

TOWN OF STANTONSBURG

DATE: February 10, 2020

Mayor Coley H. Rhodes called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following Council members were present: Jackie Grice, Walter Bynum, Donnie Bass and Ken D. Horne. Also present were Town Manager Gary Davis, Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey, Chief of Police Orlando Rosario and Police Officer Nicholas White. Librarian Anna Joiner, Mick Rankin, Eartha Butler, Ben Harper and many others were present from the public.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Prayer: Mayor Rhodes led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with prayer.

At this time, Mayor Rhodes addressed the Council and encouraged the Board to work as a team to make things better and to try new ideas.

A. Approve regular and special meeting minutes for January 2020: All Council members voted to approve the meeting minutes for January 2020.

B. Financial Report:

Receipts \$354,377.19 Disbursements \$239,232.41 Difference \$115,144.78

C. Invoices for Payment: Total: \$24,964.23

Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the invoices for payment. All Council members voted favorably.

D. Public Present:

Mick Rankin introduced himself and stated that he wanted to remind everyone that the NC primary is coming up and that early voting begins February 13, 2020.

At this time, June Shingleton addressed the Board regarding the empty Commissioner seat. Mrs. Shingleton stated that voting in an election is the main way for citizens to make their wishes known and if a person is not reelected, that means that the majority of the citizens wanted that person replaced. Mrs. Shingleton requested that the Board consider the wishes of the citizens of Stantonburg when appointing someone to fill the vacant Commissioner seat. She also stated that the citizens of Stantonburg are very interested in what is going on in the Town and anxious for signs of positive change.

Connie Blythe stated that she agreed with Mrs. Shingleton and requested that the Board move forward with a new Commissioner.

Mrs. Blythe also informed the Council that the Town has a cat problem that needs to be addressed.

Linda Mooring stated that she also agreed with Mrs. Shingleton and informed the Commissioners that it is very important to mingle with the citizens of Stantonsburg and find out where they stand on issues regarding the Town.

Dooley Ezzard addressed the Council and stated that the will of the people should be the primary interest of the Board and that this applies to the empty seat on the Board.

Angie Perkins stated that her husband is the doctor at the Stantonsburg clinic and she also agrees with the other citizens and feels that the Council should listen to the wishes of the people.

Mrs. Perkins also informed the Council that something needs to be done with the Seal Building and Main St. Mrs. Perkins stated that Main St. is the heart of the Town and that it speaks to anyone that comes through Town. Mrs. Perkins informed the Council that, in order to draw people and businesses to our Town, an effort needs to be made to beautify Main St.

Jeff Reddick informed the Council that he would also like to see something done with the Seal Building. Mr. Reddick stated that the building was once his father's repair shop and that it would mean a lot to him to see progress on this building. Mr. Reddick also stated that he is willing to donate his time and labor to help work on the building.

At this time, Councilman Bynum made a motion to appoint Benjamin Harper to the Town Board. Councilman Horne thanked the public for their feedback and concerns. Councilman Horne also stated that he was not aware of how the citizens felt and that he is a firm believer that the Council serves the entire Town of Stantonsburg. Councilman Horne informed the public present to feel free to come to him with any concerns in the future. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

Benjamin Harper was sworn in by Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey as the Town's new Council member.

E. Fire Department: N/A

F. Police Report: Chief of Police Orlando Rosario presented the police report and stated that there were only six citations for the month of January.

G. Parks & Rec: N/A

H. Appearance Committee: June Shingleton informed the Council that the Appearance Committee has almost finished the planting at the small triangle.

Mrs. Shingleton stated that the Appearance Committee is requesting lighting for the new signs at the Town entrances and that the trees on Main St. be removed.

The Appearance Committee is also making final decisions on replacing the Town's trash cans.

At this time, Mrs. Shingleton stated that the Appearance Committee would like to commend Robert Watson, Jacob Whitley and Dylan Reason for their hard work pruning and spreading mulch in the plant beds across from the Town Hall.

At this time, Mr. Davis presented (4) utility extension requests. After careful review, Councilwoman Grice made a motion to grant extension requests #1, 2, 3 and deny extension request #4. With the stipulation that extension requests #1, 2 and 3 be paid by noon on the date requested, all other Council members voted in favor of the motion.

I. Town Manager's Report: Town Manager Gary Davis informed the Board that employee Dylan Reason has completed his 6-month probationary period of employment with the Town of Stantonburg. Mr. Davis recommended that Dylan Reason be made a permanent full-time employee with the customary 5% pay increase. Councilman Bynum made a motion to promote Dylan Reason to permanent full-time employment with the customary 5% pay increase. All Council members voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Davis presented the Council with an amended audit contract with Carr, Riggs and Ingram extending the due date from October 31, 2019 to February 29, 2020. Mr. Davis stated that the Town was required to have a more intense audit this year because of some grant money that the Town received, which required three steps of review with the Town's current auditor. Town Manager Gary Davis informed the Council that Carr, Riggs and Ingram noted that it is in no way the fault of the Town. It was Mr. Davis' recommendation that the Council approve the amended audit contract with Carr, Riggs and Ingram. Councilman Horne made a motion to accept the amended audit contract with Carr, Riggs and Ingram. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

At this time, Mr. Davis informed the Council that the refurbishment work has been completed on Well #5 and is ready to be put back in service, but it is pending State approval for a change to a submersible pump.

At this time, Town Manager Gary Davis stated that the preconstruction conference for the new well was recently held with the contractor, A.C. Schultes. The contractor expects to get started on the test well within four to six weeks.

J. Councilman Horne: Councilman Horne stated that the soccer nets need to be fixed at the park.

K. Councilman Bass: Councilman Bass thanked Eartha Butler for her interest in serving the Town.

Councilman Bass requested that the Stantonburg EMS and Stantonburg Fire Department be asked to give a report at the Town meetings.

At this time, Councilman Bass stated that he has obtained some pictures and prices on placing a message board next door to the Town Hall and other ideas for spaces around Town.

L. Councilman Harper: N/A

M. Councilman Bynum: Councilman Bynum asked if the Stantonsburg EMS is receiving money from the Town. Mayor Rhodes stated that they are not receiving money from the Town because they have not fulfilled their obligation by providing quarterly reports. Per previous Council action, Town Manager Gary Davis stated that the Board would have to give prior approval before the Town gave the Stantonsburg EMS any more payments.

N. Councilwoman Grice: N/A

O. Mayor: Mayor Rhodes asked the Commissioners to text a picture of themselves so that they can be placed on the website. Mayor Rhodes stated that she wants to emphasize the positive things going on in Stantonsburg and post them on the Town's website.

Mayor Rhodes informed the Commissioners that she would like to hold a workshop at some point in the near future just to discuss the Seal Building.

Mayor Rhodes asked the Commissioners how they felt about the information presented by Councilman Bass for a message board. Councilman Bynum stated that he felt it was a good idea and recommended getting with the Appearance Committee to get their views on the matter.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tabitha Bailey
Town Clerk, Finance Officer

Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor

