

Town of Stokesdale Regular Council Meeting

DATE: November 8, 2018

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

Stokesdale Town Hall

8325 Angel Pardue Road

Stokesdale, North Carolina

Members Present: Mayor John Flynt, Mayor Pro-Tem Thearon Hooks, Councilmen Bill Jones, Frank Bruno, Tim Jones, Town Clerk/Finance Officer Alisa Houk, Town Attorney John Bain.

- I. **Call meeting to Order:** John Flynt
- II. **Invocation:** Rev Allen Mears
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance:** John Flynt
- IV. **Review & Adopt the November 8, 2018 Agenda:** Mayor Flynt asked that Comments from Council before New Business be removed as Council doesn't typically make comments at the beginning of a meeting. Tim Jones asked New Business Item# 3 be corrected from Mark Nadel application for Planning Board be corrected to application for Ordinance Review Committee. ***Thearon Hooks made a motion to adopt the Agenda with changes. Mayor Flynt seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 to adopt the agenda with changes.***
- V. **Review and Approve Minutes from October 25, 2018 Regular Town Council Meeting.** ***Frank Bruno motioned to approve minutes without reading as they are, Thearon Hooks seconded the motion. Vote: 4 –yes to approve, Tim Jones voted No. Minutes Approved.***
- VI: **Comments from the Floor: Eileen Thiery** spoke to Tim Jones to remind him the clock has been discussed. She said at one discussion she had agreed to pick up the difference in cost after we apply the grant money. She also reminded Tim Jones that the clock was discussed with the Fire Dept. and discussed in the last meeting as well. **Mary Maness: 8405 Tree Court:** Mary asked Council how the water situation is coming. Mayor Flynt asked her to clarify. She is referring to water coming down her road. She said her water looks like urine and taste bad. Thearon Hooks asked her if she had it tested. She said yes, she has. Thearon asked her to bring the test results to Town Hall and once we are able to look at them, we can better determine what to do to help her next. Mayor Flynt explained why we didn't have enough money with the grant to run water to everyone so the concentration was on the contamination areas.

**Public Safety Report:** Sheriff's Deputy: Master Corporal Jay Goodnight started off by saying that Stokesdale is one of the safest places in Guilford County to live. In November District 1 received 991 calls for service. 14 of those calls were Part 1 crimes, 5 of those directly in Stokesdale. Part 1 crimes in District 1 are down 48%. Please remember to lock your homes, lock your cars, put away your valuables. And please call if you see anything suspicious.

**Fire Department: Deputy Chief Randy Southern** – In Sept the FD had 56 calls, which was a low month. They made up for it in October with 112 calls, 29 storm related, 59 fire and 53 rescues. This is the holiday season keep in mind that decorations are beautiful but can be dangerous paper decorations and tree lights don't mix. Also, be very careful when cutting down trees and cleaning up debris from storms.

•**Presentation of Year Ended June 30, 2018 Audit by Rouse, Rouse, Penn, and Rouse L.L.P.see report attached.**

There are two letters attached to the Audit report that confirm no budgetary irregularities. The second letter just gives some suggestions regarding separation of duties which all small towns have issues with due to the small staff.

#### **New Business:**

- 1. Discussion with Gene Robertson of Yates Construction regarding Curb Stops and Meter Setters.** Gene said it is so nice to hear from an auditor what a good job the Town has done that they have 11 years of built up funds. What Gene is discussing tonight is some changes we made back in June of last year in hopes of providing a better water system for the town. At that time thoughts were that these changes would be better for the town and the developers. He is speaking of our Water Specifications. It was decided back in June 2017 to put in some Curb Stops, plans were written on how to install them and where, hoping that we were going to help the situation with new development. What he is finding is that we are doing more harm than good. He has seen it himself, he has taken Councilmen out to see, and taken photos, after construction, grading, trenching for gas lines, cable, and phone lines, landscaping, and irrigation the changes are doing more harm than good. Developers are putting in the water infrastructure from the main to the water service. He was part of putting the Curb Stops in they were put in in a way he never thought they would be installed, the opposite of what he thinks they should have been. Right now, we are putting in the water meters at the time of construction as well. The Curb Stops were supposed to be used by the developers and builders to get water during the construction. What is happening is the builders are using the meters for water, ignoring the Curb Stops. The grading, landscaping, and laying of irrigation lines, etc. are tearing up the meter services and meters. The builders are attaching cheater pipes to the water services and when they are done, they are throwing the meters and transponders out on the ground, service lines are being torn out of the ground. Curb Stops are not being used. This is costing the Town more money in repairs and replacements than its worth. Gene is suggesting that we do away with the Curb Stops and stop putting the meters in until the home construction is complete and the home is on the market for sale. If you want to charge a flat fee to the developers, charge it. The average construction uses less than 2000 gallons of water during construction. It will save the town money to not install curb stops at all, and not install a meter until the house is complete. Gene also wants us to discuss with our engineers changing the K-Copper lines to PVC with tracer wire. When these K-copper lines are torn up during construction it cost the Town a lot more money than using the PVC.

***Mayor Flynt motioned to draft revisions to the Town's Water Specification to incorporate language based on suggestions from Gene Robertson of Yates Construction and reviews from McGill Engineering. Then to bring those revised specifications back to Council at the next appropriate Council meeting. Thearon Hooks seconded the motion. Vote 5-0 to revise the Water Specifications. Randy Southern from the Stokesdale Fire Department asked if the Fire Department could be included in the discussions regarding the specifications as they affect the fire hydrants.***

**2. Discussion of allowing Council Members/voting committee members to serve on more than one voting Committee:** Council had a question for the Town Attorney as to whether there is any conflict of interest issues, when an individual wishes to be a member of more than one committee at a time. The Town Attorney provided a letter stating that there should not be any cause for concern as long as that committee member presents integrity and independence in his/her decisions on matters. (Letter will be attached to the minutes of this meeting).

**3. Mark Nadel's application to become a member of the Ordinance Review Committee:** ***Frank Bruno motioned to accept Mark Nadel's application to become a member of the Ordinance Review Committee. Mayor Flynt seconded the motion. Vote: 4 Yes to accept His application. Tim Jones voted No. Mark Nadel is approved to become an Ordinance Review Committee member.***

**9. Purchase of a 25-gallon Chlorine Tank to replace the broken larger tank.** Frank explained that based on the way we are filling the chlorine tank. Alisa had worked with a representative from Blue Book to determine what we need. The recommendation was to replace the broken tank with a smaller 25-gallon tank with a basin underneath (that should have been under the old tank as well). In addition, we need to order safety covers for the electrical outlets and cords to avoid the chlorine gases from eating through and damaging the electrical wiring and outlets in the building.

***Frank Bruno Motioned to make the purchases of the 25-gallon chlorine tank and electrical components at no more than \$850.00. Mayor Flynt seconded the motion. Vote 5-0 to make the purchases.***

**9. Closed Session: Under G.S. 143-318.11 (6) At 9:10PM Mayor Flynt motioned take a temporary recess the regular Town Council meeting to go into Closed Session to speak about a personnel matter. Thearon Hooks seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0.**

**10. Mayor Flynt motioned to adjourn the closed session at 9:30PM and Reconvened the Regular Town Council meeting at 9:30PM. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0**

**Old Business:**

- 1. Lester Road water line connection:** Mayor Flynt explained that over the past several months in discussion with our engineering firms over the quality of our water it would be in our best interest to connect any dead-end water lines. The first one which is the least expensive to close is Lester Rd at a cost per Yates Construction of \$65,000.00

**Mayor Flynt motioned to approve closing the Lester Rd ends at a cost of no more than \$65,000.00. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. Vote: Tim Jones-No; Bill Jones-No; Frank Bruno-yes; Thearon Hooks-Yes; Mayor Flynt-Yes. Tying end of lines at Lester Road approved.**

- 2. Purchase of the Clock:** Frank explained that purchasing the clock has been under discussion in several past meetings at a cost of \$ 13,840.00 and money from the Revitalization Grant will be used to pay for this clock. After we use the balance of revitalization grant money there will be a difference of roughly 5,500.00 which Eileen Theyry has graciously agreed to cover. **Frank motioned to order and purchase the clock at \$9,800.00. Mayor Flynt seconded the motioned. Vote: 4 votes-yes, Tim Jones voted – No.**

**Tim Jones asked to be excused at 10:00Pm for an urgent business matter.**

**Committee and Board Reports:** Frank Bruno is meeting weekly with the Events Committee, they are working on the Tree Lighting and Christmas parade. Decorations will be going up at Town Hall Thanksgiving. Committee will be meeting Dec. 14, 2018 both at 4pm and 6pm to discuss logistics of the parade.

#### **Administrative Report from Town Clerk Alisa Houk: Town Clerk's**

Water Report –

- Water Applications Processed = 3
- Water Bills Mailed 531

Administrative Summary

- Telephone Traffic = 164
- Visitor Traffic = 125
- Processed pieces of mail: 344
- Signed Service Contract with Gary Matchunis and he started work as our ORC and Lab Tech November 1. Things are running smoothly, he checks in with me several times a week. He has been coordinating with NCDENR setting up his sign in's etc... to report our numbers to the State. We spoke with R & A Labs regarding testing our water samples. They put us on their monthly sampling plan and Gary is drawing our samples and taking them to R & A as required.
- We've ordered a 55-gal. drum of chlorine from a local vendor who has agreed to store it and pour it into the smaller totes for easier transport to the chlorine station. Gary has his information.
- Ordered a smaller chlorine tank, polycarbonate enclosures to protect the electrical wiring in the pump house. It should be in soon.
- Spoke with Gary from Charles Underwood Inc. – They will be here Nov. 16 to perform maintenance on the Elevated Tank Valves.
- Signed service agreement with Tim Greene of S&ME, he will be in touch next week on dates to begin work on the elevated tank.
- Gathered As-builts from current subdivisions under construction for Frank to look into adding to our Town Water System Maps. It's been over a year since it was updated.
- Sent update to DENR on steps we are taking to keep TTHM levels down.
- Yates has installed our Auto-Flusher in the Charles Place Subdivision it is set to flush at 1PM every Tuesday and Friday for 30 minutes each flushing.

- This weekend on Saturday and Sunday Southeast Connections is doing a project and will be using that same hydrant to flush water through some pipes. (That hydrant has a meter on it.)
- Also Sunday Gary Matchunis will be flushing at Loyola Street and Culp Home Fashions.

**Citizen's comments from the floor: Mary Maness** just wanted to confirm the cost to connect the lines on Lester Road. She thinks this line is being installed to hook people on. Mayor Flynt corrected her that the line is being connected for quality of water not to hook up people. She wants to know why we don't spend the money to bring water to the people that want it. Mayor Flynt explained that all of this takes time. We are in discussion with a lot of experts to find answers to all of these questions.

**Kathryn Buntoff:** Kathryn says she is piggy-backing on Mary Maness. Mary is her neighbor she says she didn't come here expecting to talk about this. But she feels like there is a fracture in the responsibility of the water. Its purpose is to provide clean water to our citizens and people like Mary can't afford to pay what it cost. So, what is the answer to help people like Mary. Kathryn feels like the Town needs to find an easy way to help people that need the water. Thearon said that is why he wants to see Mary's water test reports because if the results are not good the Town can use it to move forward and see what can be done.

**Eileen Theiry:** Spoke that she wants to personally thank Frank, Bill, John, and Thearon for voting to purchase the clock.

**Marc Nadel:** Suggest putting a table up at the Parade to collect donations for the clock. Also, maybe making a memorial plaza around the clock, allow people to have bricks engraved memorializing a loved one and place those in the plaza.

**Comments from Council:**

**Bill Jones** wants everyone to remember veterans and first responders on Veteran's Day. Keep them all in your thoughts and prayers.

**Frank Bruno** reminded everyone again about Veteran's Day, he also thanked Eileen Theiry for her generous offer to help with the cost of the Town Clock, and thanked everyone for being at the meeting tonight.

**Thearon Hooks:** Wanted to update everyone on the DOT repairs at Hwy 158. They haven't come in to do their part yet. That is not a negative statement its just taking a longer time due to all of the widespread damage all over North Carolina. Staff and Thearon put a very intense package together for Emergency Management and turned it over to them on Friday. He was supposed to meet with EM on Tuesday but they got hung up in High Point. So, we are waiting to here what our next step will be. Mary asked Thearon if Town Hall was a place that people could come to in the event of a disaster. He explained to her that we can open as a comfort station only. You could come in for the day to stay warm or stay cool, get some water, use the facilities. We are not set up to be an overnight shelter. In order to be an overnight shelter you have to meet certain State regulations and have regular inspections by the Red Cross and State.

**John Flynt** said we got some good news after speaking with Winston Salem, they are going to reduce our water rates by about 25%. We are looking at some options to improve the water system. He has been meeting with other Mayors from Summerfield and Oak Ridge to share ideas to help all three towns. He thanked everyone for being here. He also wants to thank all past Council members for all their hard work before that has helped this Town continue to grow.

**Mayor Flynt motioned to adjourn at 10:05pm, Thearon Hooks seconded the motion, Vote 4-0 to adjourn with Tim Jones leaving the meeting earlier.**

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Alisa Houk Town Clerk/Finance Officer

Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor John Flynt