

TOWN OF STANTONSBURG

DATE: August 14, 2017

Mayor William Edmundson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following Council members were present: Powell Dew, Coley Rhodes, Donnie Bass and Jackie Grice. Also present were Town Manager Gary Davis, Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey, Officer Crystal Daughtry and the Town's electrical consultant, Kevin O'Donnell. Argentina Rojas was present from the public.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Prayer:

Officer Daughtry led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilwoman Rhodes began the meeting with prayer.

A. Approve minutes for July 10, 2017: Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Dew seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

B. Financial Report:

Receipts \$321,110.44 Disbursements \$316,852.77 Difference \$4,257.67

MMB: Councilman Dew made a motion, with a second by Councilman Bass, to approve the Financial Report. All Council members voted in favor of the motion.

C. Invoices for Payment: Total: \$5,377.27

Councilman Dew made a motion to approve the invoices for payment. With a second by Councilwoman Grice, all Council members present voted favorably.

At this time, the Town's electrical consultant, Kevin O'Donnell, informed the Council that Duke Energy has begun billing for coal ash. The Town of Stantonburg will be billed for two years with the total cost for the Town being \$179,345.90. Mr. O'Donnell stated that the Town will be billed \$12,009.75 each month for the first six months. The cost for the following eighteen months will be \$5,960.41 each month. Mr. O'Donnell did inform the Council that the 2017 numbers will have to be trued up at the end of the year, which means the total cost for the Town could be plus or minus \$10,00.00 of the \$179,345.90 total. Mr. O'Donnell stated that Cauley Pridgen has given him an estimate between \$30,000 to \$40,000 to intervene in the coal ash case and represent Black Creek, Sharpsburg, Lucama and Stantonburg. This cost would be split equally amongst the towns. Kevin O'Donnell recommended that the Town of Stantonburg retain Cauley Pridgen and participate in the intervention in the NC Utilities Commission regarding Duke coal ash issues. Mr. O'Donnell informed the Council that Black Creek, Lucama and Sharpsburg have already agreed to do the same. At this time, Kevin O'Donnell strongly encouraged Board members and town

citizens to attend one of the public hearings being held in regard to the Duke coal ash issue. Mr. O'Donnell stated that he would email the meeting dates to Town Manager Gary Davis for anyone interested in attending. Councilman Dew made a motion that the Town of Stantonsburg enter the case as outlined by Kevin O'Donnell with the Town's liability in the \$7,500 to \$10,000 range, with Cauley Pridgen as the firm intervening with the NC Utilities Commission on the Town's behalf. Councilman Bass seconded the motion with all other Council members voting in favor of the motion.

D. Public Present: N/A

E. Police Report: Officer Daughtry presented the monthly police report. Mayor Edmundson questioned Officer Daughtry as to whether someone was addressing the issue of the alarm continually going off at the elementary school. Officer Daughtry stated that the numbers that the Police Department has for contacts were not good numbers and they are working to get updated contacts. At this time, Officer Daughtry submitted pricing information on vehicles for the Council to review. Councilwoman Grice asked Officer Daughtry how the planning for the upcoming Bicentennial was going. Officer Daughtry stated that a meeting was held to discuss and make plans for the Bicentennial, but only a couple of people showed up. The Council was informed that another meeting would be held August 16, 2017 at Premier Produce at 4:00 pm.

F. Parks & Rec: N/A

G. EMS: N/A

H. Appearance Committee: Councilwoman Rhodes informed the Council that the Appearance Committee met August 10, 2017 and finished the plans for the triangle. Councilwoman Rhodes stated that the triangle should be finished within the next three weeks. Councilwoman Rhodes also informed the Council that the Appearance Committee decided to keep the Town of Stantonsburg sign as it is and just enhance the appearance by adding stone and columns.

At this time, Mr. Davis presented (10) utility extension requests. After reviewing each request, Councilwoman Grice made a motion to grant extension request #1 with the stipulation that extension request #1 be paid no later than noon on the date requested. Councilman Bass seconded the motion with all other Council members present voting in favor of the motion. Councilman Dew made a motion to deny extension request #2. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion with all other Council members present voting in favor of the motion. Councilman Dew made a motion to grant extension requests #3, 4, & 5 with the stipulation that they be paid by noon on the date requested. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion with all other Council members present voting in favor of the motion. Councilman Dew made a motion to grant extension request #6 with the stipulation that it be paid by noon on the date requested. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion with all

other Council members present voting in favor of the motion. Councilman Bass made a motion to grant extension request #7 with the stipulation that it be paid by noon on the date requested. Councilman Dew seconded the motion with all other Council members present voting in favor of the motion. Councilman Bass made a motion to approve extension request #8. Councilwoman Rhodes seconded the motion with all other Council members present voting in favor of the motion. Councilman Bass made a motion to grant extension requests #9 & 10 with the stipulation that it be paid by noon on the date requested. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion with all other Council members present voting in favor of the motion.

I. Town Managers Report: Mr. Davis presented the overtime report which showed July 2017 overtime up with 64 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours compared to 50 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours in July 2016. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that this increase was due primarily to weekend pump issues at the waste water treatment plant and several electrical problems after hours.

Next, Mr. Davis presented a resolution authorizing the Town to submit an application for a Water Asset Inventory and Assessment Project grant. Councilman Dew made a motion to move forward with the application for a Water Asset Inventory and Assessment Project grant. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion with all other Council members voting in favor of the motion.

Town Manager Gary Davis presented another resolution formally accepting the \$915,000 grant for the Sewer Rehabilitation Project offered through the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. This stipulates that the Town of Stantonsburg will abide by their rules and regulations pertaining to the grant. Councilman Dew made a motion to move forward with the resolution for the \$915,000 grant. With a second by Councilwoman Grice, all Council members voted favorably.

At this time, Town Manager Gary Davis presented a bid of \$23,260.23 from Southeast Pipe Survey Inc. for the sewer video inspection work associated with the Town's Sewer Asset Inventory and Assessment Project. Mr. Davis stated that the Town's engineer, Michael Acquesta, recommends that the Town accept this bid. Mr. Acquesta has contacted the references for Southeast Pipe Survey Inc. and has stated that the price is well within his expectation of the project cost. Town Manager Gary Davis also recommended that a contract for \$23,260.23 be awarded to Southeast Pipe Survey, Inc. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the bid results that were recommended by Municipal Engineering Services engineer, Michael Acquesta. With a second by Councilman Dew, all Council members voted favorably.

Town Manager Gary Davis requested that the Town Council declare a 1993 Ford F-150, 1999 Ford F-150, 2000 Ford F-150 and a 2003 Ford F-150 as surplus and authorize him to dispose of them by means of private sale and negotiation. Councilman Bass made a motion to declare these four vehicles as surplus and to sell them as requested. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion with all other Council members present voting in favor of the motion.

Mr. Davis stated that he spoke with the contractor, Bridgeview Contractors, about the Seal Building. The contractor informed him that work on the Seal Building should begin somewhere around the middle to the end of September 2017.

At this time, Town Manager Gary Davis discussed the possibility of the Town turning over its property tax billing and collection to Wilson County. Mr. Davis informed the Council that Randy Faircloth, with the Wilson County Tax Office, made the office staff aware of new problems that will be coming called Gap Billing, with regard to delinquent taxes on vehicles. This new billing will occur monthly. Mr. Davis stated that Stantonsburg is the only town in Wilson County that is still doing its own tax billing and collecting. The County will charge 1.5% and will provide all billing of listed real and personal property, process any discovery bills, monthly billing of the Gap Vehicle bills, processing and validating all Homestead/Veteran exemptions, processing and validating any abatements/refunds that arise, collecting taxes, and collection remedies on all past due bills. Mr. Davis informed the Council that currently the Town has a lot of office time invested in the billing and collecting of taxes. There are also software costs and maintenance that would go away if the Council decided to have Wilson County handle the Town's taxes. Mr. Davis stated that Randy Faircloth indicated to the office staff that it would not be a problem to start this year, but that the Council would need to make a decision at the August 14th Board meeting. It would then need to be approved at the County Commissioners meeting in September. Councilman Dew stated that he had done some research and contacted Black Creek and Fremont. Both Black Creek and Fremont have their respective counties handle their taxes and are very pleased with their situations. Councilman Dew also stated that based on a 1.5% fee anticipated annual expenses for Wilson County to collect the Town's taxes, it would cost approximately \$3,435.00 per year. Councilman Dew made a motion to begin the process of transitioning the collection of taxes (ad valorem, vehicle, and past due taxes) from the Town of Stantonsburg to Wilson County in a manner that will provide the smoothest change over for both the Town of Stantonsburg, the citizens of Stantonsburg, and Wilson County. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion with all other Council members present voting in favor of the motion.

J. Councilman Horne: N/A

K. Councilman Bass: Councilman Bass asked Town Manager Gary Davis if the Town would be doing any street paving this year. Mr. Davis stated that there would be some street paving once the Sewer Rehab Project was started.

L. Councilwoman Rhodes: Councilwoman Rhodes asked Town Manager Gary Davis if it is possible to have some of the Town buildings pressure washed before the upcoming Bicentennial. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that there are funds available if the Council has no objections to having the pressure washing done. All Council members agreed to have some of the Town buildings pressure washed.

O. Councilman Dew: At this time, Councilman Dew informed the Council that he had visited a park in La Grange that has a splash pad. Councilman Dew stated that it is just

water that shoots up out of the ground. The water then drains and circulates back around. Councilman Dew stated that you press a button and it runs for fifteen minutes. If the children are still playing they can push the button again. Councilman Dew informed the Council that he felt this could possibly be a good idea for the Town of Stantonsburg. Councilman Dew stated that he was going to investigate the splash pad further.

P. Councilwoman Grice: Councilwoman Grice asked Town Manager Gary Davis if someone was staying in the camper behind the Fire Department. Mr. Davis stated that he had heard that someone was staying there. Mr. Davis informed the Council that the Town periodically allows a temporary stay in a camper, but not on a permanent basis. Mr. Davis stated that this may be something that needs to be addressed.

Q. Mayor: Mayor Edmundson thanked Town Manager Gary Davis for getting the mosquitoes sprayed effectively and as often as he does.

At this time, Mayor Edmundson extended an invitation to the Board for a Centennial celebration being held at St. Luke on August 26, 2017 at 9:00 am. Mayor Edmundson stated that the Town of Stantonsburg was providing St. Luke with a Proclamation congratulating them on their 100th anniversary.

Mayor Edmundson made the Board aware that there is an offer from Mr. Edwards and Son to remove the brick debris from the Seal building at no cost. Town Manager Gary Davis informed Mayor Edmundson to have Mr. Edwards call him and he would speak with the contractor about having him remove the brick.

At this time, Councilman Bass made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters. Councilwoman Rhodes seconded the motion with all other Council members voting in favor of the motion.

Mayor Edmundson declared the meeting back in open session. Councilwoman Rhodes made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion. All other members voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Tabitha E. Bailey, Town Clerk/Finance Officer

William H. Edmundson, Mayor

