

TOWN OF STANTONSBURG

DATE: August 10, 2020

Mayor Coley Rhodes called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00pm. The following Council members were present: Jackie Grice, Donnie Bass, Ben Harper and Walt Bynum. Councilman Ken D. Horne arrived at approximately 7:23 pm. Also present were Town Manager Gary Davis, Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey, Deputy Clerk Patsy Godwin, Police Officer Nicholas White and Chief of Police Orlando Rosario. There were several present from the public.

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

A. Approve regular and closed meeting minutes for July 2020: All Council members voted to approve all meeting minutes for July 2020.

B. Financial Report:

Receipts \$315,818.71 Disbursements \$236,135.97 Difference \$79,682.74

C. Invoices for Payment:

Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the invoices for payment. All Council members voted favorably.

At this time, Mayor Rhodes informed the Council that she would like to declare a thirty minute recess. Mayor Rhodes stated that the owner of 105 S. Main St., Roland Strickland, has offered his building and lot for purchase to the Town. Mayor Rhodes informed the Council that she would like to take a walking tour of 105 S. Main St., 110 E. Commercial Ave and the Seal Building on Main St. The meeting was recessed at approximately 7:10 pm.

Mayor Coley Rhodes declared the meeting back in session at approximately 7:40 pm.

Mayor Rhodes stated that the building the Town owns at 110 E. Commercial Ave was in need of much repair. Mayor Rhodes also stated that two individuals have approached the Town about renting the building at 110 E. Commercial, but that it was in no condition to rent. Mayor Rhodes brought it to the attention of the Council that the building was full of mold and that the ceiling was falling in. In addition Mayor Rhodes stated that the Town is using this building for storage and that the mold and mildew was in the process of damaging the items that have been stored.

At this time, Mayor Rhodes proposed that the Town purchase the building and property at 105 S. Main St. and move the Town Hall to that location. Mayor Rhodes informed the Council that Chief Building Code Inspector for Wilson County, Mike Davis, and Retired Building Inspector, Kenneth Batts, inspected the building at 105 S. Main St. After careful inspection, Mr. Batts called Mayor Rhodes and informed her that the building was in great

shape and was move-in ready. Mayor Rhodes stated that the Town needs this building because there is plenty of office space and room to store Town records. There would also be space available for a Board room and possibly space for a small museum showing the history of the Town.

At this time, Chief Rosario informed the Council that it had been brought to his attention that the Council may consider purchasing the property at 105 S. Main St. and was considering moving the Town Hall to this location. Chief Rosario stated that the Police Department building was in much need of repair, so he has received a quote on remodeling the Stantonsburg Police Department in the amount of \$8,000. However, if the Town Hall is moved to 105 S. Main St., Chief Rosario feels that the current Town Hall building would be a great place to house the Stantonsburg Police Department. Chief Rosario pointed out that the Town Hall has two safes that would allow for safe storage of evidence and that the vestibule would allow for better security for the Stantonsburg Police Officers.

D. Public Present: N/A

E. Fire Department: N/A

F. Police Report: Chief of Police Orlando Rosario presented the police report to the Town Council.

Chief Rosario informed the Council that his numbers were off at the July Board meeting concerning the Take-Home Car Policy that he had presented to the Board. Chief Rosario stated that it would cost the town an additional \$1,985.76 for two additional take-home vehicles annually. Chief Rosario requested permission from the Council to implement the Take-Home Car Policy. At this time, the Council requested that Chief Rosario get them copies of the policy to look over and they would discuss it at the September 14th Board meeting.

G. Parks & Rec: Delois Drummond informed the Council that the Parks and Recreation Committee was in the process of building its membership. Ms. Drummond stated that they have asked the members of the Parks and Recreation Committee to create a list of things that they would like to see done. They are also looking into applying for some grants.

H. Town Manager's Report: At this time, Mr. Davis presented a resolution that signifies approval of the tax reconciliation of the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Tax Settlement for the Town of Stantonsburg through June 30, 2020. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the resolution for the tax reconciliation of the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Tax Settlement. All Council members voted in favor of the motion.

Town Manager Gary Davis presented (2) utility extension requests. After careful review, Councilman Horne made a motion to grant both utility extension requests. All Council members present voted favorably.

Town Manager Gary Davis informed the Council that the Town was required to give notice to all delinquent accounts for the period of Governor Cooper's executive order. This notice was to make those residents aware that if they owed multiple months on accounts,

they will need to contact the Town Hall to set up a six month payment plan per the Governor's order. Mr. Davis stated that the Town sent out a notice to these delinquent residents, posted the notice on the door of the Town Hall and posted said notice on the Town's website. Mr. Davis also informed the Council that the Town gave notice in excess of 17 days. The Town's notice stated that these residents needed to set up a payment plan by August 14, 2020. Mr. Davis stated that if these residents make their payments, they will not be subject to cut off until January 30, 2021, when the total balance is due. If these residents do not set up a payment plan, they will be subject to immediate disconnect after August 14th. Councilwoman Grice recommended sending out a call to the residents of these delinquent accounts. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that the Town could send out a call and all Council members agreed with the actions of the Town regarding these delinquent accounts.

Mr. Davis informed the Board that the Town had a severe thunderstorm on July 28, 2020 and had lightning strike the light pole on the corner near the Town Hall. The lightning broke a cross arm and it caused damage to the Wi-Fi router in the Town Hall. The lighting also damaged the laptops in the Stantonsburg Police Department. Mr. Davis stated that the Town did file a claim with the insurance company, but that the damage was below the individual deductibles for each building.

Town Manager Gary Davis stated that every year, the Town's electric trucks have a structural and dialectic test done. On August 6, 2020, these trucks were tested and the newer bucket truck and the line truck failed the structural test. Mr. Davis informed the Council that this caused both trucks to be red flagged and taken out of service immediately.

Mr. Davis stated that there were cracks found in the boom of the bucket truck. Mr. Davis had a serviceman from Altec come out and inspect the bucket truck. The gentleman from Altec informed the Town that the bucket truck would be covered under warranty. According to the technician, the Town would likely only have to pay for travel expense for the mechanic.

Mr. Davis informed the Council that the line truck could not be repaired by Altec because of the age of the truck. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that the Town was looking quotes for a demo truck to replace the line truck. Mr. Davis also stated that the Town was looking into renting a truck from Map Enterprises until the Town can find a replacement.

At this time, Mr. Davis passed out a summary that he received from the Town's Electrical Engineer, Kevin O'Donnell. This summary showed the power cost savings of the Town since switching to NTE in 2018. Mr. Davis stated that the total cost savings from 2018 through July, 2020 is \$1,251,646.

I. Appearance Committee: Linda Mooring stated that the shelter on the front of the Seal Building should be finished soon and that they will continue to look at the possibilities of putting a shelter on the back. Mrs. Mooring also stated that the Appearance Committee had the Building Inspector come out and look at the Seal Building to give them an idea of what could or couldn't be done when placing a shelter on the back of the Seal Building. Mrs. Mooring informed the Council that Town Manager Gary Davis has had the Seal Building property surveyed and they now have a line to go by when getting estimates on privacy fences.

Steve Mooring informed the Council that the shelter on the Seal Building had come along nicely and that Vasquez Home Improvement had done an exceptional job. Mr. Mooring thanked the Board for their input and support regarding the Seal Building.

At this time, Mayor Coley Rhodes spoke on behalf of the Jane Lancaster regarding the Events Committee. Mayor Rhodes stated that Mrs. Lancaster recommended canceling the Crepe Myrtle Festival this year due to Covid-19 and was seeking the approval from the Board so that the Town could be reimbursed for the deposit paid to the Embers. Councilman Bynum made a motion to cancel the Crepe Myrtle for the year 2020. All Council members voted favorably.

J. Councilman Horne: Councilman Horne stated that the basketball nets at the park need to be replaced and soccer nets are still not sitting in alignment with each other.

Councilman Horne also asked Town Manager Gary Davis if the park equipment could be sanitized periodically. Mr. Davis stated that the Town has some spray that can be applied.

K. Councilman Bass: Councilman Bass asked Town Manager Gary Davis if there was a priority list for streets once the Town is able to begin paving. Mr. Davis stated that he has looked at the Sewer Rehab Plan and it appears that the Town may be able to pave a block and then have to skip a block which is not ideal, but that Tyson St. was a priority as far as paving once the sewer line is videoed.

Councilman Bass asked if the Council could get a total to date on what the Town has spent on the Seal Building for the next meeting.

Councilman Bass also asked if the Council could have a list of repairs that have been done to Town owned buildings.

L. Councilman Harper: N/A

M. Councilman Bynum: N/A

N. Councilwoman Grice: Councilwoman Grice reminded the Council that several months ago, she visited with the Town of Lucama and that she had shared with the Stantonsburg Town Council a copy of Lucama's extension request program. Councilwoman Grice stated that she feels it would be beneficial for the Stantonsburg Town Council to implement something very similar. At this time, Councilwoman Grice passed out a copy of the Town's Utility Rules and Guidelines. Councilwoman Grice stated that, in order to keep individuals from abusing the utility extension process, she is proposing that two emergency extensions per year be granted per household. These would be determined by permanent Town Hall records. The individual would bring a letter of request to the Town Hall before the 10th. Councilwoman Grice stated that these extensions would be granted until the 20th of the month by lunch time. Councilman Bass and Councilman Harper suggested adding to the extension rule that after your two extensions have been met for the year, there will be no additional extensions granted. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to adopt the extension rule stating that two extensions per year be granted per household and that the individual

would need to bring a letter for an extension request to the Town Hall before the 10th of the month, with the stipulation that extensions be granted until the 20th of the month and that there will be no more than two extensions per household for the year effective January 1, 2021. All Council members voted in favor of the motion.

O. Mayor: Mayor Rhodes stated that she would like to appoint a search committee for a Town Manager. Mayor Rhodes asked Councilwoman Grice and Councilman Bynum if they would be willing to serve on this committee. Both Council members agreed.

Mayor Rhodes informed the Council that she has typed up the Town of Stantonsburg Cemetery Guidelines, correcting grammar and other mistakes on the previous bulletin.

Councilman Horne made a motion to go into closed session to discuss land acquisition. All Council members present voted favorably.

Mayor Rhodes declared the meeting back into open session at approximately 10:13 pm.

Councilman Harper made a motion to lease the small lot beside the cotton gin on Main St. from Dan Whitley Jr. All Council members voted favorably.

Councilman Bynum made a motion to adjourn. All Council members voted in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tabitha Bailey, Town Clerk

Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor

