

**TOWN OF STOKESDALE
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
8325 Angel Pardue Road
STOKESDALE, NC 27357
July 11, 2019 at 7PM**

I. Call to Order: Mayor Flynt

II. Invocation: Randy Southern

III. Pledge of Allegiance: Lead by Mayor Flynt

IV. Review and Adopt Agenda: Tim Jones asked to add that he will have items to share during the Committee and Board Reports. He was added.

John Flynt motioned to approve the July 11, 2019 Regular Town Council Meeting Agenda. Frank Bruno seconded the motion.

Vote:

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

V. Approval of Minutes: May 9, 2019: Frank Motioned to approve the May 9, 2019 Town Council Minutes as they are written. Thearon Hooks seconded the motion.

Vote:

Mayor Flynt: Yes	Tim Jones: No
Thearon Hooks: Yes	
Frank Bruno: Yes	

Approval of the June 13, 2019 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes as they are written: Frank Bruno motioned to approve; Thearon Hooks seconded the motion.

Vote:

Mayor Flynt: Yes	Tim Jones: No
Thearon Hooks: Yes	
Frank Bruno: Yes	

VI. Special Guest Speaker: Mark Keith Robinson, Candidate for Lt. Governor of the State of North Carolina: A free CD of Mr. Robinson's speech can be obtained from Town Hall upon request.

VII. Public Safety Reports

Guilford County Sheriff's Report: Captain Hall reports that June was a slow month. District 1 took 91 calls, 1 residential burglary, 1 theft of property which turned out to be unfounded. There was a call for vandalism of locks on a pool gate, a few drug arrests. Cpt. Hall's tip for the month is to be careful when you are walking on park trails primarily ladies. Watch your purses. Lock them in your trunks, hide them somewhere out of sight or leave them at home. Don't leave any valuables out in sight in your vehicles.



Stokesdale Fire Dept Report: Chief Todd Gauldin reported that Stokesdale Fire Dept. had 71 service calls in the month of June. 43 were medical, 28 were fire related. At our August meeting he will have the year end report ready. His tip for the month is to please remember our neighbors, especially the elderly or infirmed. With the kind of heat, we have been experiencing these people are the most vulnerable to heat related illnesses. If you see a neighbor that needs help contact the Fire Dept. or Sheriff's Dept., they can get the family in touch with Family Services for help. Tuesday July 23, 2019 is the Annual Fire Department Meeting and Fire Department Board Members Elections at 7:30pm for anyone interested in attending.

VIII: Citizen's comments from the floor (3 Minute Limit per Speaker): Vicki White-Lawrence:

Vicki said she has spoken for a lot of different groups but right now she is speaking for herself. When she comes to these Town meetings, she expects them to be non-partisan. She says she hopes other candidates will come to the meetings and hopes they receive as warm a welcome as Mr. Robinson has received tonight.

IX. New Business:

1. Monthly Financial Review: Balance Sheets for all accounts are attached to the minutes.

2. Matt Everhart with Versa Technologies will give a presentation/proposal for Town hall phone system upgrade. Matt Everhart presented the Council with a proposal for upgrading our current Versa phone system to Versa Micoud Unified Communication System which is internet and cloud based. The proposal will include new cordless handsets for staff and new cord attached handset phones for the other offices. A copy of the proposal will be attached to the minutes the one- time cost of installation (not including fiber optic lines) \$4412.00. And then a monthly fee of \$300.00. **Frank Bruno motioned to table this discussion until the August 8, 2019 Town Council meeting. Mayor Flynt seconded the motion.**

Vote:

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

3. Discuss and vote for annual renewal on the One-Step Computer Solutions contract (John Estep): Frank Bruno motioned to approve One-Step Computer's contract for \$3,843.00 the July 2019-July 2020 year. Thearon Hooks seconded the motion:

Vote:

Mayor Flynt: Yes	Tim Jones: No
Thearon Hooks: Yes	
Frank Bruno: Yes	

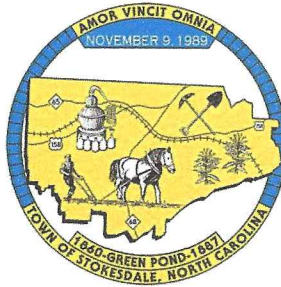


4. Discussion and vote on how we should proceed with getting the berm completed in the Northwest Meadows Subdivision. Mayor Flynt presented the issue. It has been a lingering problem with Keystone. Council gave them a year to build it. Keystone asked for a 2- year extension. Council denied that request. They were sent numerous letters on Council's behalf from the Town Attorney. Keystone has still not built the berm. The neighbors have been complaining and asking why it hasn't been built. Mayor Flynt also added he has had several conversations with our Town Attorney and at this point the Attorney had said the Town can take the Performance Guarantee money originally put up \$9240.00. and contract to have the berm built. Town Attorney Tom Medlin said he has read some of the materials that our previous attorney provided him. For clarification he said this was a building permit issued on the conditions, Mayor Flynt interjected here that it was a rezoning of a site plan approval, Attorney Medlin replied, right. Attorney Medlin then said so the terms of this Performance Guarantee to build a berm have not been met. A letter was sent by our previous Attorney to Keystone to this affect. A year has passed since the 60-day extension was given. Attorney Medlin said that at this point he would agree with our previous attorney that we probably need to do another follow up letter that he will write. Before he writes this letter, we need to have someone from Guilford Planning to come out and visit the site to certify the status of the berm. Once the certification of the status of the berm has been made then he will have something to act upon. Attorney Medlin said council will also want to know what building a berm is going to cost. If it exceeds the Bond amount, he will to research what actions we can take, but he feels sure we would be able to go back to the developer to recoup any additional cost over the Bond amount. Mayor Flynt asked the attorney how long we should give Keystone in the letter to comply? Attorney Medlin said he feels that we have been more than generous with time. He feels that if we get certification back that the berm is still not done that Keystone forfeits the Bond and the Town can take the money to have the berm built.

Tim Jones motioned to have Mr. Bass or someone from Guilford County Planning come out and examine the property to certify if the berm is complete or not and then provide a report to Attorney Medlin and the Town. If that report finds that the berm has not been completed then Attorney Medlin will send a letter to Keystone giving them 30 days to complete the work and adding that we will go back to the developer for any additional cost over and above the \$ 9240.00 Bond for building the berm. Frank spoke and said he doesn't believe we should give them 30 more days in the letter. Then Tim Jones said he was out at the site maybe two days prior to this meeting and they were working on the berm. They are planting plants, they might be $\frac{3}{4}$ up toward the woods with it. Town Clerk asked Tim if he was referring to the berm that was supposed to be built to run up Treeline Rd between Northwest Meadows and the families living on Treeline? Tim Jones answered yes ma'am. Tim added that they were installing small trees and shrubs. Mayor Flynt said okay let's let Mr. bass come out or send someone out to look the work and give us a certification of status. **Thearon Hooks seconded Tim Jones motion.**

Vote:

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



5. Discussion and vote on proposal from Superior Recreational Equipment for Shade for the playground equipment. Frank Bruno motioned to approve the proposal from Larry Ellington Services/ Superior Recreation/Next Level Recreation of the Carolina's for a 24' X 40" X 12H Sun Shade plus delivery at a cost of \$ 8945.65 and \$ 4500.00 for installation. Mayor Flynt seconded the motion.

Vote:

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

6. Discussion and vote on access to the Town Attorney. A copy of this policy will be attached to minutes and inserted in the Policy Manual. Mayor Flynt motioned to adopt this access policy. Frank Bruno seconded the motion.

Vote:

Mayor Flynt: Yes	Tim Jones: No
Thearon Hooks: Yes	
Frank Bruno: Yes	

7. Vote by ballot to fill Bill Jones Council seat. Ballots were handed out to each present Council Person with the following names on the ballots to vote on which candidate they choose to sit in Bill Jones council seat for the remainder of his term which ends December 31, 2019.

Vote:

Mary Jordahl: 1 vote	
Jimmy Landreth: withdrew his name earlier in the day (July 11, 2019)	
Deanna Ragan: 3 votes	

Deanna Ragan will fill the remainder of Bill Jones term as a Town Council Person.

X. Old Business:

1. Update on Town Mural from Friends of Stokesdale: Vicki White-Lawrence representative of Friends of Stokesdale reports that they are currently waiting on Mr. Paint's attorney to send them the contract agreeing to allow their group to paint the Mural on the side of his building. They are also working with the owners of the vacant lot next to the building to allow them to clean up the area and use it to have access to the wall. They are ordering the paint and supplies. Mrs. Herrick estimates it will take her about 3 weeks to complete the Mural. Friend's of Stokesdale have filed for their Incorporation and have elected their officers. The group currently has about a dozen members and hopes to grow that number.

2. Discussion of quotes and pricing for a replacement water fountain for the Town Park. Frank Bruno motioned to approve the purchase and installation of a fountain to replace the one currently in the park that is not working for a price not to exceed \$4500.00. Mayor Flynt seconded the



motion. Frank gave descriptions of the fountains that have been considered with the \$ 4500. Range. Franks thinks we should make a decision on one this week and get it on order.

Tim Jones asked the Clerk to reread the motion which was done. Then Tim Jones asked who will make the decision on the replacement. He then said so the governing board is making a delegation for someone to choose which fountain, Tim would like that person to be named. Mayor Flynt answered that Frank was Chairman of the Property Committee. Tim Jones then said Frank Bruno was never voted to be the Property Committee Mr. Mayor. Mayor Flynt said well lets just do that tonight. Mayor Flynt asked Frank to withdraw his motion for a second. Frank agreed to withdraw his motion for purchase of a fountain. Mayor Flynt withdrew his second of the motion.

Mayor Flynt motioned to appoint Frank Bruno as the Chairman of the Property Committee; he's already been serving in that capacity over a year since Bill Jones stepped down from that chair. This appointment will be subject to budget constraints. Thearon seconded.

Vote:

Mayor Flynt: Yes	Tim Jones: No
Thearon Hooks: Yes	
Frank Bruno: Yes	

Frank Bruno motioned to approve the purchase and installation of a fountain to replace the one currently in the park that is not working for a price not to exceed \$4500.00. Mayor Flynt seconded the motion. Frank gave descriptions of the fountains that have been considered with the \$ 4500. Range. Franks thinks we should make a decision on one this week and get it on order.

Vote:

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Thearon Hooks: Yes	
Frank Bruno: Yes	

XI. Committee and Board Reports:

Frank Bruno will have items to share stated that the Events Committee has been meeting and working on several upcoming events.

Tuesday August 20th will be our First weekly Farmer's Market set up in the Park, we will host the Farmer's Market every Tuesday from August 20th through October 31, 2019 from 4pm to 7pm

September 11th Ceremony will be held on the Town Hall front lawn on 9/11 at 11:00am

September 21, 2019 Town of Stokesdale 30th Anniversary of Incorporation will be held in the Town Park, Rain date 9/28/2019.

November 23, 2019 – Town of Stokesdale's Christmas Tree Lighting

December 14, 2019 – Stokesdale Christmas Parade



Frank also added that he is putting together a survey of things people would like to see in the Town Park, and other items the Town might be able to help with. As soon as he is done, he will put a link on the Town Website for Citizens to complete the survey.

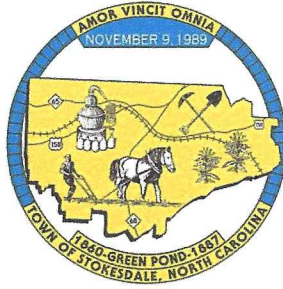
Tim Jones has items to share:

Tim Jones said he wants to follow up on a commitment he made to citizens based on a request they made here in other meetings and in private conversations to him in regards to the tree removal that Beaver Outdoors did here at the Town Park back in November 2018 during Hurricane Michael. The removal of these damaged trees resulted in charges of \$24,400.00. It was 15 trees, 8 of them being large trees. Tim said I don't think Bill or I could ever find 8 stumps so there are certain mysteries there. Tim said he has had citizens ask why we haven't just called Beaver Outdoors and asked them for an explanation of the charges or if it was possible that they had somehow over billed us. Tim said he and Bill composed a letter and signed it, this was when Bill Jones was still an active council member before he moved out of town. Both of them signed the letter as councilmen and sent it to Beaver Outdoors with Tim's personal return address on it and they mailed it Certified Mail # 70190160000028092719. Tim said he paid the \$4.05 postage out of his Stipend. The letter was returned to his address unopened by the USPS. Tim said he hasn't opened it but wanted the citizens to know that he followed through with the request these citizens made and Bill did as well. So, now he doesn't know where else to go. He doesn't think that the other 3 councilmen would entertain the idea of the town writing a letter requesting an explanation of the charges for those missing stumps. But if a group of citizens would like to look deeper into this, he is certainly willing to write another letter, get citizens to sign the letter and mail it.

The next item Tim wants to discuss is when he arrived at Town Hall tonight a citizen asked him about the recent request by DOT to allow Twin Trailers to drive on NC Hwy 65. Tim said he doesn't know where we stand on this but he wants just for record to ask the other council members so we are on top of that and let council know we have a citizen that is concerned about it. He then asked if this citizen would like to step up and speak. Then he said the citizen is Mr. Eddie McGee, he then asked Mr. McGee if he would step up to the microphone and speak his concerns.

Eddie McGee said we are under the impression that DOT is going to let these twin trailers start running up and down our road and we don't want this and anyone on council that supports this please explain to him how this is a good idea. Eddie said the speed limit in town and on NC Hwy 65 is 35 mph. Eddie said he has talked to the Sheriff's Department several times and said if they will sit in his driveway, they could fill up a ticket book. He said people fly through there. There shouldn't be a passing zone either. He said he has to check his rearview mirror before he stops to turn into his own driveway to make sure he isn't going to be rear ended. Eddie said he doesn't know where council is on this subject but he hopes they are not going to entertain this idea. Eddie addressed the Mayor and said you live on this same road. I know you don't want them trucks running up and down by your house.

Mayor Flynt address the trees first. He said someone asked why we didn't call Beaver Outdoors and ask for an explanation. Mayor Flynt said he did call Beaver Outdoors; Mr. Beaver's answer was that just



because you don't see a stump doesn't mean that there wasn't a tree cut down there. His team would have ground some of the stumps up and you may not be able to tell now where the trees were. Mayor Flynt ended the explanation with this horse has been beaten to death. The horse is dead.

Mayor Flynt then address the concerns over DOT's request to run Twin Trailers on NC Hwy 65. Mayor Flynt said he was approached by DOT and a Consultant for the DOT to have a private meeting with a small number of Council. The meeting was not to be open to the public due to private information. DOT didn't want to go public yet because they are still doing research and studies. They talked about the US Hwy 158 bypass and some other alternatives. He has received a couple of follow up letters from DOT. The projections put any plans out to 2040, DOT is planning to schedule a public meeting in late fall somewhere around Thanksgiving. Right now, Twin-Trailers are only allowed on US Highways like US Hwy 220 and US Hwy 68. It would require possibly State or Federal Legislation to change that law. The public meetings will be published ahead of time and Town Hall will make sure all citizens are notified of when they will be held here at Town Hall. Mayor Flynt told Mr. McGee that he feels his pain. The Mayor told DOT how many accidents happen now on US Hwy 158 and NC Hwy 65, also at Ellisboro Rd and NC Hwy 65, as well as NC Hwy 65 and US Hwy 65 intersections.

Eddie McGee asked the Mayor who the company Dewberry is that is putting stakes up right by his driveway? **Mayor Flynt** said they are a survey company that is doing the studies and traffic counts.

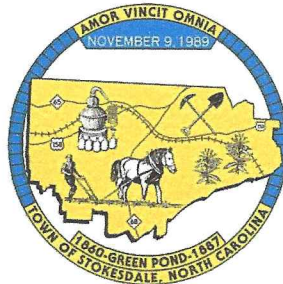
Mr. McGee then asked if DOT says they want to do this can Council stop them? **Thearon Hooks** answered that he had asked that question in the meeting with DOT as was told by the DOT that concerns would be addressed in the Public Meeting. **Vicki White-Lawrence** added that in the past for example the US Hwy 158 Bypass meetings that Citizens would be given an opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns in the public meetings. Mayor Flynt ended the conversation by saying the Citizens will be given as much notice as possible once we know when that first meeting will be.

Thearon Hooks will give an update on the Elevated Tank Refurbishing Project: **Thearon Hooks**, said Council called a Special Called Meeting on June 28, 2019 to meet with Tim Greene of S & ME to open the Bids he obtained for the Town to refurbish and repaint the elevated tank.

D & M Painting Corp's Bids were: out to Myrtle Beach, SC
Base Bid \$ 169,510.00
Alternate Bid if additional repairs are found and needed \$ 214,600

Municipal Tank Coatings Bids were: out of Washington, PA
Base Bid \$ 125,515.00
Alternate Bid: \$140,569.00

Utility Services Company Inc.: out of Madison, NC
Base Bid: \$ 111,800.00
Alternate Bid: \$120,900.00



Thearon Hooks, explained that the first two company bids were a little higher than Utility Services because both companies are out of town companies and we would be paying for travel expenses, motel rooms, meals, etc. Council voted to approve Utility Services Company Inc. Bid. **Thearon Hooks**, also added that some of Council had discussed changing the color of the tank to bring it up to modern times. Council looked at some tank examples and picked a Blue color for the tank, white block letters to say Welcome to Stokesdale, and white legs. Changing the color is no additional cost. **Frank Bruno motioned to change the color to the Blue with the white legs and lettering. Thearon Hooks seconded the motioned.** Mayor Flynt called for the vote, **Tim Jones, addressed the Town Attorney**, saying Mr. Medlin, not that legalities matter to anyone here but me, can we vote on this since it is not on the Agenda? It is a mundane item but still. **Mr. Medlin** answered it is on the Agenda as an update. **Tim Jones** then voted to abstain. Thearon Hooks asked Tim what he means by abstaining. Tim Jones said Mr. Medlin will you explain this to Mr. Hooks? Town Attorney Medlin explained that if Tim Jones hasn't asked to be excused or he doesn't have another conflict. If he just doesn't wish to vote, he doesn't have to vote. But his abstaining would be a Yes.

VOTE:

Vote:

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

XII. Departmental and Administrative Report: Town Clerk Alisa Houk reported:

1. Completed and submitted the Consumer Confidence Report to DENR in Raleigh regarding water Quality. Our TTHMs and Bac-T samples are still showing great numbers. Avg. 0.0078. max. 0.080.
2. Completed and submitted the LGC-203 Financial Report to the Treasury Dept.
3. Attended a mandatory Guilford County Emergency Management/FEMA Hazard Mitigation meeting with Thearon on May 30th.
4. Closed Session minutes. John Bain sent me his findings in a summary of the closed session minutes. We were only able to locate closed session minutes from 2014-2018. He has made some comments and marked information in the minutes that will need to be redacted. I hope over the next 30 days to have the time to go through these, redact what needs to be and copy them to the website and place them in the minutes book.
5. We have finally corrected the issues with the door handles and locks on the women's room doors at the park. Our maintenance contractor removed the door locking mechanisms from the handles and froze the handles. You will be able to just pull the doors open and use the upper dead bolt type lock to lock the bathrooms while you are inside.
6. Hazen and Sawyer were here the end of May beginning of June as part of the construction of the Hydraulic Model to do their fire flow studies of the hydrants.



7. Tim Greene at S & ME, was here on June 28th to open the Bids for refurbishing the elevated tank. Utility Services Inc out of Madison was chosen for the job. Their Bid was \$120,000.
8. We had the playground equipment and foundation of the Town Hall building pressure washed. Found some faulty electrical outlets during this process and had them repaired.
9. The Town Clock is installed, we are waiting on Guilford County's inspection in order to hook it up and set the time. Blaney Electric will be working on the electrical hook up to the New Shelter in the park, we've been working with them very closely to coordinate everything needed to get the jobs done.
10. Blaney Electric is also working on some of our front door lighting. The lights in the ground had filled up with water and shorted a couple out. We are waiting on a ballast which they had to order.
11. We finally received our new 25-gallon chlorine tank, attachments and signage for the chlorine pump station. Gary has hooked it up and will be putting up the signage soon.
12. Met with representative from NC Capital Management Investments to go over how well our Water & Sewer Account is doing. \$514,674. Earning at an average rate of 2.27%
13. Carolina Paving Co and resurfaced and sealed the Town Hall and Town Park parking lots.
14. We are close to completing the revisions to our Town Water Specifications. I am in the process of retyping them to add in or take away changes.

XIII. Citizen Comments from the Floor (3 Minute Limit per Speaker): Bill Jones from Kernersville, NC: Said he is still concerned about the lack of financial statements. He believes the town is over budget in the General Fund by \$70,000.00.

XIV. Closing Comments from Council:

Tim Jones said he was excited to hear Mr. Robinson speak. He is frustrated over the new Attorney Access policy; He isn't happy that we still don't have a Budget verses Actual report for him. He is happy to meet and talk with citizens anytime.

Frank Bruno, thanked citizens for staying for the duration of the meeting. He thanked Mark Robinson and his wife for coming. He then told the citizens to please check out Town Website for calendar dates of up coming events mentioned above. He has also started a new Facebook Page called **Stokesdale Now**. He reminded citizens that financial reports are given out at each Town Meeting and are on the table in the lobby.

Thearon Hooks Welcomed and thanked Town Attorney Medlin for accepting the Town Attorney position. He thanked Patti Stokes for attending and recording our meetings. He told Vicki White-Lawrence he appreciated her comments at the beginning of meeting regarding non-partisan meetings. He told her he hopes that a lot more candidates will come and share their visions for North Carolina.

Mayor Flynt said Conservative verses Liberal doesn't matter to him. He embraces all opinions. He spoke about the money the Town has spent this year. He explained that Town Hall, Town Park and the



Elevated Tank had not been spruced up, maintenance, or updated in years. That everything done so far was for the betterment of the buildings, the tank, and the things they are doing for the park are for the Town's children and people who enjoy outdoor activities.

XV. Adjournment: Mayor Flynt motioned to adjourn at 10:15PM, Frank Bruno seconded the motion
VOTE:

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

Approved by:

Town Clerk/Finance Officer

John Flynt
Alisa Hooks