

Town of Stantonsburg
Regular Board Meeting
April 14, 2025

Mayor Coley Rhodes called the monthly Town Council meeting to order at 6:29 PM. The following council members were present: Donnie Bass, Ben Harper, Steve Mooring, Jackie Grice, and Eartha Butler. Also present was the Town Manager Brian Hawley, Town Clerk Alexis Whitley, and Utilities Superintendent Roger Sullivan. Ben Harper arrived at 6:31pm.

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

Approval of Agenda: Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the agenda. Passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes: March 10th Regular Minutes, March 13th Special Called Minutes, and March 22 Budget Retreat Minutes were approved as written.

Public Comment: Wade and Lori Farmer, who reside on Woodbridge Road, addressed the town council in support of Chief Rosario. James Coover, who resides on Denver Drive, addressed the town council about flooding concerns at his residence and his support of Interim Chief Rivera.

Presentations: There were no presentations.

Financial Reports:

March: Monthly Receipts: \$468,702.38 Disbursements: \$351,431.64 Difference: \$117,270.74. Report referred to our auditors.

Invoices for Payment: The council discussed invoices and Manager Hawley presented an invoice for approval to pay Ryan Marlar, CPA, and an invoice to pay Municipal Engineering regarding a feasibility study and preliminary floor plan in 2021 for renovation of the present Town Hall. The council requested additional information and minutes regarding the feasibility study and preliminary floor plan. Councilwoman Butler made a motion to approve the invoices with the exception of the invoice from Municipal Engineering. Passed unanimously.

Department Reports: Utilities Superintendent, Roger Sullivan, discussed department reports.

Electric: All poles have been set on Old Mill Road and primary wire pulled for a new construction. Next step is to install transformer and secondary service once construction begins on house. New service installed, including the transformer and secondary wire for a new lift station for the Town of Saratoga. Truck 1 was taken to Magnum's Truck Repair for oil and filter change and hydraulic leaks. Seth Walker started on March 17th and was introduced to the council. Work orders through Diamond Maps have begun. Durand and Seth responded to an after-hours call for a bad underground service on Sand Pit Road on Saturday, Wednesday, March 19th. Service at 315 E. Commercial Avenue was disconnected due to the fire that occurred on March 22nd. Several area lights, service connections, and disconnects were done.

Water/Sewer: 56,000 gallons of sludge were hauled from the WWTP. Compliance Environmental completed the LSLI work in town. Roger received a second quote from James River Equipment of \$12,663 for the work that needs to be done for the Well 2 generator. Advance Power was a little higher by \$168 but did not include pumping out old diesel fuel and cleaning the tank. Advanced Power would also invoice us for the work that has already been done if we were to go with James River. Manager Hawley and Roger decided to proceed with Advanced Power. Landon Price started his C-Well class on March 18th. All reports and samples for both departments were submitted without any violations

Streets/Sanitation: Robert has sprayed all the streets with Round Up. Chris Hill started his CDL class on March 31st. Tyson Drive was swept. Jeff Reddick has helped fill in while Chris is out. Grass cutting and trimming have begun.

Councilman Mooring requested an update on fuel usage and mileage. Roger further discussed.

Manager's Report: Manager Hawley presented his report to the council. The town completed the stormwater plan meeting with representatives from EPA and ERG. Mayor Rhodes and Manager Hawley met with Representative Dante Pittman and Senator Buck Newton on items related to the town's funding requests for this State Biennial Budget. The town has received an email from Representative Pittman's office confirming they will be requesting funding.

The FY26 budget has been revised calling for a \$.05 per \$100 valuation decrease in the ad valorem tax rate. Manager Hawley is recommending no changes to the rates for water, sewer, or sanitation. However, there is an ongoing cost-of-service study that will guide the town staff in making a recommendation related to electric rates. The cost of electricity for the month of February did come down as identified in our last meeting. Rates appear to have stabilized.

252 Contracting finished the repair work at the intersection of Saratoga and E Commercial. Still waiting on other quotes.

The CDBG extension request has been approved. The Cost-of-Service Study is ongoing, and data has been sent over to UTEC. Louis Davis with UTEC has ordered the meter to be installed to begin the Solar Pilot Program for that single customer in accordance with the SELC agreement.

Police Department: Report provided.

Old Business: There was a consensus of the board to table the lease agreement for Sisters of Beauty and Ben Hitchings UDO Contract Consideration until May.

New Business: The council discussed a date for the Online Bill Pay Auto Draft Option. Councilman Harper made a motion to go with the 4th of each month. Passed unanimously.

Manager Hawley presented and discussed the resolution to discontinue fluoride. The council further discussed. Councilman Mooring made a motion to accept the resolution to discontinue the addition of fluoride. Passed unanimously.

Manager Hawley presented and discussed the resolution to accept the Well, Waterline, and New Well grant funds. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the resolution to accept the Well, Waterline, and New Well funding. Passed unanimously.

Manager Hawley presented a second part to the Well, Waterline, and New Well grant, an additional resolution authorizing advertisement of contract opportunities solely by electronic means. The council further discussed. Councilman Harper made a motion to accept the Resolution Authorizing Advertisement of Contract Opportunities Solely by Electronic Means. Passed unanimously.

Manager Hawley discussed new Town Hall funding.

Councilwoman Butler asked if the town plans to get larger recycling bins from GFL.

The rate/fee schedule was presented and there was a consensus of the board to table it until May.

Mayor Rhodes and Manager Hawley presented the Fair Housing Proclamation. Councilwoman Butler made a motion to accept the proclamation of support proclaiming April 2025 "FAIR HOUSING MONTH" in the Town of Stantonburg. Passed unanimously.

Manager Hawley presented the Grant Project Ordinance #01-2025 for LSLI Phase I. Councilman Harper made a motion to approve Grant Project Ordinance #01-2025. Passed unanimously.

Mayor and Council Comments:

Councilwoman Butler discussed the ditch on Commercial Avenue. Manager Hawley stated that it is one of the areas that have been identified for EPA and ERG to look at when they meet with the town. She asked if Manager Hawley could follow up with the resident.

Councilman Mooring discussed the angel that was stolen from the town's fountain and requested that the recorded footage be posted.

Councilman Mooring discussed the meeting with Berry Building Group and asked if the town received feedback on value engineering, if permits have been submitted and if a start date has been chosen. Manager Hawley has reached out to development services regarding permits, and Turpentine Design should be submitting those. Regarding value engineering, BBG is awaiting subcontractors' responses to see how much they can save the town. The town does not have a start date yet.

Councilman Mooring discussed asset tagging and auditing inventory. He asked if any penalties have been assessed regarding a letter sent out to a property in town.

Councilman Harper asked for an update on the grocery store and if the electric department is starting to maintain trimming. Manager Hawley gave an update on the grocery store. The owner will be renting the building out. Roger confirmed that the electric department has begun to maintain trimming.

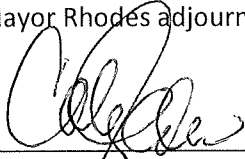
Councilwoman Grice confirmed with Manager Hawley that there are no active utilities at the grocery store.

Councilwoman Grice asked Attorney Rand what the council's obligation is to respond to public comments. He stated that the town council is not obligated to respond but it is up to their discretion.

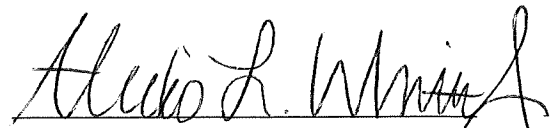
Councilwoman Butler made motion to go into closed session pursuant to 143.318.11 a(6). Passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Grice made a motion to go into open session. Passed unanimously.

Mayor Rhodes adjourned the meeting at 9:25pm.



Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor



Alexis L. Whitley, Town Clerk