

Town of Stantonsburg

Board Meeting

December 12, 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, Ben Harper and Steve Mooring. Councilman Horne arrived at 7:35 PM. Also present were Barbara Aycock, Interim Town Manager, Tammy Webb, Deputy Clerk 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 Harper to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Present: Ernest Melvin and wife, Alicia introduced themselves to the board as the owners of Adrian's. He discussed the origin of the business and his objectives and she asked questions about CDBG and Rural Grants.

Councilman Bynum made a motion to go into closed session for our two interviews scheduled for 7:00 and 7:30. The motion passed unanimously.

***SEE CLOSED SESSION MINUTES**

Approval of the Minutes: *August 25, 2022 Closed Session Minutes were approved. August 30, 2022 Closed Session Minutes were approved. November 14, 2022 Closed Session Minutes were approved. November 14, 2022 Regular Session Minutes were approved.*

Financial Report: *November:* Monthly Receipts: \$379,523.54 Disbursements: \$398,100.92 Difference: -\$18,577.38 Report referred to our auditors.

Invoices for payment: After some questions and discussion, Councilman Bass made a motion to approve the invoices for payment. The motion passed unanimously.

Departmental/Commission/Committee Reports:

Police Report: Chief Rosario asked for Munoz to get his 5% pay increase as he has finished his probation. Councilman Harper made a motion to give the raise of 5% to Munoz. Passed unanimously. Discussion about the vandalism that occurred at the electrical supply building. Decision to put a lock on the water source outside the Public Works Building. Councilman Mooring asked about the 2 police officers that were paid \$48.00 each in the month of November. The chief brought up Wilson's increase in salaries for police officers after an outside study was completed.

Library/Parks and Recreation: No report.

Appearance Commission: Mayor Rhodes acknowledged the lighting and decorations for the town and spoke of the work they do all year.

Event Committee: Mayor Rhodes shared all the work this committee of Jane Lancaster, Lori Farmer and Cortney Keen have done for our Christmas Parade. Cortney organized and planned the entire parade. This is the second year Cortney has done this. She spent hours recruiting and planning this and it was WONDERFUL yet again. Cortney's husband was our SANTA CLAUS and a big hit with all the children handing out candy canes. Jane recruited and organized the DJ, the children from Stantonburg Elementary School singing and the food trucks. Lori organized the crafts that were set up on tables under the shelter which were a HUGE success instead of the bouncy houses we had in previous years. Working together, it was a lovely community Christmas celebration! In discussion about the parade, Councilman Horne expressed concern over the lighting having the parade at dusk and also 2 lights out at the entrance of the park. It was decided to have the electrical team fix the lights at the park and was decided to have our electrical team put up LED lighting on the poles along Main and Commercial as well as have the parade a little earlier next year.

There was also a discussion about our angels that are on the poles around town. The mayor read a card that the citizens penned to the town employees thanking them for distributing the angels down toward the section of Main that had none for years. The mayor reminded the board that for years that request had been made and the former manager and electrical staff had insisted it could not be done. Our current staff had worked ALL TOGETHER putting up the angels and making it happen this year!

Old Business: Upon request from Councilman Bass, the discussion about the police department's request for more money was postponed until a later meeting. Councilman Mooring asked about the lien on the Thompson Avenue property. Mayor Rhodes stated that Slade Rand had communicated on the phone today that he had not approached this situation with the judge yet because he did not have his bill ready for the town so the amount the town spent cannot yet be determined.. Councilman Mooring also asked if the board could see the credit card itemized statements monthly. Ms. Aycock said she would add that to the monthly reports for the board. Councilman Mooring also reminded the board that the employees had a merit raise last January of 2 ½% and upon request of the previous town manager David Beaman, the employees had a 2 ½ % merit raise as well as an additional 2 ½ % COL increase in July 2022 and when this was done, the board had decided there would not be any more raises this year. Councilman Mooring also questioned the progress of Gary Pittman on our audit. He will be in the town hall December 21 and 22 if anyone on the board wishes to check with him on that day.

Town Manager's Report: Barbara Aycock commented on the utility billing that will begin January 15, 2023 for the town. Mayor Rhodes asked if she could send out a CALL ONE message

telling the citizens about the change of the look of their billing. There was a consensus to do that. Ms. Aycok also mentioned the work order tracking. The office staff is researching this and will have information at the January meeting for the board to consider. She also discussed the attitude and communication between the employees and their willingness and cooperation to help each other. Our employee, Jeff Hill is putting in brighter lights in the town hall. It is amazing what difference those lights make!

Councilmen Concerns: Councilmen Mooring asked about the status of the Dollar General. Someone representing the company called just today to ask about the zoning for the build-back. The office is getting a new zoning map and chart with zoning regulations for each code to make the information easier to access. Councilman Horne requested new basketball nets at the park. There was discussion about our ordinance updates and the fact that he should be helping us with these questions as we are updating our zoning with our subdivisions and new housing. Slade Rand had been working on this but the board has not had an update on this. The board also discussed our attorney bills and decided that in early 2023 we will actively seek rates from various town attorneys and do the selection process in the spring. It was also decided that the office will work on eliminating unneeded emails that are costing the town. Mayor Rhodes shared a copy of our contract with Carr Riggs and Ingram and Councilman Mooring made a motion to approve the audit firm of Carr Riggs and Ingram and sign the contract with the firm to go forward with our audit for 2021-2022. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Rhodes also asked for a quorum to meet very briefly on December 20, 2022 at 7:00 PM for a public hearing on the CDBG Grant that we are applying for. Councilmen Bynum, Harper and Mooring agreed to attend. Reminder of the Christmas Employee party at Something Different on December 19, 2022 at 7:00 PM and the RSVP to Tammy.

A motion was made by Councilman Bynum to go back into closed session again for personnel issues. Approved unanimously.

****See Closed Session Minutes**

Councilman Bass made a motion to adjourn. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Tammy Webb, Deputy Clerk

Coley Hunt Rhodes, Mayor