

Town of Stantonsburg
Regular Board Meeting
June 12, 2023

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. Also present was Town Manager Brian Hawley, Deputy Clerk Tammy Webb, Finance Officer Victoria Lucas, Town Clerk Alexis Whitley, and members of the public. Town attorney Slade Rand was present along with Engineer Mike McCallister. Councilman Ken Horne was absent and did not call in.

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 Bynum to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes: *May 8, 2023, regular session minutes were approved. May 11, 2023, Budget Workshop minutes were approved. May 23, 2023, Budget Workshop minutes were approved.*

Public Comment: Michael Fuentes, a resident of 304 Denver Dr., is concerned about rising costs of utilities and what the Town's money is being spent on – would like a breakdown of costs. He is also concerned about the Town downsizing the police force – he states the Town likes having local police. Andre Peele, a resident of 302 Denver Dr., is concerned about the speeding in their subdivision (Wainsfield) and young teenagers littering. He would like to request possible speed limit signs, and/or speed bumps to help with the speeding. He states he has talked with the chief and to the parents of these teens and nothing seems to change.

Oath of Office: Alexis Whitley, Town Clerk was sworn in by Mayor Rhodes.

Southern Corrosion Presentation: 10-year program. Town Manager Hawley has consulted with Jim Dobson and the pricing has not changed - \$12,850 annual cost - **Year 1:** visual inspection repairs to anything uncovered during inspections, install flat valve screening onto overflow pipe. **Year 2:** visual inspection and repairs to anything needed for the tank. **Year 3:** visual inspection as well with wash out of interior, wash out will remove all interior settlement, sterilizing the tank with. **Year 4:** 100,000 g tank will be visually inspected and repaired, pressure washed, and all rusted areas will be scraped, prime coating and painting and reapply logo as appears. **Year 5:** visual inspection and any repairs necessary, the same for Year 6, and 7. **Year 8:** they will paint the interior, caulk any unwelded or rooftop seams, test abrasive blast debris, and dispose of debris if necessary and continue to inspect visually every year after year 8. Repainting of exterior of the tank is scheduled for year 12. The next wash out is scheduled for year 13. Repainting of tank interior scheduled for year 23. Pricing is still \$12,850.00. The Town Engineer can answer more technical questions regarding this.

Councilman Bynum has questions for the Town Engineer, and he wants to know how he feels about the program. Mike says they do the majority of the tanks in Eastern NC, and he has never had any issues with them. Has known two individuals up there for many many years.

Councilman Harper clarified whether it was a 10 year or 12-year plan. – it is a 10-year program.

Councilman Bynum made a motion to contract with Southern Corrosion's 10-year plan. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report: *May:* Monthly Receipts: \$346,593.95 Disbursements: \$253,586.92 Difference: \$93,007.03. Report referred to our auditors.

Invoices for Payment: Councilman Mooring is concerned about the Credit Card statement as to why we are continuing to pay Drake Rowbar—Town Manager Hawley will discuss at the end. CD renewal is coming up, Victoria gave the council a copy of all the rates that she received as of today, June 12, 2023. Just renewed 2 CDs already. There are 3 total, and the 3rd is due the 20th of June. Councilman Harper made a motion that we go with KS Bank for the CD renewal with a 4.5% yield at 9 months. Councilman Mooring asked if there are additional monies we need to apply to the CD's. Victoria can investigate it and see.

Councilman Mooring is concerned about continuously spending \$174.00 on Ice and says we should consider purchasing an ice machine. Victoria states that the ice is needed for Roger and samples. Chief Rosario states that Old Saratoga Water Company will provide the Town with free pallets of water, if needed.

Councilman Mooring asked Victoria about some expenditures on the checklist – one being Ford Lincoln, electric truck repair and he questions a warranty on the truck. Victoria states truck 13 is the older truck. \$3,100.40 on Electric truck repairs and we purchased 20 electrical poles from "Coppers" and one expenditure for Trans East Inc for \$13,149.00 and he states that they are just significant expenditures. The only other was the Cauley-Pridgen, and a check sent to Nova Services. One part of the statement shows one amount and the other shows another amount which is why it was overpaid but we were reimbursed.

Councilman Bynum made a motion to approve invoices.

Councilman Mooring always likes to mention that for public to be aware of the May over time amount of \$3,532.00, which is 102 hours of overtime, which is a controllable expense we still need to get a handle on if we could look at that.

Old Business: Mayor Rhodes brings up the bathroom signs and park pet signs. Town Manager Hawley states the signs have been ordered for all 3 – bathroom, pet and parking barrier. They have all been vandalized and ripped off the walls as far as the male/female signs. They should be out within the next two weeks. Robbie will help Town Manager Hawley with the parking barrier. Should be here soon with that. Councilman Bynum states vandalism is something real hard to control and questions the lighting in that area once the park lights go off. Manager Hawley states the lighting is adjacent to the building and near the bathroom—unsure of it working. Wants to be sure we have all the lighting we can have there.

Park mulch is on order and will be dumped on Thursday. Robbie will meet and be a ground guy for them to dump it and spread. Fire ants have been taken care of – downtown park and cemetery. Water tank

fencing, 3 companies have given estimates this week. Roger has been working to get these companies in and it has been planned for in the Budget for about \$5,500 dollars. Emergency Management Plan -- meeting with Mr. Townley soon to put one together and it will be discussed in the next two weeks. Debt set off – Victoria and Town Manager Hawley are working to get into a course soon and have reached out to Mr. Walsh from the State, so they are in the process of getting some training for that. Still have a list of outstanding debt.

New Business: Town Manager Hawley has had some communication from various organizations throughout the state that have concerns with new Senate Bill 675 that talks about the possibility of removing ETJ's from municipal government's control. Per Mayor Rhodes' request, Manager Hawley generated a Resolution in opposition of that bill and would like to request the council's approval. Resolution 2302- in opposition of Senate Bill 675. Town Manager, Hawley went over the resolution with the council.

Councilman Bynum made motion to accept and sign the Resolution to oppose Senate Bill 675.

Town Manager Hawley discusses the distressed unit list, and we are in the zone to be potentially placed on the list. Mike McCallister, Town Engineer, was present to speak on this. Mike states that this will open other streams of revenue, and grants. It would be a good decision to move forward with that option. Councilman Mooring had questions for the Town Engineer, Mike, regarding the points we had. Financial points in that there was no data, assumption for that is having no audit – correct. Scoring would have been higher if we had all audits. Assessment criteria summary, total possible points, there are 28 points, but Councilman Mooring wants to know what the correlation is between assessment summary and the actual scorecard. Mike states that what they look at is if you pass 10-11 your area is considered a Distressed Unit criterion. You get 3 points for not having updated audits. Being on the list will open opportunities for funding that the Town is missing out on and gives the Town a better opportunity for Grants versus Loans. Mike, Town Engineer, states that the benefits outweigh any stigma. He strongly encourages us to do it. Funds will be used for Sewer/Wastewater treatment side mainly. Councilman Mooring states we are on the ULA list but not yet under UAL control. Mike states that is something we do not want. Councilman Mooring questions the 3 points for “UAL control.” Town Manager Hawley states the 3 points are because we are on the UAL list.

Councilman Bynum makes a motion to recommend the resolution to move forward with distressed unit list. Passed unanimously.

Town Manager Hawley asks the council to review the rate and fee schedule. Some fees have been increased based off the Wilson County fee schedule. The Town is looking to put into action a special use permit application – specifically for the sand miner that plans to come. Temporary food established— If “food trucks” were to come into Town to serve we can approach them and ask them to get a permit to operate or shut them down. For festivals, we charge only the vendor space fee for food trucks.

Councilman Harper made motion to adopt the development permit fees with survey boundary marked out. Passed unanimously.

Department Reports: The Town had an incident where someone was buried in the wrong cemetery plot due to miscommunication with the family. Mr. Woods has been relocated to the correct plot in his final

resting place. Councilman Mooring questioned if procedures have changed to keep this from happening again. The Town is requiring more information and validation from the family from here on out.

For Park/Rec, Lonnie will be returning to work July 3rd which will replace Drake Rowbar.

Water/Sewer, Roger is working on fencing for the water tower.

Public Works/Sanitation, Robert is working on parking barrier – fire ants – Councilman Harper has been working with Robert on the mower and a warranty for the Backhoe budgeted for in the new fiscal year.

Electric Department, working on getting light fixtures for the park where the two have been damaged by soccer players.

Will be working on two sidewalks, a place beside the church and one in front of the school. We will also be budgeting Powell bill funds.

Councilman Mooring, regarding public works tri-town tv substation monthly inspection – something new. Town Manager Hawley will look more into that. Councilman Mooring requests more in depth information.

The planning department met last week regarding the UDO. The planning board voted unanimously to recommend the Town council to approve the UDO at the upcoming public hearing Monday night. Code Wright is working on our land use plan so that we can be compliant.

Slade made a comment that we are not the only ones with a public hearing problem such as amount of time/newspaper publications, etc. It is the newspaper's error and not the Town.

Public Hearing and UDO Hearing will take place Monday, July 19th at 7pm.

Councilman Mooring states the asset tags are here and Tammy, Deputy Clerk, is working on that spreadsheet. We are not tagging all transformers or all utility poles. Initial thought was to tag all electronics, but we do need to go beyond that as some of the bigger things get missing as well.

Councilman Mooring brought up that in the last meeting Councilman Horne questioned the spring clean up for the Town – who authorized it and how much it costs. A grand total of \$146.00 was spent for the spring clean-up.

Councilman Mooring questions Town Attorney Slade Rand about a specific claim. Slade claims more specific information is for closed session only. If there is a question about a specific bill, he needs to call.

It is time to do yearly form committees for the new fiscal year. Mayor Rhodes has about 30 total people who have expressed interest in being on a committee. If you have others, please let her know.

Mayor Rhodes signed the contract for UTEC, and they are meeting with them Wednesday. Commissioners need to do all training modules.

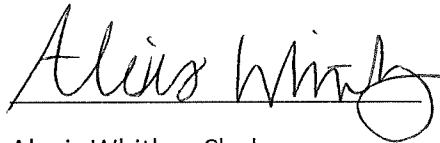
Regarding the Seal Building, we are looking for bids for lumber replacement and to do the painting.

Dillon Webb asked Mayor Rhodes if he could be police for the day, for his birthday. Possibly for the day of the festival only per Town Manager Hawley.

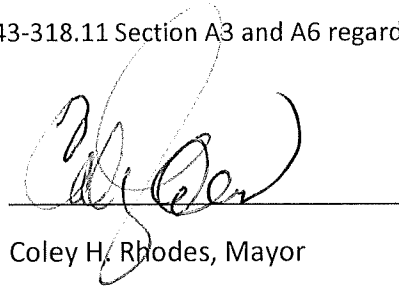
Police Report:

Councilman Harper questioned Chief Rosario on the multiple alarm activations at the school. Rosario stated the 911 center is responding and invoicing the school themselves. Sergeant Riviera spoke to a tech with the alarm company and those sensors have been replaced so that should no longer be an issue. Chief Rosario passed out unexpected agenda material and councilman Bass has questions regarding such information. The information was regarding the police car GPS' and radars corresponding together. Councilman Bynum suggests the Town hire someone professional to install. This will cost \$200 a car but Councilman Bass wants to know if that includes a warranty, if so, it's worth it. The council agreed to hire someone professional to install this equipment from here on out. The council wishes Town Manager Hawley to hire a professional.

Mayor Rhodes made a motion to go into closed session for 143-318.11 Section A3 and A6 regarding personnel matters. Passed unanimously by the council.



Alexis Whitley, Clerk



Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor