

MINUTES
TOWN OF STOKESDALE
SPECIAL CALLED
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
BUDGET WORKSHOP
8325 ANGEL-PARDUE ROAD
STOKESDALE, NC 27357
MAY 04, 2023 AT 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Michael E. Crawford, Mayor Pro Tem Derek Foy, Councilman Jimmy Landreth, Councilman Tim Jones arrived at 7:10 PM, Budget and Finance Officer, Kimberly Thacker, Town Clerk Dale F. Martin, and Deputy Town Clerk Robbie Lee Wagoner II. (Councilman Jim Rigsbee was NOT present)

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

Mayor Mike Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm, led the Pledge of Allegiance and delivered the invocation.

2. Review and Adopt the Agenda.

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

Mayor Crawford	YES	Mayor Pro Tem Foy	YES
Councilman Landreth	YES	Councilman Rigsbee	ABSENT
Councilman Jones	YES		

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

Jordan, Balmforth, 7708 Hap Court, Kernersville, NC - with Stokesdale Parks and Recreation, requested assistance with lighting at the baseball fields. He explained the improvements made to the ballfields by the organization. He spoke of community efforts to upgrade the baseball fields and noted the needed repairs. He reported that they have received bids for the replacement of light poles and with the previous cost of the LED lights, the total amount was \$108,000. Given what's already been paid the amount remaining is \$68,000. However, the organization is not asking the Town for the full amount but for help in reaching that goal.

Council complimented Mr. Balmforth on the improvements made thus far to the baseball fields. Council asked questions in regard to the financial position of the organization and how much money they have raised towards the improvements. Mr. Bamforth explained the fundraising efforts for a new playground which netted \$33,000.

Mr. Balmforth stated that estimates were prepared by professionals which will meet requirements. Council asked about corporate donations. Mr. Balmforth stated that when they have been asked, they have showed up and noted efforts to advertise their participation.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy asked Mr. Balmforth for the funds being requested out of the \$68,000 needed. Mr. Balmforth requested \$45,000 to \$50,000 with the organization raising the balance. He noted money he has spent as well as others spent to keep the organization out of default.

Councilman Jones asked if the Parks and Recreation's budget is available to the public. Mr. Balmforth promoted full transparency and stated that the budget is available to anyone.

Mr. Balmforth was asked if the fields do not have lights will there be a program and he said no.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy explained the processes by which government entities have to operate and must track expenses and provide reports to Council for any funds spent and asked if the organization's board would be willing to vote to make this request and it not be from you personally. Mr. Balmforth stated that he has some preliminary information but has not gone through this process. He stated yes 100% the board would vote to make this request.

Council stated they would like to see the proposal and asked that he complete the application in accordance with the Town's policy and that this request will be taken under consideration.

Council asked about sponsorships for naming of seats, etc. Mr. Balmforth noted some precedence there in naming for previous donors.

Council recognized the need and asked Mr. Balmforth to come back to the regular Council meeting to make a formal request. Council expressed support in working with the organization, however, recognized this is uncharted territory for Stokesdale.

Council and Mrs. Thacker noted changes to the budget from the last budget workshops.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy then stated that he had a conversation with Mrs. Martin today in regards to the Town's Development Ordinance and 160D regulations and the need to codify all of the Town's operating ordinances and asked her to explain.

Town Clerk Martin explained a major change to the Development ordinance adopted by the NC General Statutes known as 160D. In previous discussions with Mr. Oliver Bass, she assumed that it had been adopted and the Town's ordinances amended accordingly. However, in conversations with Mr. Snyder, 160D has not been adopted as is required by the NC General Statutes.

Mrs. Martin explained her conversation with Municipal Code, an organization that prepares codes all across the Country on the best way to tackle this issue. They recommend a re-write given the significant changes that will be required by 160D. The estimate given today is approximately \$20,000.

Mrs. Martin then explained that once you reach 5,000 in population in your community, the NC General Statutes requires you to have all your general operating ordinances codified into a publication like your Development Ordinance. The estimate from Municipal Code for that project is also approximately \$20,000 as that project will be prepared from scratch.

Councilman Jones asked if she has this in writing. Mrs. Martin stated that this was given in a telephone conversation today. Councilman Jones then asked if Staff could find the original proposal submitted several years ago when the Town did the Development Ordinance.

Council continued to discuss how to proceed with this task. Mrs. Thacker explained some budget adjustments that could be done to fund these items, such as contingency funds and lawn care and maintenance funds. She felt we had the money in the budget if Council decides to do this.

Mrs. Thacker then mentioned that Council requested she move \$1,000 from fire inspections and investigations to public safety for traffic control at the school. The money is in the public safety line item but failed to take it out of the fire inspections line item.

Councilman Landreth made a **Motion** to budget \$1,000 for traffic control/public safety line item for the first week of school at Stokesdale Elementary School. Mayor Pro Tem Foy seconded the motion.

Council members expressed concerns with the Town paying for this when it should be the responsibility of the School System or Sheriff's Department.

Mayor Crawford	YES	Mayor Pro Tem Foy	YES
Councilman Landreth	YES	Councilman Rigsbee	ABSENT
Councilman Jones	YES		

Motion carried, vote 4-0.

4. Discussion of 2023-2024 Annual Budget.

General Fund

Council continued to discussed changes to investment earnings line item, contingency for Code of Ordinance, insurance coverage and lawn and maintenance.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy made a **Motion** to create a new line item under the General Administration category for Code of Ordinance in the amount of \$40,000 and increase Investment Earnings from \$77,000 to \$85,000, decrease Lawn and Maintenance from \$60,000 to \$50,300 and remove the Emergency Contingency amount of \$40,000. Councilman Landreth seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford	YES	Mayor Pro Tem Foy	YES
Councilman Landreth	YES	Councilman Rigsbee	ABSENT
Councilman Jones	YES		

Motion carried, vote 4-0.

Water Fund

Mayor Pro Tem Foy recalled the Town incorporating an Inspection Fee for developers and recommended a new revenue line item for these fees at \$5,000.

Council discussed selling water to both developers inside and outside town limits and recommended legal review of any charges imposed. It was also suggested that we have a separate line item for the expense side of reviewing these plans by the Town Engineer and that it be a separate item from reviews in general for our water system. Following the discussion, it was recommended that we increase the line item for Engineer and Consulting to \$55,000.

Schedule of Fees and Charges:

Council discussed the lost key fee.

Council discussed fees for shelter and field rentals and the desire to be reasonable. Staff suggested putting together a sheet with fees charged by surrounding community facilities.

Town Clerk Martin pointed out the Street Closing fee changes. She explained the recent case in Angel's Glen cost the Town \$1,357.46 for the advertising. She noted that \$250 is extremely low.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy made a **Motion** to increase the fee for Street and Easement Closings to \$1,500. Councilman Landreth seconded the motion.

Councilman Jones expressed concern and asked that we make an adjustment.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy **Amended his Motion** to \$700 per case. Councilman Landreth accepted the amendment.

Mayor Crawford	YES	Mayor Pro Tem Foy	YES
Councilman Landreth	YES	Councilman Rigsbee	ABSENT
Councilman Jones	YES		

Motion carried, vote 4-0.

Water usage fees:

Mayor Pro Tem Foy stated that the Town usually sees a modest increase in water usage fees by Winston-Salem but we have no data yet to back that up and therefore no recommendation to increase our fees at this point.

Councilman Landreth brought up an issue whereby water is being stolen by hooking up to fire hydrants and the possibility of damaging a hydrant. No action taken.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy stated that Town hasn't done a water fee study in a long time and that the Water Infrastructure Grant could be used for such. Several Councilmembers agreed that this would be appropriate.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy noted that he liked that the special revenue funds are separated and would like to see those described in the Budget Message.

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

None presented.

Council Comments:

Mayor Pro Tem Foy thanked everyone for their comments.
Councilman Landreth also thanked everyone for their efforts.
Councilman Jones also thanked staff and those in attendance.

6. Adjournment.


Councilman Landreth made a **Motion** to adjourn at 8:29pm. Mayor Crawford seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford	YES	Mayor Pro Tem Foy	YES
Councilman Landreth	YES	Councilman Rigsbee	ABSENT
Councilman Jones	YES		

Motion carried, 4-0.

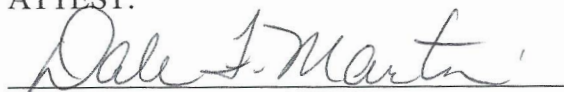
Being no further business to come before Council the meeting was adjourned at 8:29pm.

Approved: December 14, 2023.



Michael E. Crawford, Mayor

ATTEST:



Dale F. Martin, Town Clerk