

201 West Main Street  
Post Office Box 1229  
Hamlet, North Carolina 28345



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**CITY OF HAMLET REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
HAMLET CITY HALL- COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024  
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	Maurice Stuart
Council Member	Tony Clewis

**Staff Present:**

Interim City Manager	W. Lane Bailey
Assistant City Manager	Mackenzie Webb
City Attorney	TC Morphis
City Clerk	Heather Hawks

**Others Present:** McDuffie Family, Denise Cozart, Esco Latimer, Harold Wallace, Jeremy McKenzie, Police Staff, Trey Goodwin and Richard Lassiter

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Invocation/Moment of Silence**

Pastor Steve Crews offered the Invocation.

**3. Oath of Office to Tony Clewis**

Mayor Guinn gave the Oath of Office to Tony Clewis for City Council.

**4. Adoption of Agenda**

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

**5. Consent Agenda**

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

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## **6. Comments from Attendees**

Denise Cozart thanked council for their support at the Doc Hills Family cookout last month and First Responders for attending. She mentioned 3 recent traffic accidents on Spring Street and requested the speed limit be reduced for the safety of Spring Street residents.

Esco Latimer gave his vision for Hwy 74 cleanup in the spring of 2025 which includes the streets, sidewalks and much more. He hopes small improvements will inspire others and will increase revenue for the city. He also mentioned Lowes has donated \$2,000 worth of equipment for volunteers to use during the cleanup. He is also requesting an Ordinance be amended to help improve Hamlet.

Council Member Stuart asked what Ordinance he was speaking about. He also said he would like to help with the cleanup event.

Esco stated the Ordinance that concerns parking in front of homes and on the street.

Jeremy Mckenzie gave an open invitation to the Annual Farmers Day Parade on November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10-3pm in Ellerbe.

## **New Business**

### **7. Proclamation for National Care at Home Month**

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington read the National Care at Home Month Proclamation honoring Hospice for the month of November.

### **8. Proclamation for Remembrance Day**

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington read the Proclamation declaring November 30<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day in honor of Donald McDuffie.

### **9. Audit Presentation**

Ken Anderson gave an overview of the current budget and FUND balance. He stated the numbers checked out during the audit. The greatest increase was \$700,000 - \$800,000 in the law enforcement area. He added the audit went well with no budget expenditures and gave a shout out to Edna Miles, Finance Director for a great job.

### **10. Code Enforcement Presentation**

Chief Dennis Brown stated crime is down 30-40% in Hamlet and he thanked City Council for their continued support.

Code Enforcement Officer Dalton Millen presented a slide show showing abandoned and nuisance properties. The slideshow showed burned properties, Level 1 properties, Level 2 properties and Level 3 properties. Officer Millen stated to take care of these properties we need funds, assistance from public works, commitment to code enforcement and equipment/supplies.

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington asked if companies had been contacted to see if they are interested in helping take down these properties.

Officer Millen stated he is still trying to learn this process and how to handle properties.

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Chief Dennis Brown stated \$20,000 will take down 2 homes and 1 commercial property.

Officer Millen thanked Council and stated he would do his best to clean up the City of Hamlet.

An attendee asked about a property near her house on Williams Street and shared her concerns with the condition of the property and her safety.

Chief Dennis Brown addressed the concerns on Williams Street and asked Officer Millen to get her information so they could investigate the property.

#### **11. Budget Amendment**

Interim City Manager Bailey stated there are 3 budget amendments listed for consideration.

Mayor Guinn asked for a motion to adopt the 3 listed budget amendments. Mayor Pro-Tem Covington made a motion to adopt the 3 listed budget amendments, seconded by Council Member Stuart. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **12. Public Hearing – Blakely Rezoning: 101 Gin Mill Road**

Mayor Guinn opened the floor for the public hearing. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Guinn closed the public hearing.

#### **13. Consistency Statement & Decision of Blakely Property Rezoning**

Council Member Clewis gave an overview of the Blakely Property and stated the owners have requested it be rezoned as commercial property.

Council Member Clewis made a motion to accept the Consistency Statement to rezone the Blakely property as commercial, seconded by Council Member Stuart. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **14. Consideration of Memorial Light System Bid**

Interim City Manager Bailey stated Assistant City Manager Webb helped the city get a grant for a new lighting system at Memorial Park and it is his recommendation to approve the bid.

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington made a motion to accept the lighting bid from NationalLED, seconded by Council Member Clewis. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Other Business**

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

Interim City Manager stated there will be a meeting with David Gall this week to access the necessary renovations to the Opera House. He also stated the Planning Board will begin looking at code ordinances and Assistant City Manager Webb will bring the recommendations to Council for review.

#### **16. Comments of Council**

Council Member Martin thanked the McDuffie family for coming and offered his condolences.

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Council Member Stuart offered his condolences to the McDuffie family, welcomed Tony Clewis and thanked the citizens of Hamlet for bringing their concerns to City Council.

Council Member Sellers offered his condolences to the McDuffie family, welcomed Tony Clewis and thanked all Veterans for their service.

Council Member Clewis thanked council for allowing him to join them on City Council, he offered his condolences to the McDuffie family, and thanked Esco Latimer for his involvement with the community clean-up project.

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington welcomed Tony Clewis, thanked the McDuffie family for coming, thanked the Veterans for their service, and thanked City of Hamlet staff for their hard work.

#### **17. Mayor's Comments**

Mayor Guinn welcomed Council Member Clewis. She also gave a shout out to Amanda Kempen for her hard work on the Senior Center Newsletter.

#### **18. Motion to go into Closed Session per NCGS § 143-318.11 (a)(3)(6) for attorney-client privilege and personnel.**

At 7:21 pm, Council Member Stuart motioned, seconded by Council Member Clewis to go into closed session for attorney-client privilege and personnel. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Return to Open Session**

At 7:55 pm, Mayor Pro-Tem Covington motioned to return to Open Session, seconded by Council Member Clewis. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **19. Motion to Adjourn**

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington motioned, seconded by Council Member Stuart to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously at 7:55 pm.