

TOWN OF STANTONSBURG

DATE: May 13, 2019

Mayor William Edmundson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following Council members were present: Powell Dew, Ken D. Horne and Jackie Grice. Also present were Town Manager Gary Davis and Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey. Councilman Bass and Councilwoman Rhodes were unable to attend. Police Chief Orlando Rosario and Sergeant Crystal Jackson arrived at approximately 7:04 pm. Ann Harper, Delois Drummond, Helen Mackey, Anna Joiner, Bert Garris and Chris Lavoier were present from the public.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Prayer:

Town Manager Gary Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilwoman Grice began the meeting with prayer.

A. Approve Regular meeting minutes for April 08, 2019: Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the April 08, 2019 meeting minutes. Councilman Horne seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

B. Financial Report:

Receipts \$393,136.16 Disbursements \$234,444.92 Difference \$158,691.24

MMB: Councilman Horne 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: \$9,055.53

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

D. Public Present: At this time, Bert Garris introduced himself as a consultant for Chris Lovaie. Mr. Garris stated that Mr. Lovaie has a business that he is interested in opening in Stantonburg and asked Mr. Lovaie to address the Board. Mr. Lovaie informed the Council that he is interested in opening a sweepstakes business in the building formerly known as the Dollar Tree. After much discussion, Town Manager Gary Davis informed Mr. Lovaie that he will need to fill out an application for a special use permit. The Town would then hold a public hearing and it would then go to the Planning Board for a recommendation before the Council can vote on the matter.

Ms. Delois Drummond informed the Council that she had several things to discuss, the first being the ditch that runs beside her property on Saratoga St. Ms. Drummond thanked the Town for the work that has been done on the ditch, but wanted to know what the next step is going to be regarding the ditch. Ms. Drummond stated that something needs to be done with the ditch to prevent flooding.

Ms. Delois Drummond asked the Council if it is necessary for the Town employees to drive their work vehicles home. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that the only employees

that drive the Town vehicles home on the Public Works side are Electrical Superintendent Tom Goff and himself. Mr. Davis informed Ms. Drummond that Tom Goff is essentially on call 24/7 in case of an electrical emergency.

Ms. Drummond asked the Council if the Town has a policy set up that will pay an employee's health insurance if they decide on an early retirement. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that the Town of Stantonburg does not currently have a policy in place that would require the Town to pay an employee's health insurance once retired.

At this time, Ms. Delois Drummond asked the Board how often the Stantonburg Moyton Fire Department gave reports at the Town Hall Board meetings. Councilman Horne stated that the Fire Department does not give reports often, but that the Fire Department has their meetings on the same nights as the Town's Board meetings. Ms. Drummond questioned how often the Stantonburg Fire Department rides around and burns gas unnecessarily. Councilman Horne informed Ms. Drummond that the Town of Stantonburg gives the Fire Department a quarterly donation, but do not pay their bills.

Ms. Drummond asked the Council how often they revisit ordinances. Councilman Horne stated that the Council revisits ordinances on an as needed basis.

At this time, Anna Joiner introduced herself as the new Town librarian. Ms. Joiner informed the Council that she hopes to be involved with the Town of Stantonburg and possibly participate in the Crepe Myrtle Festival. Ms. Joiner also stated that she was very excited to join the Stantonburg community and hoped to have a summer reading program on Thursday afternoons at the library.

E. Fire Department: N/A

F. Police Report: Sergeant Crystal Jackson informed the Council that the grant for a new records management was progressing well. Sergeant Jackson stated that the Police Department has phase one completed for installing the new records management and will proceed with phase two on May 14, 2019.

Police Chief Orlando Rosario informed the Board that the Stantonburg Police Department's new K-9, Dojo, is doing well and has completed his training.

Chief Rosario also stated that the Stantonburg Police Department has borrowed a speed trailer from the Town of Spring Hope and will be moving it around town to help prevent speeding.

G. Parks & Rec: Ann Harper addressed the Board on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Committee. Mrs. Harper stated that the Parks and Recreation Committee is requesting that the Board approve allowing a private company to place vending machines at the park. This company would own the machines and accept any liability, such as damage or loss of goods. The Parks and Recreation Committee feels that this would be a good amenity to the park.

Also, Mrs. Harper informed the Council that the Parks and Recreation Committee has discussed having a permanent stage built at the park. Mrs. Harper stated that this stage would serve not only for the Crepe Myrtle Festival, but also for school or Church functions. This permanent stage would be open, with a lean to shelter and steps going across the

entire front of the stage. Mrs. Harper informed the Council that a ramp would also be added to make it easier to load equipment onto the stage. Mayor Edmundson informed the Council that the Parks and Recreation Committee has received an estimate of \$20,000 to build the stage. Mrs. Harper stated that this quote includes labor and material, although there is a citizen of Stantonsburg that has offered to pay for the material to build the stage.

Town Manager Gary Davis presented (3) utility extension requests. After reviewing each request, Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve all three extension requests with the stipulation that those requested for a Friday be paid by noon. With a second by Councilman Horne, all Council members present voted favorably.

H. EMS: N/A

I. Appearance Committee: N/A

J. Town Managers Report: Town Manager Gary Davis presented the overtime report for April 2019. April 2019 overtime was 61 hours versus 72 ½ overtime hrs in April 2018.

At this time, Town Manager Gary Davis presented the Council with a copy of a document prepared by Electrical Consultant Kevin O'Donnell. Mr. Davis stated that this document shows a total savings of \$524,376 that the Town of Stantonsburg has benefited from since January 2018 by switching from Duke Energy to NTE.

Also, Mr. Davis requested the Mayor set a public hearing at 6:30 pm prior to the regular meeting on June 10, 2019 to allow public comments on the proposed budget for FY 2019-2020. Mayor Edmundson called for a Public Hearing on the proposed budget for June 10, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

Town Manager Gary Davis informed the Council that they performed a walk through inspection of the Sewer Rehab Project that morning. Mr. Davis stated that other than some minor clean up items and paving, the Sewer Rehab Project is completed.

Mr. Davis presented the proposed budget for FY 2019-2020 to the Town Council for their review. Mr. Davis is not proposing an increase in property taxes, but the budget does include a \$1.00 increase in the solid waste fees for in-town and out-of-town customers. Town Manager Gary Davis is also proposing a \$1.00 increase in the flat sewer rate, an increase in the sewer usage rate of .25 per 1,000 gallons and a 3% COL increase for all employees, the Mayor and the Town Council. The Town of Saratoga's sewer usage rate would also increase .10 per 1,000 gallons for all gallons up to their permit limit. Water rates and electrical rates will remain unchanged for the coming Fiscal Year.

The total proposed budget for the General Fund: \$835,700.00

W/S Fund: \$771,800.00

Electric Fund: \$2,669,400.00

Total Budget: \$4,276,900.00

Powell Bill Fund: \$25,000.00

The consensus of the Town Council was that there were no issues with the proposed budget.

Town Manager Gary Davis asked the Board for permission to pave the Old Wainsfield Subdivision. Councilman Dew made a motion to move forward with the paving of the Old Wainsfield Subdivision. With a second by Councilwoman Grice, all Council members present voted favorably.

At this time, Councilman Dew asked Mayor Edmundson if the Stantonsburg EMS is fully equipped with volunteers and equipment to answer calls. Mayor Edmundson stated that the Stantonsburg EMS' franchise was just renewed in March and that they have eight volunteers that are completely covered with Workman's Comp Insurance. Councilwoman Grice asked Mayor Edmundson if the Stantonsburg EMS were responding to any calls. Mayor Edmundson stated that he did not know. Councilwoman Grice asked Mayor Edmundson if he could have someone from the Stantonsburg EMS to give a report at the next meeting. Mayor Edmundson stated that he would inform the captain of the EMS or his representative to give a report at the June 10th Board meeting.

K. Councilman Horne: N/A

L. Councilman Bass: N/A

M. Councilwoman Rhodes: N/A

N. Councilman Dew: Councilman Dew stated that he was in favor of allowing the Parks and Recreation Committee to have vending machines placed at the park. Councilman Dew made a motion to allow vending machines to be placed at the Stantonsburg Park under the shelter, with the vendor taking on the liability for the machines. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

Councilman Dew also informed the Council that he is in favor of having a permanent stage placed in the park. Councilman Dew made a motion to move forward with the process of obtaining more accurate bids for placing a permanent stage at the Stantonsburg Park. With a second by Councilwoman Grice, all Council members present voted favorably.

O. Councilwoman Grice: Councilwoman Grice asked Town Manager Gary Davis if the GPS tracking devices on the Police vehicles was working well. Mr. Davis stated that they are working well with exception of vehicles with radar. The Town staff is working to resolve this issue.

P. Mayor: Mayor Edmundson proposed that the Town of Stantonsburg digitize its code book. The Council agreed to move forward with getting estimates to digitize the Town of Stantonsburg's code book.

Mayor Edmundson asked Town Manager Gary Davis if there have been any more issues with residents using the doxo website to pay their utility bills. Town Manager Gary Davis

stated that there have been no other issues and that the Town has placed a warning on its website.

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

Mayor Edmundson declared the meeting back into open session at approximately 9:30 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 9:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tabitha E. Bailey, Town Clerk/Finance Officer

William H. Edmundson, Mayor

