

TOWN OF STANTONSBURG

DATE: February 14, 2022

Regular Meeting

Mayor Coley Rhodes called the regular monthly meeting to order at approximately 7:00pm. The following Council members were present: Donnie Bass, Ben Harper, Walt Bynum, Ken Horne, and Steve Mooring. Also present were Town Manager David Beaman, Town Clerk Cindy Rhodes, and various members of the public.

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

A. Approval of January 2022 Minutes: Mayor Rhodes reviewed, for new Council Member Steve Mooring, the councils past decision on approving meeting minutes. She then requested to have the people who were reprimanded and escorted out of the January meeting for their outbursts added to the minutes. All Council members voted to approve the January regular (with requested changes) and closed session minutes.

B. Financial Report:

January: Receipts \$339,640.01 Disbursements \$103,112.35 Difference \$236,527.66

C. Invoices for Payment: After some discussion Councilman Harper made a motion to approve the invoices for payment. All were in favor, passed unanimously.

D. Departmental/Committee Reports:

- Police Department Report: Police Chief Rosario reviewed the police report. He discussed and read a newspaper article regarding an incident where a shooting occurred on Saratoga St. involving a 17-year-old teenager. The investigation led to a bigger investigation expanding to multiple states. He recognized police officer Munoz-Terry for his proactive policing in this incident. Councilman Mooring asked for Chief Rosario to add the names of the officers responding to calls on his report.
- Parks & Recreation Committee: Mr. Beaman shared that the paving has begun on the walking trail.
- Appearance Committee: Linda Mooring shared that committee did not meet this month. She shared that the next meeting is planned for March 7th and will have something to report at the next council meeting.
- Events/Planning Committee: Jane Lancaster shared the committee has gotten some preliminary dates for future events. She shared the committee is planning a cook off for the spring and fall in which no dates have been decided. The preliminary dates she shared are Crepe Myrtle Festival – October 15th, Christmas Parade – December 3rd. The committee is also looking to have something for the 4th of July with food trucks and fireworks. She stated it was hard to know exactly what would be happening until she knows what the budget is going to be. Mr. Beaman stated he would look at the budget and get back to her.

E. Old Business:

- Mayor Rhodes addressed the council regarding her concerns about the sale of 107 and 109 Main Street to Mr. Palumbo and how it was handled. It appeared to become more about the police department staying in the EMS building and not about being accommodating to keep a legitimate business in town. She stated we support our police department, and we will continue to provide proper housing and working conditions for them as well as other employees. She added that Stantonsburg is proud to provide this service to our citizens. The issue of selling a building to encourage a business to stay permanently was the issue and not the police department. She then addressed the former police department building. The bid of \$100,000.00 to renovate is a false narrative to get the building renovated because of the unnecessary expenses in the quote. Another false narrative to disregard the building because of moisture issues. She shared some information from the CDC regarding mold and moisture. She added we have a mold report (to be discussed by Town Manager) that shows no mold in the building, the dry wall has been removed, the interior brick wall has been sealed, there are no holes in the brick wall, there is proper wiring with conduit, and we have spent a little over \$17,500.00 on upgrades to the building. This includes the HVAC system, the roof, the demo and the electrical. Also, she discussed the concerns that citizens have expressed and that we need to be more transparent with them. She asked the council for any ideas on what to do with the old police department building and business recruitment. Do we sell it or fix it? After some discussion councilman Bynum stated we need address all water issues around all buildings with gutters, grading and tile. Mr. Beaman to get quotes. Councilman Bynum questioned if we have a policy/procedure for selling property. If we don't, we need to put something in place showing us how to move forward in the future. Councilman Harper added everyone needs to agree on what to do, prioritize and plan. As far as business recruitment, the mayor had a thought about approaching ECU and Barton College for some guidance on business recruitment. Councilman Mooring thought that was a good idea, maybe a graduate student needs a project and they could help us. It was the consensus of the council to that the mayor research this.
- Mayor Rhodes shared the correspondence she had with the UNC School of Government regarding former town manager Gary Davis and the town paying for his dental and vision insurance. After some time for the council members to review a lengthy discussion ensued regarding his role as a back up ORC. It was suggested to hire a firm to act as an ORC. Mr. Beaman to investigate and discuss at another meeting.

F. Public Present:

- Mick Rhkin: Shared with the council members that he has suspended his campaign for Rep. Butterfield's seat. This is due to some health issues that have developed. He stated he would still be available to the town if we need assistance.

G. Town Manager's Report: Town Manager, David Beaman, presented the following items:

- Discussed the proposal from Mike McAllister of Municipal Engineering for storm drain and roadway improvements to various town streets. He stated we need to make plans for how to utilize the Powell Bill money. There was a discussion regarding different streets and areas that need the most work. It was decided to table this discuss for another meeting.
- Reviewed the mold inspection reports on several town buildings. The report showed that the air quality was good. Mold was confirmed to be in town manager's office and the library. Councilman Mooring stated that we need to concentrate on the library and town hall due to the liability to the workers and citizens. There was also discussion about needing to come up with a contingency plan while the cleaning process occurs. Councilman Horne stated that we need to address all water drainage issues before we go into buildings and start tearing out walls. Councilman Bynum questioned where to start in this process and what do we prioritize. David stated he would like to have more in-depth testing on the library. It was decided for David to get some numbers and come up with some options on how to proceed.
- Asked if the council would like to hold off on Patsy's contract until get more clarification in retirement and part-time employee benefits. The council agreed. There was more discussion on having consistency in decision making for future employees.
- Had a request from Moore's Hauling Solutions to be added to the PD on-call list for in town towing. The council agreed to have Moore's Hauling Solutions to be added. Councilman Horne suggested someone else to be on the list. David asked for them to contact him to be added.

H. Councilman Mooring: Had nothing to discuss.

I. Mayor Pro-Tem Bass: Had nothing to discuss.

J. Councilman Bynum: Had nothing to discuss.

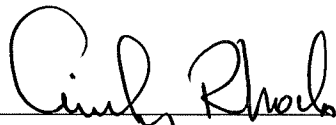
K. Councilman Horne: Had nothing to discuss

L. Councilman Harper: Had nothing to discuss.

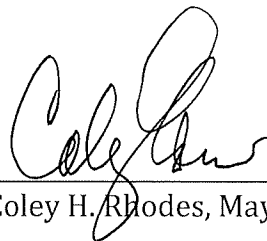
M. Mayor Rhodes: Stated in December we received a check from the ABC Board for \$1700.00 per General Statute. Also, she asked David for an update on the property on Thompson Ave. He stated Ms. Shadding is being served we are waiting period for her to get the property cleaned up or we will proceed with court filings and judgements. She asked about the well digging process was going. David gave an update on this process. She then requested that if our guys can perform some street clean along Main Street.

With no further business Mayor Rhodes asked for a motion to adjourn. Council Member Bynum made the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Handwritten signature of Cindy Rhodes in cursive script.

Cindy Rhodes, Town Clerk

Handwritten signature of Coley H. Rhodes in cursive script.

Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor