



**TOWN OF STOKESDALE  
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
8325 Angel Pardue Road  
STOKESDALE, NC 27357  
February 14, 2019**

**I. Call to Order:** Mayor John Flynt

**Attendance:** Mayor Flynt, Mayor Pro Tem Hooks, Frank Bruno, Bill Jones, Tim Jones, Town Attorney Bain, Deputy Clerk Priscilla Hunsucker, Guilford County Planner Oliver Bass.

**II. Invocation:** Terri Johnson

**III. Pledge of Allegiance:** Lead by Mayor Flynt

**Before adopting the Agenda** Frank Bruno, asked for a legal opinion from the Town Attorney John Bain, regarding Items 11 & 12 on the Agenda. Frank stated that these two items were discussed last month in closed session and his concern is that they have not been reviewed and approved by the Town Attorney to be released to the public. Mr. Bain, answered by saying it is perfectly legal to discuss these two items in open session. Mr. Bain, said that what was discussed in closed session was attorney-client privilege. He has nothing to add under attorney-client privilege. There are no legal impediments at this time to prevent it from being discussed in open session. He thinks it would be appropriate to discuss openly. Frank stated he is still uncomfortable with this. He isn't a big fan of closed session anyway, but since this was discussed in closed session he is just not comfortable at this time discussing it openly. Tim Jones asked the Mayor to move Item 10 down below #12 or lower on the agenda. Mayor Flynt stated #10 was placed in this position because it seemed like the logical flow of things considering what was being discussed in Item 11 and 12. Frank Bruno agreed with the Mayor. Bill Jones didn't understand what the #10 had to do with 11 and 12. The Mayor stated that to him it was a question of semantics. Thearon Hooks had done a timeline of the facts surrounding 11 and 12. He thought it made sense to give that status report first. #11 and 12 were moved up to 10 and 11 and #10 was put in #12's place. Then Tim Jones asked if a Discussion regarding the school sign could be added to the agenda. Discussion of the school sign was added to the Agenda. Bill Jones then added that he was good with removing his items number 13 and 14. He was good with removing them after his conversations with the Mayor in the office

**IV. Review and Adopt Agenda:** Mayor Flynt motioned to adopt as is, Tim Jones 2nd the motion,  
VOTE: 5-0 to adopt.

**V. Approval of Minutes:** January 10, 2019 Minutes. Frank motioned to continue minutes until the March meeting, Bill Jones 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Vote: 5-0 to continue January 10, 2019 minutes until March meeting.

**VI. Public Safety Reports: Guilford County Sheriff's Report:** Lt. Fuller, District 1 had 60 service calls in the month of January. Out of those was one attempted car theft on Flat Rock Rd. Resident had cut vehicle on to warm it up. Feb 12. There was a burglary on Shoeline Rd. on Feb 13 another burglary on Athens Rd and one on Pearman Quarry.

**Stokesdale Fire Dept. Report:** Chief Gauldin said Stokesdale had 130 service calls. 78 fire, 52 med calls.

**VII: Citizen's comments from the floor on non-agenda items (3 Minute Limit per Speaker): no comments**

**VIII. New Business:**

**1. Monthly Financial Review:** Frank Bruno gave an update on the Town's financials and reported on what Kim Thacker and Alisa Houk have done to upgrade our financial systems.

**2. Public Hearing: Resolution of Intent to Close an Easement Case # 18-12-STPL-07786** Mr. Bass presented the Case. Guilford County Planning and Zoning staff have reviewed the plans and stated that the plans meet the requirements for Stokesdale and recommend approval.

Mayor Flynt asked if there was anyone that wanted to speak for the case:

Terri Johnson spoke in favor of closing the easement.

Mayor Flynt asked if there was anyone that wanted to speak in opposition: no one was opposed.

Mayor Flynt closed the Public portion of the hearing and asked for Council comments. There were no comments.

Mayor Flynt motioned to close an Easement Case # 18-12-STPL-07786: 7709 Athens Road, Stokesdale, NC. Thearon Hooks seconded the motion, Vote: 5-0 To Close Easement Case # 18-12-STPL-07786: 7709 Athens Road, Stokesdale, NC.

**3. Public Hearing: Resolution to turn roads listed in Northridge Subdivision over to NCDOT.** Thearon Hooks motioned to adopt the Resolution. Frank Bruno 2<sup>nd</sup> motion, Vote: 5-0 to approve.

**4. Discuss license agreement with the Stokesdale Fire Department for the clock location:** Frank motioned to accept the license agreement. Thearon Hooks 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion Vote 4-1, Bill voted No.

**5. Discussion removing remainder of BB&T funds to Bank of Oak Ridge.** Bill Jones and Tim Jones want to see 6 months' worth of financial statements before they vote. Mayor Flynt motioned to transfer the BB&T funds of \$164,262.00 to General Fund at Bank of Oak Ridge. Thearon Hooks seconded the motion. Vote: 4-1, Bill voted No.

**6. Discussion removing remainder of SunTrust funds to Bank of Oak Ridge:** Mayor Flynt motioned to transfer Sun Trust checking account \$245,000. To Bank of Oak Ridge. Leave other half of \$409,088.76 in SunTrust account. Thearon Hooks seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0

**7. Discussion and vote to appoint Mayor Pro Tem Thearon Hooks as the Town's Deputy Finance Officer.** Mayor Flynt motioned to appoint Thearon Hooks as Town Deputy Finance Officer. Frank seconded the motion. Vote: 3-2 with Bill Jones and Tim Jones voting no.

**8. Discuss and vote on Hunter Enterprise renewal contract.** Frank presented the contract and motioned to approve the Hunter Contract for the next year and authorize the Mayor to sign it. Thearon seconded the motion. Vote: Contract Effective February 15, 2019 approve contract with update Certificate of Insurance 5-0.



**9. Discuss Park Improvements:** Frank discussed the progress of the new Town Shelter, concrete, mulch, clean up, removal of old swing.

**10. Discussion of removal of planning board member (alternate) for cause.** Bill Jones motioned to have Mark Nadel removed from the Planning Board. Tim Jones seconded the motion. Frank doesn't feel he has enough information to approve this motion. Bill Jones addressed Frank and said Frank you have letters from Mr. Nadel and others regarding the cause. Tim Jones spoke and stated he has copies of letters from the Town of Stokesdale to Mr. Nadel, a letter from Mr. Nadel, and a timeline from Crossroads Pharmacy written up by Thearon Hooks, and emails from Eileen Thiery. Thearon asked Bill Jones why he has Planning Board on here as the letters and emails regard the Ordinance Review Committee? Bill Jones stated that he thought based on the facts in front of him he questions Mr. Nadel's judgement to properly serve on the Planning Board. Tim read an excerpt from Mr. Bain's email mentioned appointment to Planning Board. Thearon asked what the status of the Planning Board is. Frank said he goes back to training, the people on the Planning Board have not been trained properly. Frank accepts some fault in that. Frank said that Mr. Nadel was voted to the Planning Board and Ordinance Review committee as an alternate pending training. Thearon stated he believes the Planning Board should be struck from the agenda because the issue at hand was based on the Ordinance Review Committee. He doesn't believe there is any formal training for Ordinance Review Committee members. Thearon said technically Mr. Nadel isn't on the Planning Board until he receives his training. Mayor Flynt commented that he certainly wished they could have discussed this in closed session, but Mr. Nadel, is here. The Mayor then told that he and Frank met personally with Mr. Nadel. Based on that discussion it was revealed that others on the Ordinance Review Committee had taken signs down in the past. Mayor Flynt said in the absence of someone saying you can't do that. Council members are not even authorized to do that. Mr. Nadel didn't know that he couldn't do this. The concern is you can't remove Mr. Nadel without considering the actions of others in the past. Thearon asked if there were any updates given annual on legislative changes. Frank said no, only the planning board training as needed for new members or if something changes with planning and zoning rules. After more discussion Mayor Flynt asked for a vote. **Vote 3 – voted not to remove Mr. Nadel, from the Planning Board. Bill Jones and Tim Jones voted to remove Mr. Nadel from the Planning Board.**

**11. Discussion of removal of Committee member for cause.** Bill Jones withdrew this item for lack of a motion.

**12. Discussion of status of Ordinance Review Committee:** Mayor Flynt said this was hashed out in the last two items. So let's move on.

**13. School Sign:** Tim Jones said he has been receiving complaints that the school sign can't be read. He asked can we change the font, color, or background to make it more legible? Frank said he has never seen any emails from Tim and he hasn't received any complaints from anyone. Frank said Alisa had relayed the Tim's complaint to him and he has contacted the person at the school that is responsible for the sign. Frank said there are ways to control the font, color, and background and maybe with an adjustment they can make it more legible.

#### **X. Committee and Board Reports:**

**1. Committee/Board Reports:** Mayor Flynt spoke about the meeting on February 6, 2019 he and Alisa had with two representatives from the NC Dept. or Treasurer. The Mayor said these two are with a

Dept. that randomly picks small municipalities to visit. They had a form to complete that asked about our form of government, how many employees we have, how we handle payroll, who reconciles the bank statements, who cuts the checks, who signs the checks, who makes the deposits etc. They were very impressed with our 11 year cash reserve without a town tax. They did give us a few suggestions and things to make sure we were doing them. Make sure the Mayor or a council person signs the payroll sheets (which we already do). Make sure we are stamping contracts with the pre-audit stamp (which we are doing). Stamping checks with the dispersant statute stamp (which we also do). They verified that it is always the Finance Officer and an assigned council person signing checks. Or in the Finance Officer absence that we appoint a Deputy Finance Officer to sign in the absence of the Finance Officer. As they left the meeting they said they were very pleased with their findings.

**Bill Jones** added that he spoke with the same two Treasurer Representatives earlier before the meeting and he discussed the fact that council has been spending money to do things like extension of water lines before they voted on a Budget Amendment. They agreed that we should do a Budget Amendment before we spend the money. Frank stated he agrees, but he could find many times over the years he has been on council that Budget Amendments weren't done until the end of the fiscal year. Frank also reminded Bill that the \$75,000. For repairs was voted on in council. After discussion council agrees that in the future if a Budget Amendment is needed it will be voted in before moneys are spent.

**Thearon Hooks** reported on NCDOT installing Flashing caution School Crossing signs on either side of the school on Hwy 158. NCDOT is also changing the speed limits on Hwy 65 between Oak level Church Rd and Fulp Road. He also reported on the last Opioid Meeting, John Strader was the speaker, about 20 people attended. Guilford County Sheriff's representatives will be at the March meeting. He also gave an update on the FEMA process.

## 2. Departmental and Administrative Report: Priscilla didn't have a report

**XI. Citizen Comments from the Floor (3 Minute Limit per Speaker)** **Jimmy Landreth** spoke to **Mr. Nadel** Jimmy is upset, he said that Mr. Nadel used his name too many times in these conversations and has no idea where Mr. Nadel got the idea that he picked up signs. Jimmy said he has never picked up any signs and would not ever pick up any signs. Jimmy told Mr. Nadel he should have never said that about him. That it was border lining on slander. Jimmy Landreth said there was discussion but he never said he took any signs and he wants his name out of it. Mayor Flynt spoke up and said some of what was mentioned was in the letters read and during the discussions he and Frank had with James Greene. Eileen Thiery had admitted in a letter that she had taken down signs in her early days on the committee. Mr. Greene said he had been present during some discussions but these discussions were not during an Ordinance Review meeting that he could recall. He also denied ever saying that Jimmy Landreth said he had taken signs.

## **XII. Closing Comments from Council**

**Tim Jones** asked that the minutes reflect that Jimmy Landreth has said he has never taken signs down and would never remove signs from any property.

**Tim Jones** thanks all three citizens for staying for the duration of the meeting.



**Bill Jones** said he is disappointed in this council for voting to take action to keep someone on the board that lacks proper judgement to do the job. He hopes they don't pay for it down the road. He thinks this show lack of accountability on a lot of the board members on this council. He's not surprised.

**Frank Bruno** said he will not comment on Bill's remarks as he feels it would be inappropriate. He wants to thank everyone who serves on the Planning Board and other committees. He hates that this was handled in this manner. He understands Mr. Bain's position on allowing discussion in open session. He wishes it could have been started in open session from the beginning because it would have been handled a lot easier. Frank apologized to Mr. Landreth for any implication was made by him at any time that Mr. Landreth had done something wrong. Frank said that was not his intentions. He said he may have used "they" when he was talking about training but it had nothing to do with Mr. Landreth doing anything, he didn't mean it that way. Frank said he appreciates what the committees do. It is tough being on council and on the committees and he appreciates what they all do, and hopes they continue.

**Thearon Hooks** mirrors what Frank said. He said if it has all been about one issue, one board it would have been a lot easier. Thearon apologized to Mr. Landreth as well.

**Mayor Flynt** said "Jimmy your name is clear as far as I'm concerned." The Mayor then said he would make one comment. He said we generally have a liaison for committee meetings, he thinks if there is any discussion before, during, or after meeting if anybody makes a comment like that it is incumbent as council members that we say, "Hey, listen you don't do that, you've done it and now you know you shouldn't have." We as council members have some responsibility to police these things if we are going to sit in on these meetings. He doesn't know what was said, he wishes it had been recorded in the minutes or was shared on audio or video. If so, they would know all the facts and could address them. That's why he was uncomfortable discussing this in open session. He said we thought we were going to make an investigation and make a report back. That is why we had it on the agenda and it came back a different way. It was a tough decision, frankly he wished Mr. Nadel had volunteered to resign, but he didn't. Mayor Flynt said he called it as best as could, so be it.

**Thearon Hooks** asked to make one more comment that in the future if they have anything like this happen again that they call in an outside agency to keep the Board out of it.

**XIII. Adjournment:** Mayor Flynt motioned to adjourn at 9:45pm Thearon seconded the motion. Vote 5-0 to adjourn.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor

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Town Clerk/Finance Officer