

TOWN OF STANTONSBURG

DATE: October 15, 2019

Public Hearing

Mayor Bill Edmundson called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 pm with the following Council members present: Councilman Bass, Councilwoman Rhodes and Councilman Dew. Town Manager Gary Davis and Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey were also present. Chief of Police Orlando Rosario and Police Officer Nicholas White arrived at approximately 7:03 pm. Librarian Anna Joiner was also present from the public.

The purpose of the public hearing was to hear citizen comments regarding the consideration of proposed amendments of the Town of Stantonburg Code of Ordinance to amend the Minimum Housing Ordinance and add an Abandoned Structures Ordinance. There were no questions, from the public, so Mayor Edmundson declared the Public Hearing closed at approximately 7:09 pm.

Mayor Bill Edmundson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:10 pm. The following Council members were present: Powell Dew, Coley Rhodes and Donnie Bass. Also present were Town Manager Gary Davis, Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey, Chief of Police Orlando Rosario and Police Officer Nicholas White. Librarian Anna Joiner was also present from the public.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Prayer: Councilman Bass led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman Dew opened the meeting with prayer.

A. Approve open and closed meeting minutes for September 16, 2019: Councilman Dew made a motion to approve the minutes for the open and closed meetings as written. With a second from Councilman Bass, all members voted in favor of the motion.

B. Financial Report:

Receipts \$418,308.33 Disbursements \$357,645.04 Difference \$60,663.29

MMB: Councilman Bass made a motion, with a second by Councilman Dew, to approve the Financial Report. All Council members voted in favor of the motion.

C. Invoices for Payment: Total: \$9,415.26

Councilman Dew made a motion to approve the invoices for payment. With a second by Councilwoman Rhodes, all Council members voted favorably.

D. Public Present: N/A

E. Fire Department: N/A

F. Police Report: Chief of Police Orlando Rosario introduced Police Officer Nicholas White to the Council members as the newest addition to the Stantonsburg Police Department.

Chief Rosario also informed the Council that Officer Jose Rivera has completed a K-9 program offered at Edgecombe Community College and that this course was at no additional cost to the Town.

Police Chief Rosario stated that the annual Stantonsburg Christmas Parade will be held December 7th at 11:00 am.

G. Parks & Rec: Mayor Edmundson informed the Board that due to recent developments, there is no plans for expansion, lease renewal or a new grant application for the park.

H. Appearance Committee: Councilwoman Rhodes informed the Council that the Appearance Committee is looking into different options to replace the Holly trees on Main St. and Commercial Ave. For example, lamp posts or planting flowers low to the ground.

At this time, Mr. Davis presented (4) utility extension request. After careful review, Councilman Dew made a motion to grant all extension requests with the stipulation that they be paid by noon on the dates requested. Councilwoman Rhodes seconded the motion with all other Council members voting in favor of the motion.

I. Town Manager's Report: Mr. Davis presented the overtime report for September 2019. September 2019 overtime was down with 102 ¼ hrs compared to 163 ½ hrs in September 2018. Town Manager Gary Davis noted that overtime for September 2019 included overtime for the Crepe Myrtle Festival.

Mr. Davis distributed a summary of the guidelines that the Council had previously given regarding health insurance for retirees. The summary states that effective January 1, 2020, the Town of Stantonsburg will also provide continuing health insurance benefits to employees who retire from the Town if certain eligibility conditions are met. These eligibility conditions are as follows:

-If a Town employee has been employed by the Town of Stantonsburg for at least twenty-five consecutive years and has reached the age of sixty, the Town will pay 100% of the retiree's health insurance premium if the retiree elects such coverage and only if the employee actually retires from the North Carolina Local Government Employees Retirement System. However, the Town of Stantonsburg will discontinue payment of the retired employee's health insurance premium once the retiree becomes eligible for Medicare benefits (currently age 65).

Councilman Bass made a motion to adopt the personnel policy as presented. With a second by Councilwoman Rhodes, all Council members voted favorably.

At this time, Mr. Davis presented the Council with the proposed amendments of the Town of Stantonsburg Code of Ordinance to amend the Minimum Housing Ordinance and add an Abandoned Structures Ordinance. Mr. Davis stated that these amendments will allow the Town to move forward with residential and commercial structural code enforcement without having to rely solely on Wilson County. Councilman Dew made a motion to adopt the proposed amendments of the Town of Stantonsburg Code of Ordinance

to amend the Minimum Housing Ordinance and add an Abandoned Structures Ordinance. Councilman Bass seconded the motion with all Council members voting in favor of the motion.

J. Councilman Horne: N/A

K. Councilman Bass: Councilman Bass asked Town Manager Gary Davis what the lease with Norfolk Southern Railway will allow the Town to do or not do. Mr. Davis stated that the lease will allow the plantings that the Town already has to be maintained and for the beauty shop to remain on the railroad's property.

Councilman Bass asked Mr. Davis if anything is being done about the damaged railing on Saratoga St. Mr. Davis informed the Council that they have taken up the damaged railing in order to replace it. The previous railing was not salvageable.

L. Councilwoman Rhodes: N/A

M. Councilman Dew: Councilman Dew informed the Board that he has asked Chief Rosario to keep a record of how many people use the park and what areas are highly used. The Council agreed that this would be beneficial for any future plans for the park.

N. Councilwoman Grice: N/A

O. Mayor: Mayor Edmundson asked Town Manager Gary Davis if there is any news regarding the Saratoga Wastewater. Mr. Davis stated that he has not heard anything new at this time.

At this time, Mayor Edmundson expressed gratitude to the Town crew for taking care of issues with the electrical metering.

Councilman Dew made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters and land acquisition. With a second by Councilwoman Rhodes, all Council members present voted favorably.

Mayor Edmundson declared the meeting back into open session at approximately 8:40 pm.

Councilman Dew made a motion to provide merit raises of 2 ½% for Tabitha Bailey, Patsy Godwin, Spencer Floars, Roger Sullivan and Gary Davis. Councilwoman Rhodes seconded the motion with all other Council members voting in favor of the motion.

Councilman Dew made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Bass seconded the motion with all Council members voting in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tabitha Bailey
Town Clerk, Finance Officer

William H. Edmundson, Mayor