

**TOWN OF STANTONSBURG**

DATE: July 15, 2019

Mayor Bill Edmundson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following Council members were present: Jackie Grice, Donnie Bass, Coley Rhodes and Powell Dew. Councilman Ken D. Horne arrived at approximately 7:20 pm. Also present were Town Manager Gary Davis and Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey. Chief of Police Orlando Rosario arrived at approximately 7:05 pm. Librarian Anna Joiner and Tommy Stanton were also present from the public.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Prayer:** Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman Dew opened the meeting with prayer.

**A. Approve regular meeting minutes for June 10, 2019:** Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the June 10, 2019 meeting minutes as written. With a second from Councilman Bass, all members voted in favor of the motion.

**B. Financial Report:**

*Receipts \$408,460.40 Disbursements \$325,987.81 Difference \$82,472.59*

**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: \$21,534.63

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

**D. Public Present:** Mr. Tommy Stanton once again asked the Council what the plans are for the Seal Building. Councilwoman Rhodes stated that she had requested that the Board move forward with Phase 1 of the restoration, which includes painting, replacing the shelter and doing something with the windows, but that she didn't receive any backing from the Board. Mayor Edmundson informed Mr. Stanton that the Council is hoping that a grant will become available to fund the plans for the Seal Building.

**E. Fire Department:** N/A

**F. Police Report:** Chief of Police Orlando Rosario asked the Council for permission to tentatively schedule the Stantonburg Christmas Parade for December 7, 2019. There were no objections from the Council.

Chief Rosario informed the Board that the Stantonburg Police Department has been awarded the 2018 Byrne JAG equipment grant for \$24,500.00. Chief Rosario stated that if the Town of Stantonburg agrees to accept this federal money the Town will also have to

agree to enforce federal laws regarding immigration. This grant is a 100% reimbursement grant.

Councilwoman Rhodes asked Chief Rosario how the plans for the Crepe Myrtle Festival were going. Chief Rosario informed the Council that the Embers are scheduled to perform and possibly the band Spare Change.

Councilman Dew asked Chief Rosario to talk about the Police Department's staffing. Chief Rosario stated that he has four applicants and that he hopes to be fully staffed once again within the next month. Councilman Dew asked Chief Rosario who is taking care of Dojo, the Town's K-9. Chief Rosario stated that Officer Rivera is taking care of Dojo at this time. Police Chief Rosario informed the Council that Officer Rivera will be taking the position of K-9 Officer. Councilwoman Rhodes asked Chief Rosario if the Town would have to pay to send Officer Rivera through training to be a K-9 Officer. Chief Rosario informed the Board that he does not have that answer right now. He is waiting to hear back from Ventosa Kennels for the answer to that question. Councilman Dew asked Chief Rosario why the Town's previous K-9 Officer is no longer with the Town. Chief Rosario stated that Officer Williams resigned and if the Council wanted him to go into more detail, they would need to go into closed session.

Councilman Dew pointed out to Chief Rosario that last Fiscal Year he went over the budget by about \$20,000 and wanted to know what Chief Rosario planned to do to keep that from happening again. Chief Rosario stated that a portion of the overspending was because of 911 invoices and they were out of his control. Councilman Dew stated that a portion was from 911 invoices, but that his payroll was over budget because of having an undercover police officer working for quite some time. Chief Rosario stated that he is going to try and monitor the budget more closely and on a month to month basis.

**G. Parks & Rec:** Mayor Edmundson informed the Board that the Parks and Recreation Committee is making an effort to contact Daniel Whitley, Jr. to discuss park expansion and rental costs. Mayor Edmundson also stated that the Parks and Recreation Committee is gathering quotes for a permanent stage at the park.

At this time, Mr. Davis presented (7) utility extension requests. After careful review, Councilman Dew made a motion to grant extension request #1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7, with the stipulation that those requested for a Friday be paid by noon. Councilwoman Rhodes seconded the motion with all other Council members voting in favor of the motion. Councilman Bass made a motion to approve extension request #5. Councilman Horne seconded the motion with all other Council members voting in favor of the motion.

**H. Town Manager's Report:** Mr. Davis presented the overtime report for June 2019. June 2019 overtime was down with 75  $\frac{3}{4}$  hrs compared to 109  $\frac{1}{4}$  hrs in June 2018.

At this time, Mr. Davis passed out a summary prepared by Electrical Consultant Kevin O'Donnell. Mr. Davis informed the Council that this summary shows the Town's total savings to date by switching from Duke Energy to NTE. The Town has saved approximately \$590,831 since switching to NTE.

Town Manager Gary Davis informed the Council that he has received a proposal for the Town's automatic meter reading software. Mr. Davis stated that Itron is phasing out the automatic meter reading software that the Town currently has. Mr. Davis has found that there will be no charge for the new software because the Town has maintained their maintenance agreement, but there will be a cost of approximately \$4,995.00 for installation and training. At this time, Mr. Davis requested the Board's authorization to proceed with the update for the automatic meter reading software. Councilman Horne made a motion to update the automatic meter reading software. With a second by Councilwoman Grice, all Council members voted favorably.

Town Manager Gary Davis stated that the Town has received a payment of \$4,409.44 from the insurance company to repair the roof on the building next door to the Town Hall. Mr. Davis informed the Council that there is up to \$5,815.14 worth of recoverable depreciation once the roof is fixed. Mr. Wade Farmer has submitted two estimates for the Town's approval. Mr. Davis stated that the better grade of roofing would cost \$9,640.00 and the lesser grade would be \$8,850.00. Town Manager Gary Davis recommended going with the better grade of roofing. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to allow Wade Farmer to repair the roof on the building next door to the Town Hall. Councilwoman Rhodes seconded the motion with all other Council members voting in favor of the motion.

At this time, Town Manager Gary Davis presented to the Board a Resolution accepting the State Reserve loan and State Reserve grant for construction of a new water supply well outside of the Central Coastal Plains Capacity Use Area. Mr. Davis informed the Council that this will be a \$310,000 loan with 0% interest over twenty years and a \$310,000 grant. Mr. Davis stated that this Resolution also authorizes him to submit and sign any necessary paperwork. Councilman Dew made a motion to approve the Resolution as presented. Councilman Horne seconded the motion with all other Council members voting in favor of the motion.

**I. Appearance Committee:** Councilwoman Rhodes informed the Council that four out of five signs for the entrances to Town have been constructed. The Appearance Committee has also received permission from land owners to place the signs in designated areas.

**J. Councilman Horne:** N/A

**K. Councilman Bass:** Councilman Bass asked if there would be anything done to the curbing and catch basin on N. Saratoga St. near the large ditch and to the new handicap sidewalk ramp at the clinic. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that the State would be the ones to handle these items and that he would try and contact them.

**L. Councilwoman Rhodes:** Councilwoman Rhodes stated that the Stantonsburg Cemetery looks really good.

**M. Councilman Dew:** Councilman Dew requested permission from the Board to install a Blessing Box and a Book Box Lending Library beside the Town Hall. Councilman Dew stated that the Blessing Box would allow residents to deposit non-perishable items and also

to take items from the box as needed. Councilman Dew also stated that the Book Box Lending Library would allow residents to deposit books that they no longer want and to borrow books that have been deposited. There were no objections from the Council.

**N. Councilwoman Grice:** Councilwoman Grice asked if Mr. Holmes has installed the vending machine at the park. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that there was an issue with the machine taking residents' money, but the problem has been addressed. Mayor Edmundson stated that a serviceman has since fixed the problem and Mr. Holmes has added a phone number on the machine to call in case of a problem with the machine.

**O. Mayor:** At this time, Mayor Edmundson passed out a sample survey for the Council to review. This survey is to determine if there is interest in high-speed internet. After careful review, Councilwoman Grice recommended adding an introduction to share the intentions of the survey. Mayor Edmundson stated that he would make the necessary changes and have the office staff mail out the surveys.

Mayor Edmundson informed the Council that he has been in touch with an executive with GESS International Green Energy Sustainable Solutions. This company had plans to build a facility between Stantonsburg and Black Creek. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that he has heard the plans for this facility have fallen through. Mayor Edmundson stated that he would like to request a meeting with GESS executives to discuss other possibilities, if the Board is willing. The Council had no objections.

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 10:13 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 10:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tabitha Bailey  
Town Clerk, Finance Officer

William H. Edmundson, Mayor

