

Minutes Rescheduled Monthly Meeting March 18, 2019 at 7:30 PM

Mayor Reid called the meeting to order. Council members present were Mayor Pro Tem, Quentin Jackson, Sid Eley, Frank Norman and Gracie Felton. Others present were Town Manager, Pam Hurdle, Town Clerk, Cindy Sharber, Police Chief, Dennis Brown and Town Attorney, John Leidy. Others present were Earnell Brown, Rhonda Waters, Gail White, Herman James, Olga Simpson, Ethelyn Simpson, Tony Riddick, Edgar Salvo, Peter Williams, Murielle Harmon, Sara Winslow, Anne and Greg Benton, Kim and Tim Brinn, Diane Stallings, SayQuan Holder, Martha Borders, Tara White, Vanora and Connie Brothers, Archie Aples Skip Matthews, Police Officers, Parr and Burkett.

Frank Norman had the prayer.

Mayor Reid led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Frank Norman and passed 5-0 to approve the amended agenda.

Motion by Frank Norman seconded by Quentin Jackson and passed 5-0 to approve the February 4, 2019 work session minutes after striking from the minutes Quentin Jackson was absent due to a court order.

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Frank Norman and passed 5-0 to approve the regular and closed session minutes of February 11, 2019 as presented.

Motion by Frank Norman seconded by Sid Eley and passed 5-0 to approve the fire department grant and HHI-Toast on the Perquimans (September 21, 2019).

Scheduled Business

There were none.

Continued Business

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Gracie Felton and passed 5-0 to appoint Manager Hurdle and Frank Norman to the Harbor Town Project.

Motion by Frank Norman seconded by Sid Eley and passed 5-0 to approve passing the electric rate increase of 1.1% on to the customers.

Citizens Concerns

Murielle Harmon said 10 large flowers containers had been donated to be placed to the left or right of the light poles downtown. A citizens group plans to plant day lilies in these containers. She requested that the town pay \$300 toward soil, fertilizer, etc. needed to prepare these containers. She felt that with the containers being on the sidewalk this would allow them to be

easily water and possibly the merchants could assist with watering. She anticipated possibly using \$240 now and holding the other \$60 for contingency in case they needed to purchase more containers.

Sara Winslow read the following: Thank you, Mr. Mayor and members of the Town Council. During the last several meetings and work sessions – reference has been made by some Council members that some of the ordinances governing the Town are not valid – legal. Thus, having to operate under the Charter and the NCGS. The citizens have a right and need to be informed of this – if true and why the ordinances are not valid. If so – “picking and choosing” between ordinances, Charter and GS can’t happen. The Town received a copy of the revised CAMA application for the S-Bridge replacement last month (February 2019), as did the adjacent property owners. These plans now show only one navigation span for the new bridge. All plans presented previously have shown two navigation spans, as we have now. At the December 14, 2019 meeting held by NCDOT with the effected property owners and the Town – there were two navigation spans presented in the plans. The general public has not been informed of this significant change in design. This change could have a negative impact on the development of the waterfront and the future of the IBX Connect (Fast Ferry) project. One of the goals was for the new bridge to be as close in appearance to the existing S-Bridge. Going with one span further removes that characteristic but the height of the bridge itself (12ft.), draw clearance (13.5 ft.), slopes/grade/elevation of the roadway and causeway bridge (12 ft.) will completely change the entire vista.

Connie Brothers reminded council they had signed a proclamation last year declaring the 3rd Saturday of August as First Responder Day. She thanked public works for making the streets brighter. She said Wingfield Street had no lights and the light on King Street where the camera is located doesn’t stay on.

New Business

Quentin Jackson said they have an ongoing investigation and the previous administration need to recuse themselves from any discussion. He said all of them need to be thrown in jail. He said he will resign as Mayor Pro Tem after the completion of the investigation. He said he was tired of people attacking his family and love ones. He said Hertford needs a lot of work. He said Peter Williams had not been his friend because he serves on many boards and hasn’t gotten recognition but if he goes to court that makes the front page. He said he would be holding a press conference but didn’t say when. He said if people won’t do their job then they will force their hands. He thanked Chief Brown for all he has done. Chief Brown said he is following the law.

Sid Eley asked if NC DOT could be contacted to see if they could possibly pave from the stop at Ocean Highway down Church Street to the creek bridge.

Frank Norman said he had 5 bids for the website and the presentation would be at another time. He also would like CLM to make a presentation about piping infrastructure for the older

homes in our community. He said they would warranty the pipes at a cost of \$5 - \$10 a month. He said the water and sewer bills are higher than they should be, but those rates were imposed by former council decision. He said our Town Clerk is resigning and they needed to get a replacement, but Cindy Sharber corrected him and said she was retiring April 30th. Frank said the new lights that had been purchased had all been found but 1. He said the lights they had purchased had been picked out by the former manager. He said Tony Riddick, Mayor Reid, former councilman, Archie Aples and former Town Manager, Brandon Shoaf had a meeting to discuss the lights and they had a verbal agreement but not a written agreement. Frank said the last council retreat was held in 2001 but was not done in an open meeting setting and they had no minutes about the retreat.

Greener by LED representative, Tony Riddick said he moved back to Hertford in 2004 and hired 8 local people to refurbish houses and put them back on the market. He said his business also sponsors math camp, basketball camp, soccer camp and reading camp. He said his business reinvests in the community. He was certain that whoever else they purchase lights from would not reinvest in the community. He said Hertford had bought some of his equipment that he has heard was substandard but said his light meet the DLC which is a higher standard. He said he has heard several inaccuracies and that he sells to may businesses. He said the individual making some of these claims has never purchased from him or seen his products. He said it was mentioned that he owes outstanding property taxes he said that as a business you have good years and bad years. He said they should work with local businesses to help nurture them. He said he has never been asked about his relationship with the town or county. He said people have come in to divide and destroy since the demographics of the council have changed. He said he had one of his lights up and the previous town manager said he was asked by HHI to take the light down because it was too bright but an HHI representative said they never made that request. He said he had a verbal agreement with the town and felt that if his product could perform equal or better, they need to move forward and buy from him. He said he didn't force the lights the town purchased on the town the former town manager picked them. He closed with telling Quentin Jackson he would hate to see him go.

Mayor Reid said he never saw anything showing Mr. Riddick's light were brighter and he felt if he owed money to the town and was planning to do business with the town, he would need to pay outstanding debt.

Quentin Jackson said they have forgiven over \$300,000 in taxes and one business owner has \$50,000 fees for illegal dumping. He said he is Mayor Pro Tem now and Mr. Riddick will get the business.

Vanora Brothers asked Tony Riddick if Albemarle EMC had purchased lights from him after they had spoken? Tony Riddick said it was after.

Frank Norman said the Mayor called him out a lot at meetings and felt he was being unfair on the way he judged and used his gavel. Frank Norman said things are missing and they have an SBI investigation.

Mayor Reid said he was not at the meeting with Tony Riddick, Archie Aples and Brandon Shoaf.

Gracie Felton said she was sorry to hear that Quentin was going to step down. She said she was tired of the mumbles in the audience. She said she is just getting her feet wet and felt citizens had given a lot of insults to council. She said the council seats are valuable and even hard at times where she would want to step down, but she would not step down. She said things are going on that citizens aren't even aware of and this is a learning process for them. She said this team needs to come together.

Town Manager, Pam Hurdle presented a budget calendar. Quentin Jackson requested a separate line item for council expenses separate from administration. Frank Norman said last year the town didn't spend all the money that was budgeted. He said he would like to hear from department heads and wants to use general fund balance for other departments. He mentioned Toys for Tots in our area and would like to be able to help.

Motion by Frank Norman seconded by Gracie Felton and passed 3-2 to appoint Pam Hurdle as the primary representative and Quentin Jackson as the secondary representative Albemarle Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mayor Reid and Sid Eley voted against the motion.

Public Works Director, Greg Benton said they needed to have a formal or informal bid proposal for the LED lighting, and they have \$93,000 left in the budget. He said at this time he had reach out to 9 vendors and 8 of the 9 vendors offer a 10-year warranty. He said they have currently installed 30 some lights and have 9 left in inventory. Quentin Jackson asked Greg if he knew of any problems with Mr. Riddick 's lights that he didn't like. Greg said he had shared his concerns with Mr. Riddick. Greg Benton said the amount we paid in the past we could not but 400 lights. Tony Riddick said the price for his light would be \$220 per light. Frank Norman asked how many lights can we put up in a day? Greg said we could install 25 lights in a day with 40-man days they could have all 400 lights installed. Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded Frank Norman and passed 5-0 to begin the formal bid process for LED light bid process. Quentin Jackson said he would like 1 or 2 deficiency to disqualify the person.

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Frank Norman and passed 4-0 to table the purchasing policy and the social media policy. Mayor Reid had been excused from the room.

Motion by Frank Norman seconded by Gracie Felton and passed 4-0 to accept the intern program with ECU and ECSU. Mayor Reid had been excused from the room.

Manager, Hurdle said she was waiting to hear back regarding the S Bridge (CAMA) update since they are constantly making changes.

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Frank Norman and passed 5-0 to allow the manager to set up the retreat.

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Frank Norman and passed 5-0 to table till after closed session the operational contracts (Electric department) and Public Works Services.

Motion by Frank Norman seconded by Quentin Jackson and passed 5-0 to schedule a public hearing regarding prevention and abatement of public nuisances caused by the uncontrolled growth of noxious weeds and grass and the accumulation of refuse (abatement charges).

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Frank Norman and passed 5-0 to allow the fire department to use a 1971 Dodge truck for fire training that was previously surplused by public works.

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Frank Norman and passed 5-0 to send a letter of support for NCDOT Safe Route to School Non-Infrastructure Grant Application.

Mayor Reid presented the ABC report showing an increase of 8.4% over last February.

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Frank Norman and passed 5-0 to pay \$300.00 to the Citizen group to purchase soil, fertilizer, etc. for them to plant day lilies in donated flower pots and place along the downtown sidewalks.

Town Clerk, Cindy Sharber reported utility bills would be mailed out this week with a town council meeting survey enclosed. She advised it was sign up time for equal pay for utility bills and bulky item pickup would be April 22-25. Frank Norman questioned how close we were to using other forms of payments for utilities and Cindy Sharber recommended not adding anything new to the current system until the current hardware and software was updated.

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Frank Norman and passed 5-0 to go into closed session pursuant to 143-318-11(a)(6) personnel and 143-318-11(a)(3) attorney client privileges.

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Frank Norman and passed 5-0 to go into regular session.

Quentin Jackson to request the SBI findings of be unsealed since it only included this name. Attorney, John Leidy recommended that the attorneys be allowed to review the information to see if the report is public record as it is to make sure it doesn't contain confidential information.

Quentin Jackson asked Mrs. Sharber if she had a report on the cocaine. She advised that was the first she had heard about the cocaine.

Pam Hurdle said the council had been requested to do a proclamation for Reverend Boone celebrating his 25th anniversary Sunday. She said the entire council is invited. She said she had received a request from Ms. Odessa Harrell's family requesting a proclamation for her 90th birthday celebration to be held Saturday.

Quentin Jackson recommended a proclamation or resolution for Cindy Sharber for her service to the town and for Pam Hurdle as the first African American Town Manager for the town.

Attorney Leidy said a proclamation is celebratory and a resolution is a decision from the board.

Motion by Quentin Jackson seconded by Frank Norman and passed 5-0 to approve the electric department operational contract.

Motion by Frank Norman seconded by Gracie Felton and passed 5-0 to adjourn the meeting.

DRAFT