

Town of Stantonburg

Board Meeting

February 13, 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. Councilman Horne arrived at 7:30 PM. Also present was Deputy Clerk Tammy Webb, Tirence from Upper Coastal Plain COG, 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. The motion passed unanimously.

Brightly Presentation: Mayor Rhodes states that they were scheduled tonight to talk about software to keep up with work orders in an easier way than normal. She will see if they can come next month.

Approval of the Minutes: *January 9, 2023, minutes were approved* along with a correction from Councilman Mooring to give kudos to Mayor Rhodes for keeping the town above water and working 30-40 hours a week with no pay. Councilman Horne seconds what Councilman Mooring says and thanks the mayor tremendously. The council did ask that it be included in the January minutes, but they were omitted. Without amending January, this is added to this month's minutes. *January 2, 2023, and January 30, 2023, closed session minutes were approved.*

Public Comments: Christy Davis addressed the board with an incident with the police.

Financial Report: *January:* Monthly Receipts: \$446,455.36 Disbursements: \$401,996.62 Difference: \$44,458.74 Report referred to our auditors. On March 11th, Victoria is to research a new rate for CD Renewal. Councilman Mooring appreciates account statements from ALL credit cards and Truist in the packet. We no longer have a Tractor Supply card.

Invoices for Payment: During the discussion, Councilman Mooring questioned payment for Harrah's Cherokee Hotel – Chief Rosario had a conference to go to, did purchase order but no expense report. Walmart credit card bill is now taken care of. Credit limit was over. Councilman Mooring questioned the Gun Safe for the inside of the 2009 Ford Expedition in which Rosario drives. The other officers have a locking system due to the type of vehicle. Capital One check is Walmart. After this discussion and questions, Councilman Harper made a motion to approve the invoices for payment and check list. The motion passed unanimously.

Departmental/Commission/Committee Reports:

Police Report: Chief Rosario reported that he received a letter from a young lady of January 6th thanking everyone for their support in her partner's death. No arrests in the month of January. Councilman Mooring did inquire about the breaking and entering at 216 Moyton Avenue in which Riviera handled. No arrest made – escorted off property – not really considered breaking and entering. Councilman Mooring stated that back in November, Councilman Bass brought up the lettering on the police cars, which has not happened. A+ Graphics larger accounts have higher priority than small accounts, so they have been pushed out. 2018 Charger will be lettered but not the Ford Expedition as it is an administrator vehicle and used as undercover. Dog box is functioning.

Library/Park/Rec Report: Mayor Rhodes thanks Eartha Butler for doing everything she does for the library. Molly has been given 4 new computers, 2 tables that split into two, 2 new chairs and one new bookcase. Working to get all equipment up to date. Thankful for the appearance committee helping to get some color and improve other items. Adult count was 316, Reference question of 40, computer use of 41, 6 new cards, and 29 book requests. Thankful for the Chief helping some students secure their bicycles while visiting the library.

Appearance Committee: Linda Mooring, Chair, discussed quotes for ceiling tiles, painting, and flooring. Removing and disposing of existing ceiling tiles, leaving the grid but having it cleaned and installing all new tiles \$4,400 for the library (not including new insulation – hopefully reusing old) and will work with Eartha and Molly on the timing of that. Same vendor as Wilson County Schools on a State contract. Library staff will remove books and stacks will be unscrewed from the walls. Adding regular carpet is half the price of carpet squares. New furniture and a new circulation desk will look awesome. The painting price was \$4,800.

Event Committee: Huge thank you to Jane Lancaster, Lori Farmer, and Courtney King for everything they did at Christmas including the wonderful parade. Discussing Crepe Myrtle Festival – setting date for Saturday, October 14th 10-4. Need to get the committee started and figure out a budget. Christmas Parade date – December 2nd, Saturday at 4pm. Considering July 4th festivities but not sure yet. Councilman Horne made motion to approve. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Mayor Rhodes asked if anyone has any questions for Tirence from UCPCOG regarding our Grant. Tirence states that The Town's sam.gov is in Rosario's name as contact info and that they will need a letter on the Town's letterhead with the mayor's signature stating that we want to leave it that way or change it. Mayor Rhodes did submit that to change the point of contact but has not heard back.

The lien on the Thompson house is not complete because we still need our attorney's costs in order to finish the lien. Will request again.

Regarding the Holiday Schedule - April 7th on Good Friday, we want to request to be off that Monday, the 10th instead since we are not open Fridays. We will have off April 10th for Good Friday instead of the 7th. Councilman Harper made a motion to change those dates. Motion passed unanimously Discussion about Town Board Meeting date took place since the meeting date falls on the 10th too. Mayor Rhodes' decision is to put this on HOLD and discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Greenlight is making their way down Woodbridge Rd. We have not spoken with them to get any updates. Tammy will call.

Councilman Mooring mentioned that back in September 2022 we discussed ID tags for all general property, laptops, phones, equipment, etc. We will revisit. He reminded the board that the NC State Treasurer's office has placed the Town on the Unit Assistance List. This raises questions that need to be answered about our budget and audit. Councilman Mooring just wanted to bring this up for discussion for now as it needs to be talked about.

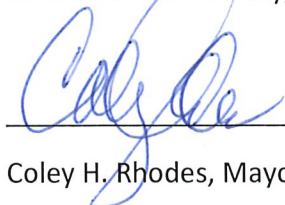
Councilman Harper discussed the leaf blower budget for Robbie.

Mayor Rhodes states that we have been presented with a solar request. A customer has purchased solar panels for their home, and they have a permit from Wilson County. We have their contact information for the town to approve. Cathy Moyer has offered to do an interconnection contract for a fee. There are a lot of questions from the council surrounding this proposal. This will be discussed after the research is completed.


Tirence with UCPCOG, states the Signatory Card needs to be signed to show who has authority to approve requisitions when it comes to the CDBG Grant. 4 people can be authorized to sign (Victoria, Tammy, Alexis, and Councilman Ben Harper). Need to add Alexis when she arrives.

Councilman Harper made motion to go into Closed Session at 9:15 PM. Passed unanimously.

The council came back into open session and Mayor Rhodes recessed the meeting to be continued Wednesday, February 22, 2023.



Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor



Tammy L. Webb, Deputy Clerk