. Comments of Council

Council Member Martin had no comments.

Council Member Sellers had no comments.

Council Member Clewis thanked City of Hamlet employees for their hard work.

Council Member Stuart thanked City employees for their continued hard work and recognized the many outstanding women in honor of Women's History Month.

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington thanked Council Member Stuart for presenting the proclamation honoring the Lady Red Rams basketball team and expressed appreciation to City employees for their continued dedication.

14. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Guinn encouraged citizens of the City of Hamlet to visit the City's website for upcoming events and information. She also announced that Riverside Bakery will host a Cruise-In on March 21 from 12:00 p.m., with Dine 82 and Landmark Tavern also participating.

15. Motion to go into Closed Session per NCGS § 143-318.11 (a)(3)(6) for attorney-client privilege and personnel.

At 6:47 pm, Council Member Stuart motioned, seconded by Council Member Clewis to go into closed session for attorney-client privilege and personnel. The motion passed unanimously.

Return to Open Session

At 6:57 pm, Council Member Clewis motioned to return to Open Session, seconded by Council Member Sellers. The motion passed unanimously.

16. Motion to Adjourn

Council Member Clewis motioned, seconded by Council Member Sellers to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously at 6:57 pm.