

**TOWN OF STANTONSBURG**

DATE: March 14, 2022

Regular Meeting

In the absence of Mayor Coley Rhodes, Mayor Pro-Tem Donnie Bass 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 Pro-Tem Bass led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with prayer.

**A. Approval of February 2022 Minutes:** Council Mooring wanted to add “and town hall” to his statement under letter G. Town Manager’s Report regarding the mold inspection report. Councilman Horne made the motion to approve the February regular session minutes with requested changes. Councilman Harper seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed unanimously.

**B. Financial Report:**

*January: Receipts \$456,870.42 Disbursements \$171,061.76 Difference \$285,808.66*

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

**D. Departmental/Committee Reports:**

- Police Department Report: Police Chief Rosario reviewed the police report. Councilman Mooring questioned why the names of the officers responding to calls were not added on his report. Chief Rosario stated this report is generated by an automatic records management system. He stated he was not sure this can be done, and he will check with the software company.
- Parks & Recreation Committee: Ms. Eartha Butler stated the committee has been communicating via emails and phone calls. They have been working with Mr. Beaman on the Responsive Grant: the fitness equipment has been ordered, placement has been decided and the shade awning will be ordered soon. Councilman Horne asked if someone could inspect and maintain the equipment in the park. Ms. Butler stated she would get that done. Ms. Butler added she is now the branch manager of the library as of February 1<sup>st</sup>. She added the library now offers homebound services for anyone in our district. The hours for the library are Monday-Friday 10:00am to 6:00pm, closing for lunch 1:00pm to 2:00pm.
- Appearance Committee: Linda Mooring reported the committee did meet this month and several items were discussed. She asked about having a town clean up day and if possible, to look at the week of May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Next, she stated that some of the

street signs around town are gone from the pole and/or some are illegible. She then added the house at 104 Julian Street is in disarray and unsafe. The windows and doors have been busted out, can the town look into fixing these things? Also, she discussed the budget for the new fiscal year and some items she is wanting to budget for. She stated would get Mr. Beaman the totals for what she wanting to add.

- Events/Planning Committee: Jane Lancaster stated she had nothing more to share from last month. Mr. Beaman gave update on the July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks display. He reached out to several companies, and most are book solid for that time. Those companies quoted prices well over \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00. He did get a quote from a company in Wayne County for \$6000.00 and they are available on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. He has spoken to the Lancaster's regarding the use of the field and needs to talk more about it with Whitley's. Councilman Harper made a motion to approve the fireworks display on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Councilman Bynum seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed unanimously.

#### **E. Speakers:**

- Kevin O'Donnell – NOVA Energy Consultants, Inc. came before the council to discuss electric rates and why they keep going up. He handed out a PowerPoint presentation which explained North Carolina's pipeline difficulties and why there is a shortage of natural gas. He shared some ideas on how to deal with the shortage and the rising prices. He is working on a model to see if we will have to raise our electric rates again. He will be back in June to revisit. He also shared an article from the Wall Street Journal titled "Why Your Electric Bill is Soaring – And Likely to Go Higher".
- Martin Amerson, CPA – Carr, Riggs and Ingrams came before the council to report on the Audit from fiscal year ending June 30,2021. He reported we had unmodified, clean audit which is the best you can get. He went on to share eight points that need to be addressed to the Local Government Commission (LGC). The response letter needs to be uploaded to the LGC's portal within 60 days of this meeting.

**F. Public Present:** No one came forward to address the council.

#### **G. Old Business:**

- Councilman Mooring asked Mr. Beaman for an update on going out into marketplace and for companies to act as ORC backup for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Beaman stated that he had contacted Enviro Link and discussed the services they provide. He also spoke with Rural Water, and they have operators that are available in emergency situations. They can all find people who, for a monthly fee, let you list them on your permits as a backup.
- Councilman Harper asked about paving and stated we need to get started on a project. After a lengthy discussion of how and where to start, it was decided for Mr. Beaman provide construction cost estimates and a more simplified scope of work.

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

- Requested approval for City of Wilson Pole Attachment Agreement for Greenlight expansion. Mr. Beaman gave synopsis of the details in the agreement. After the discussion Councilman Mooring motioned to approve the City of Wilson Pole Attachment Agreement for Greenlight. Councilman Harper seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed unanimously.
- Discussed the drainage behind Town Hall. He has gotten two quotes on grading and drainage improvements behind town hall, the building next door, and the old PD station. He discussed the scope of work listed in the quotes. After a lengthy discussion it was decided for Mr. Beaman to put together scope of work to be done and get a third quote.
- Next, he discussed facility maintenance regarding mold inspection we had done. He tried to find a cleaning company that specializes in cleaning mold and did have any luck. He will continue searching and hopefully will be able to get someone to bid.
- Finally, he brought a few budget amendments. After some discussion, Councilman Harper motioned to adopt Budget Ordination #4. Councilman Horne seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed unanimously.

**I. Councilman Mooring:** Discussed fuel conservation – he suggested for the council to take closer look at how we can lower our costs. Mr. Beaman sent an email to the department supervisors with cost cutting ideas. Councilman Horne suggested cutting back garbage pickup to one day a week. After some discussion, it was decided to breakout a new line item for the new budget for fuel expenses.

**J. Mayor Pro-Tem Bass:** Discussed topics for the budget workshop; fireworks, quotes for building repairs and prioritizing the paving. Also, questioned the American Rescue Plan – what are we going to do with these funds? Mr. Beaman stated we need to set up a list of projects we need to do. Waiting on the final ruling from the Treasury. Lastly, the fire department payment, when will that be going out? Mr. Beaman stated he was waiting for an invoice and stated we will get that payment out as soon as possible.

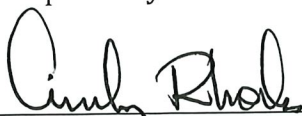
**K. Councilman Bynum:** Had nothing to discuss.

**L. Councilman Horne:** Had nothing to discuss

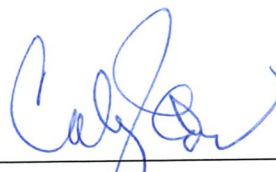
**M. Councilman Harper:** Had nothing to discuss.

With no further business Mayor Pro-Tem Bass asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Horne made the motion; all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cindy Rhodes, Town Clerk



Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor