

**TOWN OF STANTONSBURG**

DATE: October 12, 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, Walt Bynum and Ken D. Horne. Also present were Town Manager Gary Davis, Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey 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 minutes of last month's meetings, September 2020, and October 6, 2020:**

All Council members voted to approve all meeting minutes for September 2020 and October 6, 2020.

**B. Financial Report:**

*Receipts \$357,464.70 Disbursements \$275,005.14 Difference \$82,459.56*

**C. Invoices for Payment:**

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

**D. Public Present: N/A**

Mayor Rhodes stated that, at the request of the Council, she has been in contact with Bruce Naegelen of Upper Coastal Plains Council of Government regarding the cost of the Economic Assessment of Understanding Memorandum. Mr. Naegelen informed Mayor Rhodes that there would be no cost to the Town for these services. Councilwoman Grice made the motion to accept the Economic Assessment of Understanding Memorandum from Upper Coastal Plains Council of Government for the Town planning. All Council members present voted favorably.

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

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

The Town Council requested that Chief Rosario provide them with information and a quote for camera installation within the Town.

Police Chief Rosario inquired about the status on the request that he made to be considered for a certification bonus for receiving his Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate back in 2017. At this time, Town Manager Gary Davis passed out a copy of the personnel policy regarding employee Certification Bonuses. It was brought to the attention

of the Council that this request had been brought before the Board in the past and it had been denied. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that Police Chief John Hunt had received the same certification in the past and was not granted a certification bonus.

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

**H. Town Manager’s Report:** Town Manager Gary Davis presented (9) utility extension requests. After careful review, Councilman Horne made a motion to grant extension requests #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and deny request #8. After some discussion, Councilwoman Grice made a motion to grant all extension requests presented. Councilman Horne, Councilman Harper and Councilwoman Grice voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed with a 3-2 vote, with Councilman Bynum and Councilman Bass voting against the motion.

Town Manager Gary Davis presented the Council with proposed water and sewer tap fee increases. Town Manager Gary Davis informed the Council that he has compared the Town of Stantonburg’s prices with other Towns and Stantonburg is very low. Mr. Davis recommended the new water and sewer tap fees as follows:

	<u>Current Rate</u>	<u>Proposed Rate</u>
<b>Water Tap Fees</b>		
¾ inch water tap	\$300.00	\$500.00
1 inch	\$325.00	\$525.00
1 ½ inch water tap	\$400.00	\$1,250.00
2 inch	Cost plus 15%	Cost plus 15%
*Outside Town Limits- ¾ inch water tap	\$600.00	\$800.00
<b>Sewer Tap Fees</b>		
4 inch sewer tap	\$350.00	\$550.00
Larger than 4 inch sewer tap	_____	Cost plus 15%

Town Manager Gary Davis recommended the new water and sewer tap fees be made effective October 13, 2020. Councilman Bass made a motion to adopt the new proposed rates for water and sewer tap fees effective October 13, 2020. All Council members voted favorably.

At this time, Town Manager Gary Davis presented the Council with a proposal from Service Roofing for replacement of the Stantonburg Police Department roof. After some discussion, Councilman Bynum suggested getting more bids. All Council members agreed.

Councilman Bynum made a motion that for any projected estimate of over \$5,000 that the Town require a minimum of three bids before making a decision. Councilman Bynum also stated that if three bids are not submitted, the Town resubmit and take two. All Council members voted favorably.

Town Manager Gary Davis requested that the Council go into closed session to discuss possible acquisition of the EMS building.

**I. Appearance Committee:** Linda Mooring informed the Council that some of the Town employees suggested placing a sign at the Stantonsburg Cemetery. Mrs. Mooring also stated that there was some discussion that the Parks and Recreation Committee were possibly looking into placing signs at the park. With the Council's permission, the Appearance Committee would like to get with the Parks and Recreation Committee and look into signage for the Stantonsburg Cemetery and the Stantonsburg Park. Councilman Bynum made a motion to allow the Appearance Committee and the Parks Recreation to look into signage for the Stantonsburg Cemetery and the Stantonsburg Park. All Council members voted favorably.

Mrs. Mooring informed the Council that the Town employees have removed large chunks of concrete and pallets of brick from behind the Seal Building. Also, Steve Mooring and Neil Vick have removed rotten and unusable wood behind the Seal Building. Mrs. Mooring stated that this was done to prepare for a quote for replacement of wood and building a shelter behind the building.

**J. Councilman Horne:** Councilman Horne stated that the light at the sign at the triangle is out.

Councilman Horne also asked Town Manager Gary Davis to make sure that all streets are draining properly.

**K. Councilman Bass:** Councilman Bass asked what the Council planned on doing about the damage to the Old Hardware Building. After some discussion, Councilman Bass agreed to look at options to help drainage behind the Old Hardware Building.

Councilman Bass informed Town Manager Gary Davis that there is a sinkhole forming across the street from his house. Mr. Davis stated that he would look into it.

At this time, Councilman Bass informed the Council that something needs to be done about the abundance of cats in Town. After much discussion, Mayor Rhodes stated that she will write a letter to the Wilson Sheriff's Department about the cats and request their help. Mayor Rhodes will also ask Police Chief Rosario to go with her to deliver the letter.

**L. Councilman Harper:** N/A

**M. Councilman Bynum:** N/A

**N. Councilwoman Grice:** Councilwoman Grice asked Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey to inform residents about the new extension request policy that will take effect January 1, 2021.

Councilwoman Grice also requested that the new policy be posted above the drop box outside the Town Hall.

**O. Mayor: N/A**

At this time, Councilman Horne made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel and possible acquisition of the EMS building.

Once back in open session, Councilman Harper made a motion to accept the EMS building per the terms outlined in the letter. All Council members voted favorably.

Councilwoman Grice made a motion to adjourn. All Council members voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Tabitha Bailey, Town Clerk

Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor

