

**MINUTES
TOWN OF STOKESDALE
SPECIAL CALLED
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
8325 ANGEL-PARDUE ROAD
STOKESDALE, NC 27357
JUNE 21, 2023 AT 7:00 PM**

Member's present were: Mayor Pro-Tem Derek Foy; Council Members: Jimmy Landreth, Tim Jones, and Jim Rigsbee; Town Attorney Charles H. Winfree; Finance and Budget Officer Kimberly Thacker and Deputy Town Clerk Robbie Lee Wagoner II. (Absent: Mayor Michel E. Crawford and Town Clerk Dale F. Martin)

1. Call To Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Invocation.

Mayor Pro Tem Derek Foy called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilman Tim Jones delivered the invocation.

2. Review and Adopt the Agenda.

Councilman Jimmy Landreth made a **Motion** to adopt the agenda as presented. Councilman Jim Rigsbee seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford	Absent	Mayor Pro Tem Foy	Aye
Councilman Landreth	Aye	Councilman Jones	Aye
Councilman Rigsbee	Aye		

Motion carried, vote 4-0.

3. Citizen Comments from the Floor (3-Minute Limit per Speaker).

None present.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

4. Continued from June 8, 2023: Public Hearing on Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy opened the public hearing at 7:04pm

No comments presented.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy made a **Motion** to close the public hearing. Councilman Riggsbee seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford	Absent	Mayor Pro Tem Foy	Aye
Councilman Landreth	Aye	Councilman Jones	Aye
Councilman Rigsbee	Aye		

Motion carried, vote 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

5. Consideration and Approval of Operating Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy thanked Council and Staff for their input and believed the Town was in a good place in regard to the proposed budget.

Councilman Jones presented his reservations with the proposed budget due to inclusion of “free” money, grant money. This “free” money has caused the Town to spend more money than usual and concerned that next year we won’t be able to back up.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy then compared last year’s revenue budget \$452,000 with this proposed year’s revenue budget \$459,000 and believed there to be no “fluff” included in the budget. He acknowledged inflation that is affecting everyone. He addressed that “free money” and their responsibility to make sure it is spent wisely to impact the Town as much as possible and to minimize any recurring expenses.

Councilman Rigsbee agreed with the other comments and added that the Town has been fortunate to have these additional funds and that the Council has made good use of that money for the citizens. He noted that without this grant money, the Town has been consistent with the budget, staff improvements has run the budget up but benefits the Town.

Councilman Landreth also complimented work on the budget. This has been without a property tax for over 30 years. He noted that we have done what we said. He is happy with the park improvements built with grant money. Everything has been done in open meetings and we’ve done a good job.

Councilman Jones commented on the Town’s reserves and asked about the Town’s investment earnings. Mrs. Thacker noted that current return rates are between 2.71 and 3.69% and that any CDRS up for renewal are being renewed for 12 months. She added that she was very conservative on the estimate used in the budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy made a **Motion** to adopt the General Fund operating budget for FY 23-24 as presented by the Finance Officer Kim Thacker. Councilman Landreth seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford	Absent	Mayor Pro Tem Foy	Aye
Councilman Landreth	Aye	Councilman Jones	Aye
Councilman Rigsbee	Aye		

Motion carried, vote 4-0.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy made a **Motion** to adopt the Water Enterprise budget for FY 23-24 as presented by the Finance Officer Kim Thacker. Councilman Landreth seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford	Absent	Mayor Pro Tem Foy	Aye
Councilman Landreth	Aye	Councilman Jones	Aye
Councilman Rigsbee	Aye		

Motion carried, vote 4-0.

6. Consideration of a request by Stokesdale Parks and Recreation for \$50,000 Grant for lighting at the baseball fields.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy spoke on the importance of the baseball field for our citizens and the need to improve the lighting that has been discussed at previous meetings. He spoke of the grant money the Town has received and that the money is to be spent for a public purpose which this request falls within. He presented statistics on the number of kids that use these fields, the fund-raising efforts by the organization and his desire to support this community organization. He noted the much higher cost to the Town if the Town were to operate these fields and commended Stokesdale Parks and Recreation for the excellent service they provide to the Town.

Councilman Landreth also commended the Stokesdale Parks and Recreation and spoke on the importance of the baseball field for this community. This is grant money being spent here and not Town funds.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy made a **Motion** that the Town of Stokesdale participate in a fundraising campaign by the Stokesdale Parks and Recreation, a 501 3C organization, located within the Town of Stokesdale by matching \$2 for every \$1 raised by Stokesdale Parks and Recreation specific to this fundraising initiative up to \$50,000 from the Town. That the Town of Stokesdale money be used only for lighting or light poles at the Community Park for baseball and softball games. That Stokesdale Parks and Recreation fundraising initiative conclude by June 1st, 2024 to align with the Town's fiscal year budget and that Stokesdale Parks and Recreation provide evidence that funds raised during this time period are specific to this purpose and disbursement of the grant is contingent upon Stokesdale Parks and Recreation recording the organization's new bylaws and presented to Stokesdale Town Council on June 14, 2023. Councilman Landreth seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford	Absent	Mayor Pro Tem Foy	Aye
Councilman Landreth	Aye	Councilman Jones	Aye
Councilman Rigsbee	Aye		

Motion carried, vote 4-0.

7. Consideration of a 3% Cost of Living increase for Town Staff.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy and Mrs. Thacker confirmed that the budget allowed for this increase and that it was included in the proposed budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy made a **Motion** to give all staff members a 3% raise effective July 1, 2023, excluding any staff member who has received a promotion in the last 3 months. Councilman Rigsbee seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford	Absent	Mayor Pro Tem Foy	Aye
Councilman Landreth	Aye	Councilman Jones	Aye
Councilman Rigsbee	Aye		

Motion carried, vote 4-0.

8. Citizen Comments from the Floor (3-Minute Limit per Speaker).

None present.

9. Council Comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting. He thanked staff for preparing this budget.

Councilman Rigsbee also thanked everyone for coming out. He asked everyone to pray for the folks in the submarine.

Councilman Landreth thanked everyone also. He thanked Stokesdale Parks and Recreation for their efforts and thanked staff for their work on the budget. He is happy to live in a town without a property tax.

Councilman Jones thanked the three citizens at meeting this evening. He hopes the Town will get its share of sales tax distribution back from the county. He remains opposed to charging a property tax. He expressed gratitude to Stokesdale Parks and Recreation Board.

10. Adjournment.

Councilman Jones made a Motion to adjourn at 8:05pm. Councilman Landreth seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford	Absent	Mayor Pro Tem Foy	Aye
Councilman Landreth	Aye	Councilman Jones	Aye
Councilman Rigsbee	Aye		


Motion carried, vote 4-0.

Being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Approved: January 11, 2024.


Michael E. Crawford, Mayor

ATTEST:


Robbie Lee Wagoner, II, Town Clerk