

## TOWN OF STANTONSBURG

DATE: August 13, 2018

Mayor William Edmundson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following Council members were present: Coley Rhodes, Jackie Grice, Donnie Bass and Ken D. Horne. Also present were Town Manager Gary Davis, Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey, Police Chief Orlando Rosario, Officer Crystal Jackson, Officer Terry Williams, Officer Gregory Tyler, Officer Timothy Garland and Officer Ken Byrd. Councilman Powell Dew arrived at approximately 8:45 pm. Mrs. Patricia Thomas was present from the public.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Prayer:**

Mrs. Patricia Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilwoman Grice began the meeting with prayer.

**A. Approve Regular meeting minutes for July 2018:** Mayor Edmundson noted a statement that needed to be corrected on page 1292 in the July 16, 2018 minutes. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes with the necessary corrections. Councilwoman Rhodes seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

**B. Financial Report:**

*Receipts \$381,702.81 Disbursements \$254,010.77 Difference \$127,692.04*

**MMB:** Councilman Bass made a motion, with a second by Councilwoman Grice, to approve the Financial Report. All Council members voted in favor of the motion.

**C. Invoices for Payment:** Total: \$12,124.88 (Physical checks were unable to be printed due to an issue with Logics.)

Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the invoices for payment. With a second by Councilman Bass, all Council members present voted favorably.

**D. Public Present:** At this time Patricia Thomas addressed the Board. Mrs. Thomas stated that her meter cover has turned yellow and she is unable to read it. Mrs. Thomas contacted someone in the electrical department, but she was told that he could read it. Mrs. Thomas also stated that this same gentleman told her that if the meter was sent off she would have to pay to for it to be tested if it tested good. Mrs. Thomas informed the Board that she had tried to contact the Town Manager several times and had not heard back from anyone. Mrs. Thomas stated that she later came home and found wheel rut marks in her yard and a cigarette butt, where someone had jumped her fence and placed a test meter on her home. Mrs. Thomas informed the Board that she feels someone should have contacted her and let her know that they were coming to put a test meter on her house. She did state that the cover was replaced on her meter so that she can read it, but inside the meter cover is still turning yellow as well.

**E. Police Report:** Chief Rosario informed the Board that the Stantonsburg Police Department, Stantonsburg Fire Department and Bethel Church are putting together a Back to School Rally August 17, 2018 from 2:00-3:00 pm at the park in Stantonsburg.

Chief Rosario presented the Board with estimates from Wade Farmer to build a permanent stage at the Stantonsburg Park. The estimates included a shelter half stage for \$12,300 and an A-frame stage for \$15,800. Chief Rosario informed the Board that labor for each of the stage proposals was approximately \$6,000. Police Chief Rosario stated that he had spoken with someone who was willing to pay for the materials for the stage. After much discussion, Town Manager Gary Davis suggested that Chief Rosario get an estimate for construction of a portable stage.

Chief Rosario did inform the Board that there was a concern that a young man riding along with the Stantonsburg Police Department was a minor. Chief Rosario stated that the gentleman in question was actually twenty years old and was about to enter Basic Law Enforcement Training.

At this time, Chief Rosario introduced all of the Officers to the Board and highlighted all of their qualifications and accomplishments.

Town Manager Gary Davis presented (4) utility extension requests. After reviewing each request, Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve extension request #1. With a second by Councilman Bass, all Council members present voted favorably. Councilman Horne made a motion to approve extension request #2. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion. Councilwoman Rhodes made a motion to approve extension request #3. With a second by Councilwoman Grice, all Council members present voted favorably. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to deny extension request #4. With a second by Councilman Bass, all Council members present voted favorably.

**F. Parks & Rec:** Mayor Edmundson stated that the Parks and Recreation Committee will be having a meeting at the Stantonsburg Town Hall August 21, 2018 at 7:00 pm to put together a list of possible improvements or additions to the park. This will be in preparation for a possible grant for the park.

**G. EMS: N/A**

**H. Appearance Committee:** Councilwoman Rhodes presented the Board with the first of three phases that the Appearance Committee has planned for renovation of the Seal Building. The first phase consists of installing shuttered vents in the second floor windows and replacing the shelter that covers the sidewalk for the length of the building. Mrs. Coley presented the Board with an estimate from Wade Farmer in the amount of \$49,621.68 for Phase One. After much discussion, the Council approved of the plans for Phase One, but asked that Mrs. Coley collect other estimates to present to the Board before going forward. Mrs. Coley stated that Phase Two would be to establish a courtyard inside the open structure and level the ground. Then have individual buildings added inside the structure

to house pop-up businesses. Phase Three would be to level the ground on the lot beside the Seal building and add landscaping. Phases Two and Three will be discussed further at a future date.

**I. Town Managers Report:** Town Manager Gary Davis presented the overtime report for July 2018. July 2018 overtime was up with 90  $\frac{1}{4}$  overtime hrs compared to 64  $\frac{3}{4}$  overtime hrs. in July 2017.

Mr. Davis stated that the increase was primarily due to having to assist with a meter replacement, power outages and weekend call.

At this time, Mr. Davis informed the Board that he has received an application from Tommy and June Shingleton for a zoning text change. Mr. and Mrs. Shingleton would like to have short-term rental property added as a permitted use in a residential-agricultural zone. Mrs. Shingleton informed Town Manager Gary Davis that they would like to have an Air Bed and Breakfast. Mayor Edmundson declared that a Public Hearing will be held at 6:30 pm on September 10, 2018 at the Town Hall to discuss having short-term rental property added as a permitted use in a residential-agricultural zone. The regular Board meeting will be held immediately after the Public Hearing.

Mr. Davis stated that bids for the Sewer Rehab Project were received August 9, 2018. Municipal Engineering has reviewed the five bids that were received and the lowest bidder was Step Construction in the amount of \$443,968.26. Mr. Davis informed the Board that Mike Acquesta, the Town's consulting Engineer, has worked with Step Construction in the past and finds their work to be very good and acceptable. Mr. Acquesta recommends the Board award the construction contract to Step Construction in the amount of \$443,968.26. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to grant the construction contract for the Sewer Rehab Project to Step Construction based on the information provided by the Town's Engineer, Mike Acquesta, in the amount of \$443,968.26. With a second by Councilman Bass, all Council members present voted favorably.

Town Manager Gary Davis and Police Chief Rosario recommended that Officer Terry Williams be made a full-time employee and receive the customary 5% pay increase retroactive to July 16, 2018. Councilman Horne made a motion to promote Officer Terry Williams to full-time status and receive the customary 5% pay increase retroactive to July 16, 2018. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion with all other Council members voting in favor of the motion.

**J. Councilman Horne:** Councilman Horne asked Town Manager Gary Davis how much the insurance is going to be for the Humvee that the Police Department has acquired. Mr. Davis informed Councilman Horne that he hasn't gotten a quote back from the insurance company yet.

Councilman Horne also asked Town Manager Gary Davis to speak with Police Chief Rosario about not over stepping boundaries and consulting with the associated committees, such as the Appearance Committee or Parks and Recreation, when needed.

**K. Councilman Bass:** Councilman Bass asked Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey if those being

granted extensions were following through with their payments on time. Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey stated that the payments were being made.

**L. Councilwoman Rhodes:** Mrs. Coley suggested the Town look into setting up a museum that would share the history of Stantonsburg. After much discussion, the Council agreed to have Mrs. Coley solicit a volunteer to begin collecting artifacts regarding the history of Stantonsburg.

Councilwoman Rhodes presented the Board with a packet of information from One Call Now. Councilwoman Rhodes stated that One Call Now allows you to send out calls, texts or emails to citizens informing them of events or emergencies in the area. There is a one-time set up fee of \$95.00 and you would then buy call credits at .09 per phone number. After much discussion, Councilwoman Rhodes made a motion to acquire the One Call Now system. With a second by Councilman Bass, all Council members present voted favorably.

**M. Councilman Dew: N/A**

**N. Councilwoman Grice:** Councilwoman Grice asked Town Manager Gary Davis what he knew about the concern Mrs. Patricia Thomas brought before the Board. Mr. Davis stated that Mrs. Thomas had called the office with a complaint about not being able to read her meter and felt that the Town wasn't reading it. The Electrical crew went out there and spoke with her assuring her that they could read the meter and showed Mrs. Thomas how she could read the meter. Mr. Davis informed the Board that Electrical Superintendent Tom Goff explained to Mrs. Thomas that if the meter was sent off to be tested and there was nothing wrong with the meter, she would have to pay for the test. If something was found to be wrong with the meter the Town would pay for the test. Mr. Davis stated that Mr. Goff replaced the cover on Mrs. Thomas' meter and went out to place a test meter beside her existing meter. This would allow Mr. Goff to test the reading without sending the meter off to be tested. Mr. Davis informed the Board that no one was home when Electrical Superintendent Tom Goff went out to hook up the test meter. Based on the meter test, there was nothing wrong with her existing meter. Mr. Davis stated that he did not return a phone call to Mrs. Thomas because he assumed the concern had been addressed.

**O. Mayor:** Mayor Edmondson asked Town Manager Gary Davis if there was any new information regarding the Town of Saratoga sending their waste to the City of Wilson. Mr. Davis stated that the Town of Stantonsburg has requested a copy of the Town of Saratoga's preliminary engineering report. Mr. Davis informed the Board that the Town of Stantonsburg may or may not make comments if they disagree with some of the things that are said in the report. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that Mike Acquesta, Mike Mcallister, Mayor Edmondson and himself will be meeting at 9:00 pm on August 24, 2018 at the Town Hall to discuss this issue further. Mr. Davis welcomed any Board members that may want to attend the meeting.

Mayor Edmondson stated that he has seen a lot of curbs and yards that need attention. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that all of the recent rain has not helped with the grass

cutting. Mr. Davis did inform the Board that the Town has recently cut several yards of vacant homes.

At this time, Councilman Horne made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters. With a second by Councilwoman Rhodes, all Council members present voted favorably.

Mayor Edmundson declared the meeting back into open session at approximately 9:48 pm.

Councilman Dew made a motion to provide merit raises of 2 ½% for Tabitha Bailey, Patsy Godwin, Thomas Goff, Spencer Floars, Alonzo Horne and Gary Davis. Councilwoman Rhodes seconded the motion with all other Council members voting in favor of the motion.

Councilman Horne made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion. All other members voted in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tabitha E. Bailey, Town Clerk/Finance Officer

William H. Edmundson, Mayor

