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**CITY OF HAMLET EMERGENCY MEETING
HAMLET CITY HALL- COUNCIL CHAMBERS
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2025
6:00 PM
Minutes**

Governing Body Present:

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

Staff Present:

City Manager	John Terziu
Asst. City Manager	Mackenzie Webb
City Clerk	Heather Hawks

1. Call to Order

Mayor Guinn called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

2. Statement of Legal Requirements

Mayor Guinn stated before we begin that she would like to clearly outline the legal standards and process the City is required to follow. She stated Mr. Latimer has the right to notice of this meeting and an opportunity to be heard.

3. Outline of Tonight's Procedure

Mayor Guinn stated tonight's procedure will be as follows:

- A member of Council will state the reasons they believe removal is appropriate.
- Mr. Latimer will then be given the opportunity to respond.
- Mr. Latimer does not have the right to question Council Members or City Staff. His right is to make his position known to Council.
- After Mr. Latimer has spoken, Council will deliberate in open session.
- If Council chooses to take action, it will occur in open session.

Mayor Guinn stated this is not a public hearing, and it is not an open forum for public comment. She stated only Council and Mr. Latimer will be recognized to speak at the appropriate times. She stated we will enforce orderly and respectful

conduct throughout this proceeding. She stated any disruptions, outbursts, or attempts to speak out of turn will result in immediate removal from the meeting room. She stated this is a formal administrative process, and it will be handled with the seriousness and decorum it requires.

4. Presentation of Cause

Mayor Guinn recognized Council Member Clewis to present the reasons council believes removal of Mr. Latimer is appropriate.

Council Member Clewis read a timeline of documented incidents involving Esco Latimer:

- June 14, 2025 – Intimidation of AARP Board Meeting at Hamlet Senior Center and later that night calling a senior center employee on social media in an attempt to illicit information in an intimidating manner.
- June 15, 2025 – Unauthorized Entry into Restricted Area/intimidating another city employee.
- September 19, 202 - No-Contact Order Served
- October 29, 2025 – Senior Center Incident
- October 30, 2025 – Phone Call Perceived as Threatening
- Emergency No-Contact Order through the Courts
- Public Statements Against Planning Board Members
- Criminal charges filed by political candidate for communicating threats.

5. Opportunity for Mr. Latimer to Be Heard

Mr. Latimer stated that the June 14th AARP Meeting Minutes contradicted Council Member Clewis's statements about his behavior. He read the minutes from the AARP meeting on June 14th and stated he was not threatening to anyone in the video. He disagreed with how the meeting was conducted and said he left after he was asked to. He stated he regularly volunteers at the Senior Center and volunteered there before running for office. He stated he has never entered an unauthorized area and has never called Ms. Carey without his fiancé being present. He also stated he always places calls on speakerphone. He said he never uses his personal phone for calls, only Facebook. He stated he filed a report with Ms. Carey concerning Lee with the AARP because he pointed his finger in his face. Regarding the phone calls to the Senior Center, Mr. Latimer said he did not make any calls to them. He stated he has Ms. Kempen, Ms. Carey, and the Senior Center blocked. He said he received an incoming call on October 30th from the Senior Center, which he later provided a phone-record printout confirming. He stated he was in the hospital on pain medication when the incoming call was received and was unable to answer. He stated Mr. Clewis's account of him making a call on October 30th is incorrect, as he did not place any calls that day and has phone records to verify it. He stated the allegations were a ruse intended to harm his campaign for City Council.

6. Council Deliberation

Council Member Clewis stated he doesn't feel like City employees would make up false statements about someone unless there was cause. He stated we need to take action.

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington stated if Council had intended to skew the election, we would have made this decision and discussed it prior to the election. Our timing does not indicate we are trying to affect the election.

Council Member Clewis stated he watched Mr. Latimer's video on Facebook where he discredited a current Planning Board Member and called him by name. He stated this behavior is unprofessional as a member of a board for the City of Hamlet.

7. Motion and Vote

Mayor Guinn asked for a motion regarding the status of Mr. Latimer on the Planning Board.

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington made a motion to resend Mr. Latimer's appointment based on his conduct in the recent months from the Planning Board, Council Member Clewis provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Announcement of Decision

Mayor Guinn announced a unanimous vote by City Council to remove Mr. Latimer from the Planning Board, effective immediately.

9. Adjournment

Council Member Sellers motioned, seconded by Council Member Clewis to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously at 4:20 pm.