

TOWN OF STANTONSBURG

DATE: January 11, 2021

Mayor Coley Rhodes called the regular monthly meeting to order via conference call due to Covid-19 at 7:00pm. The following Council members were present: Jackie Grice, Donnie Bass, Ben Harper, Ken D. Horne and Walt Bynum. Also present were Town Manager Gary Davis, Town Manager David Beaman, Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey and Chief of Police Orlando Rosario. Also present was Martin Amerson with Carr, Riggs and Ingram.

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, December 2020: All Council members voted to approve the open meeting minutes for December 14, 2020.

B. Financial Report:

Receipts \$367,276.73 Disbursements \$264,720.46 Difference \$102,556.27

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

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 all paperwork has been submitted for reimbursement for the \$24,500 police equipment grant.

G. Parks & Rec: Mayor Rhodes informed the Council that the Parks and Recreation Committee is in the process of looking at new signage and plantings for the park. The Parks and Recreation Committee is also looking into a grant for a new walking trail at the park.

At this time, Martin Amerson with Carr, Riggs and Ingram presented the 2019-2020 audit for the Town of Stantonburg. After Careful review, Mr. Amerson stated that the Town's audit was very good and he commended the office staff for a job well done. Mr. Amerson informed the Board that the Town's audit has been approved by the Local Government Commission. Councilman Horne made a motion to accept the audit as presented by Carr, Riggs and Ingram for fiscal year 2019-2020. All Council members present voted favorably.

H. Town Manager's Report: Town Manager David Beaman informed the Council that he sent letters out to the owners of the properties at 308 N. Saratoga St., 303 N. Main St., the old Rex Best property and the old slaughter house by the cemetery regarding repairs to the buildings. Mr. Beaman stated that the owners of 308 N. Saratoga St. and the old Rex Best property have made contact with him and are requesting more time to get the buildings repaired and secure. Councilman Horne informed the Council that the owner of 303 N. Main St. spoke with him and also stated that he would secure his building. After some discussion, Councilman Bynum made a motion to allow the owners, who have made contact with the Town regarding their properties, be allowed sixty days to make any necessary repairs. All Council members voted in favor of the motion.

Town manager David Beaman informed the Council that a citizen of Stantonsburg has requested that more angels be placed down South Main St. Mr. Beaman also stated that a resident has submitted a complaint about the cats in Town. Town Manager David Beaman informed the Council that he will try and make contact with the Wilson County Sherriff regarding animal control issues.

Mr. Beaman informed the Board that a resident has informed the Town Hall that her heating unit was malfunctioning and caused her utility bill to be triple the usual amount. This resident is requesting that the Board allow her to make payments in order to pay this bill. Mr. Beaman stated that he heating unit has been replaced and that this citizen has a good payment history. Councilman Harper made a motion to allow this citizen to make payments on her utility bill. All Council members voted favorably.

Mr. Beaman requested permission from the Council to purchase one hundred roll-out garbage cans for \$6,407.14. Councilman Harper made a motion to allow Town Manager David Beaman to purchase one hundred roll-out trash cans for \$6,407.14. All Council members voted in favor of the motion.

At this time, Town Manager David Beaman informed the Council that the Town will need a group of individuals to represent the Town and provide feedback for the Community Economic Assessment Development meetings. Mr. Beaman is requesting that the Council members provide a list of individuals for the Town Manager to contact. Any individuals that agree to participate will be required to fill out a survey and attend 3 to 4 online, hour and a half, meetings. All Council members agreed.

Town Manager David Beaman informed the Council that Attorney Brian Pridgen has reviewed the Facebook policy that Mr. Beaman presented to the Board. Mr. Pridgen feels that the Facebook policy looks great and is a good policy to have. After some discussion, Councilwoman Grice made a motion to move forward with a Town of Stantonsburg Facebook page with the stipulation that the comments be turned off, if possible. All Council members voted favorably.

Town Manager David Beaman stated that the refurbishment of Town Well #4 has begun and that A. C. Schultes has determined that, after a thorough chemical cleaning, switching to a submersible pump will be the best thing for the Town.

At this time, Town Manager Gary Davis informed the Board that Alfredo Aldapa has completed his six-month probationary period of employment with the Town of Stantonsburg. Mr. Davis recommends that Alfredo Aldapa be made a permanent full-time employee with the customary 5% pay increase. Councilman Horne made a motion to

promote Alfredo Aldapa to permanent full-time employment with the customary 5% pay increase. All Council members voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Davis requested that the Town continue to pay his vision and dental as long as he is working part-time for the Town. After some discussion, Councilman Horne made a motion to pay Town Manager Gary Davis' dental and vision as long as he is working part-time for the Town of Stantonsburg. All Council members voted in favor of the motion.

At this time, Mayor Coley Rhodes expressed her appreciation to Town Manager Gary Davis for his dedication to the Town of Stantonsburg for so many years. Mayor Rhodes stated that there will be a write up on the Town website, with pictures, in the near future dedicated to Mr. Davis.

I. Appearance Committee: N/A

J. Councilman Horne: Councilman Horne took this time to thank Mr. Davis for his work with the Town. Councilman Horne stated that it has been a pleasure working with Town Manager Gary Davis over the years.

K. Councilman Bass: Councilman Bass said a special thanks to Mr. Davis for his service to the Town.

Councilman Bass asked if the material purchased with the Cares Act Grant had been delivered. Town Manager David Beaman stated that Computer Central expects the material to be delivered January 12, 2021.

Councilman Bass asked what the status was with the EMS building. Town Manager Gary Davis informed the Council that the Town owns the building and it is insured.

L. Councilman Harper: N/A

M. Councilman Bynum: Councilman Bynum also thanked Mr. Davis for his service to the Town of Stantonsburg.

N. Councilwoman Grice: Councilwoman Grice stated that she feels the Stantonsburg Fire Department should be required to give a quarterly report to the Stantonsburg Town Council. After much discussion, Councilman Bynum made a motion to require the Stantonsburg Moyton Fire Department to present a quarterly report and a certified audit as required by their contract with the Town of Stantonsburg. All Council members voted favorably.

Councilwoman Grice asked if there was a defined plan for drug testing employees. Town Manager David Beaman stated that there is a policy, but it probably needs to be updated. Mr. Beaman will look into the policy and prices for drug screenings.

Councilwoman Grice thanked Town Manager Gary Davis for his work and dedication to the Town of Stantonsburg.

O. Mayor: N/A

Councilman Bynum made a motion to adjourn. All Council members voted in favor of the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tabitha Bailey, Town Clerk

Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor