

**HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023
6:00 PM
MINUTES**

Governing Body Present:

Mayor	Bill Bayless
Council Member	Jesse McQueen
Council Member	Abbie Covington
Council Member	Eddie Martin
Council Member	Oscar Sellers

Staff Present:

City Attorney	TC Morphis
City Manager	Matthew Christian
City Clerk	Cindy Terry

Others Present: Chris McDonald, Matt Lamb, Don Norton, Howard Wallace, Mary McLaurin, Ray Mills, Margaret Williams

1. Call to Order

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

2. Invocation

The invocation was given by Rev. Butch Farrah of Hamlet First Baptist Church.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Council Member Covington motioned to adopt the Agenda, seconded by Council Member Sellers. The vote was 4-0.

4. Adoption of Consent Agenda

Council Member Sellers made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Council Member Covington provided the second. The vote was 4-0.

5. Comments from Attendees

Stephan Long addressed Council regarding receiving multiple water bills within the billing cycle. He also stated that the meter readers don't replace the cover to his meter after it is read. Mayor Bayless suggested that he get in touch with the City Manager to discuss the problems. Council Member Sellers thanked Mr. Long for addressing Council with these matters. Mary McLaurin then addressed Council. She lives on Bridges Street. Ms. McLaurin voiced concerns regarding the property that the City owns adjacent to her land which is a parking lot. She stated that years ago, the City dug a ditch for the water to drain, but that City employees are not keeping the ditch cleaned out. Ms. McLaurin also inquired as to whether there will be games at the park in South Hamlet this fall. City Manager Christian stated that the fields will be used as soon as soccer season begins. He also advised that the playground equipment has been delivered and we are presently awaiting the installer. He also advised that the concession stand will be open during the games. Mayor Bayless reminded Council that the games were stopped

last year due to a shooting incident. He suggested to Ms. McLaurin that if she or any of her neighbors see something going on at the park, to please let the City know. He also stated that the cameras at the park are up and running. The Manager also addressed issues regarding the safety of using the parks. Council Member Sellers stated that the area is a "hot spot for troublemaking," and also requested that Ms. McLaurin report anything she sees at the park. Council Member McQueen stated that the City is committed to using the park.

New Business

6. Approval of Master Services Agreement for On-Call Services (WithersRavenel)

City Manager Christian reminded Council that a few months ago, the City made RFQ's for projects. He stated that this is the next step in this process. The Manager advised that the contracts do not actually obligate the City to any work, but rather the scope of services. City Attorney Morphis advised that he has reviewed the agreement, which includes a blank task order for future projects. Council Member McQueen motioned, seconded by Council Member Sellers, that Council approve the Master Services Agreement for On-Call Services with Withers-Ravenel. The vote was 4-0.

7. Approval of Master Services Agreement for Advanced Metering Technology (MeterSYS)

City Manager Christian advised that this contract is basically the same terms as the Agreement just discussed. Mayor Bayless inquired as to when the projects will begin. The City Manager stated that the first task is to assess and inventory all meters. This will give the City a complete understanding of all the meters in the City's system. Council Member Covington made a motion that Council approve the Master Services Agreement for Advanced Metering Technology. The second was provided by Council Member McQueen. The vote was 4-0.

Other Business

8. City Manager's Report

City Manager Christian suggested a work session on August 29 regarding the water meter project. At that time, Council could decide on which option would be serve the City. Option 1 would be replacing 1500 meters including costs. Option 2 would be the recommendation of MeterSys that an inventory and assessment take place before installing the 1500 meters. Mayor Bayless asked if this could be done at a regular meeting. The Manager advised that it could. Council Member McQueen asked that MeterSys come to Council's next regular meeting to present both options. Manager Christian also thanked everyone that came out to the August 3 comprehensive workshop. He stated that these workshops get people excited about things that are happening in Hamlet. He also advised that on August 24, Yoga on the Tracks would take place, that August 25 is food truck Friday, and that everyone is getting excited and working hard on the Seaboard Festival.

9. Comments of Council

Council Member Martin advised that the Post 49 Baseball Team had a great season with good support from the community. Council Member Sellers thanked everyone for coming and gave condolences to the Hiatt family. He stated that Mr. Hiatt came from a good family and that he had been a member of this community for many years. Mr. Sellers also stated that he had gotten several calls about the grass being cut too short at the baseball field. He recommended that the City come up with a solution so it won't happen again. Council Member Sellers is also

concerned about who has keys to the gymnasium at Memorial Park, and asked Council if there could be a policy as to when it is used, how many keys should be available, and how everyone is charged for using the gym. The Manager stated that there are records of usage of the gym and the funds received, and that he would be happy to provide a report. Council Member Covington advised that she had the pleasure of experiencing the Quilts of Valor ceremony recently held. She stated that it speaks well about the fabric of the people in this community. Mrs. Covington also thanked Mechelle Preslar for her hard work with the Senior Center while the City is looking for a new Director.

10. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Bayless advised that the Seaboard Festival needs volunteers. He invited everyone to participate in the Crime Stoppers program. The Mayor also asked for everyone to be on the lookout for any areas that the City could use to develop for football, soccer, etc. The Mayor advised that the fairgrounds is a great resource for games. He also brought up the possibility of a disc golf course as well as a dog park.

11. Motion to go into Closed Session per NC General Statute §143-318-11(a)(3) Attorney-Client Privilege

At 6:45 pm, Mayor Bayless asked for a motion to go into Closed Session and read the Statutes. Council Member Covington made the motion, seconded by Council Member Sellers. The vote was 4-0.

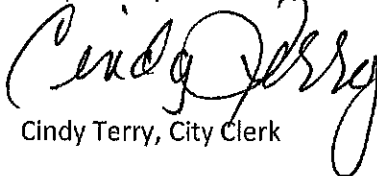
12. Return to Open Session

At 7:19 pm, Council Member Covington made the motion to return to Open Session. The second was given by Council Member Sellers. The vote was 4-0.

13. Motion to Adjourn

At 7:20 pm, Council Members Covington and Sellers provided the motion and second to adjourn the meeting. The vote was 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,


Cindy Terry, City Clerk

