

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL
June 15, 2009

The City Council of the City of Albemarle met in a regular session on Monday, June 15, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Annex. Mayor Elbert L. "Whit" Whitley, Jr. presided, and the following Councilmembers were present, to-wit: Troy E. Alexander, Martha Sue Hall, Judy Holcomb, Jeanette M. Napier, Jack F. Neel, Dexter Townsend and T. Ed Underwood. Absent, none.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the minutes of June 1 regular session was approved as submitted.

Mr. John Fields, Stanly County Family YMCA came before City Council to request an exemption to City ordinances to hold the BB gun and archery classes at the YMCA summer camp. Mr. Fields stated that the camps would be on Wednesday and Fridays from 9:45 am until 11:30 am. Classes begin on Wednesday, June 17 and go through Friday, August 21.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Napier and unanimously carried, City Council approved an exemption to City ordinances for an archery program at the Stanly County Family YMCA summer camp from June 17 to August 21.

Mr. Destrik Burns, Genrex Youth, came before City Council to request the closing of Arey Avenue between Pee Dee Avenue and East Main Street on July 13 - 17 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for vacation bible school and on July 24 from 6:00 p.m. to midnight for an overnight sleep in.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, City Council approved the closing of Arey Avenue between Pee Dee Avenue and East Main Street on July 13-17 from 6:00-9:00 pm for vacation bible school and on July 24 from 6:00 pm to midnight for an overnight sleep in. Councilmember Neel stated that he felt this church should look for a location in the future that would not require the closing of a street.

Mr. Ricky Bernard House came before City Council as an announced delegation to request a City of Albemarle Peddler's License.

Councilmember Hall asked Mr. House about the hours of operation he had stated on his application and he clarified the times. She also said that if Mr. House would be interested in being a vendor at the cruise in downtown on the third Friday of each month, he would need to see ADDC Director Vicki Coggins for approval.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, City Council approved a peddler license for Ricky Bernard House.

Mayor Whitley stated that City Council had a copy of the monthly departmental reports in their agenda packet and asked if there were any questions.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Holcomb and unanimously carried, the following Ordinances passed second reading and were duly adopted:

ORDINANCE 09-21

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE, NORTH CAROLINA, PROVIDING THAT THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE BE AMENDED BY REVISING CHAPTER 77, SCHEDULE XXI TO PROVIDE THAT TRAFFIC UPON CERTAIN STREETS SHALL STOP AND YIELD THE RIGHT OF WAY BEFORE ENTERING INTO AND UPON ITS INTERSECTION WITH DESIGNATED STREETS IN THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE, NORTH CAROLINA.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Albemarle, North Carolina, as follows:

SECTION 1. The streets listed in Column I of Section 2 are hereby designated a through street at its intersection with the street listed in Column II of Section 2, and every driver of a vehicle traveling on a street listed in Column II of Section 2 hereof shall stop and yield the right of way before entering into and upon its intersection with the street listed in Column I of Section 2 hereof.

SECTION 2. Schedule XXI of Chapter 77 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Albemarle, North Carolina entitled "Traffic Schedules" shall be and the same are hereby amended by adding the following:

<u>Street</u>	<u>Location</u>
Anderson Grove Church Road	At the following: Anderson Ridge Drive
Anderson Ridge Drive	At the following: Smokehouse Lane
Smokehouse Lane	At the following: Homestead Lane

SECTION 3. All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall be effective as of the date of final adoption.

This ordinance was introduced and signed by Councilmember _____, a member of the Council of the City of Albemarle, North Carolina.

Member of Council

This ordinance was introduced and passed its first reading at the meeting of the Council held on _____, 2009, and was continued for further hearing on _____, 2009. At the meeting of the Council held on _____, 2009, this ordinance passed its second reading, was adopted, and ordered published as by law provided.

Dated _____, 2009.

Mayor

Attest:

Clerk

(Ordinance 09-21. To designate stop intersections in Phase II of the Anderson Ridge Development.)

ORDINANCE 09-22

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE, NORTH CAROLINA, PROVIDING THAT THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE BE AMENDED BY REVISING CHAPTER 77, SCHEDULE XIV-A (NAMING OF STREETS) TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL STREETS IN THE ANDERSON RIDGE SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF ALBEMARLE, NORTH CAROLINA.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Albemarle, North Carolina, as follows:

SECTION 1. Schedule XIV-A of Chapter 77 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Albemarle, North Carolina entitled "Traffic Schedules" shall be and the same is hereby amended by adding thereto the following streets:

<u>Street</u>	<u>Location</u>
Smokehouse Lane	North from Anderson Ridge Drive circulating eastwardly and southerly to a point 200 feet more or less south of the intersection of Foster Lane
Anderson Ridge Drive	East from Anderson Grove Church Road to a dead end.
Homestead Lane	Eastwardly from Smokehouse Lane to a dead end

SECTION 2. All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall be effective as of the date of final adoption.

This ordinance was introduced and signed by Councilmember _____, a member of the Council of the City of Albemarle, North Carolina.

Member of Council

This ordinance was introduced and passed its first reading at the meeting of the Council held on _____, 2009, and was continued for further hearing on _____, 2009. At the meeting of the Council held on _____, 2009, this ordinance passed its second reading, was adopted, and ordered published as by law provided.

Dated _____, 2009.

Mayor

Attest:

Clerk

(Ordinance 09-22. To add names of new streets and to change the description of certain existing streets in Phase II of Anderson Ridge Development.)

(Ordinance 09-23. To amend the FY 2008/2009 budget in the Water and Sewer Fund for sludge removal at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.)

(Ordinance 09-24. To appropriate federal stimulus funds in the Department of Public Housing.)

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the following Ordinance passed second reading and was duly adopted:

(Ordinance 09-17. To approve the Fiscal Year 2009/2010 City of Albemarle Budget.)

Upon a motion by Councilmember Neel, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the following Ordinance passed second reading and was duly adopted:

(Ordinance 09-19. To rezone 1519 East Main Street from GHBD to R8/Two Family Residential-Conditional Use-Duplex.)

The City Council considered the following findings of fact as read by Mayor Whitley:

1. The use will not materially endanger the public health or safety if located where proposed and developed according to the plan as submitted and approved.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved finding of fact #1.

2. The use meets all required conditions and specifications.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved finding of fact #2.

3. The use will not substantially injure the value of the adjoining or abutting property, or that the use is a public necessity.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Napier and unanimously carried, the City Council approved finding of fact #3.

4. The location and character of the use, if developed according to the plan submitted and approved, will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located and in general conformity with the plan of development of the City of Albemarle and its environs.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Neel and unanimously carried, the City Council approved finding of fact #4.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the following Resolution was duly adopted:

(Resolution 09-24. To rezone 1519 East Main Street from GHBD to R8/Two Family Residential-Conditional Use-Duplex.)

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hall, the following Ordinance passed second reading and was duly adopted:

(Ordinance 09-20. To rezone a 1.39 acre tract on Henson Drive from HID to R8A/Multi-Family Residential.)

Voting for the motion were Councilmembers Alexander, Hall, Holcomb, Napier, Townsend, and Underwood. Voting against the motion was Councilmember Neel.

The Mayor and City Council considered the addition of one holiday during the Christmas season. This item was held over from the previous Council meeting on June 1. The City currently provides 10 holidays. Most municipalities in North Carolina provide 11 or 12 holidays. A letter from Human Resource Director Robert Whitley provided information on the holidays provided by other municipalities. In a second letter given to Council was a response to a question from Councilmember Holcomb as to the cost of the additional holiday. Mr. Whitley stated that this will not be any additional out of pocket expense, since these employees would have been paid, anyway. The City Manager said that it does mean there is one day less each year that each employee would be on the job if City Council approves this recommendation.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the addition of one holiday during the Christmas season.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed expiring terms on City Boards and Commissions.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Holcomb and unanimously carried, the following appointments were made to the Planning and Zoning Board:

Craven Lowder – Term Expiring 2012

Dorsey Lilly – Term Expiring 2012
Rick Russell - Term Expiring 2012

Roosevelt Horne 1st alternate – Term Expiring 2012
Perry Moser 2nd alternate – Term Expiring 2012

Upon a motion by Councilmember Townsend, seconded by Councilmember Holcomb and unanimously carried, the following appointments were made to the Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustment:

Charlie Frye – Term Expiring 2012
Charlie Hughes – Term Expiring 2012
Tim Scott – Term Expiring 2012

Randy Shank 1st alternate - Term Expiring 2012
John (Bill) Sells 2nd alternate - Term Expiring 2012

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the following appointments were made to the Historic Resource Commission:

Conrad Carter – Term Expiring 2010
Stephen Chambers – Term Expiring 2010
Roger Martin – Term Expiring 2010
Jeff Chance – Term Expiring 2010
David Smith – Term Expiring 2010
Christy Stoner – Term Expiring 2010
Barbara Thomas – Term Expiring 2010
John Williams – Term Expiring 2010

The Mayor and City Council decided to hold two Historic Resources Commission expiring terms open until the July 7, 2009 meeting and determine replacements at that time.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Holcomb and unanimously carried, the following appointments were made to the Housing Board of Appeals:

Richard D. Smith, Jr. - Term Expiring 2012
Janie Baldwin McDonald - Term Expiring 2012

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the following appointments were made to the Albemarle Downtown Development Commission:

Chris Bramlett – Term Expiring 2012
Barbara Thomas – Term Expiring 2012
John Mullis – Term Expiring 2012
Barbara Bowers – Term Expiring 2012
Sandy Selvy - Term Expiring 2012

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb seconded by Councilmember Napier and unanimously carried, the following appointments were made to the Tree Commission:

Jane Borders - Term Expiring 2012
Elaine Nelson - Term Expiring 2012

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Alexander and unanimously carried, the following appointments were made to the Greenway Commission:

Jerry L. Barrier – Term Expiring 2012

Nancy Joines – Term Expiring 2012
Laura Wheeler – Term Expiring 2012

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Holcomb and unanimously carried, the following appointment was made to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:

Xavier Brown - Student Representative - Albemarle High School Term
expiring 2010

Councilmember Neel stated that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board should be notified by the Albemarle Middle School if they are not going to support a representative to this board. Parks and Recreation Director Toby Thorpe stated that there had been a student chosen for the board from the Albemarle Middle School but they had not attended any meetings.

The City Manager was asked to send a letter to the Albemarle Middle School about the appointment of a student to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Councilmember Hall stated that transportation for these students should be provided to and from the meetings, if needed.

The Mayor and City Council considered attendance at ElectriCities Annual Meeting, Raleigh-August 27, 2009. Due to economic conditions this meeting has been scaled back to one day. It begins with breakfast at 7:00 am with the program beginning at 8:30 am, and ending at 4:00 pm. City Council can go up early on the morning of August 27, leaving by 6:15 am, or go up the evening before.

The City Manager stated that he needed to know members wanting to attend the ElectriCities Annual Meeting in Raleigh on August 27 and if it would be for the day of the meeting or leave the evening before staying overnight. He asked that any Councilmember interested in attending, to let him know by the next Council meeting or to call his office.

The Mayor and City Council considered a board resolution to approve the Public Housing Operating Budget. HUD requires that City Council approve the Public Housing operating budget by board resolution. The Public Housing department budget information was/is included in the annual budget process for all city departments for City Council approval. The Public Housing budget was included in the FY 2009-2010 Budget that was adopted on first reading by City Council on May 19.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the Public Housing Board Resolution for the operating budget.

(Resolution 09-27 - PH Board resolution for the Public Housing Operating Budget)

The Mayor and City Council considered reappointment of Wade H. McSwain, Jr. to the Stanly County Convention and Visitors Bureau. Chris Lambert of the CVB has advised that one of the City's appointments to this committee, Wade H. McSwain, Jr.'s term is expiring in July.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the reappointment of Wade H. McSwain, Jr. to the Stanly County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The Mayor and City Council considered a request of Forest Hills Neighborhood to hold a Fourth of July Parade around Azalea Park. This is the same request that City Council has approved for the past several years. The request also includes the placement of a banner in Azalea Park for seven days prior to the event to advertise it to the neighborhood.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Underwood, seconded by Councilmember Alexander and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the closing of sections of Azalea Park area streets on Saturday, July 4 between 9:30-11:30 am for a parade and approved the staking of a banner at the corner of Azalea Drive and Ninth Street seven days prior to the July 4th event.

The Mayor and City Council considered a resolution for the City of Albemarle Electric Rate Adjustment. Requesting approval of a 3% increase of the Electric Rate Structure Schedules and the 0.5% increase for the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards (REPS) Charge, Rider 15 effective October 1, 2009 as proposed in the FY 2009-2010 Budget. The Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards (REPS) charge is a per customer fee designed to recover costs of NCMPA1 2009 REPS program. The City will receive a wholesale rate increase of 4.7% effective July 1, 2009. The proposed budget recommends that the City absorb 100% of this increase for the months of July through September, and 25% of the increase going forward. These rates will go into effect October 1, 2009, in accordance with the City's long standing practice of implementing electric rate increases in the fall.

Councilmember Hall stated that Duke Energy is proposing a 14% increase.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Napier and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a 3% increase of the Electric Rate Structure Schedules and the 0.5% increase for the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards (REPS) Charge, Rider 15 effective October 1, 2009 as proposed in the FY 2009-2010 Budget.

(Resolution 09-28 Electric Rate Structure Schedule)

The Mayor and City Council considered a resolution to adjust the water and sewer rates. Council reviewed the proposed water and sewer rate schedule for FY 2009 / 2010. This will be to adjust the City's water and sewer rates effective July 1 as proposed in the FY 2009-2010 Budget. There would be no increase in the minimum charge for usage up to 300 cubic feet, and an adjustment of 3.5% for usage above the minimum amount. The resolution also adjusts the thresholds for the rate blocks above 300 cubic feet.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the water and sewer rate schedule for FY 2009/2010 with an adjustment of 3.5% increase for usage above the minimum amount effective July 1, 2009.

(Resolutions 09-29)

The Mayor and City Council considered a resolution to adjust the water and sewer tap rates. This will adjust the Water and Sanitary Sewer Tap fees effective July 1, 2009. This is an update to Resolution 94-29 that established the water and sanitary sewer taps fees that are currently being used. The proposed tap fees add \$25.00 to each of the existing fees.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Napier, seconded by Councilmember Holcomb and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the adjustment of the water and sewer tap rates, a \$25.00 increase added to each existing fee effective July 1, 2009.

(Resolution 09-30, To increase Water and Sewer Tap Fees)

The Mayor and City Council considered a resolution for solid waste facility fee adjustments. This will revise the solid waste disposal fees at the Landfill as proposed in the FY 2009-2020 Budget. The proposed resolution would increase the municipal solid waste disposal fee from \$30 to \$33 per ton, and an increase in the construction and demolition fee from \$25 to \$30 per ton.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the resolution to adjust the solid waste disposal fees at the landfill as proposed in the FY 2009-2010 budget.

(Resolution 09-31, To increase landfill tipping fees)

The Mayor and City Council considered a resolution to adopt the FEMA Equipment Rate Schedule as City schedule. The Resolution would establish that the City's rates stay current and consistent with FEMA rates. This is the schedule that is followed whenever the City has a natural disaster and applies to FEMA for reimbursement. By adopting this resolution, the City can adjust its equipment rates in sync with FEMA, and do not have to take separate action each time the rates change.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a resolution for the FEMA Equipment Rate Schedule as City Schedule.

(Resolution 09-32, To adopt the FEMA Equipment Rate Schedule as the city's Schedule.)

The Mayor and City Council considered rescheduling the first meeting in July due to a conflict with a City holiday. The first meeting in July will be on July 6 which is the day that the City's ordinance establishes for the holiday when it falls on a weekend. In the past, the City Council has moved the City Council meeting so that it does not conflict with any holidays observed by the City.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council approved moving the first meeting in July to Tuesday, July 7, 2009 due to a City holiday on Monday, July 6.

The Mayor and City Council considered a resolution of property exchange. At its June 1, 2009 meeting, Council approved the publication of an Intent of Notice to Exchange Property. This notice was published in the Stanly News and Press on June 4, 2009, as required by statute. A resolution authorizing the exchange is required. This exchange has been advertised in the Stanly News and Press in accordance with state statutes. This would permit the exchange of a 1977 Ford tractor owned by the City for a brick saw and a mortar mixer.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Napier and unanimously carried, the City Council approved a resolution for property exchange.

(Resolution 09-33, To exchange property with City employee Gregory Rowland.)

The Mayor and City Council were requested to set a public hearing for a JAG Grant for the first City Council meeting in July to hear comments on a proposed Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$16,977.00. This grant would be used to buy Police Emergency Equipment with a share of this grant \$4,249.00 being forwarded to the Stanly County Sheriff's Office as required by the grant. This is the grant that Chief Michael presented to City Council at the June 1 meeting. There is no match required, and the Police Department proposes to use these funds to purchase equipment.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Townsend and unanimously carried, the City Council approved setting public hearing for Monday, July 7, 2009 to hear comments on a proposed Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$16,977.

The Mayor and City Council considered participation in the NCLM "Take 5" campaign for annexation legislation. The House Judiciary II Committee is scheduled to take up annexation legislation this week, and the League is requesting that its members continue to contact legislators via email, telephone, or visit about the importance of reasonable annexation laws to municipalities and to the economic health of this state.

The City Manager stated that the annexation bill is at a timely point in legislation and handed out information to Council showing the members of the House Judiciary II Committee which will be meeting on Tuesday and Thursday of this week at 10 am each day to discuss annexation. He asked that each Council member consider calling the committee members or attending the meetings this week in Raleigh if possible. The Councilmembers acknowledged that they would make the phone calls to the House Judiciary II Committee members this week.

The City Manager gave a status report on the City Hall project. Much of the final painting has been done on the upstairs, as well as completion of the installation of wainscoting, drop in ceilings and light fixtures. Some of this work has begun on the first floor as well but is not as far along. The brick masons have begun to remove and replace the sections of the exterior masonry walls that were not approved by the architect. This will be done one section at a time.

Krista Karlson with Creech and Associates, met again with Stanly County inspections to discuss the stair in the historic building. It is their position that due to the extent of renovations to the historic building and the large addition that the NC Rehab Code does not apply in this case. Ms. Karlson felt that Stanly County inspections had been very cooperative but that they felt that the compromise renovations to the stairs were required by code. However, Councilmember Neel spoke with the Chief Engineer at the NC Department of Insurance and he felt that the stair could remain as is with the exception of the differential in riser height. The City Manager spoke with David Creech on Wednesday afternoon about Mr. Neel's conversation, and Mr. Creech was going to contact an engineer at DOI that Councilmember Neel had been referred to.

The City Manager stated that Mr. Creech is still in the process of talking with DOI and there is a possibility that the City may be able to continue without major changes being made to the staircase. The City Manager encouraged Council to give this a few more days before making a decision.

The Mayor asked that the City talk with David Harrington with Stanly County inspections to try to reason with him. The Mayor stated that he would contact Mr. Harrington himself about this situation.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed the report on the 2009 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event. This event was held on Saturday, April 18, 2009 at the Stanly County Agri Civic Center. The Council reviewed a report from Stanly County Solid Waste Director Jerry Morton for this event. This is the 12th year of this event, and it was again very successful.

Mr. Morton in his letter also requests an increase in the subsidy that the City provides for this event from the Solid Waste Disposal Fund of \$15,000. The proposed budget includes \$10,000 for this item, so City Council will need to consider amending the proposed budget if it is chosen to grant this request.

Public Works Director Mike Lambert came before Council and informed City Council about a Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant received by the Public Works Department and will be used after July 1 of this year and bids will be taken to add a building for the recycling of latex paint. This will reduce the amount of paint recycled by the County next year.

Upon questioning, Mr. Lambert stated that the building could be completed within 60 days. He stated that it would be a simple metal building with a concrete floor. This service will be offered certain days of the week with no charge. He said this service will be advertised to the public once in place.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Underwood, seconded by Councilmember Holcomb and unanimously carried, the City Council did not approve the \$5,000 increase to the Solid Waste Disposal Fund with the County.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed information on the Brownfield Coalition May 15 meeting minutes. The minutes of the meeting are being provided as a matter of information only. No action is required.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Underwood, seconded by Councilmember Holcomb and unanimously carried, the City Council acknowledged receiving the Brownfield Coalition May 15 meeting minutes.

The Mayor and City Council reviewed information on the Safe Routes to School Grant to construct sidewalks in the vicinity of Albemarle Middle School and East Albemarle Elementary School. The City has been notified that it has received a grant in the amount of \$51,968.00 from NCDOT to construct sidewalks on Badin Road, Parkway Drive, East Main Street, and Berry Drive to provide safer pedestrian access for students at AMS and East Albemarle Elementary.

The grant would pay for 100% of the materials cost for these sidewalks, with Public Works personnel providing the labor. City staff is reviewing the grant agreement which will be placed before City Council in July for consideration.

The City Manager stated that very few applicants were approved. He stated that the grant was well written by Engineering Services Director Jon Mendenhall with assistance from Public Works Director Mike Lambert. The Public Works department will be placing the sidewalks. Mr. Allen commended Jon Mendenhall and Mike Lambert for all their hard work.

Councilmember Hall stated that this is part of the Rural Planning Organization (RPO). They work with NCDOT and local officials to enhance transportation planning opportunities for rural areas in the

region by 1) developing long rang transportation plans for their region, 2) providing transportation related data to local governments, 3) developing projects for the transportation improvement program, and 4) provide a forum for public involvement in the transportation planning process.

The Mayor and City Council were reminded about the City Employee Picnic on Thursday, June 18 -11:30 am to 1:30 pm at City Lake Park. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served, and the City Manager, Assistant City Manager and Department Heads will be preparing and serving the meal with assistance from some other employees.

The Mayor asked if the Council could be of assistance at the employee picnic. The City Manager stated that if anyone would like to help, that would be fine or just come out and join the employees for the picnic.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council adjourned to a closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318(a) 3 to consult with the attorney.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council reconvened to open session. Mayor Whitley announced a closed session was held pursuant to NCGS 143-318(a) 3 to consult with the attorney and there was nothing to report at this time.

Councilmember Holcomb asked about a sign on NC 24-27 Hwy., near Stanly Gardens of Memory, advertising lake property and if this sign complies with City ordinance. The Mayor stated that this will be turned over to Planner II Keith Wolf to investigate.

Councilmember Neel asked if the Councilmembers can be included in the furniture selection for the new City Hall. He stated that he would like to help determine the seating in the new council chambers and conference room. The City Manager said that this would be fine. He also stated that multiple lines are being selected and then their will be a bid on these items.

Councilmember Neel gave a special congratulations to the Albemarle Fire Department who met all fire regulations 100% and asked Fire Marshal Brian Taylor to relay this to the firemen. Mr. Neel also mentioned the great job performed at the Smith Street Bridge by the Public Works and Public Utilities departments.

Councilmember Neel stated that there is a problem at the stop light at the Henson Street and NC 24-27 intersection. He stated that there is not enough time, only 18 seconds, to drive through before the light changes. He said that this stop light area should be like the one at the Walmart and NC 24-27 intersection. Councilmember Holcomb stated that there is also a problem at the E Main and Pee Dee Avenue stoplight. Mayor Whitley stated that NCDOT needed to take a look at the stoplight on Henson Street. Councilmember Neel stated that a lot of traffic moves to this stoplight due to not being able to return to NC 24-27 in other places without a long wait.

Councilmember Alexander stated that he had read that stimulus funds were being used to change some street lights to LED. The City Manager stated that Public Utilities Director Ernie Borders and his staff are looking into this by attending a webinar online.

Councilmember Hall reminded everyone that the Cruise In is this coming Friday downtown.

The City Manager mentioned that there was a ribbon cutting for the Roger F. Snyder Greenway earlier today and Council needed to approve expenditures of \$1,525 over the amended budgeted figure.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the transfer of funds from the General Snyder Greenway Account to the Greenway Phase I Project.

(Resolution 09-34. Approving the transfer of funds from the General Fund Snyder Greenway Account to Greenway Phase I Project.)

Police Chief Michael came before City Council and stated that Jim Harwood and Walt Misenheimer, Sons of Confederate Veterans had approved moving the confederate soldier statue in front of City Hall to the back of Liberty Gardens. This will be an expense to the City and the City would contract with a crane and removal service to relocate the statue to Liberty Gardens.

The City Manager stated that the statue is really owned by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and that this organization had approved this move as well.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Holcomb, seconded by Councilmember Hall and unanimously carried, the City Council approved the relocating of the confederate soldier statue to Liberty Gardens.

The City Manager stated that he had some bad news pertaining to the grant for the new Fire Station/Police Station. He stated that this will not pay for the law enforcement part of the building. The City would be responsible for the law enforcement part of the building. He asked if Council would like to proceed with this or drop the project at this point.

Chief Michael stated that he had talked with contractor Scott Garner and the preliminary figure is around \$2.2 million. This would create a \$500,000 out of pocket cost for the City to do the law enforcement part of the building, if the \$1.7 million grant is approved. Mr. Michael stated that within 2 years, the City will have to relocate their substation from Stanly Community College to another location. He asked if Council would like to continue by matching funds with the stimulus money to move forward.

Mayor Whitley stated that originally it was decided to build a fire station and add the law enforcement part later. Chief Michael stated that it would cost \$500,000 or more to do this at a later time. Mayor Whitley stated that the stimulus money is for the building of a fire station only.

Councilmember Neel stated that the City could borrow from the electric fund reserves and use this to our best benefit.

Councilmember Hall stated that the City has the drawings but there is no answer on the stimulus funds at this time. She said that if the stimulus funds are awarded in the amount of \$1.7 million that maybe the City should move forward with the law enforcement part to remove the police substation from the Stanly Community College campus. Councilmember Underwood stated that waiting and doing this later would probably cost more money. Councilmember Alexander stated that he would have to agree with Councilmember Hall, to use the \$1.7 million dollars in stimulus money if received and add the \$500,000 cost to build the law enforcement part of the building.

Mayor Whitley stated that Council needs to have the figures of existing obligations before considering this new debt. He asked the City Manager to bring back before Council all current debt obligations before any decisions are made. Councilmember Holcomb stated that she did not want to see the City over extend itself. Councilmember Hall stated that it is important to consider this now rather than waiting until later.

Chief Michael stated that the application is due by July 10 and the next Council meeting is not until Tuesday, July 7. Mayor Whitley stated that there could be a meeting called and this would not have to wait until July 7. The City Manager stated that the application for this grant money is very competitive. The Mayor asked that Mr. Allen gather all the financial information and call a meeting soon. Councilmember Neel asked if Monday, June 22 at 5:30 pm could be penciled in on everyone's calendar to meet on this. The City Manager stated that he could have the information ready and emailed to Council by this Friday.

The City Manager stated that the clearing of aeration basins is being performed and the product is dry for the disposal in the landfill. He stated that Councilmembers could come down and see the process with Public Utilities Director Ernie Borders and Stephen Chambers with Chambers Engineering to explain the process. He asked if he could set a time with Mr. Borders and Mr. Chambers and let Council know. He said

with the warm days ahead, it would probably be better to schedule some time in the morning. Members of Council expressed interest in seeing this process.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Underwood and unanimously carried, the City Council adjourned to Monday, June 22 at 5:30 with a meeting on the stimulus funds to build a new fire station.