

TOWN OF STANTONSBURG

DATE: March 09, 2020

Mayor Coley H. Rhodes called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following Council members were present: Ben Harper, Walter Bynum, Donnie Bass and Jackie Grice. Councilman Ken D. Horne arrived at approximately 7:49 pm. Also present was Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey. Chief of Police Orlando Rosario and Police Officer Nicholas White arrived at approximately 7:06 pm. Town Manager Gary Davis was absent due to illness. Librarian Anna Joiner, Mick Rankin, Eartha Butler 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.

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

B. Financial Report:

Receipts \$279,282.16 Disbursements \$198,480.04 Difference \$80,802.12

C. Invoices for Payment: Total: \$35,981.69

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

At this time, Martin Amerson with Carr, Riggs and Ingram presented the 2018-2019 audit for the Town of Stantonburg. After careful review, Mr. Amerson stated that the Town's audit was very good and he commended the office staff for a job well done. Mr. Amerson informed the Board that the Town's audit has been approved by the Local Government Commission.

The Town attorney, Slade Rand, addressed the Board concerning social media. After much discussion, Mr. Rand stated that there were a lot of grey areas when it comes to social media. Mr. Rand also stated that the Town of Stantonburg's Police Department is not a separate entity from the Town. Rand informed the Council that when it comes to any social media account for the Town, the public has a right to comment and the Town cannot deny them their second amendment rights.

At this time, Electrical Consultant Kevin O'Donnell addressed the Town Council. Mr. O'Donnell presented the Board with charts showing cumulative monthly savings over the past two years. There was a total savings of approximately \$909,665 that the Town has received since switching from Duke Energy to NTE.

Mr. O'Donnell informed the Council that the Town's electrical meter is on a cellular platform with Verizon and they are having an issue with signal. Mr. O'Donnell stated that

they have discovered that Greenlight in Wilson has a fiber line going by the Town's meter. Greenlight provided Mr. O'Donnell with a quote of \$3,570.00 to install fiber at that metering point, with monthly fees of \$110.00. Mr. O'Donnell informed the Council that he believes a lot of the issues the Town has been having with their metering will go away once they are connected to Greenlight. Mr. O'Donnell did recommend that the Town continue to keep Verizon in place for a couple of months to make certain there are no problems with the fiber. At this time, Mr. O'Donnell recommended connecting the Town's electric meter to Greenlight. Councilman Walt Bynum made a motion to connect the Town of Stantonsburg's electric meter to Greenlight. All Council members voted favorably.

D. Public Present: N/A

E. Fire Department: Fire Chief William McMurray informed the Council that the Stantonsburg Moyton Fire Department will begin painting fire hydrants within the next month. They will also begin testing the hydrants and other equipment.

Councilman Bynum requested that the Stantonsburg Moyton Fire Department begin submitting a financial report to the Town of Stantonsburg annually. Fire Chief William McMurray stated that the Stantonsburg Moyton Fire Department would be glad to submit a financial report to the Town. Councilman Walt Bynum made a motion to require any organization receiving money from the Town of Stantonsburg to submit an annual financial report. All other Council members voted in favor of the motion.

F. Police Report: Chief of Police Orlando Rosario presented the police report and stated that there were seventeen vehicles broken into in the month of February. Chief Rosario stated that they pulled one fingerprint off of one of the vehicles, but it was found that the fingerprint belonged to the victim. At this time, the Stantonsburg Police Department is still working on the investigation. Police Chief Rosario asked that everyone lock their car doors.

G. Parks & Rec: Councilman Ben Harper spoke on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Committee. Councilman Harper presented an estimate to replace the mulch at the park in the amount of \$4,003.13. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to replace the mulch at the park for the amount of \$4,003.13. All Council members voted favorably.

H. Appearance Committee: June Shingleton informed the Council that the Appearance Committee has recently acquired three new members. The current members of the Appearance Committee are Linda Mooring, Janie Williams, Susan Bynum, Neil Vick, Dr. Billy Manning, Dr. Philip Perkins and June Shingleton. Mrs. Shingleton stated that the Appearance Committee plans to meet the first Monday of every month so that they will have a report to present to the Council at the Board meetings.

Mrs. Shingleton stated that the Appearance Committee met with Town Manager Gary Davis and shared with him the specs on the trash cans that the Appearance Committee would like to purchase. Mrs. Shingleton informed the Council that Mr. Davis stated that the trash cans do meet the requirements of the Town for size, weight and ease of use. The

Appearance Committee would like to recommend the purchase of eight trash cans to replace others around the Town.

The Appearance Committee is looking into street lights for Main St. and possibly Commercial Ave. Mrs. Shingleton also stated that the Appearance Committee is looking into placing a message board somewhere in the Town, as was recommended by Councilman Bass. The Appearance Committee would also like to pressure wash the library, paint the beauty shop and begin work on the Seal Building in the near future.

Mrs. Shingleton stated that the Appearance Committee asked Steve Mooring to obtain bids on painting and pressure washing the upper portion of the Seal building and a separate bid for replacing the colonnade. At this time, Steve Mooring presented the Council with bids to pressure wash and paint the upper portion of the Seal Building. Mr. Mooring stated that the bids were as follows: Charres Painting Company for \$6,850.00, Lamar Painting Company for \$6,550.00 and Flores Painting Company for \$9,500.00.

Steve Mooring also presented bids to the Council to replace the colonnade. Bids to replace the colonnade were as follows: DPH Construction for \$45,500.00, Farmer & Son Construction for \$45,210.00 and Vasquez Home Improvement for \$19,406.00. After much discussion, the Council agreed to invite Mr. Vasquez, of Vasquez Home Improvement, to the next meeting to answer any questions the Board might have regarding the construction.

I. Town Manager's Report: N/A

J. Councilman Horne: Councilman Horne requested that the Town get updated signage at the cemetery regarding rules and regulations. Councilman Horne stated that currently some of the signs contradict each other regarding the time that the cemetery is open.

K. Councilman Bass: Councilman Bass asked if there were any updates on the new well. Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey stated that the Town has set up a water account with the City of Wilson to allow A.C. Schultes to have access to their fire hydrant and that drilling should begin soon if it hasn't already.

Councilman Bass stated that he has noticed a lot of cats in the area and asked that Chief Rosario possibly talk with Animal Control about this problem. Councilman Bass pointed out that residents have complained about the smell and have also had damage from the cats.

At this time, Councilman Bass stated that he has received concerns from residents regarding holes at the playground.

L. Councilman Harper: Councilman Harper also stated that the Town has a cat problem that needs to be addressed.

M. Councilman Bynum: Councilman Bynum asked that the Town look into possibly replacing the trash cans at the cemetery.

N. Councilwoman Grice: Councilwoman Grice informed the Council that she recently visited the Town of Lucama and made copies of their rules and regulations regarding

extension requests. Councilwoman Grice asked that Council review these guidelines for possible discussion at the next Board meeting.

O. Mayor: Mayor Rhodes again asked the Commissioners to text a picture of themselves to her so that they can be placed on the website.

Mayor Rhodes informed the Commissioners that Councilman Ben Harper, Town Manager Gary Davis and herself attended a dinner at the Masonic Lodge. Mayor Rhodes stated that the Masons were very kind and expressed a desire to help with upcoming Town projects.

Mayor Rhodes informed the Commissioners that the Town was presented with a check for \$1,600.00 from the ABC Board. Mayor Rhodes stated that the Town received this check because their store in Stantonsburg has been very profitable.

Mayor Rhodes stated that the Town of Stantonsburg does not have a current strategic plan. Mayor Rhodes also stated that she will meet with several people with the Upper Coastal Plain Council of Government on March 16, 2020 to discuss a possible two day workshop of brainstorming with the important Committees in Town.

Mayor Rhodes presented the Council with a list of members of Town Committees for their approval. All Council members approved of the Committee members.

Councilman Bynum made a motion to recess the meeting until March 17, 2020 at 7:00 pm. All Council members voted favorably.

The meeting was recessed at approximately 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tabitha Bailey
Town Clerk, Finance Officer

Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor

