



**TOWN OF STOKESDALE
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
8325 ANGEL PARDUE ROAD
STOKESDALE, NC 27357
December 12, 2019 AT 7PM**

- I. Call to Order: Mayor Flynt**
- II. Invocation: Bruce Angel**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance: Lead by Mayor Flynt**
- IV. Review and Adopt the Agenda: Tim Jones** asked to add Public Comments back to the end of meetings. Mayor Flynt agreed to add the comments to the end of meeting.

VOTE:

Mayor Flynt: Yes	Frank Bruno: Yes
Thearon Hooks: Yes	Tim Jones: Yes
Deanna Ragan: Yes	

- V. Public Safety Reports:**
Guilford County Sheriff's Dept. Sgt. Marshall District 1 had 59 calls for service in November. 1 automobile accident, 2 burglaries, an aggravated assault, and 1 rape among those calls. Deputy reminded everyone to make arrangements for packages delivered to their homes to be put in a less visible place or asked someone to receive it for them that porch pirates are becoming a trend.
- VI. Stokesdale Fire Department: Chief Gauldin** reported 66 service calls in Stokesdale. 25 were fire calls, 41 medical. His reminder was this is the holiday season. Be mindful of where you place your Christmas trees, be careful to check your outlets and extension cords to make sure they are in good working order and aren't overloaded. Unplug your lights at night before you go to bed.
- VII. Board & Administrative Report: Frank Bruno** thanked the events committee and staff of Town Hall, the Bethel Middle School Band and the Stokesdale Methodist Church Choirs for the wonderful music and Santa for their help in pulling off a successful Christmas Tree lighting with the largest crowd we have ever had attend.
- VIII. Financials: Budget Officer Kim Thacker** reported the Town has total assets of \$2,918,689 in the general fund account, \$827,020 in the water enterprise account, and \$764,073 in the water-sewer fund account. **copies are available at Town Hall.**
- IX. Citizen's Comments from the Floor (3-minute Limit per Speaker): Terry Hedenskog** introduced himself as President of the Stokesdale Parks and Recreation Association and said he wants to develop a stronger relationship with the Town. Basketball Season is underway, and he is inviting Council Members to come and attend some of the games.

1. Presentation of the 2019-2020 Audit by Rouse, Rouse, Gardner and Rouse:

Rex Rouse of Rouse, Rouse, Rouse & Gardner, presented the annual audit report. As of the fiscal year ending June 30, the Town's total assets exceeded liabilities by \$9,746,844; the Town has no outstanding debt. The unassigned (not committed to a budget item) fund balance was \$2,944,548, or 694 percent of total general fund expenses for the fiscal year. Capital assets total \$2,145,050 and consist of land, buildings, improvements other than buildings, equipment and furniture. It was noted in the audit report that there are six major subdivisions under development in Stokesdale and there was a significant increase in water customers and infrastructure extensions over the last fiscal year. The Town's general fund actual expenses exceeded budgeted expenses by \$56,306, Rouse noted. The utilities franchise tax for the 2018-19 fiscal year provided \$445,600, or 71.3 percent of the Town's annual revenue last fiscal year; beer and wine tax provided \$26,000. Actual operating expenses for the fiscal year were \$424,495, compared to \$371,884 budgeted, Rouse noted. About \$23,000 of the unbudgeted expenses was in the Parks and Recreation category, \$20,000 additional for capital outlay and about \$6,500 additional in the library and education category. "This town in a lot of ways can serve as a model to other towns," Rouse said. "You have no long-term debt; no bonds and you levy no property tax." Tim Jones stated the Town had \$56,399. more in actual expenses than the budget allowed. He asked Mr. Rouse how much the Town was allowed to go over budget? Mr. Rouse answer not anything. Regarding a \$75,000 expense the Town incurred to repair a water line after damage from a hurricane in the fall of 2018, Flynt said, "We filed a report with FEMA in December 2018 requesting the reimbursement. They kept telling us it was on the way. We thought it was coming by June 30, but it didn't (it arrived in September) ... When you start talking about budgeting for an emergency, there isn't any way you can plan for that." "But you understand the importance in going forward?" Rouse asked. "Yes," Flynt responded. "That's my fault and no one else's." A copy of the approved Audit by the Local Government Commission is on file at Town Hall for anyone who wishes to review it.

2. Recognition of Outgoing Council Members and Presentation of their Proclamations

Mayor Flynt recognized and presented Proclamations to commend the work and dedication that the 3 leaving council members have done for the Town during their tenure. Frank Bruno, Deanna Ragan, and Tim Jones.

3. Passing the Gavel to the New Incoming Council Members and Swearing in Ceremony

Newly elected council members Derek Foy, Jim Rigsbee and Jimmy Landreth, were sworn into office by Guilford County Superior Court Judge Stuart Albright.

4. Nomination of Council Member for Mayor Pro-Tem and Swearing in Ceremony:

Mayor Flynt and Derek Foy both nominated Thearon Hooks to remain as Mayor Pro Tem

VOTE:

Mayor Flynt: Yes	Jimmy Landreth: Yes
Thearon Hooks: Yes	Jim Rigsbee: Yes
Derek Foy: Yes	

X. Old Business:

- 1. Discussion of Water Feasibility Study findings and Allocation of Funds. Adoption of Resolution.** Mayor Flynt read a Resolution that was put together by Sebastian King with oversight from Mayor Flynt of Stokesdale, Mayor Dunham of Summerfield, and Mayor Sullivan of Oak Ridge. Mayor Flynt acknowledged N.C. Rep. John Faircloth and Sebastian King, a candidate for the state senate, for their work to put a proposal before the state legislature requesting the remainder of \$3.6 million budgeted for a regional water authority be reallocated to the towns of Stokesdale, Oak Ridge and Summerfield to each pursue their own water-related goals. After the towns and unincorporated northwest Guilford County participated in a water feasibility study, Mayor Flynt stated that the numbers didn't work for any of the towns, especially for us who had a water system already. If Stokesdale were to receive \$1.13 million back from the state as requested, it could be used to expand and improve its water system. (A copy of the Resolution is on file at Town Hall if anyone would like to review it). Mayor Flynt motioned to adopt the Resolution. Jimmy Landreth seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Mayor Flynt: Yes	Jimmy Landreth: Yes
Thearon Hooks: Yes	Jim Rigsbee: Yes
Derek Foy: Yes	

After the vote Mayor Flynt ask Sebastian King if he would like to say a few words. Mr. King said the money previously allocated by the General Assembly is "sitting on the sidelines." "A (regional) water authority would cost \$50 or \$60 million. I knew the towns couldn't afford it," he said. "Plus, people wanted to keep their wells." He explained the next step is for all three towns' resolutions to go to Raleigh, where the legislature will vote on whether to reallocate the money as requested.

X. New Business:

- 1. Adopt Resolution to add Altavista Drive in Stokesdale, in Guilford County as a Secondary Road to the State Maintenance System.** Mayor Flynt motioned to adopt the resolution as written. Theron Hooks seconded the motion. Mayor Flynt called for a vote to adopt the resolution.

VOTE:

Mayor Flynt: Yes	Jimmy Landreth: Yes
Thearon Hooks: Yes	Jim Rigsbee: Yes
Derek Foy: Yes	

- 2. Discussion and Vote on changes in Staff Benefits for 2020:** Because the Town Clerk's personal health insurance plan through ObamaCare is projected to double in cost in 2020, Town Clerk/Finance Officer Alisa Houk has requested that in lieu of a raise, the Town pay her insurance premium with a new company. Alisa researched and has found health benefits for \$531.51 per month, beginning Jan. 1. The deputy clerk, the Town's only other full-time employee, was also offered insurance, but is covered under her husband's policy so has declined. Councilman Foy said he didn't agree with providing the insurance as a benefit instead of a raise, and the council agreed to still consider a

merit raise for Alisa, next year since she has assumed many more responsibilities since she began working with the Town. coverage, effective Jan. 1.

Thearon Hooks motioned to approve One Share Health Plan at \$531.51 per month beginning January 1, 2020 for the Town Clerk/Finance Officer and clarify that Deputy Clerk Priscilla Hunsucker's husband's plan will not delete her if she is offered coverage through One Share and declines it. **Derek Foy** seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Mayor Flynt: Yes	Jimmy Landreth: Yes
Thearon Hooks:Yes	Jim Rigsbee: Yes
Derek Foy: Yes	

3. Discussion of Auditors suggestion of giving the Finance Officer & Budget Officer authority to move money in the Town's Budget between line items within a department within the budget year. Postponed until January meeting.

4. **Discuss and Vote on Park Grant Process and Survey:** **Mayor Flynt** said several years ago the Town applied for a matching fund park grant and received \$250,000. The Town, which spent more than \$250,000 on the park, is now considering more park additions and wants to pursue another grant. He said anytime you get 50 cents on the dollar, it's a good thing. Before applying for the grant, the Town must conduct a park survey sent out to the citizens to find out what kinds of things they would like to see in the park. **Mayor Flynt** said we have been talking about an amphitheater and a basketball court, but we'll let people decide. **Frank Bruno** had been working on the survey and grant application; NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund which will award \$4 million in grant monies this summer and the Town is hoping for \$100,000 of that. **Derek Foy** asked about doing a web-based survey but was told PARTF highly recommends the survey be mailed. The council discussed a question on the survey about household income, **Mayor Flynt** explained that the questions about income were an important part of the survey in determining how much grant money we could qualify for. Council agreed to leave it, but citizens are not required to answer. **Mayor Flynt** motioned to mail out the park surveys as soon as possible at a mailing cost not to exceed \$1500.00. **Thearon Hooks** seconded the motion.

VOTE:

Mayor Flynt: Yes	Jimmy Landreth: Yes
Thearon Hooks:Yes	Jim Rigsbee: Yes
Derek Foy: Yes	

5. Vote to approve updates to Resolution Establishing Monetary Limits to Tagged Town Inventory. Fill in tomorrow

XI. Closing Comments from Council

Jim Rigsbee thanked everyone for coming, for their support of him in the November election, and said he hoped for "some good positive energy going forward."

Derek Foy also thanked his supporters and said while campaigning he learned a lot about citizens' concerns and priorities for the Town. Citizens expressed a desire to make downtown improvements that will attract more consumers to businesses, they want more

community events, and many were disappointed in a previous council's decision to vote down the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, he said. Park improvements, security, enforcing the Town's ordinances and expanding the Town's water system were also important to citizens. While some are eager to maintain a \$0 property tax rate, others wouldn't mind a modest property tax, Foy noted, and then added prohibiting tractor trailers from using their air brakes while driving through the scenic corridor was another priority.

Jimmy Landreth said he favored keeping a three-minute period for citizen comments near both the beginning and end of each monthly meeting. "Stokesdale is a model town as far as government goes," he said. "We have no tax, a park, a town hall and money in the bank. We can't do everything at one time, but we can do a little this year and next year."

Thearon Hooks reminded everyone of the upcoming Christmas parade and said the weekly farmers market would return to the park earlier next year.

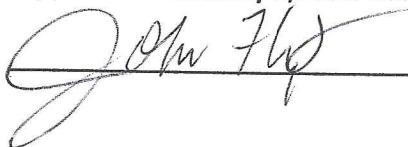
Mayor Flynt said the Town would receive a report from Hazen & Sawyer, the engineer firm that conducted a Hydraulic study for the Town in early January.

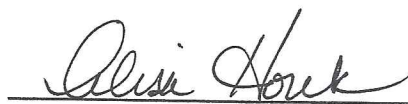
XII. Adjournment: Mayor Flynt motioned to adjourn at 9:15pm. Jimmy Landreth seconded the motion.

XIII. VOTE:

Mayor Flynt: Yes	Jimmy Landreth: Yes
Thearon Hooks: Yes	Jim Rigsbee: Yes
Derek Foy: Yes	

Minutes approved in January 9, 2020 Town Council meeting.

 _____ Mayor

 _____ Town Clerk