

**TOWN OF STANTONSBURG**

DATE: November 13, 2017

Mayor William Edmundson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following Council members were present: Powell Dew, Donnie Bass and Jackie Grice. Councilwoman Coley Rhodes arrived at approximately 7:04, with Councilman Ken D. Horne arriving at approximately 7:15. Also present were Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey, Town Manager Gary Davis and Police Chief Orlando Rosario. Ben and Ann Harper were present from the public.

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

Mr. Ben Harper led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman Dew began the meeting with prayer.

**A. Approve minutes for October 16, 2017:** Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Bass seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

**B. Financial Report:**

*Receipts \$398,922.70 Disbursements \$319,482.83 Difference \$79,439.87*

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

**C. Invoices for Payment:** Total: \$27,489.75

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

**D. Public Present:** At this time, Town Manager Gary Davis presented the Board with an application for a special use permit from Mrs. Clara Narvaez. Mrs. Narvaez is requesting permission to set up a beauty shop at her residence. Mayor Edmundson declared a Public Hearing be held at the December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting at 7:30 regarding Mrs. Narvaez's request.

**E. Parks & Rec:** At this time, Mrs. Ann Harper addressed the Board on behalf of the Parks and Recreation. Mrs. Harper asked approval from the Town Council to purchase new mulch to go around the play area at the park. Mrs. Harper informed the Board that it had been two years since the mulch was replaced and the mulch at the park is well below the requirement of 12 inches thick. Mrs. Harper presented the Board with a quote from Playworld Preferred to replace the mulch. Councilwoman Rhodes made a motion to accept the quote from Playworld Preferred and allow the Parks and Recreation Committee to

replace the mulch at the park. With a second by Councilwoman Grice, all Council members present voted favorably.

Town Manager Gary Davis presented (3) utility extension requests. After reviewing each request, Councilwoman Grice made a motion to grant extension requests #1 and #2 with the stipulation that the request for Friday be paid by noon on that day. Councilwoman Grice's motion also included denying extension request #3. Councilwoman Rhodes seconded the motion. All other members voted in favor of the motion.

At this time, Mr. Davis presented the Board with a letter from a citizen requesting that a \$35.00 reconnect fee be refunded to her sister's account. Her sister was in the Intensive Care Unit at the hospital and unable to arrange payment of her bill. This individual called on a Friday to find out how much the bill was and stated that she would be there on Monday to pay the bill. The bill had still not been paid when cut offs were done that Tuesday and a reconnect fee was applied. Councilman Dew made a motion to credit the \$35.00 reconnect fee to the individual's account. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion. Councilman Dew, Councilman Bass, Councilwoman Rhodes and Councilwoman Grice voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed by a 4-1 vote. Councilman Horne voted against the motion.

**F. Police Report:** Chief Rosario presented the monthly police report and stated that the Stantonsburg Police Department received \$8,973.00 worth of equipment at no charge through the NC Governor's Highway Safety Program.

Chief Rosario also informed the Board that he has secured the Beddingfield, Fike and Hunt High School bands to participate in the Stantonsburg Christmas Parade. The Sudans will also be participating.

Town Manager Gary Davis informed the Board that Officer Crystal Jackson has completed her 12-month probationary period of employment with the Town of Stantonsburg. Mr. Davis and Chief Rosario recommended Officer Jackson be made a permanent full-time employee with the customary 5% pay increase. Councilman Horne made a motion to promote Officer Jackson to permanent full-time employment with the customary 5% pay increase. With a second by second by Councilwoman Grice, all Council members present voted favorably.

At this time, Town Manager Gary Davis informed the Council that the Town's Electrical Consultant, Kevin O'Donnell, personally donated \$400.00 to Stantonsburg's Shop With a Cop Program.

**G. EMS: N/A**

**H. Appearance Committee: N/A**

**I. Town Managers Report:** Mr. Davis presented the overtime report which showed October 2017 overtime down with 63  $\frac{3}{4}$  hrs compared to 108  $\frac{1}{4}$  hrs in October 2016. October 2016 overtime was high due primarily to Hurricane Matthew.

Mr. Davis stated that the contractor for the Seal Building is in the process of securing permits to proceed with work on stabilizing the building.

Town Manager Gary Davis informed the Board that Eddie Evans and Roger Sullivan have secured all their upgraded water and wastewater certifications.

At this time, Mr. Davis asked the Board for direction on Christmas bonuses this year. Previously, the Town Board has given full-time employees a \$300.00 bonus and a \$150.00 bonus to part-time employees. Councilman Horne made a motion to grant full-time employees a \$300.00 Christmas bonus, with part-time employees receiving a \$150.00 Christmas bonus. Councilman Dew seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Davis informed the Board that the first phase of videoing the sewer lines has been completed. The video has revealed roughly \$500,000 worth of repairs. As part of the grant, the Town will develop a Capital Improvements Plan for the next ten years. The Town's engineer, Mike Aquesta, will be coming December 5<sup>th</sup> to go through the Wastewater Treatment Plant and look at equipment that may need to be replaced over the next ten years.

**J. Councilman Horne:** Councilman Horne congratulated the incumbents that were able to retain their seats on the Town Council as a result of the recent election.

Councilman Horne asked that the border out at the triangle be weeded to keep the new sign looking good.

Councilman Horne stated that a concerned citizen had asked him about the camper at the fire department. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that his understanding is that the Fire Department owns the camper and they plan to use it as a command station if necessary.

**K. Councilman Bass: N/A**

**L. Councilwoman Rhodes:** Councilwoman Rhodes asked if a date had been established as to when the contractor would get started on the Seal Building. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that he was told by the contractor in October that it would be within 30 to 60 days at that point.

**M. Councilman Dew:** Councilman Dew stated that there were quite a few broken segments in the walking trail curb at the park. Councilman Dew suggested possibly removing those segments and replacing them in the spring. He also stated that some places have been washed out. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that the Town could have some crush and run brought in to fill in spots that have been washed out.

**N. Councilwoman Grice: N/A**

**O. Mayor:** Mayor Edmundson asked if random drug testing was being performed on the employees. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that drug testing is done at time of employment and that it is posted at the shop stating that random testing could be performed at any time. Testing also takes place following vehicular accidents

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 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tabitha E. Bailey, Town Clerk/Finance Officer

William H. Edmundson, Mayor

