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**CITY OF HAMLET SPECIAL MEETING
HAMLET CITY HALL- COUNCIL CHAMBERS
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026
6:00 PM
Minutes**

Governing Body Present:

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

Staff Present:

Interim City Manager	Mackenzie Webb
City Attorney	Al Benshoff
City Clerk	Heather Hawks

1. Call to Order

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

2. Invocation/Moment of Silence

Pastor Legrand provided the invocation.

3. Adoption of Agenda

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

4. Consent Agenda

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

New Business

5. Hamlet EMS Contract Renewal

Interim City Manager Webb stated that the Hamlet EMS Contract is due for renewal. She stated that she, Finance Director Miles, Chief Goodwin, and Assistant Chief Lassiter reviewed the contract. The terms remain unchanged, except for extending the renewal period from one year to five years and changing the payment schedule from biannual to annual payments.

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington made a motion to approve the renewal of the Hamlet EMS Contract, Council Member Clewis provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Resolution 2026-11 to Recommend Changing Hylan Ave Speed Limit to 35 mph from Carl Martin Ave to Hamlet City Limit

Interim City Manager Webb stated that the speed limit on Hylan Avenue between Carl Martin Avenue and the Hamlet City Limits is currently 45 mph. She stated that concerns have been raised regarding speeding in the area and explained that the resolution recommends reducing the speed limit to 35 mph. She stated that the speed limit within the city limits is 35 mph unless otherwise posted and that the affected portion of Hylan Avenue is approximately one mile in length. She stated that because Hylan Avenue is a state-maintained road, the City does not have the authority to change the speed limit, therefore the resolution recommends that the North Carolina Board of Transportation reduce the speed limit to 35 mph.

Council Member Sellers made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-11 to Recommend changing Hylan Ave speed limit to 35 mph from Carl Martin Ave to Hamlet City limit, Council Member Stuart provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

7. Public Comments

Don Norton expressed concerns regarding the road behind Landmark Tavern being blocked by food trucks during special events. He also mentioned that a tree had fallen on Spring Street and needed to be cleaned up.

Esco Latimer provided information regarding Pipeline to Pantries, a nonprofit program designed to provide meal delivery services to adults age 65 and older. He stated that his goal is to deliver meals to this population and that the program will be self-funded.

Amber Daniels expressed concerns regarding the Parks and Recreation Department's age requirements and birthday registration cutoff, stating that they are inconsistent. She requested that Hamlet sports allow participants up to age 16, like the City of Rockingham. She also expressed concerns regarding panhandling in Hamlet, stating that increased restrictions in Rockingham have resulted in individuals coming to Hamlet. Lastly, she stated that Hamlet Housing is currently accepting housing applications.

8. City Manager's Report

Interim City Manager Webb reported that the monthly progress meeting was held in early August for the Water Plant. She stated that LKC and Dellinger continue demolition and locates. She stated that they will begin pouring new concrete and installing the backwash piping next month.

She reported that crews have been on site, and the project remains on schedule to begin construction as planned for the City Lake Trail.

She reported that the engineering team is developing a plan to address the retaining wall at the Senior Center parking lot, which was included in the current fiscal year budget. She stated the goal is to stabilize the wall in a safe and cost-effective manner. She concluded that the proposed plan will likely include installation of a terrace wall to stabilize the existing structure.

Interim City Manager Webb also reported that three new police officers were sworn in last month and welcomed them to the Hamlet Police Department and the City of Hamlet.

Lastly, Interim City Manager Webb recognized Buildings and Grounds Director Doc Sylvain for relocating the Imperial Foods monument that was previously damaged at Hamlet City Lake and now sits at the Imperial Foods Memorial site.

9. Comments of Council

Council Member Martin had no comments.

Council Member Sellers had no comments.

Council Member Clewis commented on Resolution 2026-11 regarding the proposed speed limit reduction on Hylan Avenue. He stated that he had previously contacted the North Carolina Department of Transportation regarding the matter and that the request to lower the speed limit was denied. He stated that he was advised by a state representative to obtain a resolution from the City and submit it to the State for consideration. He also reminded citizens that East Rockingham Church of God will hold a prayer walk at local schools at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday.

Council Member Stuart thanked citizens for attending the meeting and expressing their concerns on various matters. He stated that school begins on Monday and encouraged everyone to keep students in their prayers as they begin the new school year. He also announced that Dobbins Heights will host a Back-to-School event on Saturday featuring giveaways for students.

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington encouraged citizens to keep students and teachers in their prayers as the new school year begins.

10. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Guinn had no comments.

11. Motion to go into Closed Session per NCGS § 143-318.11 (a)(3) for attorney-client privilege to discuss the lawsuit known as *Terziu v. Smith* and other matters.

At 6:20 pm, Council Member Clewis motioned, seconded by Council Member Stuart, to go into closed session for attorney-client privilege and other matters. The motion passed unanimously.

Return to Open Session

At 6:38 pm, Mayor Pro-Tem Covington motioned to return to Open Session, seconded by Council Member Clewis. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Motion to Adjourn

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington motioned, seconded by Council Member Clewis to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously at 6:38 pm.