

TOWN OF STANTONSBURG

DATE: June 8, 2020

Public Hearing

Mayor Coley Rhodes called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 with the following Council member present: Councilman Bynum. Councilwoman Grice and Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey arrived at approximately 6:32 pm. Councilman Donnie Bass arrived at approximately 6:35 pm. Town Manager Gary Davis was also present. There were no questions, from the public, so Mayor Rhodes declared the Public Hearing closed at approximately 6:46 pm.

Mayor Coley Rhodes called the regular monthly meeting to order at 6:47pm. The following Council members were present: Jackie Grice, Walt Bynum, Donnie Bass and Ken D. Horne. Councilman Ben Harper arrived at approximately 6:52 pm. Also present were Town Manager Gary Davis and Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey. Chief of Police Orlando Rosario and Sergeant Crystal Jackson arrived at approximately 6:52 pm. June Shingleton and Linda Mooring were present from the Appearance Committee. Annie Artis and Nancy Reed were also 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 meeting minutes for May 11, 2020: All Council members voted to approve the meeting minutes for May 2020.

B. Financial Report:

Receipts \$228,138.47 Disbursements \$194,518.27 Difference \$33,620.20

C. Invoices for Payment: Total: \$11,911.28

Councilman Bynum made a motion to approve the invoices for payment. All Council members voted favorably.

D. Public Present: Mrs. Annie Artis, of 312 Travis St., informed the Council that there was debris by the Church where she lives that the Town had neglected to pick up for several weeks. According to Mrs. Artis, part of this debris was from an old fence that the Church had taken down. Mrs. Artis stated that the Town was called several times to pick up this debris and failed to do so. As a result, Mrs. Artis busted two tires on her vehicle driving around the debris. Mr. Davis, responding to a question from the Council, indicated that the Town had no written record or work order regarding calls about the debris. Mrs. Artis requested that she be reimbursed by the Town for her tires in the amount of approximately \$297.00. After some discussion, Councilman Horne made a motion to reimburse Mrs. Artis in the amount of \$297.00 for her tires, upon her submitting a copy of the receipt. All Council members voted favorably.

Mrs. Annie Artis also stated that the pole near her home is leaning and asked that it be replaced. Mrs. Artis informed the Council that an anchor was placed at her home to help straighten the pole, but that she would rather have a new pole. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that the Town's Electrical Superintendent, Tom Goff, went out and inspected the pole. It was found that the pole had passed inspection. Mr. Davis informed the Council that an anchor was placed at Mrs. Artis' house to help straighten the pole. Mr. Davis also stated that if the pole was replaced, the new pole would also lean because of the weight on the pole unless an anchor was installed as well.

At this time, Mrs. Nancy Reed, of 302 N Travis St., addressed a concern she has regarding a drain pipe that was placed on the lot next to her house. Mrs. Reed stated that the ditch was not dug deep enough and that it is causing her yard to flood. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that the Town asked permission from the owners to dig a ditch there and they would not allow it. A drainage pipe was installed instead. Mr. Davis stated that the pipe could possibly be stopped up, but that he will send someone out there to look at what could be done.

E. Fire Department: N/A

F. Police Report: Chief of Police Orlando Rosario presented the police report to the Town Council.

Chief Rosario informed the Council that Spring Hope Police Department requested the help of the Stantonsburg Police Department, along with several others, to assist with a protest on June 2, 2020. The Stantonsburg Police Department was pleased to assist and was actually sent home because the protest was peaceful.

At this time, Chief Rosario presented two estimates in the amount of \$4,700 and \$5,400 for the replacement of the air conditioning unit at the Stantonsburg Police Department. Chief Rosario stated that at this time, the Police Department does not have a working air conditioning unit. Councilman Harper and Councilman Bynum suggested that Chief Rosario get a quote on a unit that sits outside of the building versus in the ceiling. Chief Rosario stated that he would get that information and get back with them. Chief Rosario also submitted estimates to repair some interior and exterior damage to the Police Department building. Estimates to repair the damage were \$8,000.75 and \$7,750.00. After much discussion, Councilman Harper made a motion to replace the air conditioning unit at the Stantonsburg Police Department. All Council members voted favorably.

G. Parks & Rec: N/A

H. Town Manager's Report: Mr. Davis presented the proposed audit contract with Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2020 for \$23,975. Town Manager Gary Davis highly recommended continuing the relationship the Town has with Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC due to their familiarity with the Town's operation and staff with the changes that Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC has approved to avoid late submission. Councilman Bynum

made a motion to approve the audit contract for \$23,975 with Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 audit. All Council members present voted favorably.

Next, Mr. Davis presented the Proposed Budget Ordinance for FY 2020-2021 as follows:

General Fund:	\$872,300.00	Powell Bill	\$25,000.00
Water/Sewer Fund:	\$809,100.00		
Electric Fund:	\$2,595,200.00		
Total	\$4,276,600.00		

Mr. Davis is proposing a 2 % COL raise for the Council, Mayor and all Town employees.

Mr. Davis is not proposing an increase in property taxes or in any General Fund fees this upcoming Fiscal Year. In the water and sewer fund, Town Manager Gary Davis is proposing a \$0.75 increase in the flat sewer rate, a \$0.50 increase in the flat water rate, and an increase in the water usage rate of \$0.15 per 1,000 gallons. This will also include a \$0.10 per 1,000 gallons water usage rate increase for Wilson County. Electrical rates will remain unchanged for the coming Fiscal Year at the present time. Councilman Bass made a motion to approve the Proposed Budget Ordinance for FY 2020-2021 as presented. All other Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

Town Manager Gary Davis stated that he will need a price on the new air conditioning unit at the Stantonsburg Police Department before he can present Budget Amendment #2. Mr. Davis requested that the Board schedule a separate meeting to approve Budget Amendment #2. The Council agreed to meet on June 22, 2020 at 6:45 pm at the Stantonsburg Town Hall to discuss and approve Budget Amendment #2.

I. Appearance Committee: Linda Mooring requested that the Council schedule a workshop to discuss plans for the Seal Building with the Appearance Committee. The Council agreed to meet with the Appearance Committee to discuss the Seal Building on June 22, 2020 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held outside at the home of June Shingleton to ensure social distancing.

J. Councilman Horne: Councilman Horne stated that he has no problem with Town employees taking a break as long as the work is getting done. Councilman Horne asked Mr. Davis to speak with the department heads and have them encourage the Town employees to make sure that all work is being done.

Councilman Horne asked to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters.

K. Councilman Bass: Councilman Bass stated that the light pole located near the bank is leaning. Town Manager Gary Davis informed Councilman Bass that the light pole has passed inspection and is in no danger of breaking.

L. Councilman Harper: Councilman Harper stated that the Town of Stantonsburg has a cat problem that needs to be dealt with. Mr. Davis stated that Chief Rosario would need to contact Wilson County Animal Control so that they could come out and set traps.

Councilman Harper informed Mr. Davis that some of the sidewalks need to be repaired and the grass removed. Mr. Davis stated that he would see what could be done.

M. Councilman Bynum: Councilman Bynum asked Mr. Davis for an update on the new well project. Mr. Davis stated that they are still drilling.

Councilman Bynum asked Town Manager Gary Davis if the house at 210 N Main St. has been condemned. Mr. Davis stated that it has been condemned, but it has been sold and the new owner plans to fix it.

Councilman Bynum suggested getting the cameras around Town in working order. Town Manager Gary Davis informed Councilman Bynum that he would need to speak with Chief Rosario for information regarding the cameras.

At this time, Councilman Bynum asked Mr. Davis what the status was on putting lights at the signs entering Town. Mr. Davis stated that the Town's Electrical Superintendant, Tom Goff is looking into installing solar lights for the signs.

N. Councilwoman Grice: Councilwoman Grice asked Town Manager Gary Davis if he has a date set to open the Town Hall. Mr. Davis stated that he does not have a date set at this time. Mr. Davis informed the Council that North Carolina is leading the country right now in percentage of positive tests and he really can't say at this point.

Councilwoman Grice asked Town Manager Gary Davis how things are addressed when there is a complaint from a citizen regarding a Town employee. Mr. Davis stated that he either contacts the employee directly or speaks with the department head so that he can address the complaint.

O. Mayor: N/A

Councilman Horne made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters. All Council members present voted favorably.

Mayor Rhodes declared the meeting back into open session at approximately 9:50 pm.

Councilwoman Grice made a motion to adjourn. All Council members voted in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tabitha Bailey, Town Clerk/Finance Officer

Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor

