

TOWN OF STANTONSBURG

DATE: October 08, 2018

Mayor William Edmundson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following Council members were present: Powell Dew, Jackie Grice, Donnie Bass and Ken D. Horne. Also present were Town Manager Gary Davis, Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey and Electrical Consultant Kevin O'Donnell. Councilwoman Coley Rhodes arrived at approximately 7:02 pm. Police Chief Orlando Rosario arrived at approximately 7:11 pm. Delois Drummond arrived at approximately 7:50pm.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Prayer:

Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman Dew began the meeting with prayer.

A. Approve Regular meeting minutes for September 10, 2018: Councilman Horne made a motion to approve the September 10, 2018 meeting minutes. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

B. Financial Report:

Receipts \$347,029.11 Disbursements \$333,533.72 Difference \$13,495.39

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

C. Invoices for Payment: Total: \$16,876.91

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

D. Public Present: At this time, Electrical Consultant Kevin O'Donnell addressed the Town Council. Mr. O'Donnell informed the Board that the Town has the opportunity to enter into an agreement with PEAK, a municipal gas group in Kentucky. PEAK can work with Morgan Stanley to float debt at municipal rates. Mr. O'Donnell stated that the Town of Stantonburg would be leveraging their municipal status to get gas at \$.10 to \$.40 per dekatherm lower at Zone 5. The contract term would be 5-7 years with a renewal and expected annual savings for the Town of Stantonburg would be approximately \$65k per year. Mr. O'Donnell stated that he had just received the information that afternoon and would like to investigate further before making any recommendations regarding this contract with PEAK. After much discussion, Councilman Dew made a motion to allow Kevin O'Donnell to retain Cauley Pridgen to review the agreement with PEAK. Councilman Horne seconded the motion with all Council members voting in favor of the motion. Mr. O'Donnell also presented the Board with charts showing cumulative monthly savings of approximately \$300,000 that the Town has received since switching from Duke Energy to NTE. Mr. O'Donnell stated that the Town of Stantonburg has \$59,604 left to pay to Duke for Coal Ash Costs. The Town has saved enough money to pay off the Coal Ash and has completed

the process of paying for a metering cost with NTE. Taking this into consideration, Mr. O'Donnell recommended that the Board approve a 9% rate cut for utility customers. Councilman Horne made a motion to allow a rate reduction of 9%, effective the next full billing period, to the Town's utility customers based on the recommendation of the Town's Electrical Consultant, Kevin O'Donnell. With a second from Councilman Bass, all members voted favorably.

At this time, Mayor Edmundson stated that he would like to thank the community and all those that offered support and contributed to the recovery effort from Hurricane Florence.

Town Manager Gary Davis stated that Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Shingleton had submitted an application requesting that short-term rental property be added to the list of permitted uses for the Residential-Agricultural zone. Mr. Davis informed the Board that once the Public Hearing had been held and no comments were made, the Planning Board met and unanimously voted to recommend approval of this request. Councilwoman Rhodes made a motion to grant the request to have short-term rental property added to the list of permitted uses for the Residential-Agricultural zone. With a second from Councilman Horne, all members voted favorably.

Town Manager Gary Davis presented the Board with an amended Capitol Budget Ordinance for the Sewer Replacement Project. Mr. Davis stated that now that the Town has received construction bids and it has been awarded, the State has requested an amended project budget. Councilman Horne made a motion to accept the amended Capitol Budget Ordinance for the Sewer Replacement Project. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion with all Council members voting in favor of the motion.

E. Police Report: Chief Rosario informed the Board that the Stantonsburg Police Department and the Stantonsburg Fire Department have discussed possibly having a movie night at the park on November 2, 2018 at 8:00 pm. Chief Rosario stated that there would be popcorn and drinks available for purchase with all proceeds going toward Shop With a Cop. All Council members agreed that a movie night at the park would be a good idea.

Chief Rosario also asked the Council for a possible date for the Stantonsburg Christmas parade. After much discussion, Chief Rosario stated that he would check with local high school bands and decide between December 1st and December 8th to have the Stantonsburg Christmas parade.

At this time, Delois Drummond addressed the Board with a complaint about the ditch that runs in next to her home at 200 N Saratoga St. Ms. Drummond stated that she has come to the Board several times about this ditch asking the Town to clean it out and nothing has been done. Ms. Drummond informed the Board that this ditch affects the entire Town and asks that something be done to keep water flowing through it. Ms. Drummond thanked the Board for listening to her complaint and left the Board meeting.

Town Manager Gary Davis informed the Council that Ms. Drummond and the surrounding property owners own to the center of the ditch, and that in order for the Town to do anything to the ditch, they would have to have access. To fix the ditch they would need to use a track hoe and a big truck causing damage to resident's yards. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that the Town will attempt to clean out the limbs and trees that they can from the ditch.

F. Parks & Rec: N/A

G. EMS: N/A

H. Appearance Committee: Councilwoman Rhodes informed the Board that the Appearance Committee is waiting on two bids for Phase One on the Seal Building. Councilwoman Rhodes also asked the Board if the Town could remove the glass from the windows. All Council members agreed to have the Town remove all glass from the Seal Building.

Town Manager Gary Davis presented (4) utility extension requests. After reviewing each request, Councilman Horne made a motion to approve all extension requests. With a second by Councilwoman Grice, all Council members present voted favorably.

I. Town Managers Report: Town Manager Gary Davis presented the overtime report for September 2018. September 2018 overtime was up with 163 ½ overtime hrs compared to 99 ¼ overtime hrs in September 2017. Mr. Davis stated that the increase was primarily due to Hurricane Florence and a meter installation session on a Friday.

At this time, Mr. Davis informed the Board that there was a brief power outage during the hurricane due to a limb that had fallen across several phases. There was also a broken power line at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Davis also stated that there was flooding at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and it was within three inches of overflowing the ditch due to the excess rain from Hurricane Florence. Chief Utility System Operator, Eddie Evans, stayed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for three days to prevent an overflow.

Mr. Davis informed the Board that the Masonic Lodge has yet to repair its shelter. Mr. Davis stated that the Town received an estimate from Wade Farmer for \$1,649.00 to repair the shelter and is requesting permission from the Board to write a check to the Masonic Lodge for this amount. This will pay for the damage that the Town is responsible for. Councilman Horne made a motion to issue a check to the Masonic Lodge for \$1,649.00 to pay for the damage caused by the Town to their shelter. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion. Councilman Horne, Councilwoman Rhodes and Councilwoman Grice voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed with a 3-2 vote, with Councilman Dew and Councilman Bass voting against the motion.

At this time, Town Manager Gary Davis stated that the Board gave him permission a couple of years ago to purchase a new mower. The Town found a way to make do without purchasing the lawnmower at that time, but cannot continue. Mr. Davis stated that because

it had been two years, he felt that he needed to bring it before the Board again and request permission to purchase the lawnmower. Councilman Dew made a motion to allow Town Manager Gary Davis to purchase a lawnmower for the Town. With a second from Councilwoman Rhodes, all Council members voted in favor of the motion.

J. Councilman Horne: Councilman Horne asked if it was possible to get some smaller signs to hang at the park stating that no pets are allowed. Mayor Edmundson stated that he would bring this to the attention of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

K. Councilman Bass: Councilman Bass asked what time Waste Industries is coming through town to pick up recycling. Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey stated that they are coming through at different times.

L. Councilwoman Rhodes: Councilwoman Rhodes asked if the weeds can be trimmed by the railroad tracks. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that the Town was going to get the weeds, but the Town's tractor has been in the shop. Mr. Davis said that the Town will take care of the weeds.

M. Councilman Dew: Councilman Dew informed Town Manager Gary Davis that he has received complaints about a Town employee riding a lawnmower on the wrong side of the road and pulling out in front of traffic. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that he will have a talk with this employee.

N. Councilwoman Grice: N/A

O. Mayor: N/A

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

Mayor Edmundson declared the meeting back into open session at approximately 9:35 pm.

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 9:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tabitha E. Bailey, Town Clerk/Finance Officer

William H. Edmundson, Mayor

