

## Town of Stantonsburg

### Town Council Meeting

April 11, 2023

Mayor Coley Rhodes called the monthly meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The following council members were present: Donnie Bass, Steve Mooring and Ben Harper. Councilman Horne arrived at 7:43. Also present were Barbara Aycock, Interim Town Manager, Tammy Webb, Deputy Town Clerk, Victoria Lucas, Financial Director and 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 Mooring to approve the agenda as written. It was approved unanimously.

**Public Present:** Mayor Rhodes stated the rules for the public speaking this evening. Katherine Horton spoke during this time.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Minutes for the March 13<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting and the closed session meeting of the same date were approved as written.

**Financial Report:** March: Presented by Victoria Lucas: Monthly Receipts: \$466,180.48 Disbursements: \$268,828.30 Difference: \$197,352.18 Report referred to our auditors. Because we have a CD coming up for renewal on the 19th, Councilman Mooring began a discussion about in the future branching out to get better returns for our investments. Councilman Harper made the motion to go with KS Bank for 4.25% for our upcoming CD. The vote was unanimously approved.

**Invoices for Payment, Credit card statements, Other Financial Data:** Councilman Mooring asked about our involvement with Electricities. He also inquired about Josh Pulley's status for his certifications that will eliminate Drake Robart's charge. Ms. Aycock confirmed his test is in May so we should be able to eliminate this by June 1, 2023. Lonnie did obtain his licensure, but is still on leave so we are still depending on Drake. Councilman Mooring asked about sewer tap fees not appearing on our reports. Tammy will check on that in Logics. Councilman Mooring asked about the enormous charges for overtime. Ms. Aycock responded that just today we decided on implementing some rules for overtime and requests for leave and other forms that the town has been in need of enforcing. Also discussed were the ad valorem taxes. Councilman Bass asked about the amount we reimbursed Thomas Whitley. It was for a service pole. Ms. Aycock answered questions from board members about sick time, vacation time and overtime.

Councilman Harper made a motion to approve the invoices for payment. The motion passed unanimously.

**Departmental/Committee/Commission Reports:**

There was nothing to add from any departments. Councilman Mooring asked about the abandoned car that was brought up at the last meeting by a citizen that lives on West Thompson Ave. Chief Rosario said he did not hear the complaint at the meeting. He said he would look into it. It was also noted that a citizen in November 2022 and a follow-up by 2 councilmen more recently had asked about the patrol cars being marked. The chief said that he was waiting for A+ Graphics to call him back. He said he would call and get it scheduled. Councilman Harper asked about the orange piece of equipment by the railroad track. The mayor said she had been in contact with Ward Creech with the railroad and they were going to scrap it soon.

**Old Business:**

About the inventory... we can begin with the past audits with that information and with department heads to begin organizing and listing equipment. It was also discussed by Ms. Aycock to have someone in the office attend a free class about debt set-off when Councilman Mooring asked about the town's delinquent accounts. The Brightly zoom call from last meeting was very expensive and seemed to be more complicated than we needed so we are looking at trying to do the work orders through Logics and maybe with Excel. The office is working on that. Mayor Rhodes asked about the possibility of a budget workshop meeting on May 1, 2023. She also asked about Monday, April 17, 2023 for a presentation on the UDO (ordinance discussion). These dates were agreeable for all.

**Town Manager's Report:**

Ms. Aycock asked the board for any issues that they would like to have addressed in the budget. Councilman Mooring asked about the well project and Councilman Harper requested paving Saratoga Road. Mayor Rhodes added that Mike McAllister is submitting our well project again. Two resolutions were passed out to review from Mike McAllister on water and wastewater grants. We will vote on these at our next meeting. Manilla folders were passed out for the water tower maintenance contract. We will discuss this at the next meeting. Rubber lining the tank was discussed with reference to Envirovac. This contract is with Southern Corrosion. There were no other recommendations for the budget or for the town manager as requested. Ms. Aycock also told the board the town needed a disaster plan in place for upcoming possible hurricanes, as well as maintenance on the generators and preparation for situations such as flooding.

**Councilmen Reports/Concerns:**

Councilman Bass asked about the progress of Greenlight. Councilman Bass asked about what the different departments have been doing and asked why they have not moved into the Public

Utility Bldg. Ms. Aycock stated they had been extremely busy with everyday situations and electric workers have been replacing transformers, riding the lines to check for repairs and constant work orders have kept them busy. Councilman Mooring suggested the board members ride and check out the miles and miles of lines that Stantonburg is responsible for. It is eye-opening to see the amount of lines we are responsible for. We have 1287 customers. It was also suggested by Mayor Rhodes that the board members go to the water/sewer department and see that location as well.

Councilman Mooring commended Roger Sullivan on his work getting all our water reports in and approved in a timely manner. He also reported to the board the act of vandalism on our flags in front of the town hall being raised upside down. He also reminded the board that the town is on the UAL list and reminded the board about the virtual board training that needs to be done by every member. There are 8 modules that need to be completed ASAP. Ms. Aycock stated that one of the stipulations we met today was the zoom call with the LGC and Victoria, the mayor and Ms. Aycock. We seem to be on the right track, but the transfer to our electric fund is a big problem she stated.

As said by Dale Folwell "DO NOT USE FUNDS FROM ENTERPRISE FUNDS TO SUBSIDIZE GENERAL FUND BUDGET OR GENERAL FUND BUDGET TO SUBSIDIZE ENTERPRISE FUNDS. EACH FUND SHOULD BE SELF-SUPPORTIVE." Councilman Mooring said, "This is exactly what we are doing! We are not doing the right thing to tax the people of this town from \$.50 per hundred to \$2.50 per hundred on property tax...and that will still not be enough! We also can't indirectly tax all of our electrical customers, half of which do not live in this town, but they are paying to support the general fund. It's about dollars and cents and we can't continue to support this."

Councilman Horne asked about the status of the park bathrooms. He said the bathrooms were locked and wanted to know why. Mayor Rhodes showed the board some vivid pictures that our sanitation workers sent to her the last time the bathrooms were left unlocked. She said they were to be closed except for the people who rent the park. In that case, the bathrooms were open before the rental and closed shortly after. The mayor stated that she had a citizen complaint about pets being at the park when there are signs that clearly say "NO PETS ALLOWED." Another sign was mentioned to make everyone more aware. Councilman Horne also brought up that he thinks we need some kind of border, roping or blocking of the walking trail from the road for protection in case patrons come too close to the trail. Councilman Bass mentioned the parking stops as we discussed earlier, but Councilman Horne wanted something more substantial in case someone pressed the gas instead of the brake when they were too close. Councilman Horne also asked about the progress on the police study. Mayor Rhodes stated that Tony is in the hospital having surgery and will get back to us as soon as possible.

Mayor Rhodes stated that she had talked with Kevin O'Donnell about his "paring down" of clients and his health scare. Kevin suggested going with UTEC in his place with NOVA Energy. Louis Davis reached out and had a meeting with the CEO of the company and Ms. Aycock and Mayor Rhodes to outline their plan for representation of Stantonburg. Mayor Rhodes will

have them come to our next board meeting to talk with the board so we will have someone to help us immediately. They have already sent a contract. She also passed out a town manager application for the board to review to see if they would like her to schedule an interview. The consensus was for an interview to be scheduled for Monday, April 17, 2023. That date was agreeable to all.

Councilman Horne made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel. The motion passed unanimously. Councilman Horne requested that Tammy Webb and Barbara Aycock be excused from the closed session meeting.

Back into open session, Councilman Harper made a motion to ask Gary Davis to be our Interim Town Manager. The vote was three (3) Harper, Horne and Bass in favor to one (1) Mooring against. Bynum was absent because of illness. The motion passed. Councilman Harper said he would be talking to Gary Davis to see if he will accept.

Councilman Mooring made a motion to do away with all overtime except in pre-approved situations or emergencies across the board for all employees. Councilman Bass said the police should not be treated as the other employees and should be allowed to schedule overtime and get paid time and a half for that overtime. Councilman Mooring spoke up saying his motion was “across the board” because all employees should be treated equally. With Councilmen Horne and Harper speaking up to echo Bass’s remarks, Councilman Mooring rescinded his motion. Councilman Mooring made a motion to adjourn and it was unanimously approved.

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Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor

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Tammy Webb, Deputy Clerk