# **Minutes**

# TOWN OF STOKESDALE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 8325 ANGEL PARDUE ROAD STOKESDALE, NC 27357 DECEMBER 9, 2021 AT 7:00PM

Member's present were: Mayor John Flynt, Mayor Pro-Tem Thearon Hooks, Council Members: Jimmy Landreth, Derek Foy, Jim Rigsbee; Mayor-Elect Mike Crawford and Councilmember-Elect Tim Jones, Town Attorney Tom Medlin; Interim Town Clerk Dale Martin, Finance & Budget Officer Kim Thacker, and Deputy Clerk Robin Yount.

# 1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Mayor John Flynt called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor David Bailey, of Crossroad Community Church delivered the invocation.

# 2. Review and Adopt the Agenda

Councilman Jimmy Landreth requested that Item #14 be removed from the agenda.

Mayor Flynt made a **Motion** to adopt the agenda as amended. Councilman Derek Foy seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Mayor Flynt, Mayor Pro Tem Hooks, Councilman Foy, Councilman Rigsbee and Councilman Landreth. Noes: None.

# 3. Review and Approve Minutes: January 14, 2021.

Councilman Foy made a <u>Motion</u> to approve the minutes of January 14, 2021 as presented. Councilman Landreth seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Mayor Flynt, Mayor Pro Tem Hooks, Councilman Foy, Councilman Rigsbee and Councilman Landreth. Noes: None.

# 4. Public Safety Reports: Fire Department

Chief Gauldin presented the Fire Department report. He noted the number of fire calls answered last month. He advised that the burning ban was still in effect and asked citizens to refrain from any outside burning. He offered holiday safety tips and cautioned residents to not overload power strips with decorations. He reminded everyone to keep water in their live Christmas trees and to keep them away from all ignition sources. He wished everyone a safe Merry Christmas.

# 5. Administrative Reports:

## **Administrative Report from Interim Town Clerk:**

The Town Clerk noted that 12 meters were sold and installed this month, 12 applications for transfer of service were process, 41 meters/applications on put on hold for builders, 81 811 requests were processed. She added that 659 water bills were mailed out and that 25 work orders were prepared.

The Town Clerk announced that the Town's new computers were received and set up on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Martin stated that she is working with Mrs. Yount on items as they come up and getting her up to speed primarily on the Planning Board. She noted that Planning Board Applications were mailed to current members and to the Town's Sunshine List members.

Mrs. Martin announced that Mrs. Yount would be attending New Clerk's School Jan 20th.

Staff has been assisting the Events Committee with the Parade sponsors and applications coming up this Saturday, December 11th.

Mrs. Martin stated that she has spent time with TCS trying to resolve the Town's Facebook issue and unfortunately it has not been resolved. She stated that it looks like we may have to delete what's out there and create a brand-new page.

Mrs. Martin stated that the Town is participating in the Piedmont Discovery Scavenger Hunt with Guilford County. This is to make people aware of all the parks in the Piedmont. Banners and signs were set out and there will be a flyer in the park to scan with their phones to complete to Scavenger location.

Mrs. Martin then noted the Orientation Packet provided to new Council Members. This is a starting point and hope to update and add items as approved by the Council. She asked that the Council complete the Information Sheet in the front and give to her or Mrs. Yount.

Mrs. Martin stated that email addressed have been set up for new Council members and will be active tomorrow.

Mrs. Martin reminded the new Council Members of the Ethics Training requirement and noted the information provided in the packet regarding dates and times for the training sessions.

Mrs. Martin asked for feedback regarding the Orientation packet.

a) Planning Board: None presented.

## b) Events Committee:

Councilman Foy stated that the parade is here and announced that the Grand Marshall is Lt. Governor Mark Robinson. He stated rain is in the forecast and that a decision on the parade will be made by 6:00 PM tomorrow night if they decide to cancel. If it is cancelled, December 18<sup>th</sup> is being considered as a rescheduled date.

# c) Property Committee:

Councilman Rigsbee stated that the lights out front of town are still out and that he will follow up on that with our vendor to see when they might be repaired.

# 6. Financials: Finance/Budget Officer: Kim Thacker

Mrs. Thacker presented the financial report for November and highlighted the General Fund. She reported the total CDAR's for the town at \$2,557,607.36, total bank accounts at \$3,141,166.23. She noted the water reimbursements at \$40,966.56 and total accounts receivable at \$43,389.15. She noted total expenditures to date are \$380,114.46. Mrs. Thacker then highlighted the Water Fund and noted the total CDARs at \$499,429.50. She noted water sales at \$28,840.30. She noted total expenses to date are \$202,088.82.

Mayor Flynt stated that Mrs. Thacker starts working on this audit months in advance for Mr. Rouse and thanked her for all her efforts on this project.

7. Citizen's Comments from the Floor (3-minute Limit per Speaker)

None presented.

8. Presentation of the 2020 -2021 Town of Stokesdale Audit by Rex Rouse of Rouse, Rouse, Rouse, & Gardner LLP Accounting firm

Mr. Rex Rouse, of Rouse, Rouse, & Gardner LLP Accounting Firm presented the Fiscal Year's Audit for 2020-2021. He noted that his firm has performed the financial audit of the Town of Stokesdale for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. He stated that in his opinion, based on the audit, the financial statements referred to present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the governmental activities and business of the Town of Stokesdale and find the respective budget to be in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

Mr. Rouse noted that on page 32, the general fund balance increased from \$3,025,450 last year to \$3,112,502 this year and noted the unassigned fund balance increased from \$2,891,302 to \$2,993,857. On page 35, the total general fund expenditures are \$372,016 and he noted the Town has approximately eight years of expenditures in the fund balance, far in excess of the State average of 6 months and increased over last year's amount. On page 33, he noted the budgeted revenues of \$428,903; however, the actual revenues were \$459,068 which exceeded the budgeted revenues by \$30,165. He noted the revenues were up significantly over last year all without an ad valorem tax for the Town of Stokesdale. He commended the Town and stated that it is an exemplary town having had very conservative Councils in the past.

Mr. Rouse then noted the budgeted general fund operating expenditures at \$428,903, a balanced budget, with actual expenses of \$372,016, far less than what was budgeted. He noted the actual expenditures for last year were \$506,147. Mr. Rouse stated that there was a significant change in methodology this year and that was to reimburse the general fund from the water fund for administrative cost paid by the general fund. On page 34, he noted the increase in Salaries, and

decrease in Accounting Fees due to Finance Officer's salary. He noted the decrease in the Downtown Improvement project. He noted on page 35 the increase in Capital Outlay for the Town Park and the increase in maintenance and property and grounds.

On page 36, Mr. Rouse noted for the water fund, the increase in cash assets from \$29,775 last year to \$87,936 this year. He pointed out the total debt increased from \$54,328 to \$58,662. He referred to page 37 for the total water fund operating revenues are up from \$457,783 to \$577,565. He noted that last year's revenues were under expenditures \$67,940 and this year we have a small profit of \$7,704 and contributed the rate increase for eliminating the loss in revenue for this year.

Mr. Rouse then noted on page 29 the total assets of \$2,059,295 at the beginning of the year and \$1,975,516 at the end of the year and added that the decrease is caused solely by depreciation.

Mr. Rouse noted the town has no long-term debt and no property tax and in his opinion the Town's financial condition is very sound and asked if there were any questions regarding the financial statements.

Mr. Rouse referred the a letter addressed to Council at the front of the report. He stated that this letter addresses the small staff and the difficulty in have a separation of duties. He suggested the Mayor or a designated person review bank statements and reconciliation of such in the future. He noted that some improvement was been made in this area. He noted that some adjusted entries were required and recommended that the Finance Officer work to eliminate those journal entries in the future. He noted that one account was not properly reconciled and that was corrected. He recommended that the Finance Officer attend courses to become a Certified Finance Officer. He then thanked both Mrs. Thacker and Mrs. Hunsucker for their assistance with the audit this year.

Mr. Rouse wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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Mayor Flynt thanked Mr. Rouse for his work on the audit and noted the good report presented.

# 9. Acceptance of the Municipal Election for the Town of Stokesdale held November 2, 2021.

Mike Crawford John Flynt	423 297
Council:	
Frank Bruno	129
Tonia Alisa Houk	2
Tim Jones	352
Mark Nadel	211

Mayor Flynt made a <u>Motion</u> to accept the Town of Stokesdale 2021 Municipal Election Results as presented by Guilford County Board of Elections. Councilman Landreth seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Mayor Flynt, Mayor Pro Tem Hooks, Councilman Foy, Councilman Rigsbee and Councilman Landreth. Noes: None.

# 10. Passing of the Gavel and Swearing in Ceremony of Newly Elected Council Members.

Mayor Flynt introduced Guilford County Superior Court Judge Stuart Albright. He stated that Judge Albright has been administering the Oath of Office for several years and thanked him for his time and service to this community.

Guilford County Superior Court Judge Stuart Albright then administered the Oath of Office of Mayor to Michael E. Crawford.

Oath of Office Mayor December 9, 2021



I, <u>Michael E Crawford</u>, do solemnly and sincerely swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution and laws of the United States; that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; that I will endeavor to support, maintain and defend the Constitution and laws of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, to the best of my knowledge and ability; and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as <u>Mayor</u>, so help me God.

Judge Albright then administered the Oath of Office for Town Council to Tim Jones.

Oath of Office Town Council December 9, 2021



I, <u>TIM JONES</u>, do solemnly swear [or affirm] that I will support the Constitution and Laws of the United States; that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; that I will endeavor to support, maintain and defend the Constitution and laws of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the Untied States, to the best of my knowledge and ability; and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as <u>Town</u> <u>Council</u> for the Town of Stokesdale, so help me God.

Mayor Mike Crawford thanked Mrs. Kim Thacker for her assistance and the excellent audit report presented tonight.

# 11. Recognition of Outgoing Council Members and Presentation of Plaques.

Mayor Mike Crawford Presented a Plaque and Resolution of Appreciation to John Flynt as Mayor of the Town for the past four years and thanked him for his service to the Town. He then presented a plaque and Resolution of Appreciation to Thearon Hooks as Mayor Pro Tem for the past four years and also thanked him for his service to the Town.

The Mayor then presented a Plaque and Resolution of Appreciation to William "Bill" Jones a former Council member that resigned in 2019 and was never formally recognized. He also thanked Mr. Jones for his service to the Town.

Plaques read:

Award of Appreciation

Presented to \_\_\_\_\_

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

FOR

YOUR DEDICATED SERVICE

TO THE CITIZENS OF STOKESDALE

WHILE SERVING AS

OF THE

TOWN OF STOKESDALE

(YEARS OF SERVICE)

Resolution of Appreciation Reads:

>>>>>>>>>>>>



WHEREAS, has served the Town of Stokesdale and its citizens as for the past years; and
WHEREAS, the Town of Stokesdale has been fortunate to have had the services of who has provided leadership and rendered judgements for the betterment of all the citizens of the Town; and
WHEREAS, has served on local and regional committees, representing the Town of Stokesdale in an able and professional manner; and
WHEREAS, the Town of Stokesdale, its employees and its citizens extend a sincere thanks to, knowing that he will continue to be active in the community in many ways and in other endeavors; and
WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Council of the Town of Stokesdale to recognize and honor for his dedicated contributions to this community.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF STOKESDALE that this Resolution of Appreciation be presented to John Flynt in acknowledgement of his service and his interest in good government in Stokesdale and in the State of North Carolina.
Adopted this Ninth day of December in the Year of Our Lord Two-thousand and twenty-one.
Mr. Thearon Hooks recognized and thanked Mr. Tom Medlin for his service to the Town.
Councilman Foy thanked Mayor Flynt for his service and stated that he is very knowledgeable about the Town's water system. He stated that previously the water system has operated in the red and we just heard that we are not operating in black and congratulated him on his efforts.
Councilman Foy then thanked Mayor Pro Tem. Hooks for his service and noted that he has a ton of governmental experience that was valuable to the Town.

Council in 2019 after moving out of town. He stated that he has a wealth of knowledge about the Town as well and is one of the kindest people he has ever met.

Councilman Foy then thanked Mr. Bill Jones for his service and noted that he resigned from the

Councilman Foy added that the Town was very lucky to have each of you serve on Council.

#### 12. Nomination and Selection of Mayor Pro Tem and Swearing In Ceremony.

Councilman Landreth <u>Nominated</u> Derek Foy as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilman Rigsbee seconded the nomination. Vote: Ayes: Mayor Crawford, Mayor Pro Foy, Councilman Rigsbee, Councilman Jones and Councilman Landreth. Noes: None.

Judge Albright then administered the Oath of Office of Mayor Pro Tempore to Derek Foy.

# Oath of Office Mayor Pro Tempore December 9, 2021



I, <u>Derek Foy</u>, do solemnly swear [or affirm] that I will support the Constitution and Laws of the United States; that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; that I will endeavor to support, maintain and defend the Constitution and laws of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, to the best of my knowledge and ability; and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as <u>Mayor Pro Tempore</u> for the Town of Stokesdale, so help me God.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

13. Consideration of a Proposal from Stokesdale Heating & Air Conditioning to replace HVAC units at Town Hall. (Continued from November 9<sup>th</sup>)

Councilman Foy stated that the Town has been reviewing 2 options to replace one of the HVAC units at Town Hall. He updated Council on the replacement of two units in the last 18 months. He stated that it is probably wise to go ahead and replace the unit out but not pressing that we do it tonight. He stated that new Council members may have some questions of Stokesdale Heating and Air before they are ready to vote on the matter and suggested this item be continued until January.

Councilman Foy made a <u>Motion</u> to continue this item to the January 2022 meeting. Councilman Landreth seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Mayor Crawford, Mayor Pro Foy, Councilman Rigsbee, Councilman Jones and Councilman Landreth. Noes: None.

14. Consideration of a Proposal to Clean Up front of Town Hall and install netting to prevent birds from nesting along the ceiling. (Tabled from August 12, September 9, October 14, November 9)

Removed from agenda.

# **NEW BUSINESS**

# 15. Consideration of a Resolution Approving the 2020 Local Water Supply Plan.

Councilman Foy asked if this item is administrative in nature and that we are not committing to anything. Town Clerk Dale Martin stated that this is administrative in nature. She explained every five years the Town is required to submit a Local Water Supply Plan to NCDEQ. She noted that the plan was submitted as required back in February 2021. She noted that a Representative from NCDEQ, Louis Murray contacted her regarding some minor changes that needed to be made to the Plan. Those changes were made and as you can see from the letter for NCDEQ that the plan was accepted, and this is the last piece needed.

Councilman Landreth asked if there is a timeline on this and does it have to be voted on tonight. Mrs. Martin stated that no this does not have to be voted on tonight, however, the plan has been submitted and was to be finalized she thought in October.

Councilman Landreth made a <u>Motion</u> to approve the following Resolution. Councilman Rigsbee seconded the motion.

Councilman Jones read the name of the Resolution: RESOLUTION R-2021-\_\_\_\_\_ APPROVING LOCAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN and asked that this be an amendment to the motion. Councilman Rigsbee accepted the amendment.

Vote: Ayes: Mayor Crawford, Mayor Pro Foy, Councilman Rigsbee, Councilman Jones and Councilman Landreth. Noes: None.

# RESOLUTION R-2021-10 APPROVING LOCAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 143-355 (I) requires that each unit of local government that provides public water service or that plans to provide public water service and each large community water system shall, either individually or together with other units of local government and large community water systems, prepare and submit a Local Water Supply Plan; and

WHEREAS, as required by the statute and in the interests of sound local planning, a Local Water Supply Plan for <u>Town of Stokesdale</u>, has been developed and submitted to the <u>Town Council</u> for approval; and

WHEREAS, the <u>Town Council</u> finds that the Local Water Supply Plan is in accordance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 143-355 (l) and that it will provide appropriate guidance for the future management of water supplies for <u>Town of Stokesdale</u>, as well as useful information to the Department of Environmental Quality for the development of a state water supply plan as required by statute;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the <u>Town Council</u> of <u>Town of Stokesdale</u> that the Local Water Supply Plan entitled, <u>2020 Local Supply Water Plan for Stokesdale</u> dated <u>November 9, 2021</u>, is hereby approved and shall be submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the <u>Town Council</u> intends that this plan shall be revised to reflect changes in relevant data and projections at least once every five years or as otherwise requested by the Department, in accordance with the statute and sound planning practice.

This the 9<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2021.

# 16. Health Insurance for Full Time Staff Members.

Councilman Foy stated that he has been working on getting a health insurance plan for full-time staff. He stated that he has talked with the NC League of Municipalities and Blue Cross and Blue Shield in getting a health insurance plan that is affordable for the Town and staff. He stated that he fundamentally believes that the Town should provide some type of health insurance for full time staff. He stated that Mrs. Martin reached out to him after reviewing the information he had received. Mrs. Martin reached out to a colleague for some information and guidance. He stated that he has talked with this person, and they explained things for us to consider that may be a better option than what I have received. He stated that he would like to continue this until next month or a special called meeting so that these options can be investigated.

Councilman Foy made a <u>Motion</u> to continue this item to a special called meeting, date to be determined or the January meeting. Councilman Rigsbee seconded the motion.

Councilman Rigsbee asked if he is expecting more quotes? Councilman Foy stated that after his discussion with the Human Resources Director for the Town of Kernersville we may be changing direction for a reimbursement policy which might work better for our staff. He asked for more time to put something together.

Vote: Ayes: Mayor Crawford, Mayor Pro Foy, Councilman Rigsbee, Councilman Jones and Councilman Landreth. Noes: None.

# 17. Discussion on Policy for Collection of Delinquent Water Accounts.

The Town Clerk stated that we had this on the agenda last month for discussion. In your packet, the last sheet shows the delinquent water accounts. She stated that it is her understanding that we don't have a cutoff policy in place. She stated that staff would like some direction on where you want the cutoff to be, a dollar amount or time such as 60-90 days. She reported that the deposit for a homeowner is \$50 and for a renter it is \$175. Do we issue cutoff when those amounts are reached or at another amount? Do we issue cutoff after a certain time? She stated that she would work with the Town Attorney to write a policy.

Mrs. Martin stated that it is not big problem now, that Ms. Hunsucker has done a great job at collecting those past due bills. She explained the Debt Set Off program administered by the NC League of Municipalities and reported that the Town's water application has been modified to include social security numbers so that we can collect in the future. She noted a discussion last month where a property owner wants the meter removed and has stopped paying the bill which is now over \$400-\$500.

Councilman Rigsbee stated that at looking at the aging amounts, he suggested 3 months. He noted the amount of his water bill each month and stated that 3 months would be approximately \$250. If the bill has not been caught up in 3 months, chances are they are not going to pay it.

Councilman Landreth agreed that this might be a good starting point. He noted the deposit amounts. Mrs. Martin stated that we have not been requiring any proof of whether or not the applicant is a property owner or renter, however, we are now requiring proof either by a purchase contract or lease agreement. She noted a situation where the applicant said they were purchasing the house but that was not the case and this is one of the large bills on the sheet. Councilman Landreth recommended they be required to sign a statement and then they would be committing fraud.

Councilman Foy referred to Councilman Jones and his previous experience on the Board and asked if he recalled any policy in place.

Councilman Jones stated that he does recall a policy and if the current Council does not remember voting on or amending that policy, then it should still be in effect. He then asked Mr. Medlin, Town Attorney if we pick a number tonight and cut off water based on that and then later find there is a policy in place would we have a problem or would tonight's action override an existing policy.

Mr. Medlin advised that a vote tonight would override any existing policy. He added that the Town has the right to turn off water for non-payment. He stated that he didn't think anyone could use the fact that the town didn't have a policy as a defense in court.

Councilman Jones then made a **Motion** to continue this item.

Councilman Foy agreed to continue the item but wanted to create an action item for Council to work with staff to come up with a new policy. Councilman Rigsbee suggested looking at what other towns do as well.

Councilman Jones stated that this was his intent to continue the item and see what we can find at Town Hall and stated his <u>Motion</u> again to continue this item to January. Councilman Landreth seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Mayor Crawford, Mayor Pro Foy, Councilman Rigsbee, Councilman Jones and Councilman Landreth. Noes: None.

# 18. Discussion on Recruitment of Planning Board members.

Mayor Crawford asked for the number of applications and how many members does the Planning Board have. Mrs. Martin stated we received 3 applications and that there are 10 members, five sitting members and 5 alternates.

Councilman Landreth stated that he did not want to ask a sitting member to fill out another application if we already have one on file, however, it's up to Council.

Councilman Landreth stated that Mr. Jones is here and we need to appoint his replacement tonight if there are not objections from Council.

Councilman Landreth made a <u>Motion</u> to appoint Stephen Louie to fill Mr. Jones' seat. Mr. Louie is currently an alternate and we have his application on file. Councilman Jones seconded the motion.

Councilman Landreth amended his **Motion** to make that appointment for two years beginning next month.

Mayor Crawford added that we will need to stagger terms and Councilman Landreth agreed.

Councilman Jones accepted the amendment. Vote: Ayes: Mayor Crawford, Mayor Pro Foy, Councilman Rigsbee, Councilman Jones and Councilman Landreth. Noes: None.

Mayor Crawford then stated that we need to recruit some individuals to the Planning Board and asked Council have discussions with residents. He added that the current terms expire at the end of the month and suggested that we ask the current members to stay on the Board until we can get it filled.

Councilman Landreth stated that we will have some people that want to stay on the Board, and we need their experience. He stated that Council looks to those members for guidance and their input is important. There have been times when the seats were hard to fill.

Mayor Crawford asked the Town Clerk if we have not heard from some that did not want to stay on the Board. Mrs. Martin reported the Bruce Angel has asked that he not be reappointed.

Councilman Landreth reminded Council that we have alternates on the Board to fill in when the others are out.

Councilman Jones stated that in the past the Town's practice has been to make changes when terms expire but we have not be in the habit of asking a sitting member to reapply. He was uncertain of the purpose of having them reapply since Council has already voted on them once before.

Councilman Foy stated that he believes staff is following procedures and asked if it makes sense to ask them to reapply or not. Councilman Jones stated that this does not preclude others from applying.

The Clerk explained that this is a way for staff to get current information. Often times when numbers change, we are not given that information. This is one way staff can make sure we have current information on board members and provides a nice paper trail for staff.

Councilman Jones made a <u>Motion</u> to waive any requirement that sitting members or alternates reapply to the Planning Board and authorized the Clerk to ask for any updated information the member wants to supply. Councilman Landreth seconded the motion.

Vote: Ayes: Mayor Flynt, Mayor Pro Tem Hooks, Councilman Foy, Councilman Rigsbee and Councilman Landreth. Noes: None.

# 19. Citizen's Comments from the Floor (3-minute Limit per Speaker)

Mark Nadel, 8211 Windy Gayle Dr., stated that he is confused about who will be on the Planning Board. He stated that there is a meeting next week. Mayor Crawford stated that the meeting next week will be cancelled. He asked if there are enough people to fill all the seats. He stated that Mr. Louie may be the last alternate that was voted to fill a seat tonight. Councilman Jones stated that Mr. Southard is an alternate. He asked how many do we have? The Clerk stated that we have applications from Ron Southard, Stewart Hommel, and you Mark. It was noted that Mr. Angel is still on the Board and that a quorum on three would be needed to have a meeting.

Councilman Landreth stated that Council will do what is necessary to fill the Planning Board. Councilman Jones stated that as former Chairman, he believes there are enough alternates to fill the seats.

**Bobbie Dalton** expressed concern with her ability to pay her property taxes. She stated that she works parttime and there is not much left after she pays her taxes. She asked if there is going to be a tax increase next year.

Councilman Foy asked if she was referring to Guilford County property taxes. Ms. Dalton stated yes. Councilman Foy then explained the Board of Commissioners budget process and that they set the tax rate. He sympathized with Ms. Dalton.

Mayor Crawford explained that your taxes are based on the value of your property.

Councilman Landreth stated that the Guilford County tax rate is set by the County Commissioners and that the Town of Stokesdale has no control over that. He stated that the Town has no taxes here. He too sympathized with Ms. Dalton and commended her for coming to speak tonight.

# **Council Comments:**

Councilman Rigsbee thanked everyone for coming out tonight. He added that citizen participation is back bone of the Town. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Foy also wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He recognized the Northwest Guilford High School band playing at the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pearl Harbor, that's a big deal and a great accomplishment.

Councilman Landreth thanked past Councils. He noted that our Town is run differently than others and commended them for placing the Town is a great position and hoped that the current Council will use good common sense in the future. He noted the Town's assets that were done without levying property taxes. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Jones thanked everyone for their support of him and humbled by the confidence they have placed in him. He hoped to win over others confidence that he does have the best interest of the Town at heart. He asked that we remember our Veterans, those that have passed and those still with us. He then wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Crawford thanked everyone for coming out and stated that he is very honored to be placed in this position. He stated that it is going to get better. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

# 20. Adjournment.

Councilman Jones made a <u>Motion</u> to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Landreth seconded the motion. Vote: Ayes: Mayor Crawford, Mayor Pro Foy, Councilman Rigsbee, Councilman Jones and Councilman Landreth. Noes: None.

Being no further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

# **Announcements:**

a) Planning Board Meeting Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Town Hall Town Council Meeting Thursday, January December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at Town Hall

Approved: January 13, 2022

Mike Crawford, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dale F. Martin, Town Clerk