

## Town of Stantonburg

### Board Meeting

November 14, 2022

Mayor Coley Rhodes called the monthly board meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The following council members were present: Donnie Bass, Walt Bynum and Ben Harper. Councilman Horne arrived at approximately 7:25 PM. Also present was Deputy Clerk Tammy Webb and several members of the public.

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

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Councilman Bass to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Present:** Eartha Butler asked about the police coverage 24/7. Councilman Harper responded that when the Stantonburg Police are not on duty, Wilson County provides free coverage for the town.

**Approval of Minutes:** *October 10 Regular Session Minutes Approved with added detail about the traffic accident in Section L.*

**Financial Report:** *October: Monthly Receipts: \$453,743.46 Disbursements: \$441,907.61  
Difference: \$11,835.85 Report referred to our auditors.*

**Invoices for Payment:** Councilman Bass questioned Churchich Recreation Design #18360 for \$11,694.46. Councilman Bynum made a motion to approve the check register with an answer about what this check was for by text tomorrow. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Departmental/Commission/Committee Reports:**

**Police Report:** Chief Rosario asked the board for permission for Faithful Believing Foundation to host a free holiday dinner and toy give-away in the Stantonburg Police Department lobby from noon to 3:00 PM on December 17, 2022. Mayor Rhodes will post the flyer on the website and on our Facebook page. He also passed around a Resolution of 2012 presented by Town Manager Gary Davis, motioned by Councilman Bass and Seconded by Councilman Grice and passed by the town board to have Stroud Wrecker Service exclusively (whenever possible) called by the Stantonburg Police Department for towing purposes. He stated the police department "Never had a rotation list and does not have a rotation list now." He also had a copy of a message from David Beaman, town manager, that stated to add another towing company to his "first call rotation" on September 8, 2021.

The board will discuss this further at a later time. Councilman Bass asked the chief about the vehicle that needed to be police marked. Chief said he'd probably get it done next week. Councilman Bynum brought up a citizen complaint about the old pool room and the traffic and parking. A citizen called the police and was told the police were "going off duty at midnight and would not be able to act on the call."

A discussion ensued about the establishment and neighboring businesses were allowing after hours parking on their land and police acknowledged that the patrons were "leaving intoxicated on the road" and that there had been confrontations and "fights" going on in neighboring parking lots and surrounding properties. Because the establishment is located on land that is not in the town limits, the police said they did not have jurisdiction to go on the property. The chief said they deal with their issues "every weekend." Mayor Rhodes asked if there was a way the chief, being the scheduling officer, could schedule his officers so that they could cover every Saturday night even if some daytime shifts weren't covered simply because they said they have to deal with that problem every Saturday night and daytime hours are more uneventful. He said he could surely do that. He stated he has been leaving it up to the Wilson Sheriff's office and their resources to take care of it. He stated "It's a sporadic thing, not every weekend." Ms. Butler asked about the safety of the town when Stantonsburg police were not on duty. He said the town has coverage 24/7 but sometimes with the Stantonsburg Police Department and other times when our officers aren't scheduled, by Wilson County providing free service.

Parks and Recreation: No meeting this month

Library: Good report on interaction at the festival with 101 patrons at her booth. 9 children with gaming, library cards issued and computers used by 47 as well as 282 patrons. Painter is busy until January.

Appearance Commission: No report.

Event Committee: Mayor Rhodes reported for Jane Lancaster. The Christmas Parade is scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. Corney Keen, Jane Lancaster and Lori Farmer are working on calling and scheduling participants for this event. The board had a discussion about the route and concluded that the same route as last year would be great, which was beginning at the school turning on Saratoga Road, turning left at Commercial, turning left at the stoplight on Main and ending back at the school. Food trucks, JR Davis as DJ, Stantonsburg children singing and lighting of the Christmas tree. Will be put on Website and Facebook. Mayor Rhodes asked about town council members ability to be present for the parade to ride in the parade. Everyone put it on their calendar and reacted favorably to attend except Councilman Bynum who will be out of town.

**Old Business:** Leveling, budget-billing, balance-billing was discussed as to charges and it was shared by Mayor Rhodes that there is no charge to the town to provide this service for our citizens. Councilman Horne made a motion to "roll out" this option for our citizens who wish to use this service. It passed unanimously.

There was a consensus of the entire board to sign the adjusted contract to extend the dates for Phase 2 and 3 of the UDO for our town ordinance updates. Phase 1 has been completed and paid. Other charges are like the previous ones.

Mayor Rhodes reported on our audit by Carl Riggs and Ingram. Earlier today it was in Alabama in risk management and by 6:45 this evening Larry Webb “received word from Corporate that they can do the audit.”

Councilman Bass questioned whether Kevin O’Donnell called to “hedge” our electrical power. He has not. Mayor Rhodes said she would let the board know immediately if he request we do that.

Councilman Bass asked about the public works department’s building as far as leaking water through the garage doors. He expressed the fact that something needs to be done about the drainage that has been an ongoing issue.

**Town Manager Report:** Mayor Rhodes presented facts about the billing for utilities. This sheet was passed out to each board member. Because it will save money, time, and we can add another insert to their envelope for a minute charge, Councilman Bynum made a motion to go with PDSI for our billing. It passed unanimously. Councilman Harper asked for paperless to be looked into.

**Councilmen Concerns:** Councilman Bynum reported an incident in which Lancaster Farms needed electrical help after hours and was told by the police that they were not allowed to call the electrical department for that problem, even though it was on the town pole. The mayor called Durand who was on duty and he came in and fixed the problem. The phone was recently changed (after this problem) to give out the phone number of the electrician on duty. There was a concern about the numbers being “out there” so it was requested we call our phone service to check into having our phones “rolled over” to the on-call person. It was requested that we check into the charges the towns around us charge for after-hours fee to turn electricity back on if it’s turned off because they didn’t pay their bill.

Councilman Horne asked about the route for the parade.

**Mayor:** The employee Christmas party will be at Something Different on Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. The mayor asked that all the councilmen be in attendance. Invitations to follow. The mayor passed out the BOARD ACTIONS notebook for the board to view. It will be done each month highlighting the motions passed and the board actions for each meeting.

Also discussed was a rental property that requested electricity be turned on and the county approved it because they approve from the pole to the house, but the house was determined to have no floor in part of it where the occupants were building fires in the flooring hole. The electrical lines were observed by our electrical employees to be laying on the floor, the ground and throughout the house. The board’s consensus was to call the county and give them the address to investigate. Also, a leaf vacuum was discussed as to it being in the budget. No one

remembered anything about it in the budget. Discussion by Councilman Bass and Harper about the equipment the town is using destroying some property.

Councilman Horne made a motion to go into closed session for a personnel issue. It passed unanimously.

After leaving close session, Councilman Harper made a motion to go back into open session. It passed unanimously.

After going back into open session, Councilman Harper made a motion to adjourn. It passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 9:46 PM.

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Tammy Webb, Deputy Clerk

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Coley Hunt Rhodes, Mayor