

**Town of Stantonsburg
Regular Board Meeting
March 10, 2025**

Mayor Coley Rhodes called the monthly Town Council meeting to order at 6:32 PM. The following council members were present: Donnie Bass, Ben Harper, Steve Mooring, and Eartha Butler. Also present was the Town Manager Brian Hawley, Town Clerk Alexis Whitley, and Utilities Superintendent Roger Sullivan. Council member Jackie Grice was absent.

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

Approval of Agenda: Councilman Harper made a motion to approve the agenda. Passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes: It was a consensus of the board to approve the minutes for January 13,14, 23, 27, 28 and February 4, 10.

Public Comment: Phyllis, a relative of a customer who resides at 103 W. Macon Avenue, was present to ask questions about the CDBG housing grant.

Presentations: Danna Layne with Nunn, Brashear, and Uzzell, P.A. presented the completed 2021-2022 audit.

Financial Reports:

February: Monthly Receipts: \$426,602.51 Disbursements: \$476,808.47 Difference: \$-50,205.96. Report referred to our auditors. The deficiency was due to the costs of electricity and gas in January. The council further discussed.

Invoices for Payment: Manager Hawley presented an invoice for Danna Layne with Nunn, Brashear, and Uzzell, P.A. for \$22,825.00 to be written as two checks; \$22,000.00 for the audit and \$825.00 for fieldwork. Councilman Mooring made a motion to approve the invoice for Danna Layne with Nunn, Brashear, and Uzzell, P.A. for \$22,825.00 to be written as two checks. Passed unanimously.

Councilman Mooring discussed fees on the last Lowes statement, the current Truist Statement and the invoice for Agri and Hardware Supply. Councilman Bass discussed the invoices for Just Do It Tree Service, USA Blue Book, and Martin Brothers.

Councilman Harper made a motion to approve invoices. Passed unanimously.

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

Electric: The Industrial site of Peacock Bridge Road was energized on Friday, February 7th. 4 secondary services on Sand Pit Road were installed and connected. All secondary wire has been buried but waiting on builder to finish installing meter bases. 1 pole set on Old Mill Road and 2 poles were set on Woodbridge Road for new construction homes. The bucket truck alternator was replaced, The Town didn't have any damage from the March 7th storm. Replaced several failed meters, and trimmed trees.

Blaine Stafford resigned, and his last day was on March 13th. Seth Walker was hired as an apprentice lineman to start on Monday, March 17th.

Water/Sewer: A damaged sewer main on Sand Pit Road was repaired. Landon Price was hired, is enrolled in a C-Well Class. Searching to get more quotes for Well #2 generator. Worked on improving drainage at WWTP. Trees were trimmed around fences at WWTP, and Well #3. All water/sewer reports and samples were performed and submitted on time. Compliance Environmental Services has started the LSLI inventory. The council further discussed the LSLI Inventory.

Streets/Sanitation: Hedges have been trimmed at the new Town Hall and four trees at the back of the building were cut down and stumps were ground. Trees were cut at a main drainage ditch on Hemphill Street to improve drainage. Curbs were cleaned along both sides of Moyton Avenue from Main Street to Saratoga Street. Potholes were patched on Tyson Drive, Saratoga Street, and Yelverton Street. Academy Street, a dirt street, was scraped and improved along with the alley behind Town Hall. Roger was able to get the old John Deere lawnmower running again. The fuel pump at the shop stopped working last Friday continuously tripping the breaker. An electrician verified that it was the gas pump itself tripping the breaker. Petroleum Equipment was called today to repair the gas pump this week. Fuel is being charged to Hasty Mart until the pump is repaired.

Police Department: Report reviewed. The council further discussed the police department report.

Manager's Report: Manager Hawley presented his report to the council.

The council discussed the general depository amount. Councilman Mooring made a motion to maintain \$1 million in the General Depository and move the remainder in the highest interest rate option being that it is easily accessible, and no fees are associated. Passed unanimously.

Old Business: The Budget Retreat will be held Saturday, March 22nd at the Town Hall. Manager Hawley requested food recommendations from the council.

The lease agreement with Sisters of Beauty was discussed. Councilwoman Butler made a motion to raise the monthly rent from \$50.00 to \$75.00. Vote 2 to 2 with Councilman Bass and Councilman Harper opposed. Mayor Rhodes was the affirmative vote. Motion carried.

Cameras have been installed at the Town Hall. Computer Central will give Manager Hawley access via computer and cell phone.

The fence crossing the property at 312 S. Main Street has been corrected by the homeowner.

Manager Hawley discussed additional preventative measures regarding the pornography policy. The town already has something in place with the firewall but there are additional preventative measures to help mitigate someone accessing things they shouldn't.

New Business: Mayor Rhodes discussed the old Police Department located at 114 E. Commercial Avenue and the idea of using the building as a museum for the town. The Historical Committee has collected an abundance of items to preserve in a museum. The council further discussed the old Police Department building. Councilman Harper made a motion to use the old Police Department building as the new Stantonburg museum. Passed unanimously.

Manager Hawley presented the 02/25 Budget Amendment. Councilman Bass made a motion to approve the 02/25 budget amendment. Passed unanimously.

Mayor and Council Comments: Councilwoman Butler discussed a cover plate on the floor in the library and requested that Robert come by and screw it down. She discussed EMS Auto Repair, the fuel pump at the shop, and budgeted vehicles.

Councilman Mooring discussed the display for the seal building conceptual design that will be placed on the corner of the lot, mentioned a name change of the location to Stantonsburg Station and offered to build the display free of charge for the design boards. Councilman Harper made a motion to move forward with the display for the seal building conceptual design. Passed unanimously.

Councilman Mooring mentioned town vehicle accidents and drug testing.

Councilman Bass mentioned the idea of drug tests being administered in the office which is more immediate in the case of accidents.

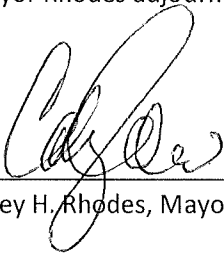
Councilman Harper mentioned the "cat problem" in town.

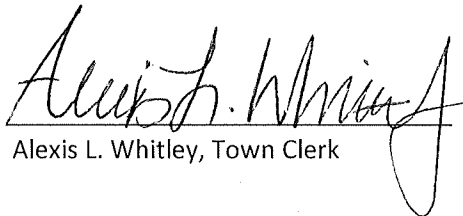
Mayor Rhodes noted the shooting range is in operation again and reminded the council of the special called meeting Thursday, March 13th at 6:30pm.

Councilwoman Butler made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143.318.11. a (6)(7).

Councilman Harper made a motion to go into open session.

Mayor Rhodes adjourned the meeting at 10:29pm.


Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor


Alexis L. Whitley, Town Clerk

