

MINUTES

**TOWN OF STOKESDALE
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
8325 ANGEL PARDUE ROAD
STOKESDALE, NC 27357
APRIL 8TH 2021 AT 7:00PM**

Members present were: Mayor John Flynt, Mayor Pro-tem Thearon Hooks, Councilmen Derek Foy, Jim Rigsbee and Jim Landreth, Town Attorney Tom Medlin, Finance & Budget Officer Kim Thacker, and Deputy Clerk Priscilla Hunsucker.

I. Call to Order

II. Review and Adopt the Agenda

Mayor John Flynt called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Motion made by Mayor Flynt to approve the agenda as submitted. Councilman Foy seconded the motion and the vote was all for and motion carried.

III. Review and Approve Minutes: March 11th, 2021

Motion made by Councilman Landreth to approve the minutes as submitted without the "Draft" stamp. Mayor Flynt seconded the motion and the vote was all for and motion carried.

IV. Board & Administrative Report:

Administrative Report from Deputy Clerk:

Deputy Clerk reported that 12 meters were sold, 25 meters were put on hold. The Town handled 62 811's requests and 605 water bills were mailed out.

- **Planning Board: No report submitted.**
- **Events Committee:**

Councilman Derek Foy announced the Christmas Parade will be December 11th. The Committee is discussing a Clean Up day. May 1st will not work and so they hope to hold something before it gets hot or in the fall.

- **Property Committee:**

Councilman Jim Rigsbee stated that Council will be discussing a landscape contract later in the meeting. He added that we had some issues in the park with stopped up drains. Councilman

Landreth explained the drainage issue and that it may be a problem until things dry up. He further explained possible solutions but stated that it will need to be addressed by the Council at some point in the future.

Councilman Rigsbee then deferred to Deputy Clerk Priscilla Hunsucker to explain an issue at the park. Mrs. Hunsucker explained that the heavy use of the shelter and restrooms is causing a problem. She stated that in the past, to save money, the cleaning lady has cleaned town hall only once every two weeks and the park restroom, shelter and emptying the trash cans twice every week. It was suggested that the Town provide something for her to tote the trash to the large cans but it was noted that the large cans are roll out cans. Mrs. Hunsucker stated that in the past there has been some discussion about increasing the fee to cover additional cost to clean up more often and this would take a vote by the Council. Mayor Pro Tem Hooks added that people have gone down there and dumped their trash in the cans at night. Mrs. Hunsucker stated she would keep the Council updated if we get any additional complaints.

V. Financials: Finance/Budget Officer: Kim Thacker

Finance Officer Kim Thacker presented the financial reports for both the General Fund and the Water Fund.

Councilman Foy stated that under the American Rescue Plan that President Biden has just signed, part of that plan is to give money to Municipalities and noted that the amount could be significant. He stated that we need to stay on top of it so that we get the money due to us. Mayor Flynt added that he attended a zoom meeting recently with Mayor's and Manager's for an update on this plan. They do not know what the total amount will be at this point. He also added that the County Commissioners did not know that the Town of Stokesdale contributes money to the schools for computers. Mayor Flynt said that the Chairman of the County Commissioners said that this was unacceptable and the responsibility of the County Commissioners to provide funding for the schools and added that he would check into that further.

VI. Citizen's Comments from the Floor (3-minute Limit per Speaker)

Mark Nadel, 8211 Windy Gayle Dr., Stokesdale, NC, addressed the Council on awarding a separation agreement to the former Town Clerk after she resigned her position. He expressed his concern that this would be setting a precedent for employees that resign their position in the future. He felt that this creates some unnecessary expenses for the Town.

Councilman Rigsbee explained that the Town would not be paying double salary because the Town will be hiring a Town Clerk, but it would take several months before someone comes onboard.

Mr. Nadel was concerned also with legal fees should this matter go before the courts.

VII. Old Business

1. Vote on Selection of Lawn Maintenance Vendor for Town Hall/Town Park/Water Tower/Chlorinator Station.

Councilman Rigsbee stated that we took bids for lawn maintenance and recommended the low bidder, Excellence Lawn Care & Landscape for \$24,000 a year (\$2,000/month) be awarded the contract. He noted that they have provided documentation for their liability insurance and workers comp and has a pesticide license.

Councilman Rigsbee made a **Motion** to enter into a two-year contract with Excellence Lawn Care and Landscape. Councilman Landreth seconded the motion.

Councilman Landreth stated that he has talked with others and he has a good reputation. It was noted that he was local and would be available any time he was needed.

Mayor Flynt stated that we have discussed a one-year vs a two-year contract. Councilman Rigsbee stated that a two-year contract would be more favorable to the Town and our vendors. He added that they made it very clear that a vendor must meet our expectations. After a brief discussion on one, two and three year terms, the consensus of Council was to accept this two year contract as presented.

Mayor Pro Tem Hooks asked about the additional services (mulch, snow removal, etc.). Councilman Rigsbee stated that those services would be awarded based on price at the time it was needed.

The **Vote** was all for and Motion carried.

2. Discuss on replacing ADP with Prime-Pay

Mayor Flynt stated that he has not been happy with their service, it's April 8th we still don't have W-2's. They told staff it has something to do with workers comp and that it may be another 6 to 8 weeks.

Mayor Flynt made a **Motion** that the Town replace ADP with Prime-Pay. Motion seconded by Councilman Rigsbee.

Councilman Rigsbee referred to Mrs. Thacker, Budget & Finance Officer who has information on this issue.

Mrs. Thacker reported that she has received an email today from ADP. She noted that she also contacted NC Dept. of Revenue, NC Dept. of Commerce and explained that nationwide employees were allowed an exemption from paying social security, etc. due to Coronavirus issues. She added that this problem is nationwide and not just the Town and ADP. She reported that this is another reason why the tax filing period was extended.

Mrs. Thacker stated that she understands your frustration and unfortunately this year has been frustrating for many reasons. She stated that she was not aware of any other issues. She noted that from her standpoint, they have been good to work with.

Discussion continued regarding the W-2's, issues at the IRS and Dept. of Commerce and customer service from ADP. It was then suggested this issue be tabled for 30 days.

No vote was taken on the original motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Hooks made a **Motion** to table this item for 30 days so that these issues can be addressed. Councilman Rigsbee seconded the motion.

Vote in Favor: Mayor Pro Tem Hooks, Councilman Rigsbee and Councilman Landreth.

Vote in Opposition: Mayor Flynt and Councilman Foy.

VIII. New Business:

1. Discuss Employee Benefits.

Councilman Rigsbee reported on the current insurance policy the Town offers employees and stated that it is not a true insurance policy. He noted that Deputy Clerk Hunsucker has not used it. He then recommended that we cancel that policy and increase her salary to offset her cost of providing insurance coverage.

Councilman Rigsbee made a **Motion** to increase the Deputy Clerk's salary by \$3 per hour and to end the relationship with this supplement policy provided by One Share. Councilman Foy seconded the motion.

Mrs. Thacker asked when the increase would be affective. Councilman Rigsbee stated that it would begin with the next pay period after we end the relationship with the supplemental policy.

The vote was all for and motion carried.

2. Discussion/Vote for Planning Board to Consider Text Amendments to Town Ordinance submitted by Land Solutions representing two Stokesdale citizens.

Councilman Foy reported that to his knowledge, we rarely receive a text amendment from a citizen asking to change our ordinances. However, we had Bill Greco with Land Solutions, representing two Stokesdale citizens, submit a request and paid our fees. He stated that proper procedures according to the NCGS, is to have the Planning Board consider the amendments first, forward a recommendation and then it would be heard by the Council.

Councilman Foy made a **Motion** that the Planning Board hold a Public Hearing on this text amendment request and advise the Town Council and then the Council hold a public hearing at their next meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilman Rigsbee.

Councilman Foy then read the following text amendment requested:

Proposed Amendment No. 2 to Section 4-2.1 (B) 2)

Current Ordinance Text:

The RS-30, Residential Single-Family District is primarily intended to accommodate moderate density single-family detached dwelling lots with access to public water services. The overall

gross density in RS-30 areas will typically be 1.3 units per acre or less. Any development in this district will be required to connect to the Stokesdale water service system.

Proposed Change: to remove the last sentence and replace with “*Any proposed major subdivisions, as defined in Section 2-1, that require a zoning map amendment to utilize the RS-30 Residential Single-Family District shall be required to connect to the Town of Stokesdale public water system.*”

Proposed Text Amendment No 3

Current Text: t5-13.6 (A) 1) b) Major Subdivisions: Connection of each lot to a public water system shall be required if the proposed major subdivision meets the criteria in the schedule below (Table 5-13.6-1). Distance shall be measured from the property boundary nearest the water system line.

Proposed change: to add the following verbiage to above: *Any proposed major subdivisions, as defined in Section 2-1, that require a zoning map amendment to utilize the RS-30 Residential Single-Family District shall be required to connect to the Town of Stokesdale public water system, regardless of the criteria in the schedule below (Table 5-13.6-1).*

Town Attorney confirmed this process as stated in the motion. He also advised that the Council has the authority to change the language as the Council desires.

The **Vote** in Favor: Councilman Foy, Councilman Rigsbee, Councilman Landreth and Mayor Pro Tem Hooks. The **Vote** in Opposition: Mayor Flynt.

3. Staffing/Discussion on Qualifications of Initial Employment

- 143-318.11. Closed sessions. A-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 Flynt made a **Motion** to enter into Closed Session as stated above at 8:14 PM. Councilman Foy seconded the motion and the vote was all for and motion carried.

Mayor Flynt made a **Motion** to reconvene in Open Session at _____. Motion was seconded by Jimmy Landreth. The Vote was all for and motion carried.

Councilman Foy announced that Dale Martin, retired Town Clerk for the Town of Kernersville has expressed interest in working part-time for the Town of Stokesdale. He noted her years of experience as Clerk and believes that she will be a good fit for the Town.

Councilman Foy made **Motion** the hire Dale Martin as Interim Town Clerk at the rate of \$25/hour and will work approximately 16-20 hours per week. Motion seconded by Jim Rigsbee. The Vote was all for and motion carried.

Town Attorney announced that the Deputy Clerk has submitted her resignation effective April 22, 2021 to accept another job.

Mayor Flynt made a **Motion** to accept her resignation. Councilman Thearon seconded the motion. The Vote was all for and motion carried.

IX. Citizen's Comments from the Floor. (3-minute limit per Speaker)

None presented.

X. Announcements:

1. **Planning Board Meeting Thursday, April 22nd at 7pm at Town Hall**
2. **Budget Meeting April 20, 2021 at 7PM at Town Hall**

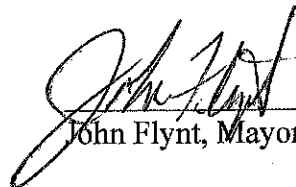
Mayor Flynt asked that consideration of a resolution adopting the Hazardous Mitigation Plan be added to the April 20th agenda.

XI. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Each Council member and the Mayor expressed their sincere appreciation to Mrs. Hunsucker for all her efforts and that they will miss her.

Councilman Rigsbee made a **Motion** to adjourn the meeting at _____. Councilman Foy seconded the motion and the vote was all for and motion carried.

Approved: June 10, 2021



John Flynt, Mayor

ATTEST:



Priscilla Hunsucker, Deputy Clerk