

MINUTES
TOWN OF STOKESDALE
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
8325 ANGEL-PARDUE ROAD
STOKESDALE, NC 27357
DECEMBER 14, 2023 AT 7:00 PM

In attendance: Mayor Michael E. Crawford; Mayor Pro Tem Derek Foy; Councilman Jim Rigsbee; Councilman Jimmy Landreth; Town Attorney Charles H. Winfree; Town Finance/Budget Officer Kimberly Thacker; Town Clerk Robbie Lee Wagoner II and Deputy Town Clerk Mason P. Winfree.

(Councilman Jimmy Landreth arrived at 7:37 PM).

01. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Invocation.

Mayor Crawford called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Mayor Crawford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Rigsbee delivered the opening invocation.

Mayor Crawford offered congratulations to the three incumbent council members on their re-election, as well as commended Mayor Pro Tem Foy and Tee Stephenson for their work on the 2023 Stokesdale Christmas Parade.

02. Review and Adopt the Agenda: December 14, 2023

Mayor Pro Tem Foy requested an **Amendment** to move agenda item number 7 to directly after the adoption of the agenda as agenda item number 2a to allow Mrs. Randolph present the financial audit as a courtesy for her long commute.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy requested an **Amendment** to swap agenda items number 19 and number 20 due to agenda item number 21 relating to agenda item number 19.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy requested an **Amendment** to discuss possible revisions to the Town's ordinances regarding unauthorized use of town fire hydrants as agenda item number 21a.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy made a **Motion** to adopt the agenda as amended.

Mayor Crawford **seconded** the motion.

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

Motion carried (4-0).

02a. Presentation of Town of Stokesdale Financial Audit for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 by C. Randolph CPA, PLLC.

Cindy Randolph, CPA, presented the Town's Financial Audit for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Ms. Randolph reported that the audit had been submitted to and approved by the Local Government Commission. The audit performed was a regular governmental audit. Ms. Randolph highlighted the success of the audit and commended Finance Officer Thacker along with the Town Staff and the Council for having a good audit year.

Ms. Randolph recommended that the Council remain involved in financial affairs due to the lack of segregation of duties due to the Town of Stokesdale having a small staff.

Ms. Randolph stated she will check with the Local Government Commission to see if Mrs. Thacker must be one of the signatures to sign off on invoices after the recommendation by Mayor Pro Tem Foy that Town Clerk Wagoner along with another Council member sign off on invoices prepared by Mrs. Thacker.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy commended Ms. Randolph for her work on the audit.

03. Review and Adopt the following minutes:

- a) **April 13, 2023 – Regular Town Council Meeting**
- b) **April 13, 2023 – Closed Session Meeting**
- c) **April 20, 2023 – Special Called Town Council Meeting**
- d) **April 20, 2023 – Closed Session Meeting**
- e) **May 04, 2023 – Special Called Town Council Meeting**
- f) **November 09, 2023 – Regular Town Council Meeting**

Mayor Crawford made a **Motion** to adopt the following minutes: April 13, 2023, Regular Town Council Meeting; April 13, 2023, Closed Session Meeting; April 20, 2023 Special Called Town Council Meeting; April 20, 2023, Closed Session Meeting; May 04,

2023, Special Called Town Council Meeting (Budget Workshop); and November 09, 2023, Regular Town Council Meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy **seconded** the motion.

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

Motion carried (4-0).

04. Public Safety Reports:

a) Stokesdale Fire Department

Stokesdale Fire Chief Todd Gauldin presented the Stokesdale Fire Department report.

b) Guilford County Sheriff's Office

Town Clerk Wagoner read the report provided by the Guilford County Sheriff's Office.

05. Administrative Reports

a) Administrative Report: Town Clerk Wagoner Robbie Lee Wagoner II

Town Clerk Wagoner presented the administrative report.

b) Planning Board: Deputy Town Clerk Mason P. Winfree

Deputy Town Clerk Mason P. Winfree presented the planning board report.

c) Property Committee: Committee Chairman Tee Stephenson

No Property Committee report was presented.

d) Town Park Improvement Committee: Committee Chairman Tee Stephenson

Committee Chairman Tee Stephenson presented the Town Park Improvement Committee report.

06. Financial Reports: Town Finance Officer/Budget Officer Kimberly Thacker

a) Financial Report: Town of Stokesdale General Fund

Town Finance/Budget Officer Thacker presented the financial report for the Town's General Fund.

b) Financial Report: Town of Stokesdale Water Enterprise Fund

Town Finance/Budget Officer Thacker presented the financial report for the Town's Water Enterprise Fund.

07. Presentation of Town of Stokesdale Financial Audit for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 by C. Randolph, CPA, PLLC.

See agenda item number 2a.

08. Acceptance of Official Results for the Town of Stokesdale Municipal Election held on November 07, 2023.

Guilford County, NC - OFFICIAL							
Municipal General - 11/07/2023							
0019_STOKESDALE COUNCIL STOKESDALE							
	Derek Foy	Jimmy Landreth	Mark Nadel	Jim Rigsbee	Write - In	Over Votes	Under Votes
PG1							
PG2							
STOK	384	380	135	380	7	0	91
Onestop	25	26	7	27	3	0	5
Absentee	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	409	406	143	407	10	0	98

Mayor Crawford made a **Motion** to accept the official results for the Town of Stokesdale Municipal Election held on November 07, 2023.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy **seconded** the motion.

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

Motion carried (4-0).

09. Citizen's comments from the floor (3-minute limit per speaker)

Citizen Name: Bill Goebel

- Address: 1402 Westridge Road, Greensboro, North Carolina 27410
- Comment: Congratulated the three incumbent council members on their re-election. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and commended the Town for the 2023 Christmas parade.

Citizen Name: Bobbi Dalton

- Address: 8634 Oak Level Church Road, Stokesdale, North Carolina 27357
- Comment: Congratulated the three incumbent council members on their re-election. Expressed her concern about the Duke Energy power plant going nuclear in 2035. Asked the Council to investigate the safety protocols concerning Duke Energy going nuclear.

10. Oaths of Office administered by Town Clerk Robbie Lee Wagoner II for newly elected officials: Councilman-Elect Derek Foy, Councilman-Elect Jimmy Landreth and Councilman-Elect Jim Rigsbee.

I, **DEREK FOY**, 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 **TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER** for the Town of Stokesdale, North Carolina, so help me God [as my solemn affirmation].

I, **JIMMY LANDRETH**, 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 **TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER** for the Town of Stokesdale, North Carolina, so help me God [as my solemn affirmation].

I, **JIM RIGSBEE**, 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 **TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER** for the Town of Stokesdale, North Carolina, so help me God [as my solemn affirmation].

Newly elected officials Councilman-Elect Derek Foy, Councilman-Elect Jimmy Landreth, and Councilman-Elect Jim Rigsbee were sworn into office by Town Clerk Wagoner.

11. Election of the Mayor Pro Tempore by the Stokesdale Town Council.

Mayor Crawford made a **Motion** that the current council members who were newly re-elected maintain the same positions that they have had, including Derek Foy as Mayor Pro Tempore.

Councilman Rigsbee **seconded** the motion.

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

Motion carried (4-0).

a) Oath of Office administered by Town Clerk Wagoner for newly elected Mayor Pro Tempore.

I, **DEREK FOY**, 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 **MAYOR PRO TEMPORE** for the Town of Stokesdale, North Carolina, so help me God [as my solemn affirmation].

Newly elected Mayor Pro Tempore Derek Foy was sworn into office by Town Clerk Wagoner.

NEW BUSINESS:

12. Consideration of 2024 Town of Stokesdale Holiday Closing Schedule.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy made a **Motion** to adopt the 2024 Town of Stokesdale Holiday Schedule.

Mayor Crawford **seconded** the motion.

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

Motion carried (4-0).

13. Consideration of 2024 Town of Stokesdale Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule.

Mayor Crawford made a **Motion** to approve the 2024 Town of Stokesdale Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule.

Councilman Landreth **seconded** the motion.

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

Motion carried (4-0).

14. Consideration of the 2024 Town of Stokesdale Town Board of Adjustment Regular Meeting Schedule.

Mayor Crawford made a **Motion** to adopt the 2024 Town of Stokesdale Town Board of Adjustment Regular Meeting Schedule.

Councilman Landreth **seconded** the motion.

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

Motion carried (4-0).

15. Consideration of Appointment of 3 members to the Town of Stokesdale Planning Board.

Mayor Crawford made a **Motion** to extend the service of the current Planning Board members Stephen Louie, Randy Braswell, and Chris Sumner.

Councilman Rigsbee **seconded** the motion with discussion on whether the three current Planning Board members wished to continue in their roles.

Councilman Landreth requested that the three members be discussed individually.

Mayor Crawford withdrew his motion.

Councilman Landreth made Nomination to appoint Stephen Louie to continue as a member of the Town of Stokesdale Planning Board.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy seconded the nomination.

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

Motion carried (4-0).

Mayor Crawford made a Nomination to appoint Tee Stephenson as a member of the Town of Stokesdale Planning Board.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy seconded the nomination.

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

Motion carried (4-0).

Councilman Landreth made a Nomination to appoint Chris Sumner to continue as a member of the Town of Stokesdale Planning Board.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy seconded the nomination.

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

Motion carried (4-0).

16. Consideration of Proposal to replace the Town Finance/Budget Officer's Desktop Computer at Town Hall.

Councilman Landreth made a Motion to purchase a desktop computer for Town Finance/Budget Officer Thacker for \$1,696.91 through Total Computer Solutions (TCS), thus approving quote number TCSQ5144, dated November 22, 2023.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy **seconded** the motion.

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

Motion carried (4-0).

Councilman Rigsbee requested that if a monitor is included in the quote that it be removed and purchased elsewhere.

17. Consideration of Proposal for Online Recreation Reservation Software.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy requested to continue this agenda item to the next regular Town Council meeting in order to observe a demonstration of the proposed software before any decision is made. No formal motion was made.

18. Discussion of payment method for Lump Sum Reserve Capacity Fee to the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Utility Commission.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy requested that agenda item numbers 18, 20, and 21 be combined.

- a. Item 20: Consideration of Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 1 (Ordinance No. O-2023-07). (Formally item number 19)
- b. Item 21: Consideration of Resolution No. R-2023-12 (A Resolution Creating a Capital Reserve Fund for the Water Enterprise Fund).

Mayor Pro Tem Foy made a **Motion** to adopt Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 1 to transfer \$128,000.00 from the capital reserve fund to the water enterprise fund; to adopt Resolution R2023-12 to create the water system reserve fund for the water enterprise fund and to authorize Town Finance/Budget Officer Thacker to make that disbursement from the water enterprise fund to the Winston-Salem Forsyth County Utility Commission in the amount of \$128,000.00 no later than January 25, 2024.

Mayor Crawford **seconded** the motion.

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

Motion carried (4-0).

19. Consideration of Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 2 (Ordinance No. O-2023-08) (Formally Agenda Item Number 20)

Mayor Pro Tem Foy made a **Motion** to adopt Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 2 (Ordinance No. O-2023-08), thus increasing the revenue from \$50,000.00 using reserved funds from the Small-Town Development Grant and increasing the expenses in the general fund by \$50,000.00 for park investment (line item #10100).

Mayor Crawford **seconded** the motion.

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

Motion carried (4-0).

20. Consideration of Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 1 (Ordinance No. O-2023-07) as written. (Formally Agenda Item Number 19)

See agenda item number 18.

21. Consideration of Resolution No. R-2023-12 (A Resolution Creating a Capital Reserve Fund for the Water Enterprise Fund).

See agenda item number 18.

21a. Discuss possible revisions to town ordinances regarding unauthorized use of town fire hydrants.

At a previous meeting, Councilman Landreth introduced the issue concerning people stealing water from fire hydrants and asked Town Attorney Winfree to look into ordinances pertaining to the situation.

Attorney Winfree made a point that the ordinance should be updated because in 2021 there were legislative changes where the legislature decided that people were over criminalizing the violation of the town ordinances, so they have limited the criminal law to enforce such ordinances. Attorney Winfree suggested that the Council revisit those ordinances. Attorney Winfree also explained that there is a statute in the criminal law, stating that if someone has an unauthorized connection to a municipal water system, then that municipality could collect three times the damages or \$5,000.00, whichever is greater. Attorney Winfree recommended that the Council adopt a new ordinance that incorporates the aforementioned statute, in order to have the authority to enforce it. Attorney Winfree proposed the idea of drafting a new ordinance, based on the Town's current ordinance, that would incorporate as much recovery as possible against any person who is caught stealing water from the municipal water system.

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

No citizen's comments from the floor.

23. Closed Session in accordance with § 143-318.11 (Closed Sessions).

(a) **Permitted Purposes.** It is the policy of this State that closed sessions shall be held only when required to permit a public body to act in the public interest as permitted in this section. A public body may hold a closed session and exclude the public only when a closed session is required.

(6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee. General personnel policy issues may not be considered in a closed session. A public body may not consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, appointment, or removal of a member of the public body or another body and may not consider or fill a vacancy among its own membership except in an open meeting. Final action making an appointment or discharge or removal by a public body having final authority for the appointment or discharge, or removal shall be taken in an open meeting.

Mayor Crawford made a **Motion** to enter into closed session in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a)(6).

Councilman Landreth **seconded** the motion.

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

Motion carried (4-0).

The Council entered closed session at **8:43 PM**.

Mayor Crawford made a **Motion** to enter back into open session.

Councilman Landreth **seconded** the motion.

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

Motion carried (4-0).

The Council entered back into open session at **8:57 PM**.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy made a **Motion** to amend Attorney Chuck Winfree's contract by increasing his hourly fee by five percent (5%) from \$200.00 per hour to \$210.00 per hour effective January 01, 2024.

Mayor Crawford **seconded** the motion.

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

Motion carried (4-0).

24. Council Comments.

Mayor Crawford: Thanked his fellow councilmen and congratulated them on their re-election. Commended the Town for the Christmas parade and wished everyone in attendance a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy: Wished everyone in attendance a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Thanked everyone for being in attendance. Thanked Tee Stephenson, Mason P. Winfee, Robbie Lee Wagoner II, Priscilla Hunsucker, Deanna Reagan, and Rachel Foy for their work on the Christmas parade, as well as sponsors and participants.

Councilman Landreth: Commended the Christmas parade. Thanked everyone in attendance and thanked the voters who participated in the municipal election. Thanked his fellow councilmen for supporting him during the election.

Councilman Rigsbee: Thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked those that supported the councilmembers in the election.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

25. Council Announcements:

- a) The Stokesdale Town Hall Building will be closed Monday, December 25, 2023, through Wednesday, December 27, 2023, in observance of the Christmas Holiday.
- b) The next regular Town of Stokesdale Town Planning Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 28, 2023, at 7:00 PM inside Town Hall Council Chambers, has been cancelled.
- c) The Town of Stokesdale Town Council will hold their next regular meeting on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 7:00 PM inside the Town Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

26. Adjournment of Meeting.

Councilman Landreth made a Motion to adjourn at 9:03 PM.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy seconded the motion.

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

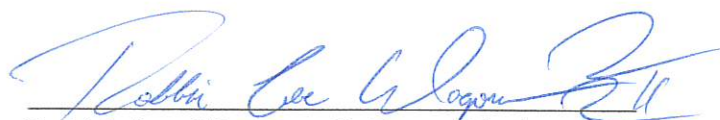
Motion carried (4-0).

Being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Approved: January 11, 2024


Derek Foy, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:


Robbie Lee Wagoner II, Town Clerk