

**TOWN OF STANTONSBURG**

DATE: January 13, 2020

Mayor Coley H. Rhodes called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following Council members were present: Jackie Grice, Walter Bynum, and Donnie Bass. Councilman Ken D. Horne arrived at approximately 7:12 pm. Also present were Town Manager Gary Davis, Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey, Police Officer Jose Rivera and Police Officer Nicholas White. Librarian Anna Joiner, Mick Rankin, Eartha Butler, Ben Harper, Sandra Huskamp and many others were present from the public.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Prayer:** Mayor Rhodes led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilwoman Grice opened the meeting with prayer.

At this time, Mayor Rhodes addressed the Council and encouraged the Board to work as a team to make things better and to try new ideas.

**A. Approve regular meeting minutes for December 09, 2019:** Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the minutes for the open meeting as written. With a second from Councilman Bass, all members voted in favor of the motion.

**B. Financial Report:**

*Receipts \$366,530.62 Disbursements \$217,279.09 Difference \$149,251.53*

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

**C. Invoices for Payment:** Total: \$77,558.77

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

**D. Public Present:** Sandra Huskamp requested that the Council allow her to place a bench on her mother's grave in the Stantonburg cemetery in lieu of a headstone. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that according to the Town's cemetery rules and regulations, benches are not allowed and that Mrs. Huskamp would need the Board's approval before placement. Mr. Davis informed the Council that because the bench would serve as the headstone, there would be no disruption of maintenance. Councilman Bynum made a motion to allow Sandra Huskamp to place a bench in lieu of a headstone on her mother's grave in the Stantonburg cemetery. Councilman Bass seconded the motion with all other Council members voting in favor of the motion.

Mick Rankin introduced himself and informed the Council that he is running for NC House of Representatives District 24. Mr. Rankin graduated from high school in Durham and served in the United States Navy for 41 years. Mr. Rankin stated that he wants to hear

the concerns of the residents of Wilson County so that he can take those concerns to Raleigh and make Wilson County better for the citizens.

At this time, Mayor Rhodes recognized Eartha Butler and Ben Harper. Mayor Rhodes informed the Council that these two individuals have turned in resumes hoping to be appointed to the vacant Commissioner seat.

Eartha Butler informed the Council that she has been living in Stantonsburg for two years and has volunteered to be on the Appearance Committee for the Town of Stantonsburg. Mrs. Butler also stated that Mayor Rhodes has extended an invitation for her to participate on the Parks and Recreation Committee, which she has graciously accepted. Mrs. Butler made it clear that she is willing to serve in whatever capacity she is needed and looks forward to the opportunity.

Ben Harper stated that he has been living in Stantonsburg for seven years and helps his wife on the Parks and Recreation Committee for the Town. Mr. Harper also informed the Council that he has formed a local 4H group to help get kids involved and has invested a lot in Stantonsburg and his home. Mr. Harper stated that he wants to do all that he can to benefit the Town of Stantonsburg.

Mayor Rhodes asked the Council if they would agree to look over the submitted resumes and possibly have interviews with Mr. Harper and Mrs. Butler prior to the meeting on February 10, 2020. All of the Council members were in agreement.

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

**F. Police Report:** Police Officer Jose Rivera stated that Chief of Police Orlando Rosario was out of town at a conference and that he would try and answer any questions they might have about the police report.

Councilman Bynum asked Officer Rivera what is being done about the drugs in Stantonsburg. Officer Rivera informed the Council that the Stantonsburg Police Department is making progress when it comes to getting drugs out of Stantonsburg. Officer Rivera stated that they have some things in progress that he can't talk about, but that there are several investigations going on right now.

**G. Parks & Rec: N/A**

At this time, Mr. Davis presented (8) utility extension requests. After careful review, Councilman Horne made a motion to grant extension requests #1, 2, 6 and 7. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion with all other Council members voting in favor of the motion. Councilman Horne made a motion to deny extension request #3. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion with all other Council members voting in favor of the motion. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve extension request #4 with the stipulation that it be paid by noon on January 24th. Councilman Horne seconded the motion with all other Council members voting in favor of the motion. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to grant extension request #5 with the stipulation that it be paid by noon on the date requested. Councilman Horne seconded the motion. All Council members present

voted in favor of the motion. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to deny extension request #8. The motion died for lack of a second. Councilman Horne made a motion to approve extension request #8. Councilman Bass seconded the motion. Councilman Horne, Councilman Bass and Councilman Bynum voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed with a 3-1 vote with Councilwoman Grice voting against the motion.

**H. Town Manager's Report:** Mr. Davis presented the overtime report for December 2019. December 2019 overtime was down with 47 ½ hrs compared to 77 ½ hrs in December 2018. Mr. Davis asked the Council if they wanted him to continue to provide a report on overtime hours. The Council agreed that a monthly report of overtime hours was not necessary.

At this time, Mr. Davis informed the Council that Well #5 is still out of service. Mr. Davis stated that the pump was pulled and videoed at a cost of \$2,450.00. Well #5 needed extensive cleaning and the pump showed some normal wear and could possibly be rebuilt. Mr. Davis stated that the second phase of the Well refurbishment was to chemically clean the Well and video it again. This has been completed at the cost of \$6,750.00. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that a new submersible pump and piping that will be installed in Well #5 will cost \$9,150.00 versus \$9,835.00 to refurbish the existing pump, motor and put in new shafts. With the new submersible pump, the total project cost to refurbish Well#5 will be \$18,350.00. Mr. Davis informed the Council that Well #5 should hopefully be back in service within the next month.

At this time, Town Manager Gary Davis updated the Council on the new well site located on Old Stantonsburg Rd. Mr. Davis stated that the Town will be accepting bids for drilling a test well on January 16, 2020.

**I. Appearance Committee:** Mayor Rhodes informed the Council that the Appearance Committee is in the process of working on landscaping the small triangle. The Appearance Committee has also completed the signage for the entrances to the Town.

At this time, Mayor Rhodes stated that she has asked each Commissioner to share any concerns or things that they would like to see improved.

**J. Councilman Horne:** Councilman Horne welcomed Commissioner Bynum back to the Council.

Councilman Horne stated that a friend of his recently rode through the Town to visit the cemetery and expressed to him how unsightly the Seal Building was.

**K. Councilman Bass:** Councilman Bass commended the Town staff on how well the angels looked that were hung during the Christmas season.

Councilman Bass informed the Council that he is concerned about street maintenance and paving. Also, Councilman Bass stated that he would like to see something done with the corner lot on Main St. and the old hardware store on Commercial along with repairs to the Police Department building and the Seal Building.

**L. Councilman Bynum:** Councilman Bynum stated that he would like to see progress made on the Seal Building. Also, Councilman Bynum informed the Board that the Town needs to replace the trash cans and clean the streets.

**M. Councilwoman Grice:** Councilwoman Grice stated that she agreed with all the concerns that had been mentioned by the other Council members.

**N. Mayor:** Mayor Rhodes informed the Council and Town Manager Gary Davis that they have been invited to dinner with the Masons at the Masonic Lodge. This dinner will be held at 6:30pm on February 13, 2020.

Mayor Rhodes suggested that the Commissioners read through the minutes from the previous meetings ahead of time so that things will move more quickly when approving them.

Mayor Rhodes also suggested voting on someone to help sign checks. Councilman Horne made a motion to authorize Councilman Bynum to sign checks. With a second by Councilwoman Grice, all members voted 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 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tabitha Bailey  
Town Clerk, Finance Officer

Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor

