

**HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
& REORGANIZATION MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM  
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023  
6:00 PM  
MINUTES**

**Governing Body Present:**

Mayor	Bill Bayless
Mayor-Elect	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	TC Morphis
City Manager	Matthew Christian

**Others Present:** Charles K. Craven, Mechelle Preslar, Mary Davis, Mackenzie Webb, Jeanne Newton, Steve Newton

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Invocation**

Pastor Allison Farrah offered the Invocation.

**3. Adoption of the Agenda**

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

**4. Adoption of the Consent Agenda**

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

**5. Audit Presentation**

Council Member McQueen motioned, seconded by Council Member Covington, to postpone the audit presentation. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. Comments from Attendees**

There were no comments from attendees.

## **Reorganization of the Board**

### **7. Oaths of Office to Mayor and Re-elected Council Members**

Mayor Bayless released his office to City Attorney TC Morphis. Mayor Bayless expressed his appreciation for the support of his wife as well as the hard work and dedication of the City Council and city employees throughout his experience working with the City Council. City Manager Christian presented Mayor Bayless with a plaque for his 18 years of service to Hamlet during his time as Mayor and on City Council. Police Chief Dennis also presented Mayor Bayless with a commemorative flag which flew over the police department his last year in office.

Mayor Amy Guinn was sworn in by TC Morphis with the Bible presented by her sister-in-law, Sabrina Grant. Council Member Covington was sworn in by TC Morphis with the Bible presented by Elijah and Abi Robinson. Council Member Stuart was sworn in by TC Morphis with the Bible presented by his cousin, Cheryl Washington. Council Member Sellers was sworn in by TC Morphis with the Bible presented by his grandchildren, Andrew and Will.

### **8. Nomination and Appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem**

Council Member Martin motioned, seconded by Council Member Sellers to re-appoint Council Member McQueen to the position of Mayor Pro-Tem. The motion passed unanimously.

### **9. Appointment of Council Representative to Hamlet ABC Board**

Council Member Covington motioned, seconded by Council Member McQueen to re-appoint Council Member Stuart as the Council Representative to the Hamlet ABC Board. The motion passed unanimously.

### **10. Appointments of Council Representatives and Alternate to Lumber River COG**

Council Member Covington motioned, seconded by Council Member Martin to re-appoint Council Member Stuart as the Council Representative to the Lumber River COG with Council Member Sellers as the alternative. The motion passed unanimously.

## **New Business**

### **11. Adoption of 2024 Regular Meeting Schedule**

Council Member Martin motioned, seconded by Council Member Sellers to adopt the 2024 Regular Meeting Schedule. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Other Business**

### **12. City Manager's Report**

City Manager Christian thanked everyone who helped with holiday events this month, including the tree lighting, Christmas parade, and Old Fashioned Christmas with a special thanks to sponsors, businesses, volunteers, city staff, and the community. City Manager Christian reminded everyone that City Hall will be closed in observance of the Christmas Holiday from December 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, re-opening on December 27<sup>th</sup>. He noted that garbage pick-up will remain unchanged.

### **13. Comments of Council**

Council Member Martin wished everyone a Merry Christmas and extended his congratulations to Mayor Guinn and re-elected council members, looking forward to working with them.

Council Member Stuart congratulated Mayor Guinn and thanked the police and fire department for their professionalism. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy Kwanza. Council Member Stuart extended his gratitude to all city employees for their great work and gave a special acknowledgement and thanks to Director of Community Engagement, Mechelle Preslar and Museum Assistant Mary Davis for their events in the past month, including the recent Christmas Parade. He also thanked voters for their faith in him and voting him back into office.

Council Member Sellers congratulated Mayor Guinn and re-elected council members and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Council Member Covington expressed her appreciation at being re-elected and her desire to serve her very best. She also encouraged citizens to express their good ideas and interests to Council and for open and effective communication between Council and citizens to generate positive changes. Council Member Covington stated she looks forward to serving with Mayor Guinn and re-elected council members and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Pro-Tem McQueen wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked city employees. He also congratulated Mayor Guinn and re-elected Council Members and stated he looks forward to working together. Mayor Pro-Tem thanked Mr. Bayless for his years of service and a job well-done.

### **14. Mayor's Comments**

Mayor Guinn thanked everyone who came out to vote as well as the city employees who put on the recent Christmas events including the tree lighting, breakfast with Santa at the Hamlet Fire Department, and the Christmas Parade. She also thanked Bernice Owens and the Hamlet Business Development Association for putting on Old-Fashioned Christmas. She also welcomed a new city employee, Mackenzie Webb. Mayor Guinn also mentioned the new City Website as well as how to find applications for openings on the City's Planning Board. She closed by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday.

### **15. Motion to go into Closed Session per NCGS §143-318-11(a) (3)(6) for attorney-client privilege and personnel.**

Mayor Pro-Tem McQueen motioned, seconded by Council Member Sellers to go into Closed Session and read the Statutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem McQueen motioned, seconded by Council Member Sellers to return to Open Session. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Martin motioned, seconded by Council Member Covington to authorize City Manager Christian to temporarily add an additional part-time administrative assistant position to the Hamlet Police Department.

Mayor Pro-Tem McQueen motioned, seconded by Council Member Sellers to adjust the 2024 Regular City Council Meeting Schedule to move the January meeting from the 9th to the 17th. The motion passed unanimously.

**16. Motion to Adjourn**

Council Member Covington motioned, seconded by Council Member Stuart. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Christian  
City Manager

