

**Town of Stantonburg
Regular Board Meeting
February 10, 2025**

Mayor Coley Rhodes called the monthly Town Council meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The following council members were present: Donnie Bass, Ben Harper, Jackie Grice, Steve Mooring, and Eartha Butler. Also present was Town Manager Brian Hawley and Town Attorney Slade Rand.

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

Approval of Agenda: Mayor Rhodes requested to remove the approval of minutes and the presentation by Ben Hitchings with Green Heron Planning. She requested to add Neighborhood Revitalization/Legal Service Agreement and the LSLI Budget Ordinance under Old Business. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes: Minutes were tabled until the March meeting.

Public Comment: Amy Charles Windley with the CDBG Housing Committee was present to discuss the CDBG grant and titles. Mayor Rhodes recognized Ms. Windley's hard work helping with the CDBG grant.

Presentations: There were no presentations.

Financial Reports: *January:* Monthly Receipts: \$598,696.27 Disbursements: \$329,384.96 Difference: \$269,311.31. Report referred to our auditors.

Councilman Mooring questioned the General Depository amount and the Truist Bank Statement summary. He recommended there be a certain rollover amount for the funds in the General Depository with further discussion at the March meeting with input from Manager Hawley and Finance Officer, KayCee Stancil.

Invoices for Payment: The board discussed the Lowes statement, name on the Capital One account, the purchases for Don's Bicycle Shop, and Pitt Community College. Also discussed was the town's insurance with John Hackney Agency.

Councilwoman Grice made a motion to omit copies of checks that are included with the bank information in their printed packets but continue to provide them electronically in the OneDrive packet. Passed unanimously.

Councilman Bass made a motion to approve and accept invoices. Passed unanimously.

Mayor Rhodes recognized the new Utilities Superintendent, Roger Sullivan. Roger introduced his newest employee, Landon Price, to the council.

Old Business: Attorney Rand discussed the legal services agreement for the CDBG-NR Grant and reported on CDBG title opinions. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the legal services agreement for the CDBG-NR Grant. Passed unanimously.

The LSLI Resolution was presented for the town to move forward to request the release of funds for the Lead Service Line Inventory. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the LSLI Resolution. Passed unanimously.

The LSLI Budget Ordinance was presented to request funds for Municipal Engineering for the first phase of LSLI. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the LSLI Budget Ordinance.

The council agreed to hold the budget retreat on Saturday, March 22nd, 2025, at Town Hall. Roger Sullivan, Utilities Superintendent, will be present to represent the departments and their needs.

As requested by the council, Manager Hawley is working to compile the information on the fuel usage data using GPS information, fuel logs, and mileage.

Manager Hawley stated that Computer Central should start the process of installing cameras next week.

Manager Hawley has not received a response from property owners of the abandoned properties but has seen positive activity.

Manager Hawley stated that Roger Sullivan has access to GPS data and will be monitoring the same.

New Business: Manager Hawley reported on the amended audit contract with Danna Layne at Nunn, Brashear, and Uzzell, P.A. The original projected completion date was October 31, 2024. The audit was delayed until February 14, 2025. The amended contract will be submitted to the LGC immediately and if cleared, it will be presented to the board in March. Councilwoman Butler made a motion to approve the amended audit contract. Passed unanimously.

The lease agreement with Sisters of Beauty was presented and discussed by the council. Insurance must be maintained by the lessee. Councilman Mooring questioned the verbiage “upon the expiration of initial term the lessee shall have the option to renew” in the lease agreement. Attorney Rand addressed Councilman Mooring’s concern to amend the verbiage to say, “upon the expiration of initial term the lessee with the expressed consent of the lessor may renew this agreement for an additional term” in the lease agreement. The council further discussed the monthly rental amount. Councilwoman Butler made a motion to table the lease agreement until next month’s meeting with discussion on what it takes to maintain the property. Passed unanimously.

Manager Hawley presented a resolution for the 2024 Local Water Supply Plan Annual Update. Roger Sullivan, Utilities Superintendent, reported on the Water Supply Plan and resolution. Councilman Harper made a motion to approve the resolution for the Local Water Supply Plan. Passed unanimously.

Manager Hawley presented a resolution to enter into a contract with UTEC for a Cost-of-Service study for electric rates. It is written not to exceed an amount of \$45,000.00 and as other towns join, there will be a reduction in the cost for the town. Councilman Mooring asked if UTEC indicated how often the town will need to revisit this study to stay up to date. Manager Hawley stated that UTEC will continue to update the council periodically once the initial study is done. He reminded the council that they decided to freeze the Power Purchase Adjustment, therefore if rates were to increase, they would have the ability to act immediately to address that concern instead of adjusting town rates. Councilman Mooring reiterated his goal is to reduce rates for citizens.

Councilman Mooring made a motion to accept the resolution to enter into a contract with UTEC for a Cost-of-Service study for electric rates. Passed unanimously.

Manager Hawley presented a resolution to adopt a policy to restrict pornography on town networks and devices. He will reach out to Computer Central to check for safety methods for our network. The council discussed the verbiage of the policy. Councilman Mooring made a motion to approve the resolution adopting a policy to restrict pornography on town networks and devices. Passed unanimously.

Manager Hawley discussed the City Vision event in Greenville NC which is held April 29-May 1 at the Greenville Convention Center. Mayor Rhodes is planning to attend this event, and other members are to check their calendars and email Manager Hawley to confirm when they will attend.

Department Reports: *Water:* The Local Water Supply Plan was completed and submitted to the NCDEQ on time. Landon Price started on January 30, 2025, and Roger will be getting him signed up for his first certification class that starts in March. The only issue during the freeze was a few frozen pipes. They have all the water meters installed now for the second phase of the Briar Farm subdivision. All reports, sampling, and testing were completed for January with no violations.

Sewer: Flashpoint Automation completed the RAS pump station project on January 14th with a couple of issues that were corrected. The town had two pipes to freeze with little impact at the WWTP. One pipe needed a way to drain, so Lonnie installed one for the future. All reports, sampling, and testing were submitted on time with no violations.

Parks and Recreation: Grounds were maintained, additional garbage bins were placed around the walking trail, park restrooms were winterized, and soccer nets were repaired.

Public Works: Crepe Myrtle trees were cut at the corner of Yelverton and Julian. A banner was installed to announce the new town hall location at 312 S. Main Street. Trees and hedges were trimmed there as well. Tyson Drive, S. Travis Street, downtown Main Street, and Commercial Avenue were swept with the street sweeper. Additional services for houses on Sandpit Road were required. Robert Watson addressed the library smell.

Storm Water: The town is waiting for EPA and ERG to send information regarding the stormwater plan.

Electric Department: Christmas decorations were taken down; new services were installed on Sand Pit Rd and trees were trimmed in Saratoga. New solar streetlights were installed in Saratoga and a new timer installed at the park to operate the light poles. They replaced a blown transformer at the church located on Church Street. They purchased and installed a CT meter cabinet for the new industrial site on Peacock Bridge Rd. Roger confirmed this is part of the metering equipment that the town provides.

Police Department: Police Report was reviewed. Manager Hawley clarified that the new format of the police report was what the council requested. Manager Hawley will add a mutual aid section to the report to separate calls.

Town Manager's Report: RAS Controller had a couple of items discovered as the new system was being installed, but increased costs from \$24,647.00 to \$28,748.36. The town received an insurance claim of \$19,647.00.

Solar Policy total amount spent to date is \$6,765.45. Estimated hours worked on this item are hard to gauge as we have had several meetings to date which included UTEC, the applicant, elected officials, staff, and legal representation. However, there are 5hrs unbilled from Bryan Brice that is itemized on his invoice. It is estimated that there have been over 20 hours of time spent on this process.

103,000,000 gallons would be the estimated amount of additional water that could be used for town growth if Wilson County did not purchase water from the town.

Manager Hawley and Police Chief Rosario discussed the inclusion on monthly reports, the differentiation between in-town and out-of-town calls and citations. Also to be included are in-town and out-of-town locations for check points, and the number of citations written while operating that checkpoint.

252 Contracting finished the repair work at the intersection of S. Saratoga Street and E. Commercial Avenue.

Manager Hawley updated the council on a grant he submitted in December. He received an email from the NC Department of Public Safety inviting the town to apply for a formal stormwater grant. He has been working with ERG and EPA, but funds are frozen now due to new administration. The submission date for this grant is in October 2025. Manager Hawley and the council discussed stormwater issues within the Wainsfield subdivision, Briar Farm subdivision and other areas.

Mayor and Council Comments: Manager Hawley reiterated the council's negative views regarding gambling venues per Councilwoman Butler's questions.

Councilwoman Butler discussed bulk items around town and asked if the town decided to charge or continue to provide that service free of charge. Manager Hawley said the town is continuing to provide that service free of charge.

Councilwoman Butler asked for clarification on the town's bank accounts. Manager Hawley clarified that the town is required to have separate accounts for different grants. Funds for Powell Bill, the Well Project, and the USDA Debt Service are required to be separate.

She asked if the stormwater grant would help with the drainage issues at a property located on Commercial Avenue as well. Manager Hawley and Mayor Rhodes met with Representative Pittman Friday and stormwater was an item of discussion along with fund requests.

Ben Hitchings with Green Heron Planning will be presenting information on brochures, ordinances, etc. for the Seal Building Project per Councilman Mooring's question. He questioned the progress on the 312 S. Main Street property. Manager Hawley said the plan is to send questions to contractors and set a meeting for discussion one on one with interested bidders. Mayor Rhodes and the council discussed the bids and allocating funds.

Councilman Bass discussed the timer for park lighting and requested the timers be checked so they are turning off at the correct times. Roger clarified that the timer was changed but the timing can be double checked.

He discussed a tree near the Baptist Church Clothing Closet that needs to be addressed and trimmed back off the powerlines and the road conditions on Tyson Drive where it intersects with S. Main Street. Manager Hawley discussed reaching out to a few companies for repair but will get the streets and sanitation department to temporarily patch the area.

Councilman Harper asked if the shooting range proceeded with a rezoning permit to sell firearms.

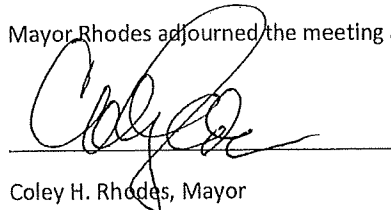
Councilwoman Grice mentioned the Crepe Myrtle trees at the triangle and that only one tree was lit. It was the consensus of the council to keep both trees lit at the triangle.

Councilwoman Grice asked if any additional discussion took place regarding a public comment from Carla Davis in the previous meeting. Manager Hawley confirmed that they met with her to further discuss her concerns.

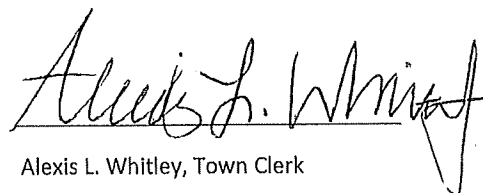
Town Attorney Rand discussed drug screening and background results that are sent from Professional Drug Screening Services (PDSS). The Town Manager is the only person to have access to those results.

Councilman Harper made a motion to remove Mayor Rhodes from the point of contact list at PDSS. Passed unanimously.

Mayor Rhodes adjourned the meeting at 8:46pm.



Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor



Alexis L. Whitley, Town Clerk