

Town of Stantonsburg
Regular Board Meeting

November 14, 2023

Mayor Coley Rhodes called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. The following council members were present: Donnie Bass, Ben Harper, and Steve Mooring. Also present were Town Manager Brian Hawley and Town Attorney Slade Rand. Councilman Ken Horne joined the meeting at 7:42 P.M.

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

Approval of Agenda: Councilman Mooring moved to approve the agenda with an addition (*do not have the addition here*) and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Councilman Mooring asked that the minutes identify the votes for the motion to accept, subject to the upset bid process, a bid to purchase property next door, and the Board agreed to accept the minutes with a modification that showed the vote was 4-1 in favor, with Councilman Mooring voting against acceptance of the bid.

The Board also approved closed session minutes from September 11, 2023, and October 9, 2023.

Public Comment: There were no public comments.

Presentations: There were no presentations.

Financial Reports: There was significant overtime in October, and per the manager, the overtime was pre-approved by department heads as recommended by accounting consultant Gary Pittman.

Councilman Mooring moved to approve invoices, and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Manager Hawley indicated that the Town would start to replace signs. Councilman Mooring stated that the light on the Town Hall flag is still out, and that the Town needed a better, more efficient system of tracking work orders. Councilman Bass indicated that there is a pothole that still isn't filled on Main St. Manager Hawley stated that the NC Department of Transportation (DOT) is supposed to be refilling the pothole; however, the DOT indicates that the Town is supposed to maintain this road. Town Attorney Slade Rand questioned that as the DOT is responsible for maintenance of state roads.

New Business: Per Town Manager Hawley, on the recommendation of Gary Pittman, the Town should move ARPA funds to Police and Administrative salaries and to cover premium payments. Councilman Bass moved to approve a Budget Amendment to make this change and the motion

passed unanimously.

Per Manager Hawley, the Christmas Parade is scheduled for December 2, 2023, at 4:00 P.M.; the DOT is already informed of and has approved the Parade route; there are some lights yet to be installed.

Councilman Harper inquired about floats, participants and vehicles. Manager Hawley indicated that the Town Clerk, who could not attend tonight's meeting, has that information and Manager Hawley will provide that later. Mayor Rhodes indicated that the school offered to trim and cut the tree. Manager Hawley indicated that a food truck and "funnel cake" man will be on hand. Manager Hawley asked the Board to consider halting area light \$175 fee (for Town installed lights on private property) until he can advise the Board what other area towns are charging. The Board discussed charges for pole installation, as well as monthly charges for service. The Board asked the manager to table this issue until the next meeting after he has had the time to gather more information for the Board's consideration.

Manager Hawley asked the Board to approve a stand-by policy for utility personnel, primarily affecting the water department. Councilman Harper moved to approve, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Rhodes indicated that the Town was working on getting the Christmas lights up.

At approximately 7:40 the Board began discussing the bid on the building next door, and also the existence of mold in the building. The Board decided to table final consideration of the bid.

Department Reports and Town Manager Reports: Manager Hawley provided Department reports as follows: the Town was behind in cleaning sewers but has jet cleaned 3,815 feet total this calendar year. The state recommends cleaning ten (10%) per cent every year, which is approximately 2,900 feet. Thirty water meters have been changed out, and there are forty remaining to be changed.

The Manager indicated that Wilson County is providing \$2,000 for Parks and Rec. Public Works has put out mulch and is taking up leaves, and also cleaning up around the Seal Building.

Electric Department - Manager Hawley met with Tri-Town regarding hooking a camera at D-D station and greenlight may be a future option to provide that service.

The Police Department is trying to hire a new officer.

Gary Pittman reported to Manager Hawley that he is making steady but slow progress on journal entries. Truist Bank paid for paving the Town's part of a parking lot shared with Truist. The Seal Building Project is in the data collection phase and NCSU is working on a proposal.

Tirence Horne will be here in December to discuss the CDBG. There were some mapping issues that have delayed funding, but Mr. Horne expects that to be cleared up.

Councilman Horne asked about the drainage in the newly paved parking area, paved by Truist.

Comments from Mayor and Council: Councilman Mooring stated that the bank paving looks great and that he would like to see the alley behind Town Hall cleaned up, especially before the Town asks others to clean up.

Councilman Bass wanted to know about the invoice from the Fire Department regarding their contract and if the Department was providing a quarterly invoice. Manager Hawley indicated that there hadn't been one recently. Then a discussion ensued regarding a fire tax, revaluation used to collect, and whether the county was assessing a fire tax. It is not. There are still some area lights out, and the Board asked if an area light could be installed at the school bus stop at East Main and 222. Councilman Horne stated that the Park parking lot is dark, and that he was glad to see the paving project done. Councilman Harper asked about a delinquent commercial utility bill. Manager Hawley indicated that the proprietor is catching up. The Mayor had no comments.

Councilman Harper moved to adjourn, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at approximately 8:30.