

## **Stantonsburg Town Council Meeting**

### **Budget Workshop**

**Tuesday, May 23, 2023...Town Hall**

Mayor Coley Rhodes called the meeting to order. Those in attendance were Councilmen Walt Bynum, Ben Harper, Donnie Bass and Steve Mooring. Victoria Lucas, Financial Director and Brian Hawley, Town Manager were also present.

Sharon Edmundson representing the LGC and Debbie Tomasko Director of Operations, Technology and Policy were also present. Councilman Horne arrived at 7:45 PM.

Mayor Rhodes led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened with prayer. Councilman

Mooring made a motion to approve the agenda and the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Rhodes asked for discussion on our UTEC contract.

Manager Hawley led the discussion and Councilman Bynum made a motion to sign with UTEC to replace our service by Kevin O'Donnell and Nova Energy. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was discussion led by Manager Hawley regarding the documents for the CDBG grant. Councilman Harper made the motion to approve the CDBG grant documents and it was approved unanimously.

Manager Hawley introduced Sharon Edmundson to the board and Ms. Edmundson introduced her director who accompanied her. Ms. Edmundson began by saying she provides oversight to 1100 towns. She recognized that our audit is late and that we are on the UAL. Confirmation on our audit firm was acknowledged. She asked for a report on the status of our audit by Gary Pittman. She gave pointers on segregation of duties and things we can do to minimize the risk of that being a small town. Having Gary Pittman coming in regularly as the board has already approved was also a pointer that she recommended. She also gave recommendations for our budget and where to put salaries, etc.

Brian began the discussion about the consolidation of all departments and business “under one roof” to share expenditures which will align more with what is expected by the LGC. The Former Stantonsburg Clinic which has been discussed by the board and seen by all councilmen except Councilman Horne, is the building that is being discussed. Manager Hawley reviewed that we have \$150,000 in a grant already toward a new building for our town hall (which is housing mold and is an unsafe situation for our town employees) and more requested which should be in this state budget coming out shortly. Manager Hawley requested the board give him the authority to negotiate with Chris Huskey representing Life Point in Tennessee. Councilman Mooring made a motion to go forward with the acquisition of the property and give Brian Hawley the authority to negotiate on our behalf. The vote was Councilman Mooring in the affirmative and Councilmen Bynum, Horne, Bass and Harper against. More discussion ensued and Councilman Bynum made a motion to proceed with the clinic property seeing what the best price is for the property. It passed unanimously. There was discussion about the new homes on Sand Pit Road and the taxes and the assessment evaluation. There was also discussion about the big orange railroad equipment and the police survey and the Wilson County charges if they take over the town policing.

The budget was discussed at length, line by line and seems to only need a few small changes. Gary Pittman’s input was needed and now that we have that Brian can go forward. Councilman Bynum made a motion to adjourn and it passed unanimously.