

**Town of Stantonsburg
Regular Board Meeting
June 9, 2025**

Mayor Rhodes called the monthly Town Council meeting to order at 6:30 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.

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: May 12th Regular Minutes: Councilman Mooring requested a correction of the address of Sisters of Beauty to 101 N. Main Street instead of 101 S. Main Street under Old Business. He also addressed the 1033 inventory under the Mayor and Council Comments, paragraph 5, and wanted to note that there are items that are not accounted for and requested verification on that verbiage from the May meeting recording. Minutes were approved as amended. April 14th and April 28th Closed Session Minutes were approved as written.

Public Hearing: Mayor Rhodes opened the public hearing for consideration of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget. There were no public comments. Manager Hawley discussed the Fiscal Year 25-26 Budget. Mayor Rhodes closed the public hearing and Councilwoman Butler made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget. Passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Winslow Forbes, pastor of Greater Zion Church, addressed the board as he did not receive a response regarding his public comment in the May meeting. He requested the council look into investigating the situation of concern. He left his telephone number with Manager Hawley.

Presentations: Mayor Rhodes discussed the consideration of an attorney agreement with Cauley-Pridgen, P.A. The council further discussed the agreement. Councilman Mooring made a motion to enter into an agreement with Cauley-Pridgen, P.A. Vote 3 to 2 with Councilman Harper, Councilman Mooring, and Councilwoman Butler in favor and Councilman Bass and Councilwoman Grice opposed. Motion carried.

Ryan Simmons, President, with the Wilson Chamber of Commerce presented Chamber Investment Information.

Financial Reports:

May: Monthly Receipts: \$461,587.06 Disbursements: \$302,150.49 Difference: \$159,436.57. Reports referred to our auditor. Councilman Mooring discussed the Powell Bill Fund residing with Truist Bank and the amount of return the town receives using NCCMT. Manager Hawley further discussed the Powell Bill Fund. Councilman Mooring reiterated the discussion in last month's meeting regarding the USDA Debt Service account and moving those funds over to maintain separate accounts. Manager

Hawley stated the accounts are separated and he will contact Lee, who handles the town's accounts, to ensure that funds can be moved around. Councilman Mooring made a motion to leave \$30,000.00 in the Powell Bill Trust Account and move the remainder into the NCCMT Money Market Account and create a new account with NCCMT for the USDA Debt Service with approximately \$101,000.00. Passed unanimously. Manager Hawley and the council further discussed the USDA Debt Service Account.

Councilman Bass asked when Powell Bill funds will be used within the town. Manager Hawley discussed an estimate from Fulford and Jones that will be presented for paving areas throughout town.

Invoices for Payment: Councilman Mooring requested more information on check #20703 and #20763 and Councilwoman Grice requested more information on check #20687, #20696, #20736, and #20757 prior to the meeting that Finance Officer, KayCee Stancil, responded to. Councilman Bass confirmed with Manager Hawley that the Town of Lucama invoice payment was a reimbursement for gravel. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve invoices. Passed unanimously.

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

Electric Department: Roger met with Durand regarding concerns about vines, tree limbs, and right of ways to identify areas of the greatest importance. Durand and Seth will continue mowing until all right of ways have been done. Several area lights, on/off orders, and other related work orders were completed for the month of May.

Streets/Sanitation: Robert's crew continues cleaning out catch basins that were identified during AECOM's survey work. Robert and his crew were able to place two headstones back into their proper position at the cemetery as they had been pushed over. Work has begun on the drainage issue beside the Old Police Department at 114 E. Commercial Avenue. The garbage truck was towed to White's International due to engine issues. The town is currently waiting for an estimate on repairs.

Water/Sewer: The town had heavy storms on Saturday night, May 31st causing WWTP to lose power from possible lightning striking close by causing damage to the VFD in which Sanford Electric verified. The town is hoping this will be covered under warranty. Several main drainage ditches were cleaned that were identified during AECOM's survey. All reports, sampling, and routine maintenance have been completed. Landon Price took his C-Well exams on May 26th, and the town is waiting for the results.

Billing: Roger worked with Tammy on what she needed to get the utility bills out on time. The Electric and Water departments were called to help put utility bills in envelopes and to be delivered to the Post Office on time.

Manager's Report: AECOM was in town for the weeks of May 12-16 and May 19-23. There was newly discovered storm drain areas that will be updated on our maps. Additional follow-up meetings are to be scheduled to occur in the coming weeks.

The CDBG documents for the Council of Governments were completed and sent back to Liz Raskopf. The surveys for CDBG properties have been completed by Bartlett Engineering.

Cost-of-Service Study is ongoing and finishing up. Louis Davis, Mike Brennan, Ted Orrell, and Manager Hawley had a zoom call on Friday, May 30th to discuss their current findings on the Cost-of-Service study and the next steps. Manager Hawley discussed the possibility of a Special Called Meeting on the

26th of June to further discuss the cost-of-service study. There was a consensus of the board to have a Special Called Meeting on Thursday, June 26th at 6:30pm at Town Hall. Louis Davis and Manager Hawley also discussed a few other important items such as the Tri-Town Electric Committee. Manager Hawley asked the council to consider designating two council members to be part of the Tri-Town Electrical Committee to discuss the previously identified items. Roger, Louis Davis, and Manager Hawley attended a meeting with Black Creek and Lucama on various items related to the town's electrical utility. Councilman Mooring and Councilwoman Grice volunteered to be a part of the Tri-Town Electrical Committee.

The KS Bank CD was not renewed, and the money was moved back into the town's interest-bearing account to be transferred over to NCCMT. Applications for new Town Hall permits have been received. Berry Building Group has sent their initial proposal to their job-management team to get a contract organized.

Manager Hawley discussed a summons for 304 W. Thompson Avenue.

Police Report: Report provided. The town has received 3 applicants for the Police Chief position.

Old Business: The Upper Coastal Plains Council of Governments has recommended the North Carolina Urban Forest Council. The town is working with UCPCOG on an Urban Forestry grant opportunity. Manager Hawley will be sending a Legacy Tree Fund grant proposal to NCUFC prior to their June 15, 2025, deadline. This will be for approximately 20 trees along Sandpit and Peacock Bridge Rd for flood mitigation, natural buffer, and greenspace enhancements. Councilman Mooring made a motion to join the Urban Forestry Council at the Silver Leaf membership level. Passed unanimously.

New Business: Town Clerk, Alexis Whitley, presented the Voluntary Annexation Certificate of Sufficiency for a small portion of PIN #3657-48-7123.000, to complete a zoning map amendment and recombination to PIN #3657-37-8370.000 at 703 Hemphill Street. Manager Hawley presented a resolution fixing the date of the public hearing on the question of annexation pursuant to G.S. 160a-31. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the resolution. Passed unanimously.

Manager Hawley presented Budget Amendment #0325. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the budget amendment. Passed unanimously.

Manager Hawley presented the Itron Meter Reading Equipment Project Ordinance to approve the purchase of a new handheld. The council further discussed the new handheld and software. Councilman Harper made a motion to approve the project ordinance and purchase of a new handheld. Passed unanimously.

Manager Hawley presented the MicroComm quote for approval on purchasing updated equipment for SCADA. Councilman Harper asked if the "SCADA Dial Twilio Analog Phone Replacement (First Year) for Server" amount is a recurring fee or will it increase or decrease after the first year. Manager Hawley stated that he will confirm with MicroComm. Councilman Harper made a motion to accept the MicroComm quote for updated SCADA equipment. Passed unanimously.

Manager Hawley presented quotes and contracts from RevSpring, Doxim, and OSG for the council to consider for a new utility bill mailing service company. Acculist also submitted a quote to Manager Hawley that he will review. The council further discussed the quotes and contracts.

Manager Hawley presented an estimate from Fulford and Jones for the council to consider cutting, digging, and removing existing asphalt to replace areas with new asphalt. The plan is to split the amount between fiscal years. Councilwoman Butler made a motion to hire Fulford and Jones for asphalt repairs. Passed unanimously.

Mayor Rhodes discussed the 2025 Crepe Myrtle Festival. The Event Committee does not have a committee chair this year. Jane Lancaster, the previous chair, did assist in booking The Embers along with booking the stage, sound crew, and portable toilets. The Embers were available October 11th, which is the second Saturday in October. At this time, the town does not have a replacement for the committee chair. Manager Hawley discussed the application process and bringing applicants in for an interview process. Councilwoman Grice asked if the Event Committee had plans for any other events and Mayor Rhodes stated that the Christmas festivities are the only other events planned as of now. Councilman Harper made a motion to approve the date of October 11th from 10am-4pm for the 2025 Crepe Myrtle Festival. Passed unanimously. The council discussed a second band for the festival and other music genre options for future festivals.

Mayor and Council Comments:

Councilwoman Butler thanked the town for the additional flags along Main Street and Roger for the fuel spreadsheet. She invited all council members and Manager Hawley to the artists' reception at the Stantonsburg Library on June 12th from 6-7:30pm. She discussed road repairs and the railroad crossing at S. Yelverton Street and a tree branch protruding into the walking trail at the Town Park that needs to be addressed.

Councilwoman Butler mentioned a possible canopy over the playground equipment at the park that has been previously discussed on the park and recreation committee and asked if that could still be an option or a caution sign for hot playground equipment. Councilwoman Grice asked what the Park and Rec Committee has planned. Mayor Rhodes stated that new members are needed for that committee.

Councilman Butler discussed the digital speed sign that has been on the speed light sign on E. Commercial Avenue. Manager Hawley stated that he will get the Interim Chief Rivera to take it down and recharge it. She discussed a complaint from a citizen regarding the food truck placement at the Crepe Myrtle Festival. Due to noise, smell, and grease stains in the road, the citizen requested food trucks not be placed on W. Macon Avenue in front of houses.

Councilwoman Butler recommended a citizen advisory panel for the selection of a new Police Chief. Manager Hawley stated that it would be a council decision if they wanted to do so. Councilwoman Grice does not see that it is necessary but requested copies of the applications and resumes that have been received. Councilman Bass mentioned that outside input would be great as far as what the citizens would like to see in a police chief but not as far as the decision-making process.

Councilman Mooring asked for an update on the fiscal year 2022-2023 audit and the indicated completion date of July. Manger Hawley stated that the town is waiting on a trial balance. He presented a few name options for the new town hall building for consideration other than "Town Hall". He discussed grass cutting before 7:00am and the town noise ordinance.

Councilman Mooring reiterated revenue not being posted properly from the April meeting and asked why this occurred. Manager Hawley stated this occurred due to something needing to be approved while he was on vacation which generated something in Truist's system to not approve the payment as ACH.

Councilman Bass is looking forward to streets around town getting asphalt repairs.

Councilwoman Grice asked Utilities Superintendent, Roger, how much overtime in the Electric Department has occurred within normal business hours versus call in hours. Roger discussed overtime.

Councilwoman Grice asked if the town was fully staffed in all departments. Roger stated all departments are fully staffed except for the open position in the Electric Department.

Councilwoman Grice clarified the work hours for the Electric Department and Roger stated the Electric Department's work hours are 7am-5pm, Monday-Thursday and other department's work hours are 6am-4pm, Monday-Thursday.

Councilman Harper discussed cats in town and clarified if Manager Hawley spoke with animal services about this. Per Manager Hawley, he has had conversations with Animal Services and will be looking into a cat ordinance.

Councilman Harper mentioned the wire that Brightspeed is installing on S. Saratoga Street. Manager Hawley is in the process of finding an attachment agreement with Brightspeed.

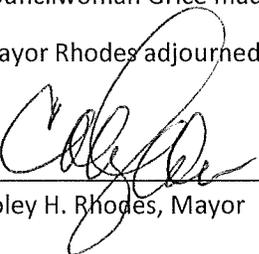
Councilman Harper clarified with Manager Hawley that the lease agreement with Sisters of Beauty was finalized.

Councilwoman Grice mentioned her request from the previous meeting regarding the placement of flowerpots in front of 101 N. Main Street since it is a town owned property.

Councilwoman Butler made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to 143-318-11 (a)6.

Councilwoman Grice made a motion to go into open session.

Mayor Rhodes adjourned at 10:19pm.



Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor



Alexis L. Whitley, Town Clerk

