

**Hamlet City Council Regular Monthly Meeting  
201 Main Street, Hamlet, NC  
Tuesday, September 13, 2011  
7:00 p.m.**

**Minutes**

**Governing Body Present**

Mayor	Jeff Smart
Mayor ProTem	Pat Preslar
Council Member	Bill Bayless
Council Member	Tony Clewis
Council Member	Abbie Covington
Council Member	Diane Honeycutt

**City Staff Present**

City Manager	Marchell David
City Attorney	Steve Futrell
City Clerk	Tammy Kirkley
Finance Officer	Jill Dickens
Police Chief	John Haywood
Fire Chief	David Knight
Zoning	Gail Strickland
WTP Superintendent	Robert Brown
Public Works	James Wall

1. **Call to Order.** Mayor Smart called the meeting to order.
2. **Invocation.** The Invocation was offered by James Wall.
3. **Adoption of Agenda.** The presented agenda was amended to add an item to go into closed session to discuss a contract. The additional item was suggested to follow the Mayor's Comments on the agenda. Councilman Preslar and Bayless made the motion to adopt the revised agenda as noted. All were in favor.
4. **Adoption of Minutes.** Council unanimously adopted the August 9, 2011 minutes as presented by motion of Council Members Covington and Clewis.
5. **Comments from Attendees.** None were presented.
6. **Mayoral Appointment to Hamlet Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.** Tammy Culler's term has expired on the HHA Board. Director Faye Livingston has recommended reappointing Tammy Culler to serve another 5 year term and Mrs. Culler has agreed. Mayor Smart then appointed Tammy Culler to serve another 5-year term on the Hamlet Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. Mrs. Culler was thanked for her service.

7. **Ordinance to Set Board Size for Hamlet ABC Board.** City Clerk Tammy Kirkley took a moment to explain the need for the ordinance whereby setting the number of people to serve on the Hamlet ABC Board to three members. Council presented several inquiries concerning the number suggested and the clerk and the manager replied per the information given by the State ABC Board Office. The Hamlet ABC Board meets once per month. Council Members Bayless and Covington made the motion to adopt the presented Ordinance setting the board member size for the Hamlet ABC Store to a three member board. All were in favor of the motion on the floor.
8. **Appointment to the ABC Board.** Prior Chair to the Hamlet ABC Board, John Thomas, resigned about a month prior to his term ending in October. Mayor Smart reported that the city has three outstanding applications of people on file who want to serve in this capacity. The mayor welcomed a motion or recommendation. Council briefly discussed the application dates. Council Member Covington motioned to appoint applicant # 2, Dorothy Bynum, to serve a three year term on the Hamlet ABC Board and Council Member Honeycutt made a second to the motion. The vote passed unanimously.
9. **Approval of Tax Releases.** Councilman Clewis inquired about the increase in taxes. The manager suggested that it is inventory or fixed assets because the owners have relocated the business. The attorney suggested it is probably prorated. Council Member Covington asked why Richmond County is releasing Electronic Services Company from city taxes. The releases for Beverly and Donna Byrd were also noted. Considering the questions of council, the submitted releases were tabled in order to get clarification on the request from the county.
10. **Proclamation Recognizing John Coltrane Day.** Mayor Smart took a moment to read aloud the Mayoral Proclamation honoring Hamlet native John Coltrane. The official day of recognition will be Friday, September 23. He announced that the Third John Coltrane Festival will be held on Saturday, October 1 from 2-7 pm at Wayman Chapel Faith Center in Hamlet.
11. **NCDOT Fall Roadside Litter Sweep.** Mayor Smart shared information concerning the upcoming North Carolina Department of Transportation's Fall Roadside Litter Sweep. The participation dates begin September 17 and will end on October 1. Additional information may be obtained at Hamlet City Hall.
12. **City Manager's Report.** The manager reported that regular registration for football and cheerleading will run through Friday, September 30, and late registration will take place the first week in October and end on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. David also reported that the walking trail lighting project at the city lake is almost complete. There are a few issues with two of the lights; however, the matter is being addressed. The manager announced that the soccer season is underway and is going well.
13. **Comments of Council**

Diane Honeycutt thanked all of the volunteers for their time.

Tony Clewis asked if the police department will do some patrolling on Hylan Avenue. He thanked them for their efforts on Main Street. Mr. Clewis mentioned the complaints about the trees at the Hamlet Wilco-Hess and how it impedes the vision of the vehicular traffic leaving the business and entering back onto Hwy. 74. Gail Strickland reported that she has mailed a letter to the property owner. Mr. Clewis also thanked Mrs. Kirkley for contacting NCDOT about repainting the traffic lines on Battley Dairy Road.

Bill Bayless announced on behalf of the Lions Club that the fair will be in town from September 20-24. He stated that local artists, rides and food vendors will be a part of the fair, as well as, pet shows and nightly entertainment. Mr. Bayless thanked the city for their help with this event.

Abbie Covington commended the city employees for their efforts in cleaning up the streets.

Pat Preslar also thanked the street crews for the work they're doing on all streets and specifically on Spring Street. He asked staff to check with NCDOT to see which streets are on the paving list for the near future.

**14. Mayor's Comments.** Mayor Smart announced that it is the time of year for the Annual Seaboard Festival. He noted that the street banners are up and look good. The mayor reported the renovations are well underway on the new Visitor's Center on Main Street and that the city is hoping to have the building open during the festival. Mayor Smart announced that the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the Hamlet Presbyterian Day School will be held on Sunday, September 25. The church is inviting all past and present students to attend the event.

The city manager then gave information concerning the aforementioned tax releases. She said the first parcel was in fact inventory and the second one listed was several small parcels that were releases and re-billed as one parcel. The mayor stated that council will just keep the item tabled for full clarification.

**15. Motion to go into Closed Session.** At 7:42 pm, Council Members Honeycutt and Bayless motioned to go into closed session per NCGS § 143.318.11 subsections (6) (3). All were in favor of the motion.

**16. Open Session.** At 9:34 pm, Council Members Preslar and Clewis motioned to close executive session and to go back into open session. All were in favor of the motion. The mayor reported that no decisions were made while in closed session.

**17. Adjournment.** With no other business to discuss, at 9:35 pm. Council Members Honeycutt and Bayless made the motion to adjourn tonight's meeting and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Kirkley, City Clerk

---

---