

**Town of Stantonburg**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**September 11, 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, Town Clerk Alexis Whitley, and Town Attorney Slade Rand. Councilman Ken Horne arrived at 7:29 PM.

**Speakers:** Senior Accountant, Gary Pittman and Allison D'Aprile with Anthony and Tabb, P.A., and Forensic Auditor Danna Layne with Nunn, Brashear, and Uzzell, P.A.

**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:** *August 14th, 2023, regular session minutes were approved.*

**Presentations:** Closed session material involved.

Councilman Bynum made motion to go into closed session. Passed unanimously.

Councilman Bynum made motion to go back into open session. Passed unanimously.

**Financial Reports:** *August:* Monthly Receipts: \$608,206.59 Disbursements: \$367,281.60 Difference: \$240,924.99. Report referred to our auditors.

**Invoices for Payment:** Councilman Mooring questioned the Landfill fees of \$0.00 on the Expenditure Statement, Ordinance Violation on the Revenue Statement because there is none on the police report, and the check to AC Schultz. Also, questioned there not being a Lowes statement but it came in late after the council received their packets and is concerned about how the Agri Supply and Hardware account is being used.

Councilman Harper questioned the receipt from the Hasty Mart – Councilman Mooring states this is a bill for Ice that he has questioned once before.

Councilman Bass questions Charres painting – Town Manager Hawley states this was work done on the inside of the small shop. Also, questions Mangum's – Trash truck was back in the shop again per Town Manager Hawley.

Councilman Harper made motion to approve invoices for this month. Passed unanimously.

**Old Business:** Speed limit signs for Wainsfield will be installed this week. The Crepe Myrtle Festival still needs volunteers. Stop sign replacements have been held off but will hopefully be ordered within the next week.

**New Business:** The Town received a renewal notice from USPS for bulk mailing in which we used to mail all our previous bills before using a billing company. Councilman Bass questioned if it would be worth keeping it for flyers and such - Mayor Rhodes states that our billing company allows an extra sheet to be sent with the bills if needed. Councilman Bynum made motion to cancel the renewal fee for the USPS bulk mailing.

Town Manager Hawley approached the council regarding traffic barricades and barriers, especially since the Town floods bad during tropical storms and hurricanes. The Town only has traffic cones. Councilman Bynum wants Town Manager Hawley to get a quote for that.

A Board request from UCPCOG was presented to vote on Councilman Mooring being the alternate on their board for the Town. Councilman Bass made motion to proceed with appointing Councilman Mooring as the alternate for the Town on the Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments board.

Fencing quotes for the park were presented. Seegars and Moye both sent quotes back and Town Manager Hawley also requested \$2,000 from the county to go towards the fencing amount. Councilman Bynum made motion to move forward with the commercial chain link making a provision to the quote from Moye Fencing to add 2 gaps for a walk-thru. Passed Unanimously.

For sidewalk repairs Town Manager Hawley reached out to three people for quoting. The first quote was from Branderick Sutton Trucking for \$3,200, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> quote was for \$3,300, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> company did not respond. Branderick Sutton Trucking can start as soon as possible. Councilman Harper made motion to move forward with Branderick Sutton Trucking for the sidewalk repairs. Passed unanimously.

Town Manager Hawley presented the Town Council with two merit increases. Durand Caviness has been promoted to Supervisor and Lonnie Smith has been promoted to Assistant Supervisor. Town Manager Hawley requested he get the 5% raise that he was never given after certifications. Councilman Harper made motion to approve both merit raises. Passed Unanimously.

Power Purchase Adjustment was brought up during the Interconnection Agreement meeting with Louis Davis with UTEC. UTEC recommended that Town Manager Hawley meet with the Town Council to come up with a standard in the future for moving forward. Louis' recommendation was that the Council give the Town Manager authority to adjust the PPA without having to wait for another Board Meeting for the Council's approval to adjust the rates. According to Town Manager Hawley's calculations removing the PPA will not hurt us unless gas prices do spike again. Town Manager Hawley requests that the Council freeze the PPA for 60 days or completely remove it. If frozen for 60 days, we will then reevaluate. Councilman Harper made motion to freeze the PPA for 60 days and then come back to reevaluate afterwards. This decision will still be left up to the Council to decide on. Councilman Bass requested we note this 60-day freeze on the bills.

Municipal Engineering sent over grant information, and they are requiring a Resolution for the Sewer Collection System Phase II Rehabilitation Grant. Motion made by Councilman Bynum to adopt this resolution for the Sewer Collection System Phase II Rehabilitation Grant.

#### **Department Reports:**

The Water/Sewer Department: Wastewater Collections - We received 2.5" of rain from Hurricane Idalia which doubled the daily flow but did not cause any issues. We did have an issue with the automatic bar

screen which was corrected with a \$3 part. Electrician fixed an issue with the secondary clarifier which had to manually restarted after power outages. There is still an issue with the RAS pumps which must be manually restarted after power outages as well. Roger will reach out to the manufacturer about finding a resolution. All required reports for August were submitted on time.

Water – we have high service pump #3 was returned to service on September 6<sup>th</sup>. The electrician found a bad connection on a contactor that caused a fuse to blow. Well #4 was returned to service on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. A 2” inch water service to the Fire Department broke on August 20<sup>th</sup> at approximately 10am. Water service was interrupted for approximately 3 hours. Another water break took place on Woodbridge Road that was an 8” water main break where an old house used to be which has been corrected as well.

Moye Fencing has started the project around the water tank. Edwin Gurkins started his C-well class on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Once he is certified we will have 3 well treatment operators which will help them rotate schedules. Water reports completed on September 5<sup>th</sup>.

For Park/Rec: All park signs have been installed, we are working on the fencing area, and we replaced the two park lights today. They are similar but not the same.

Public Works: Jeff Reddick was brought on part-time to help the public works team get caught up on some project including the cemetery. A little more work to do but we are getting there and will be maintaining this moving forward.

Electric Department: The Town sold the old bucket truck, and our Town Attorney made an agreement “as-is no warranty”. There were two emergency repairs in Saratoga over Labor Day weekend due to a contractor cutting a tree and a tree branch cracking a pole. Our electric department assisted the Town of Fremont with replacing a split pole.

**Police Report:** August police report reviewed.

#### **Manager’s Report:**

Town website is still a work in progress, and we are continuing to update that.

Edwin Gurkins started August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and is working on C-Well.

Robert Givens started August 21, 2023, and has completed 3 weeks with the electric department. He will be working with Town Manager Hawley on September 25<sup>th</sup> on Code Enforcement things.

The Tri-Town meeting on August 29<sup>th</sup> went very well so we have a better understanding of our agreement with Tri-Town. Town Manager Hawley wants to look at what it will cost to go in with Black Creek and Lucama to put a security camera on our substation.

Town Manager Hawley discussed a returned check with the council.

Councilman Horne let us know that the light at the triangle facing the sign is out and also had concerns regarding water meters.

Councilman Harper does not have anything.

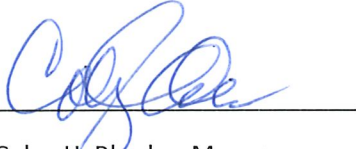
Councilman Bynum mentioned a streetlight being out again that the electric department previously fixed weeks before on Tyson Dr.

Councilman Bass has concerns regarding raises and that the police department has not received anything. Town Manager Hawley said we do have ARPA money and he is figuring out how to disburse those funds, but he is unsure what the town will receive. Town Manager Hawley did make the decision to raise their comparable pay to be more in line with other towns.

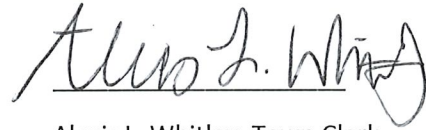
Councilman Mooring brings up an issue with work orders and that an excel sheet has not been made to keep up with these. Town Clerk Alexis Whitley assured the council that these work orders are kept up with and that town hall does refer back if they have not heard anything regarding one of their work orders. Councilman Mooring questioned the asset tags and whether they have all been done. Town Clerk, Alexis Whitley has tagged everything she is aware of, and Chief Rosario received the tags for all the police department equipment, and she will follow up to see if that was completed. He also has concerns regarding the trash truck. He also asked if the street sweeper is being used. Town Manager Hawley assures him that Robert Watson will give him a list of streets he has completed.

Councilman Horne mentions the wasp nests at the park as well.

Councilman Bynum made motion to adjourn. Passed unanimously.



Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor



Alexis L. Whitley, Town Clerk