

**TOWN OF STOKESDALE  
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
8325 Angel Pardue Road  
STOKESDALE, NC 27357  
April 12, 2018**

The Stokesdale Regular Town Council Meeting of Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 7:00PM at the Stokesdale Town Hall, 8325 Angel Pardue Road, Stokesdale, NC 27357.

**Members Present:** Mayor John Flynt, Mayor Pro-Tem Thearon Hooks, Jr. Council Members Bill Jones, Frank Bruno, Tim Jones.

**Others Present:** Interim Town Clerk/Interim Finance Officer Alisa Houk , Deputy Clerk Priscilla Hunsucker, Budget Officer Phillip Pulliam, Town Attorney John Bain.

- I. **Call meeting to Order:** John Flynt called the meeting to order at 7:00PM
- II. **Invocation:** Frank Bruno
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor John Flynt led the members of Council and all others present in the Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. **Review and adopt the Agenda:** Mayor John Flynt motioned to add the Revised February 8, 2018 Town Council minutes to be voted on. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. Vote 5-0 to add.
- V. **Approval of the Minutes: February 8, 2018 Minutes Approval Vote:** Mayor John Flynt motioned to approve the minutes, Frank Bruno seconded, Vote 5-0 to approve February 8 minutes.  
**March 8, 2018 minutes,** Bill Jones asked to clarify on page 8 of the minutes that he was not standing in the Mayor's office when then Town Clerk Kim Hemric said she needed access to the staff's personnel records, and she was told all she had to do was ask for them. He understands that the statement Thearon Hooks made when he said Bill you were standing there will remain in the February minutes because you can remove statements made during a Council Meeting once they are on

record. He just wanted to clarify that he was not standing there. February 8, 2018 minutes were approval was seconded by Thearon Hooks. Vote: 4 Yes, 1 – Nay from Tim Jones.

**March 13, 2018 minutes.** Tim Jones had asked Interim Town Clerk Alisa Houk to add into the statement regarding Priscilla Hunsucker's employment that she was hired under North Carolina's "at will employment" (*North Carolina is an at-will employment state, which means that employers have significant discretion to fire employees. Unless your termination violates a specific law or goes against the terms of your contract, your employer can fire you for any reason at all – including reasons that seem ridiculous or unfair.* Oct 20, 2014 ).

**Vote:** Tim Jones motioned to approve with the addition, John Flynt seconded the motion Vote was 5-0 to approve.

**VI. New Business:**

1. **Report from the Public Safety Agencies:** Sgt. League from the Guilford County Sheriff's Dept. reported that District 1 had 618 calls for the month of March. 62 were in Stokesdale. Both Justin Malloy and Chase Stephens were arrested on Drug charges.
2. **Report from the Stokesdale Fire Department:** Todd Gauldin reported **Stokesdale** had 54 fire and Rescue calls in March. He reminded everyone that spring and Summer were volatile times of the year for severe storms. That people should stay tuned to television and radio reports. Keep a weather radio handy and have a plan prepared in case of severe weather.
3. **Discussion of Fire Hydrant Maintenance:** Mayor Flynt asked Fire Chief Gauldin to go ahead and

Speak about the plan for maintenance of the Town's hydrants. Chief Gauldin said the fire department has shared a record of the previous and reoccurring repair and maintenance of the Town's hydrants which includes testing static pressure and gallons per minute. This report list all of the hydrants and where they are on a rotating 3-5-year testing plan. (testing is broken down into testing 20% of the hydrants at a time rotating in this 3-5-year plan) Chief Gauldin is asking the Town to set aside some money in the budget to assist the Fire Department in the cost of this maintenance. The Fire Department is working alongside Yates Construction on this program and Yates is going to assist them in finding the best prices on the greases used in maintenance. The parts of the hydrants that would come in contact with the Town's drinking water can only be lubricated with a special food grade grease that will not contaminate the water system.

Frank Bruno motioned to add the Fire Department as a vendor, put together a task list for maintenance and repairs, and allocate up to \$2,000.00 per year from the Water Fund to assist in the program. Mayor Flynt seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 to approve.

4. **Monthly Finance Review:** Mr. Pulliam reported as follows:



**The Town withdrew \$409,436.00** from BB&T and invested this amount in two CDARs at the Bank of Oak Ridge. Where the Town found a better interest rate. The Town also received two quarterly utility franchise distribution payments totaling \$139,588. The Utility Franchise taxes are the Town's largest source of revenue.

**General Fund Account: Total Checking/Savings:** \$2,835,099.41 Profit and Loss Budget verses **Actual Total Income** \$ 173,441.14 which is 45.1% with **Total Expenses** of \$178,693.28 which is at **46.5%**.

**Water Enterprise: Total Checking/Savings:** \$883,193.04 **Water & Sewer Fund Total Liabilities & Equity** is \$817,144.06 **Total Checking for Water Enterprise:** \$

12,958.00 **Water Enterprise Sales** \$ 302,317.88 which is **75.2%** and **Water Purchases Total Expense** \$ 163,332.50 at **76.00%** of budget.

5. **Republic Waste Issues:** The Town sent a letter to Republic Waste regarding all of the complaints the Town has been receiving from citizen's since last fall. Frank Bruno stated he has spoken with Waste Management and is waiting on a bid from them. Mayor Flynt asked Alisa Houk if the Town was still receiving calls. Alisa stated that staff was still receiving complaints. They had received 3 calls in the last two days. Town Attorney John Bain stated that the town had to give Republic Waste a chance to improve. The Town granted Republic Waste a franchise agreement, which gives Republic exclusive permission to serve the citizen's within the town limit. So, before we can consider terminating the agreement the Town has to prove that Republic has failed to meet the terms of the agreement. Patti Stokes from the NWO said she would be happy to post something in the paper. Council asked Patti Stokes to publish a notice asking Stokesdale citizens to provide feedback to the Town on their garbage and recycle pick up service since late March.
6. **Discussion of disposal/sale of Town's car.** Council discussed what to do with the Town's 2009 Dodge Charger. Tim Jones said he believes that when they tried to sell the vehicle before they had advertised it at a price higher than the actual value of the car. They never received any bids for the car. Council agreed to declare the car as surplus, based on suggestion from Attorney Bain. Tim Jones will research the value and they will advertise the car for sale online for 60 days, then consider private sale or auction if it has not sold within that 60 days.
7. **Property Committee Report on Installation of the Park Benches.** Council has turned the installation over to the Property Committee. Bill Jones will look for someone to pour cement slabs and install the benches.
8. **Discussion of TTHM Water Action Plan & Water Tower Maintenance.** Mayor Flynt said he and Bill Jones met with Courtney Driver, Director of Winston Salem/Forsyth County Utilities to discuss ways to reduce the TTHM's and cost of the water Stokesdale is having to flush from the Town's water system to keep those TTHM levels down. Currently the Town is paying full price for the water we have to flush. Courtney Driver has agreed to

flush on their side of our hook up at Belews Lake where they have an automatic flushing station and they will reduce our cost from \$5.25 per 1000 gallons to the wholesale price of estimated \$2.00 per 1000 gallons. Winston Salem also suggested Stokesdale get Hazen to do a water study. Mayor Flynt state that THM levels are back in acceptable levels. Bill Jones reminded Council that we have to file a report giving our plan of action to remedy the violation notice by June 1. Bill Jones motioned to get 3 bids one from Hazen, one from McGill, and one from another engineering firm to do a hydraulic model for Stokesdale's water system. Mayor Flynt seconded the motion. Vote 5-0 to get 3 bids. Bill Jones motioned to price and purchase an automatic flusher to replace the one broken at the Culp hydrant location. Frank Bruno seconded, Vote: 5-0 to purchase an automatic flusher at a cost up to \$1500.00.

9. **Water Tower Maintenance:** Mayor Flynt motioned to get three bids for maintenance/repair of the water tower. And to consider using Charlie MCGoughan as a source of information and supervision of the work. Tim Jones said he would contact Mr. McGoughan.

10. **Approval of Task No. 6 for McGill and Associates. Initial water infrastructure inspection at Northwest Meadows Phase Two:** Frank Bruno Motioned to approve. Thearon Hooks seconded the motion. Vote 5-0 to approve.

11. **Approval of Task No. 7 for McGill and Associates. Initial water infrastructure inspection at Treeline Subdivision.** Frank Bruno motioned to approve. Thearon Hooks seconded the motion. Vote 5-0 to approve.

After some discussion regarding the cost of these inspections and whether any of the cost are being passed on to the developers. Mayor Flynt asked me to contact RJ at McGill and ask them to send the Town a spreadsheet showing how these cost are generated.

## **VII. Old Business:**

1. **Brunch Bill Ordinance:** To allow the sale of beer, wine, and mixed drinks on Sundays at 10am. Vote: 3 for approval to sale at 10am. 2 – against sale before noon.
2. **Bids for Paving Town Hall and Town Park Parking lots:** Tim Jones said he will have a draft of bids by the May 10, 2018 Town Council meeting.
3. **Bids for new Website:** Frank Bruno said he wasn't happy with the current bids the Town has received. He is meeting with another potential vendor next week. He ask to continue this until May 10, 2018 Town Council meeting.
4. **Approve Town Attorney to look at Ordinance 67.** Tim Jones suggested tabling Ordinance 67 until the Ordinance committee could clear up a laundry list of issues they still needed to clarify and agree on. Mayor Flynt motioned to refer this back to the Ordinance Review Committee. Tim Jones seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0 to refer back to the Ordinance Review Committee.



- 5. Water Technician Duties/Position:** Current Water Technician Gary Matchunis has taken job with a different employer and currently the hours he will be working will not allow him to be available during Town Hall business hours. Tim Jones motioned to ask Gary Matchunis if he would be willing to become a vendor, obtain the required Certificate of Liability Insurance and be on a on call basis to us. No vote was taken.

**Council Recessed at 9:30PM and went into Closed Session under NC G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3). And Reconvened at 10:36PM.**

Bill Jones reopened the meeting by stating that he was satisfied with the information that Mayor Flynt provided to him outside of closed session, and asked to withdraw his request from the March 8 council meeting for an inventory of all personnel records and any public records taken from the former Town Administrator's office by any elected officials. All Council members agreed to accept Bills request to withdraw the request.

Frank Bruno stated that when he spoke to Priscilla Hunsucker about the part time Deputy Clerk position he had discussed with her a salary of \$14.00 per hour. He was not at the subsequent meeting when council voted to pay her \$13.00 per hour. Frank stated Council did vote to perform 30, 60, and 90 day reviews on new employees, which he agrees is important. Mayor Flynt motioned that upon Priscilla Hunsucker's 30-day review on April 20<sup>th</sup> that her pay be increased to \$14.00 per hour. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. Vote was 5-0 to approve \$14.00 per hour upon satisfactory 30 day review.

#### **Committee and Board Reports:**

- 1. Committee Report:** Thearon Hooks asked if we needed to have the irrigation system at Town Hall and at the athletic fields checked out before we turn them on for the spring and summer. Tim Jones had been down in the park and noticed circular crystalized areas in the fields, it appeared that the cause was coming from the irrigation system during the severely cold weather. Bill Jones said he would check out the system and make sure everything is in good working order before the spring soccer season begins.
- 2. Administrative Report.** Interim Town Clerk Alisa Houk introduced Priscilla Hunsucker to the citizens in attendance. Alisa said that Priscilla has done very well since she began employment. She is a self -starter and eager to learn. Since the March meeting the clerks have answered 78 phone calls, received 38 visitors, processed 164 pieces of mail, sold four water meters, handled 28 -811 locates and processed seven work orders. Back Flow testing has been started and draft minutes of the Feb. 8, March 8, and March 13 have been completed. Signs for the Town park are here and ready to be installed. Office supplies have been ordered. Both clerks attending the

Planning Board meeting held last week in order to begin training Priscilla to take over as secretary for those meetings. Thearon Hooks added that a computer had been ordered and installed in the Mayor's office to replace the broken one.

#### **Citizen's Comments from the Floor:**

**Kathryn Bunthoff**, McCrory Road, Stokesdale spoke on behalf of concerned citizens regarding the revitalization of the downtown area. Her group suggested using the \$33,333.00 development grant to purchase a parcel of land at US Hwy 158 and Newberry St. to create more parking area for downtown. Mayor Flynt told her that prior councils including himself has approached the land owners before about purchasing the parcel. At that time the owners were not interested in selling. Tim Jones ask Mrs. Bunthoff if she knew if the parcel was for sale. Mrs. Bunthoff responded that she did not know. It was just a suggestion that the town look into it. Mayor Flynt stated that the Town could only do this if the owners are willing to sell.

**Eileen Thiery**, asked if the citizen's comment period had been permanently moved to the end of the meeting agenda. The meetings have been lasting well into the late hours and not allowing citizens to comment until the end is inconvenient. She feels like the comments were left to the end so that most people would leave before they had a chance to make any comments so the Council wouldn't have to listen to the citizens. Mayor Flynt and several other council members said they had not noticed that the comments ad been changed to the end. Mayor Flynt said it would be corrected. It was an oversight and Mayor Flynt apologized.

**Joe Thacker**, said he was a current water customer and felt that the Town's water department should have more visibility in Town Hall. He said the water department should have a front office with a desk, computer, and file cabinets. Something that creates over \$400,000 in revenue should not be operating in a little bitty room in the back of the building. Mayor Flynt said Alisa Houk is the water person and currently she is sitting at the front desk. The Town Hall is used for many purposes, including committee meetings, water administration, etc. Mr. Thacker said, I understand that, but this budget time he would like to see the water department up front where everyone could see it.

#### **Comments from Council:**

**Tim Jones**, thanked the four citizens that were still present at 11:00PM and then clarified that salaries, attorney time, and every other expense that could be clearly assigned to either the general fund or water enterprise fund were assigned accordingly.

**Frank Bruno**, stated that a budget meeting was planned for April 16. Stokesdale is featured on 1420 AM on the second Wednesday of every month at 11:00am, the radio show can be accessed at [rockinghamcountyradio.com](http://rockinghamcountyradio.com), and he encouraged everyone to take time to listen.

**Bill Jones**, thanked everyone who attended the meeting.



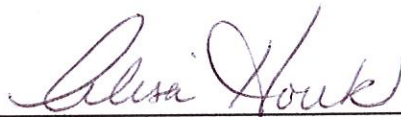
**Thearon Hooks**, commented that the two clerks are doing a great job.

**Mayor Flynt**, assured Eileen Thiery again that having the citizen's comments at the end of the meeting wasn't meant as a slight. He suggested that Mrs. Bunthoff talk to Ted Southern, owner of Southern hardware, to see if he might be able to lend some help regarding the parking issues in town.

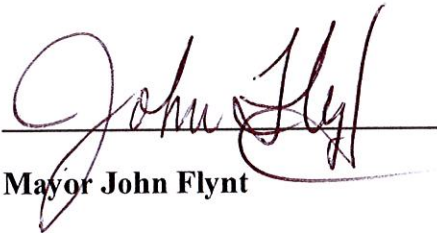
**Announcements:**

1. The next Ordinance Review Committee meeting is April 17, 2018 from 2:00PM to 4:00PM at Town Hall.
2. The next Planning Board meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2018 at 7:00PM at Town Hall.

**Tim Jones** motioned to adjourn. **Thearon Hooks** seconded the motion. **Vote 5-0** to adjourn the meeting at 11:20PM



**Alisa Houk, Interim Town Clerk**



**Mayor John Flynt**