

**HAMLET CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2023
6:00 PM
MINUTES**

Governing Body Present:

Mayor	Bill Bayless
Council Member	Eddie Martin
Council Member	Maurice Stuart
Council Member	Oscar Sellers

Staff Present:

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

Others Present: Chris McDonald, Matt Lamb, Howard Wallace, Gerard Morrison, and members of the Edens family.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Invocation

A moment of silence was observed.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Council Member Sellers motioned to adopt the Agenda, seconded by Council Member Stuart. The vote was 3-0.

4. Adoption of Consent Agenda

Council Member Stuart made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Council Member Sellers provided the second. The vote was 3-0.

5. Comments from Attendees

No one presented to address Council.

Old Business

6. Consideration of Personnel Policy Updates

City Manager Christian advised Council that their packet includes the major edits that he and the Human Resources Manager suggest. He also advised that the main edits were to the Probationary Policy, Interim Assignments, Travel Reimbursement and a few other minor changes. City Attorney Morphis stated that this is the first time he has been involved in adopting a Social Media Policy and thinks it is a good idea. He reminded Council that the City cannot prohibit employees or the public from commenting on the Council. Mayor Bayless commented that he agrees that the Interim Assignment Policy is a good idea. Council Member Martin applauded the City Manager and the City Attorney for their efforts in updating the

Personnel Policy. Council Member Martin motioned to approve the Personnel Policy Updates. The second was given by Council Member Sellers. The vote was 3-0.

7. Reappointment to Hamlet Housing Authority Board

Council then considered the reappointment of Wanda Auman to the Hamlet Housing Authority Board. Mayor Bayless commented that Mrs. Auman has been an asset to that Board for many years. A Motion was made by Council Member Sellers, seconded by Council Member Stuart, to reappoint Wanda Auman to the Hamlet Housing Authority Board. The vote was 3-0.

Other Business

8. City Manager's Report

City Manager Matthew Christian thanked the City Staff for their efforts at the end of the fiscal year. He also advised that even though there was rainy weather, the City had a great turnout for the Independence Day Celebration held on July 1st this year. He stated that there has been positive feedback regarding the celebration. Manager Christian also reminded Council and the public that the August City Council meeting has been changed to Tuesday, August 15 at 6:00 p.m. Council Member Stuart then made mention of the wonderful, persistent family that has been attending Council's Regular Meetings for the past several months. He asked for any updates from the City Manager or the City Attorney regarding the property at 404 Pine Street. City Attorney Morphis reminded Council that according to North Carolina Law, the Edens family could exercise their right to appeal with the Court of Appeals. Mr. Morphis advised that the appeal was filed on the last day during the period of filing, and it presently sits with the Court of Appeals. Attorney Morphis addressed the Edens family and offered to answer any questions they may have after the meeting.

9. Comments of Council

Council Member Martin reminded Council that the Post 49 baseball team will play Friday night at 7:00 p.m. in the playoffs and if necessary, they will also play Saturday. Council Member Sellers hoped that everyone was staying hydrated and safe in the heat. Council Member Stuart thanked the citizens that continue to come out to the ballgames. He also advised that he has filed for reelection to City Council.

10. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Bayless echoed Council Member Martin's comments regarding the Post 49 team and stated that he is very pleased and proud of the team. He also agreed with the City Manager that the Independence Day Celebration had excellent attendance and many activities at the Depot.

11. Motion to go into Closed Session per NC General Statute §143-318-11(a) (3)(6) Personnel and Attorney Client Privilege and pending litigation.

At 6:14 pm, Mayor Bayless asked for a motion to go into Closed Session and read the Statutes. Council Member Sellers made the motion for Council to go into Closed Session. The second was offered by Council Member Martin. The vote was 3-0.

12. Return to Open Session

At 6:25 p.m., Council Member Sellers made the motion to return to Open Session. The second was given by Council Member Stuart. The vote was 3-0.

13. Motion to Adjourn

At 6:27 pm, Council Members Sellers and Stuart provided the motion and second to adjourn the meeting. The vote was 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Cindy Terry, City Clerk

