

**TOWN OF STANTONSBURG**

DATE: July 11, 2022

Regular Meeting

Mayor Coley Rhodes called the regular monthly meeting to order at approximately 7:00 pm. The following Council members were present: Donnie Bass, Ben Harper, Walt Bynum, and Steve Mooring. Councilman Ken Horne arrived at 7:20 pm. Also present were Town Manager David Beaman, Town Clerk Cindy Rhodes, and various members of the public.

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

**A. Approval of June 2022 Minutes:**

**June 13, 2022 – Budget Workshop:** After some discussion the minutes were approved with corrections.

**June 27, 2022 – Public Hearing and Regular Meeting:** After some discussion the minutes were approved with corrections.

**June 13, 2022, and June 27, 2022 – Closed Session:** These minutes were not discussed during the meeting but will be included in our next meeting on August 8, 2022.

**B. Financial Report:**

June: Receipts \$670,778.40 Disbursements \$867,069.27 Difference *(-\$196,290.87)*

Mr. Beaman explained the deficit was due to large purchases from funds already received throughout the year.

**C. Invoices for Payment:** After some discussion Councilman Bynum made a motion to approve the invoices for payment. All were in favor; passed unanimously.

**D. Departmental/Committee Reports:**

- Police Department Report: Town Manager David Beaman presented the report and stated there are no changes to the call list at this time. Mayor Pro-Tem Bass asked if there was an update on the breaking and entering calls on Saratoga St. Chief Rosario stepped in and gave a brief update. Mr. Beaman shared that the Town received the check for the deuce and a half. We will be moving forward with the purchase of the Expedition, decals for Chief's car, and the dog box for the Explorer. There was a discussion regarding the number of business check calls. Mr. Beaman explained this could be coming from keeping the books in house and not going through the 911 call center. He stated he would check into this further.
- Parks & Recreation Commission: Eartha Butler shared with the Council that the commission did not meet this month and the next meeting will be August 4<sup>th</sup>. She asked Mr. Beaman if we were able to purchase the hand sanitizer stations for the park. Mr. Beaman said we were not able to because there was not enough funding left in

the budget. Mrs. Butler proceeded to thank everyone for their interest in the library. She added the library 253 patrons visited in June and they issued 9 new library cards. Councilman Mooring reminded her about the lockers. Mrs. Butler gave an update on the lockers and stated she is very excited.

- Appearance Commission: Linda Mooring had nothing to report.

#### **E. Public Present:**

- Carla Davis, 306 W. Thompson Ave. – Mrs. Davis came before the Council sharing her concerns regarding the legal issues with her neighbors living at 304 W. Thompson Ave. Her concerns were the yard not being cleaned up as promised, the dogs in the front yard, and the vines growing over the road. She also shared her concerns regarding Town Attorney Slade Rand. She feels there is nothing being done. (See response in Section G. Town Manager’s Report, bullet point #5)
- Tommy Stanton, 208 Tyson Dr. – Mr. Stanton came before the Council in support of Mrs. Davis’ situation and what she shared with the Council. He also asked about the SEAL Building. He stated we started working on it and everything seems to have stopped. Since nothing has been done in a while, he questioned the next step. (See response in Section G. Town Manager’s Report, bullet point #4)

#### **F. Old Business:**

- Mayor Rhodes asked about the excel spreadsheet from the Country Finance Director regarding the 911 costs. Mr. Beaman stated he would get that out to the Council tomorrow. She also asked for a report regarding the gaming/fish tables. Mr. Beaman stated the 30-day notice started on June 16<sup>th</sup>, so the owner has until July 16<sup>th</sup> to have the machines removed. There will be a follow up next week. She also asked for an update on the seal coating for the streets. Mr. Beaman stated he does not have a quote on that yet. He stated he does have an update on paving and that he has a third quote. She asked if the seal coating was a possibility. Mr. Beaman stated that it is not recommended to use on streets and that it is used more for parking lots. Also, she asked about the park signs and parking areas. Mr. Beaman stated he needed to get with the Commission, and they will be meeting on August 4<sup>th</sup>. He will discuss with them at that time. Also, from last meeting she asked Mr. Beaman about the performance review forms. He stated he is still working gathering information.
- Councilman Mooring shared his concerns regarding the rising costs of 911 calls and the fact we had to do three budget ordinance amendments. A discussion ensued where Mr. Beaman gave an explanation about the changes that are being implemented hoping to reduce the 911 costs. Councilman Mooring added that he has not seen the final budget. Mr. Beaman stated he would put it on OneDrive for the Council. Councilman Mooring also shared that an employee had asked him about the truck to be purchased. What size and type will the truck be? Mr. Beaman answered 4-wheel drive, extended cab, and 6 or 8 cylinders will depend on availability. Councilman Mooring questioned again, from the June 27<sup>th</sup> minutes, the checks to the USDA that were voided. Town Clerk Cindy Rhodes gave an explanation that these loan payments are to be drafted from the Town checking account.

**G. Town Manager's Report:** Town Manager, David Beaman, presented the following items:

- Discussed the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for neighborhood revitalization. He stated part of the Town's responsibility is to put together a committee that will accept the applications from homeowners. This committee will receive the applications, vet them, and send them to the grant. He added there will be an initiation meeting to go over the process and a representative from the Council of Government will be present. Councilman Mooring asked about the dollar amount for this grant. Mr. Beaman stated dollar amounts have not been decided. Mayor Rhodes asked if one of the Council members would like to serve on this committee. Councilman Bynum volunteered with the other Council members to be in attendance if he had a conflict. Mayor Rhodes asked Council if they knew of anyone who would like to serve on this committee to call Mr. Beaman.
- Discussed the asphalt patching quotes. He stated he has three quotes for Saratoga St. He added that Fulford and Jones was the lowest quote. After some discussion Councilman Bynum made the motion to accept Fulford and Jones quote and go forward with asphalt patching on S. Saratoga St. After more discussion Councilman Bynum amended his motion to go forward with asphalt patching on S. Saratoga St. using Marshall's Construction. All were in favor; passed unanimously.
- Discussed reserve/auxiliary police officers. He shared he pulled the ordinance and explained the difference between reserve and auxiliary officers. He stated that for what they get paid it is a benefit keeping them as part time officers. There was more discussion regarding the hours our part time officers work and if we are paying liability insurance on them. Mr. Beaman is to check into the liability insurance and what we are paying. More discussion happened regarding using the part time officers to reduce overtime hours and maintaining 24-hour coverage.
- In response to Mr. Stanton from the public comments regarding the SEAL building. We were awarded a grant through the Rural Transformation Trust Fund for \$50,000.00. He gave a brief description of what the grant will cover. He added we will be able to hire a professional planning firm to assess the area to give us two or three options that will help benefit the Town.
- Next, in response to Mrs. Davis' comments in public comments, he gave an update on the property on Thompson Ave. We did receive a court order signed by a judge on June 30<sup>th</sup>. He discussed what needs to be done on our side of things. He is working on a plan to get the area cleaned up. It was also discussed how our Town Attorney is handling the situation. Council Mooring shared other areas around the Town that need to be addressed. There was more discussion and concerns about getting these areas cleaned up. Mayor Rhodes added this situation has existed for years and Councilman Bass pointed out we should have been ready with plans in place by now to address this.

**H. Councilman Harper:** Had nothing to discuss.

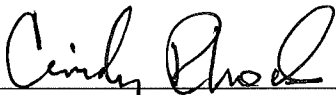
**I. Councilman Horne:** Questioned the police report with Chief Rosario and Sgt. Rivera were here, why Mr. Beaman was speaking on behalf of the police department. After a

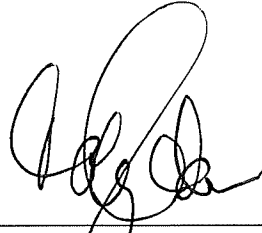
brief discussion, Councilman Horne wanted to have Chief Rosario present his report to the Council. Councilman Mooring then suggested have all department heads come in to report on their areas. After a brief discussion it was decided to keep things as they are. Councilman Horne also questioned who is responsible for the cleaning the park picnic areas and restrooms. Mr. Beaman stated the street crew was responsible. Council Horne stated he had received a phone call from resident who was about the condition of the restrooms. He stated we need to pay more attention to these areas. He also asked about getting more mulch in the park. Mr. Beaman will discuss with the Parks and Recreation Commission on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Horne then asked is it normal for the garbage truck to drop liquids and garbage from under the bottom on the street. Mr. Beaman to check with Robbie.

- J. Councilman Bynum:** Reiterated we need to concentrate on getting Thompson Ave. and other areas around Town cleaned up. There was a brief discussion regarding ordinance enforcement.
- K. Mayor Pro-Tem:** Commended the Town on the July 4<sup>th</sup> display. He also thanked Mr. Beaman for making progress on the asphalt and paving.
- L. Councilman Mooring:** Discussed board packet availability. He asked if the packet could be made available on Thursday before the meeting. Mr. Beaman stated that we are working toward that, and you should have it next month on Thursday.
- M. Mayor Rhodes:** Had nothing to discuss.

With no further business Mayor Rhodes asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Harper made the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Cindy Rhodes, Town Clerk

  
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Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor