

TOWN OF STANTONSBURG

DATE: December 09, 2019

Mayor Bill Edmundson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following Council members were present: Jackie Grice, Powell Dew, Coley Rhodes and Donnie Bass. Councilman Ken D. Horne arrived at approximately 7:30 pm. Also present were Town Manager Gary Davis, Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey, Sergeant Crystal Jackson and Chief of Police Orlando Rosario. There were many present from the public.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Prayer: Mr. Seth Hunt led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilwoman Grice opened the meeting with prayer.

A. Approve regular and closed meeting minutes for November 11, 2019:

Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the minutes as written. With a second from Councilman Bass, all members voted in favor of the motion.

B. Financial Report:

Receipts \$263,494.28 Disbursements \$207,861.83 Difference \$55,632.45

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: \$22,233.80

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

At this time, Mayor Edmundson introduced the Honorable Judge Beth Freshwater-Smith to perform the swearing in ceremony.

The Honorable Judge Beth Freshwater-Smith administered the Oath of Office to Mayor-Elect Coley H. Rhodes and Councilman Walter Bynum.

Judge Freshwater-Smith took time to recognize Mayor Coley Rhodes as the first woman Mayor for the Town of Stantonburg and expressed what a great honor it was to be able to administer the Oath of Office.

Mr. Seth Hunt read a letter received from the office of Governor Roy Cooper congratulating Mayor Rhodes for her achievements and wishing her the best of luck.

At this time, Mayor Rhodes thanked Mayor Edmundson for his service to the Town of Stantonburg. Mayor Rhodes also thanked the Honorable Judge Beth Freshwater-Smith, family and friends for their support. Mayor Rhodes gave special thanks to her brother, Seth Hunt, for encouraging her to run for Mayor. For her first official act as Mayor, Mayor Rhodes called for a twenty to thirty minute recess to enjoy a reception that Mayor Rhodes had prepared. Mayor Rhodes stated that this will give everyone a chance to mingle with their Commissioners. The meeting was recessed at approximately 7:15 pm.

(Councilman Ken D. Horne was sworn in by the Honorable Judge Beth Freshwater-Smith during the reception.)

The meeting reconvened at approximately 7:40 pm.

At this time, Councilwoman Grice made a motion to elect Councilman Ken D. Horne as Mayor Pro-Tem. Councilman Horne respectfully declined due to his work schedule. Councilman Horne made a motion to appoint Councilman Donnie Bass as Mayor Pro-Tem. With a second by Councilwoman Grice, all Council members voted favorably.

Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the meeting dates and holiday schedule as presented for the year 2020. Councilman Horne seconded the motion with all other Council members voting in favor of the motion.

D. Public Present: N/A

E. Fire Department: N/A

F. Police Report: Police Chief Orlando Rosario informed the Council that the annual Stantonsburg Christmas parade was a great success. Mayor Rhodes asked Chief Rosario why the Fike, Beddingfield and Hunt High School bands were not at the parade. Chief Rosario stated that he had confirmation from all three schools that they would be there, but they did not show up. Police Chief Rosario informed the Council that Eastern Wayne High School band was the only band that participated in the parade.

G. Parks & Rec: N/A

H. Appearance Committee: Mayor Rhodes stated that Tommy Shingleton and Steve Mooring will put up the final Town of Stantonsburg sign on December 10, 2019. This sign will be located near the Wainesfield subdivision and should be completed by the end of the week.

I. Town Manager's Report: Mr. Davis presented the overtime report for November 2019. November 2019 overtime was up with 75 ½ hrs compared to 56 ½ hrs in November 2018. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that this was primarily due to picking up and returning a rental bucket truck on two consecutive Fridays while the Town's bucket truck was being repaired.

At this time, Mr. Davis informed the Council that Well #5 is out of service. Mr. Davis stated that AC Schultes pulled the pump and videoed the well. AC Schultes found that the pump was bad and that the screens are stopped up. Mr. Davis informed the Council that Well #5 will need to be chemically cleaned and this cleaning will cost \$6,750.00. Mr. Davis stated that once the well has been cleaned and tested, AC Schultes will make a recommendation on whether to replace or repair the pump.

Mr. Davis informed the Council that the Town has secured a site for the new well project and is waiting for the State to come by and approve the site. Town Manager Gary Davis also stated that the Town was granted an extension from the State for the project.

Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey informed the Board that she received an email from the Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments requesting information as to whether Mayor Coley Rhodes will replace Mayor Edmundson on its Board of Directors or if a Council member will be voted to do so. Mayor Rhodes asked the Council if anyone was willing to fill this seat. Once no one volunteered to do so, Mayor Rhodes stated that she would be glad to fill the seat on the UCPCG Board of Directors.

J. Councilman Horne: Councilman Horne stated that he would be in favor of nominating Councilman Dew to fill the vacant seat on the Council. Councilman Bynum asked Mayor Rhodes if she has heard from anyone that may be interested in filling the position. Mayor Rhodes stated that she has received interest in the Council seat. Mayor Rhodes also stated that she feels the Board should table this decision until the next meeting and give other interested residents a chance to submit resumes. All Council members agreed.

K. Councilman Bass: Councilman Bass congratulated Mayor Coley Rhodes and Commissioner Bynum. Councilman Bass also thanked Councilman Dew for his service to the Town. At this time, Councilman Bass informed Town Manager Gary Davis that the paving in Town looks great and hopes to move forward with more projects to get more paving done.

L. Councilman Bynum: Councilman Bynum informed the Council that he has a lot of things that he wants to get done, but that this night was more for getting acquainted. Councilman Bynum feels the Town needs to do more planning and when the Town plans something it needs to get done.

M. Councilwoman Grice: Councilwoman Grice thanked Councilman Dew for his service and congratulated Mayor Rhodes and Councilman Bynum.

N. Mayor: N/A

Councilman Bynum made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion. All other members voted in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tabitha Bailey, Town Clerk/Finance Officer

Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor

