

## MINUTES

Regular Meeting  
City Hall Council Chamber

August 15, 2022  
Monday, 6:00 p.m.

**Present:** Mayor O. Stanhope Anthony III, presiding; Council Members David Causby, Violet Arth, Andrew L. Hopper Sr., and Emilie Bullock.; City Manager Rick Howell, MPA, ICMA-CM, Assistant City Manager Justin S. Merritt, MPA, Assistant City Manager Benjamin (Ben) Yarboro, City Attorney Andrea Leslie-Fite, City Clerk Carol Williams, Deputy City Clerk Breanna Jones, Public Information and Communications Officer Chip Nuhrah, Director of Human Resources Deborah (Deb) Jolly, Director of Finance Elizabeth (Beth) Beam, CPA, Police Chief Jeffrey (Jeff) Ledford, Fire Chief William Hunt, EFO, Interim Public Works Director Scott Black, and Jennipher H. Harrill, Social Media Manager, Blue Eyes Media Connections;

**Absent:** Council Members David White and Charles Webber

Mayor Anthony called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. recognizing U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Houston Creech of the Golden Knights parachute team. Mayor Anthony asked Mr. Hopper to introduce Sgt. Creech. Mr. Hopper proudly introduced Sgt. Creech and asked him to briefly tell everyone about the Golden Knights.

Staff Sergeant Houston Creech, who is originally from Cleveland County, gave a synopsis of the parachute team and how he got involved with the team. The Golden Knights are to parachute and put on a show before the American Legion World Series championship game on Tuesday evening.

Mayor Anthony delivered the invocation and Mr. Hopper along with U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Houston Creech led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### A. Approval of agenda:

- 1) Motion to adopt the proposed agenda

**ACTION TAKEN:** Upon a motion by Ms. Arth, City Council voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

### B. Special Presentation:

- 1) Cleveland County Chamber update – Christine Cribb, Executive Director

Christine Cribb presented an update to Council on the Cleveland County Chamber entitled “Reflect on the Past, Be a Force for the Future.” Ms. Cribb said her year started as a listening tour to learn the history of the Chamber in Cleveland County and what the members thought about the vision for the Chamber. Ms. Cribb stated the vision for the Cleveland County Chamber is Cleveland County will prosper as a unique destination to live, work and play. The mission of the Chamber is to strengthen business, promote economic development, and enhance community vitality. Ms. Cribb expounded on the vision and mission and said her purpose was to see businesses succeed.

Ms. Cribb stated the Chamber is a non-profit and gave the following information:

- Serving 505 members as of Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>
- Gained 89 new members in past year
- 20 Board of Directors
- 2.33 staff members
- 20 Ambassadors
- and priceless volunteers

Ms. Cribb continued her presentation by stating the Chamber is serving members through resources, education, marketing, and networking.

Ms. Cribb described new programs in 2022:

- Economic Summit
- Frozen Friday
- Membership Luncheon
- The Wine Cellar
- Lunch and Learns
- Career Café
- Thanks a Latte
- Non-Profit Network
- Teacher Appreciation
- Member Mentors

Ms. Cribb added that in 2023 the Cleveland County Chamber is adding:

- Professional Woman’s Breakfast
- Business over Breakfast

Ms. Cribb also stated the Chamber introduced a new website and flipped data bases, which is about 80% complete and will be a spectacular resource for Chamber members.

Ms. Cribb concluded by saying she’s excited to start her second year with the Cleveland County Chamber. She stated she’s conscious of the past and history of the Chamber and wants the Chamber to be a force for the future. Ms. Cribb

added that the Chamber has averaged about 10 new members a month since January.

Mayor Anthony stated that the energy and enthusiasm Ms. Cribb has brought to the Chamber has been infectious and the City appreciates all the hard work she has been doing.

**C. Public Comment:**

None

**D. Consent Agenda:**

Mayor Anthony presented the consent agenda. Mr. Causby moved to approve the consent agenda and the following items were unanimously adopted:

- 1) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 1, 2022
- 2) Approval of a Resolution honoring Julie Reynolds McMurry on the occasion of her retirement from employment with the City of Shelby: Resolution No. 59-2022
- 3) Approval of Special Event Application:
  - a) Shiloh Baptist Church Community Block Party, requested date: September 17, 2022
- 4) Adoption of a Budget Ordinance Amendment for the City Of Shelby's American Rescue Plan Water and Sewer Project: Ordinance No. 48-2022
- 5) Notice of Cancellation in the Regular Meeting Schedule of Shelby City Council – September 5, 2022

**E. Unfinished Business:**

None

**F. New Business**

- 1) Consideration of appointments to City advisory boards and commissions:
  - a) Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Mayor Anthony reported the terms of three incumbents, Allen Langley, David Lynn, and Robert Coleman concluded July 2022. All three incumbents wish to continue their service. Mayor Anthony further stated there is a vacancy that needs to be filled as well with a term concluding in July 2024

There are two applications on file in the Clerk's Office:

- Chris Gray (Ward 4)
- Tanzy Wallace (Ward 5)

Ms. Arth nominated Allen Langley, David Lynn, and Robert Coleman for reappointment and Chris Gray for appointment to fill the vacancy.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Upon a motion made by Mr. Hopper, City Council voted unanimously to approve to close the nominations and accept the nominations by acclamation.

**2) FIRST READING: An Ordinance amending Chapter 16 of the City Of Shelby Code Of Ordinances: Ordinance No. 49-2022**

City Attorney Leslie-Fite introduced Ordinance No. 49-2022 for Council's consideration. Mrs. Leslie-Fite stated this ordinance updates Chapter 16 of our Code of Ordinances which addresses noise emission in the City limits. Mrs. Leslie-Fite stated that after consulting with staff and the City Manager it was decided to bring this amendment to Council for consideration. Mrs. Leslie-Fite further stated that these amendments are in keeping with the several jurisdictions that the City typically compare with, and they tend to be within the scope of current trends and constitutional compliance. Mrs. Leslie-Fite concluded by saying this is the first reading and Council can reflect on this amendment and take a vote at their next meeting.

Ms. Arth asked for clarification about the new amendments. Mrs. Leslie-Fite declared that the new language is added to the Ordinance with the old language still shown by strikethroughs for comparison. Mrs. Leslie-Fite also stated that nothing has triggered this amendment but that it had not been revised in several years, and it is important to bring it into compliance with current case law.

By consensus, City Council decided not to vote on Ordinance No. 49-2022 at this time and will address it again with a Second Reading scheduled for September 19, 2022.

**G. City Manager's Report:**

- Regarding the City Park pool renovations: Pre-construction conference has occurred and work should start soon after Labor Day.
- Regarding the City Hall Annex work: The City has solicited RFQs for architectural services on that building (the old Shelby Police Dept.) which will be used in the future for Building Inspections, Planning and Human Resources. Selection for an architect should be soon.
- Regarding the City Hall Roof improvement project: There is a possible bid time of early September.
- Regarding Shell Building #4: 95% of the mass grading is complete, half of the slab is complete, and wall panels will be up in mid-September.
- Regarding Rail Trail Phase 1A: that project should start around August 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Regarding Depot Park: Staff is working through engineering proposals with a recommendation soon.
- Regarding TAMP Resurfacing Project: Phase 1 has begun with Piedmont Ave., Hobbs Street and others completed and paving will continue with over 17 miles resurfaced with the bond money passed by voters.
- Regarding County Home Road project: The new road should be complete in March 2023 which will hopefully be a safer road for traffic in that area.
- Regarding Phase 2 of the Public Works roof replacement: This project is currently underway. Mr. Howell also stated that Public Works is behind on brush collection due to the two storms recently which caused major cleanup because of 23 trees that came down.
- Regarding utility projects: Randolph Road sewer lift station project is moving forward but are waiting on materials to be delivered. The City received a \$400,000 grant application for an American Rescue Plan grant for analysis of the aging parts of the Water and Sewer systems.
- Mr. Howell stated the Town of Kingstown has paid in full the past due amount for sewer that was owed the City of Shelby.
- Mr. Howell elaborated to Council the significant staffing challenges that the City is currently facing. He further stated this can affect response time in providing services to our citizens but will certainly not affect quality. Mr. Howell continued by stating our staff steps up and most citizens probably don't know of our staffing shortage. Mr. Howell stated there continues to

be wage pressure and wages are going to need to be continually addressed in a thoughtful manner. Mr. Howell stated another challenge is to not burn employees out due to the staffing shortage.

- Mr. Howell publicly thanked City Attorney Andrea Leslie-Fite for her work with the City the past two years stating she has been a joy to work with. Mr. Howell continued by stating she's a top-notch attorney and also a wonderful person to work with. Mr. Howell is proud that she will be the next Guilford County attorney, but she will be missed by the City of Shelby.

#### H. Council Announcements and Remarks:

Mayor Anthony continued the sentiment of Mr. Howell by thanking Andrea Leslie-Fite for her service; she's bright, competent and wonderful to work with. Mayor Anthony stated she will be a rock star in Guilford County.

Mr. Hopper stated Andrea's leaving is bittersweet; he's happy for her career advancement but he asked Andrea to remember she learned things here in Shelby, and that Shelby City Council prepared her for Guilford County.

Mr. Hopper also expressed his enthusiasm for the relationship the American Legion World Series has now with the Golden Knights parachute team. He hopes this is something that can be brought back to the series for years to come. Mr. Hopper also mentioned that the military has a shortage of young people going into the military so the Asheville recruiting battalion will be at the game tomorrow to talk about recruiting.

Mr. Causby wished Andrea Leslie-Fite the best and she would always have friends in Shelby.

Ms. Arth commented that she has been lucky to serve with Andrea Leslie-Fite on the Arts Council, Junior Charity League, and City Council and that she wishes Andrea all the best with her future career and her leaving is bittersweet.

Mrs. Bullock stated that her time serving with Andrea Leslie-Fite has definitely not been long enough but wished her well and knew she would do great in Guilford County.

#### I. Closed Session

- 1) To consult with an attorney in order to preserve the attorney client privilege pursuant to N.C.G.S.143-318.11(a)(3)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Mr. Hopper made a motion to enter a closed session

pursuant to the appropriate North Carolina General Statute as cited. Mayor Anthony consulted with Mrs. Fite who advised the topic met the statutory requirements for a closed session. The Mayor invited all Council members present along with Mr. Howell, Mrs. Fite, Mrs. Williams, and Mrs. Jones to attend. The motion passed unanimously, and Council moved into closed session at 6:40p.m.

Council returned to the regular session at 7:01p.m.

Mrs. Leslie-Fite thanked Council and Mr. Howell for the opportunity to practice law in Shelby. She stated she was delighted to be considered and selected as Shelby's first staff attorney. She has enjoyed the journey and there is not a better staff or community or Board to work with. Mrs. Leslie-Fite stated this is home for her family and she will be coming back to visit.

**J. Adjournment:**

**1) Motion to adjourn**

**ACTION TAKEN:** Upon a motion made by Ms. Arth, City Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Williams  
City Clerk

O. Stanhope Anthony III  
Mayor

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