

TOWN OF STANTONSBURG

DATE: August 8, 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 7:25 pm. Also present were Town Manager David Beaman, Town Clerk Cindy Rhodes, Town Attorney Slade Rand, 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 Minutes:

June 13, 2022 – Closed Session: Approved as written.

June 27, 2022 – Closed Session: Approved as written.

July 11, 2022 – Regular Session: Approved as written.

B. Financial Report:

July: Receipts \$510,014.32 Disbursements \$357,467.47 Difference \$152,546.85

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

D. Departmental/Committee Reports:

- **Police Department Report:** Chief Rosario had nothing more to report. He shared that he has been a member of North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police for the last seven years and is serving as Region Nine Director. There was some discussion about his report and information that was omitted. Chief Rosario was also asked about the hiring of the fourth police officer. He explained that he has two packages that he is looking at from the police academy. There was some discussion about how he sponsors individuals through the academy. Also, there was a discussion about the overtime hours work by our police officers.
- **Parks & Recreation Commission:** Eartha Butler shared with the Council that the commission met on August 4th. The major concern is the cleaning of the bathroom at the shelter and the trash cans. This area is staying filthy. Town Manager David Beaman has put together a schedule for the bathroom to be cleaned twice a week. There was also some discussion about locking the bathroom at night and reopening in the morning by the police department. Mr. Beaman stated he would verify that this is being done. She also shared that the commission is looking into Councilman Horne's request about securing the area between the house and the barn. They are looking at different methods to secure that area to people from parking too close traffic. She added the library had 281 patrons visit in July, had 9 new library cards

issued and 54 patrons used the computers. They also had 51 volunteer hours and a high school student coming to volunteer. Ms. Butler also stated that Molly Westmore, the Library Director, is excited about the ideas the Appearance Commission has to fix up the library. She is getting a new circulation desk and was told to get some colorful chairs and furniture. She added that the lights desperately need to be replaced because they come on and go off all times of the day. Mayor Rhodes stated that the library would be added to the agenda started at the September 12th meeting.

- Appearance Commission: Linda Mooring stated the commission met on August 1st. She shared some of the things the commission would like: painting the electrical building and the library. She discussed some of the issues with the library and what needs to be fixed. She gave some ideas on how to make the library more noticeable. She reiterated that Molly Westmore is so excited about what is going on at our library. She asked the Council to consider letting them paint the outside of the library to bring more attention to the building.

E. Public Present:

- Marie Edmundson – Mrs. Edmundson discussed the NC Workhouse community cleaning services which could be a solution to the cleaning of the park bathroom. This program is free. She then asked about the when the train equipment on N. Saratoga St. was going to be removed. Mr. Beaman stated it was a contractor’s piece of equipment and he reached out multiple times. She asked if the holes on S. Saratoga were going to be fixed. It was shared that a contractor is coming to fix the holes. Also, she made the Council aware that the Community Center has been broken into and vandalized. She also suggested putting cameras up in strategic areas of town.
- Johnny Holmes – Mr. Holmes came before the Council to express his concerns regarding the electric increase and the garbage only being picked up one time weekly.
- Carla Davis – Mrs. Davis came before the Council expressing her concerns regarding her neighbors living at 304 W. Thompson Ave. and the bushes at the Handy Mart.
- Kristina Anderson – Mrs. Anderson shared that she liked the postcard communicating the changes in rates and garbage pick-up. She also suggested in larger recycle containers.
- Amy Charles – Ms. Charles came before Council and shared that she is available to help with getting applications for the CDBG grant.

F. Old Business:

- Councilman Mooring questioned the status of the gambling establishment. Mr. Beaman stated it has been removed. He also questioned the computers purchased for the Police Department. Mr. Beaman discussed issues with a grant from last year’s budget and said he got an extension for this year. The Town will be reimbursed for this purchase. Councilman Mooring also questioned the Phase 2 Sewer Rehab asking for a clear narrative and deadline. Mr. Beaman stated that he and Mike McAllister have discussed these issues and he shared their concerns. He stated that he would investigate Councilman Mooring’s questions further and suggested having Mr. McAllister come to a meeting to discuss further. Councilman Mooring also questioned regarding the discontinuation of mowing non-town own lots if these

individuals have been notified. Mr. Beaman stated that they have been notified and that it started today.

- Mayor Rhodes questioned Mr. Beaman about the performance review forms. Mr. Beaman stated he has not developed one yet.
- Mr. Beaman introduced Ben Farmer from the Upper Coastal Plains Council of Government. Mr. Farmer discussed the CDBG grant for neighborhood revitalization. He discussed how it works and the process needed to apply for the grant.

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

- Discussed the Thompson Ave. cleanup and shared his revision to the cost of the cleanup. Town Attorney Slade Rand discussed the process of the court orders. He suggested going into closed session to discuss this matter further. Councilman Bynum made the motion to go into closed session to discuss the legal ligation case 22cvd409 Stantonsburg vs. Melissa and Richard Shadding.

Council went into Closed Session at 8:55 pm.

Open Session was continued at approximately 9:45 pm.

- Discussed the curb and gutter cleanup and stated that he had two additional quotes, but one was withdrawn. He discussed the quotes and stated the best price was \$150.00 per hour with three men, dump truck and all the equipment needed to edge all the areas. After a discussion about what will happen after this job is done Councilman Harper made the motion to move forward with \$150.00 per hour quote. More discussion ensued and the vote came in with three nays (Councilman Mooring, Councilman Bass, and Councilman Horne) and two yes' (Council Harper and Councilman Bynum). Motion did not pass. More options were discussed, and it was decided to give the guys the opportunity to work on their time management.
- Gave an update on 911 costs and stated that there was nothing more can do other than continue to move forward with what they have been doing.
- Discussed the audit response letter. He stated that he was going to be reaching out to the Local Government Commission to see what their suggestions are. Councilman Mooring shared his concerns about not seeing the letter as soon as it was received. Mr. Beaman stated he would make mail available as soon as he gets it.
- Discussed the Wilson County Tax Resolution which is accepting the settlement of taxes collected from the prior fiscal year and the numbers represented with the resolution. Councilman Bynum made to motion to approve this resolution. All were in favor, passed unanimously.
- The last thing he discussed was needing to set a public hearing for next month at 6:30 pm for two rezonings. All were in favor.

H. Councilman Mooring: Thanked Mr. Beaman for getting the packets out in a timely manner. Questioned when the audit will begin. Also, he shared his concerns about the website not being updated. Mr. Beaman stated he would get it updated.

With no further business Mayor Rhodes asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Harper made the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Rhodes, Town Clerk

Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor