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**CITY OF HAMLET REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
HAMLET CITY HALL- COUNCIL CHAMBERS
201 MAIN STREET, HAMLET, NC 28345
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 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
Assistant City Manager	Mackenzie Webb
City Attorney	TC Morphis
City Clerk	Heather Hawks

Others Present:

1. Call to Order

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

2. Invocation/Moment of Silence

Pastor Dan Blair gave the invocation.

3. Oath of Office – John Terziu

Mayor Guinn administered the oath to John Terziu.

4. Adoption of Agenda

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

5. Consent Agenda

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

6. Comments from Attendees

There were no comments from attendees.

New Business

7. Appoint Planning Board Members

Assistant City Manager Webb stated Valerie Davis resigned, and David Quick rotated off the Planning Board. There are currently 3 vacancies for the Planning Board and 3 applications have been received.

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington made a motion to continue receiving applications through the end of February and vote on 3 Planning Board Members at the March 11th City Council Meeting. Council Member Clewis provided the second. The motion passed 3 to 1 with Council Member Sellers opposed.

8. Streetscape Presentation

Jon Blasco with WithersRavenel presented a slide show with recommendations for improvements to the City of Hamlet based on feedback from community members. Some improvements included changing the parking from angled to parallel spaces, raising sidewalks, adding trees to the landscape, and more benches for seating along Main Street. The total cost estimate would be between \$4 to \$4.5 million.

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington asked if WithersRavenel had raised sidewalks in a historical district. Jon stated it is a common challenge in older towns, and they had done it before. She asked if this can be done incrementally and if there are funding options besides using taxpayer dollars. Jon offered a list of companies that offer grant funding and will provide this information as we move forward and stated it can be done in phases if we choose that direction.

Council Member Clewis asked what kind of trees would be planted. Jon stated Elms, Oaks and canopy trees do well in this area without damaging sidewalks.

Mayor Guinn reminded everyone that new benches had been purchased recently and would not need to be replaced.

Council Member Sellers asked Jon if the city contacted his company or did they contact the city for this project. Jon responded we were selected as the firm to draw up a plan for Hamlet.

City Manager Terziu stated the Streetscape project began under previous City Manager Matthew Christian in 2023 and Assistant City Manager Mackenzie Webb and Community Engagement Director Mechelle Preslar have continued to serve as the contacts for the project since he left in June 2024.

9. Proclamation Honoring Black History Month

Mayor Guinn read the proclamation recognizing and honoring Black History Month, including the past and present contributions and rich history of the African American community in Hamlet.

10. July 4th Celebration Discussion

Community Engagement Director Mechelle Preslar stated vendors have been contacted about our firework celebration and are booked for July 4th. She asked Council about having the fireworks celebration on Thursday, July 3rd or Saturday, July 5th.

Council Member Martin made a motion to have our Fourth of July fireworks on Thursday, July 3rd. Council Member Sellers provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Memorial Park Update – Chip Gordon

Chip Gordon presented a slide show showing 2025 Memorial Park Needs. He stated new bullpens are the final piece of the puzzle to ensure player and fan safety. Total project cost would be \$2,996.08, labor would be done by the coaches. He stated the City of Hamlet has been asked to host the Centennial Hall of Fame Class tournament this year starting on May 30th. He also stated Hodges Landscaping helped get fields ready last year and the total cost this year would be \$17,880. He also mentioned the new lighting and sound system would be installed during the month of March.

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington asked Chip if he could show the cost breakdown of Hodges Landscaping, and he stated he could get that information to council.

Council Member Martin stated this presentation is informative and will be discussed further during Budget Sessions.

City Manager Terziu stated we are in the middle of our budget season. We would need to look at where the funds are and would need to make a budget adjustment and see where the funds will come from.

City Attorney Morphis reiterated City Manager Terziu's comment stating next month we could make a budget amendment to allocate necessary funds.

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington made a motion to approve the \$2,996.08 in this budget year pending an approved budget amendment for new bullpens. Council Member Sellers provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Interlocal Agreement between Richmond County and Hamlet

City Manager Terziu presented an agreement between Richmond County and Hamlet for 22 properties that currently have County water and City Sewer. Under this agreement, the county would collect the fees for both water and sewer and Hamlet would receive 95% of the sewer fees collected and the county would receive 5% of collected fees. He stated he will be meeting with the County Manager, Bryan Land soon to discuss the agreement.

Council Member Clewis made a motion to accept the agreement between Richmond County and Hamlet, pending any changes after the meeting between the City and County to discuss the agreement. Mayor Pro-Tem Covington provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

13. 2025 Monthly Meeting Schedule Amendment and Adoption of Budget Calendar

City Manager Terziu presented the council with an updated 2025 Meeting and Budget Calendar.

This schedule reduces the number of meetings, saving money and time for the city and taxpayers. It gives us a chance to spend an entire day reviewing department requests. It allows Department Heads an opportunity to put together a Capital Improvement Plan.

The original date of March 7th will not work for several City Council members, so City Manager Terziu recommended changing that date to March 4th.

Council Member Sellers requested updates be texted or emailed to Council Members. City Manager Terziu agreed to send updates.

Council Member Clewis made a motion to accept the Meeting Schedule as presented without a July meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Covington provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington made a motion to amend the Budget Calendar changing March 7th to March 4th at 1pm until complete. Council Member Clewis provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

14. City Manager's Report

City Manager Terziu thanked council for putting their trust and confidence in him for the position of City Manager. He stated he has been very impressed with staff and how they have adjusted to new management in this time of transition. He highlighted several things in his report including: He attended NC City Managers Conference last week stating it was invaluable with plenty of networking opportunities. He and Assistant City Manager Webb will be attending a workshop on zoning February 17-18 to keep their certification current. He would like to get Hamlets Code of Ordinances updated in the next 6-12 months and will be sending it out a few chapters at a time so council can make comments and recommendations. He gave updates on water and wastewater with upcoming meetings with LKC. He has tasked HR with looking at market pay versus COLA for next budget year. He wants the zoning ordinance to be brought up to date in the near future by finding a consultant to create a Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) for the city or begin working on it in-house. The Baseball lighting/sound system are on the way to be installed next month. The City Lake Trail project needs to be finished with the remaining ARPA funds.

City Attorney Morphis recommended using an outside source to update the UDO if possible, especially if the funds are already budgeted for. Currently there is \$120,000.00 budgeted between this and next year to create a UDO.

Council Member Sellers made a motion to get the Hamlet Code of Ordinances updated. Council Member Clewis provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

15. Comments of Council

Council Member Martin stated that the Post 49 opening game will be on Friday, May 23rd with an opening ceremony at 6:30 pm which will honor Firefighters in our community. He also mentioned on May 30th they will have a Hall of Fame game.

Council Member Sellers thanked attendees and Department Heads for attending.

Council Member Clewis welcomed John to the City of Hamlet. He also thanked Department Heads for attending the meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Covington welcomed John to Hamlet and thanked Eddie Martin for his hard work to make Post 49 successful. She also thanked Department Heads for attending the meeting.

16. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Guinn welcomed City Manager Terziu and thanked the attendees for coming to the meeting. She highlighted several things including Parks and Rec indoor soccer registration is under way, the Hamlet Senior Center is hosting a Chili Cook-Off on Wednesday, February 26th at 11:00 am, the train engine/caboose in downtown Hamlet will be painted later this week, sidewalks have been pressure washed recently, and Food Truck Friday will start back on April 11th.

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

At 7:36 pm, Council Member Clewis motioned, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Covington to go into closed session for attorney-client privilege and personnel. The motion passed unanimously.

Return to Open Session

At 8:00 pm, Mayor Pro-Tem Covington motioned to return to Open Session, seconded by Council Member Clewis. The motion passed unanimously.

18. Motion to Adjourn

Council Member Sellers motioned, seconded by Council Member Clewis to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously at 8:00 pm.