

TOWN OF STOKESDALE
Regular Town Council Meeting

8325 Angel Pardue Road
Stokesdale, NC 27357
December 10, 2015

The Regular Council Meeting of the Stokesdale Town Council was held on Thursday, December 10, 2015, at the Stokesdale Town Hall on 8325 Angel Pardue Road in Stokesdale, North Carolina.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Mayor Randy Braswell; Frank Bruno; William N. (Bill) Jones; Vicki White-Lawrence; Joe Thacker; Tim Jones.

OTHERS PRESENT INCLUDED: William B. Trevorrow, Town Attorney; Carolyn L. Joyner, Town Clerk/Finance Officer; Diana Marcus, Deputy Clerk; Deputy Scott Casey, Guilford County Sheriff's Department; Oliver Bass, Guilford County Planning Department.

CALL COUNCIL MEETING TO ORDER: Mayor Braswell called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

INVOCATION: Given by Pastor Jerry Walker from Oak Level Baptist Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited by Council members and citizens in attendance.

REVIEW AND ADOPT AGENDA: Frank Bruno made a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES for the Regular Council Meeting of November 12, 2015: Executive Session Minutes of January 21, 2014, March 13, 2014, April 10, 2014, August 5, 2014, August 14, 2014, June 25, 2015, and July 16, 2015: Frank Bruno made a motion to accept the minutes listed on the agenda without reading them. Bill Jones seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

HONORING VETERANS MONUMENT COMMITTEE: Mayor Braswell read and presented a Proclamation honoring Peggy Joyce, Barbara Marshall, Juanita Southern, and Betty Shelton, the founding members of the Stokesdale Veterans Monument Committee, who recently retired from their volunteer roles. The new committee members will be Powell Shelton, Jr., Gil Wagi, Randy Southard, and Todd Harmon.

The Proclamation is hereby incorporated and made a part of the minutes of the meeting.

SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM: Carolyn Joyner administered the oaths of office to re-elected Council members Frank Bruno and Bill Jones and newly-elected Council member Tim Jones. Joe Thacker stepped down from the Dias and Tim Jones took his seat.

Town Council unanimously elected Bill Jones to serve as Mayor Pro Tem.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR: Terri Johnson and Ray Robertson of Stokesdale spoke about why the Stokesdale Holiday Parade should be changed to the Stokesdale Christmas Parade.

Eileen Thiery of 8101 Meadow Springs Place in Stokesdale spoke about why the Stokesdale Holiday Parade should remain the Stokesdale Holiday Parade.

Tim Shields of 8450 Haw River Road in Stokesdale spoke and about why the Stokesdale Holiday Parade should be changed to the Stokesdale Christmas Parade.

Scott Hoffman, the Director of Soccer for Stokesdale Parks and Recreation, spoke about making the soccer fields at the Town Park safe for children to play soccer on in the spring.

Layton Spencer of 8280 Coldwater Road in Stokesdale spoke about why the Stokesdale Holiday Parade should be changed to the Stokesdale Christmas Holiday Parade.

Mary Maness of 8405 Tree Court in Stokesdale said she wanted to see more Christmas decorations in Downtown Stokesdale.

Delores Willey of 7322 Goodwill Church Road in Stokesdale spoke about why the Stokesdale Holiday Parade should be changed to the Stokesdale Christmas Parade.

Mayor Braswell asked for volunteers to serve on the Parade Committee and do research about changing the name of the Stokesdale Holiday Parade to the Stokesdale Christmas Parade.

Tim Jones said that a citizen gave him petitions against the Mountains to Sea Trail (MST) and the A & Y Greenway with 260 signatures that he would like to present to the Town. Mayor Braswell said to give the petitions to the Town Clerk after the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Report from Guilford County Sheriff's Department: Deputy Scott Casey said that this month has been slow compared to last month. Out of all of the calls that were received between the last meeting and this meeting, 14 reports were generated and five were Part One crimes. Arrests were made in all of them except for one that is still being investigated.

Discussion took place about the Parade.

Deputy Casey said that if you see something suspicious, please call 911 immediately. Do not wait three days and then call him on his personal cell phone, because he cannot do anything.

Deputy Casey said to lock the doors on your house and vehicles in order to prevent theft.

Deputy Casey encouraged citizens to sign up for Nextdoor, which is a private social networking website that the Guilford County Sheriff's Office has partnered with. He explained how Nextdoor works as a safety tool. Reverse 911 was also discussed.

Mayor Braswell called for a break at 7:42PM, because a lot of people were leaving the meeting. The meeting reconvened at 7:48PM.

Mayor Braswell asked Thearon Hooks to explain how Reverse 911 works. Thearon Hooks said that G.E.A.N.I., which stands for Guilford Emergency Alert, Notification, and Information, is an automated system set up to notify residents of urgent emergency information. He explained how G.E.A.N.I. works and said to go to www.readyguilford.org to sign up.

Presentation of the 2014-2015 Audit: Richard Tamer from Cannon & Company, LLP, presented the Town's 2014-2015 Audit. He said the Town is contractually obligated by the Local Government Commission to have their financial statements transmitted and filed by October 31st. The Town's financial statements were submitted and have been approved. According to the Financial Statements, at the end of the fiscal year the Town had \$9,332,691.00 in net position which means the Town's total assets outweighed the Town's liabilities by \$9,332,691.00. This is an increase of \$145,415.00 over the previous year. That increase is made up of two components. The first component is Governmental Activities. The Town exceeded budget projections by \$54,000.00 for the year meaning the Town was \$54,000.00 to the good on the Governmental side. The Water-Sewer Fund had a net profit for the year of about \$93,000.00. In the Town's Government Funds, the Town had a net improvement of \$131,000.00 in the net position with the Town's Government Fund balance. The Town took a very conservative approach in the budget process. The Town had no budget violations on the Town's expenditures and did better than budget in every category. Because of that, the Town had an increase in net Fund Balance at the end of the year. The Undesignated Fund balance was \$2,352,598.00 at the end of the year. The total General Fund expenditures for the year amounted to 11.29 percent of the Fund Balance which is a very strong position to be in and the Town's level of reserves are very sound at this point. At the end of the year, the Town's revenues were \$131,617.00 on the General Fund. In the Town's Water Enterprise Fund in the Water-Sewer area there was a net position increase of \$93,019.00 over the previous year which was a vast improvement. The Town ended the year with cash in the bank of \$3,814,576.00 compared to \$3,675,695.00 last year. It was a pleasure working with the Town staff this year and there were no issues.

PUBLIC HEARING: Rezoning Case 15-11-STPL-056958: CU-HB to CU-HB (amended)

Located just west of US 220 on the north side of US 158. Tax Parcel #0150636 (described as Lot 1, "Minor Subdivision Plat for WSJ Holdings LLC" PB 189-11) in Bruce Township and totaling approximately 2.04 acres. This request would rezone a portion of the 4.68 acres included in the CU-HB rezoning 13-02-STPL-00472 as described in the application. Owner: Matnamak Properties, LLC.

Oliver Bass said that this case was presented at a Public Hearing before the Stokesdale Planning Board at its meeting last Thursday. The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend approval of the proposed rezoning.

Mr. Bass explained that the proposed use is inconsistent with the Future Land Use Plan recommendation for Professional/Manufacturing designation, which is to provide for the growth of office space and light manufacturing. However, the proposed use and conditions are compatible with existing uses on the site and in the area, consistent with the underlying Highway Business (HB) zoning district and Scenic Corridor Overlay, and serves the public interest by providing needed services and employment opportunities for the area. Therefore, Staff recommends approval.

Those speaking in favor of the rezoning request:

Shane Beal said he resides at 7812 Sutter Road in Greensboro, and currently owns the property and building at 6716 US Highway 158 in Stokesdale. He owns Polished Concrete Professionals which provides

decorative concrete flooring services for industrial, retail, and commercial buildings. Moving to this location would enable him to have both an office and warehouse space together in one location which would be more efficient to run his business. In becoming owner of this property, he inherited Atlantic Outdoors and Mark Yonjof as a tenant in the building which has gone very well. Atlantic Outdoors has been in business for two years now and has been successful in creating good growth for the community. One of the reasons for the rezoning request and expansion is that Mr. Yonjof would like more space for merchandise like camping gear, clothing, and things that would be good for this area. The expansion would also help him with his flooring work because Polished Concrete Professionals continues to grow and he needs more warehouse space now. Over the years, his family has become friends with Butch Knight who services and repairs many of his vehicles at Import Specialty Auto. Due to the highway construction and limited space at his current location, he wants to give Mr. Knight the opportunity to expand his business into the community as well. The rezoning request would help all three of these companies continue to grow and service this area. He wants the Board to understand that these three businesses handle themselves professionally in everything that they do. Their businesses are very organized and very structured and provide customers with exceptional customer service. The property will not be a place where broken down cars are stored and will not turn into a junk yard or become unsightly to the community. They have an image to uphold as a business in this area. He provided some renderings to Town Council, so they would have an idea of what the proposed expansion might look like.

No one spoke in opposition to the rezoning request.

Tim Jones made a motion to approve the proposed use and conditions which are compatible with the existing uses on the site and in the area, consistent with the underlying Highway Business zoning district and Scenic Corridor Overlay, and serves the public interest by providing needed services and employment opportunities for the area. Bill Jones seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Board of Adjustment: Variance Request Case 15-11-STPL-05916

Wallis and Kristen Collie are requesting a variance to reduce the minimum lot width of 150 feet established under Section 4-1(A) of the Stokesdale Development Ordinance. The variance would allow construction of a single-family dwelling with a street setback of 100.6 feet of the property line. The property is zoned RS-40 and located at 8107 Moore's Mill Court, Old Moore's Subdivision.

Wallis Collie and Oliver Bass were sworn in by Mayor Braswell.

Oliver Bass said that the applicant is asking for a variance to the Dimensional Requirements of Section 4-1(A) of the Stokesdale Land Development Ordinance which requires a street setback of 40 feet from the property line and a minimum lot width of 150 feet for RS-40 zoning districts. The request is to reduce the minimum lot width to allow construction of a single-family residence with a street setback of 100.6 feet from the front property line as show in the application. The owners of the property are Wallis and Kristen Collie. The property is located at 8107 Moore's Mill Court in Stokesdale.

Wallis Collie said he is seeking alleviation from the minimum lot width of 150 feet per the standards set forth in Table 4-4-1 of the Guilford County Development Ordinance for RS-40 zoning. The lot is located in a cul-de-sac, and is wedge shaped with only 91 feet wide at the street front. Due to the narrowness of the property, the lot does not become 150 feet wide until 275 feet back from the street. Additionally, the lot begins to slope significantly down towards a creek bottom beyond 200 feet back from the street. If the

house is placed at the current minimum build line, it would be at a location within this significant sloping region. There would be a 12-foot elevation difference between the front and back of the house causing the back of the house to be about 15 feet above the ground. The house will not have a basement so there is potential that a foundation this high could have structural issues that would make the structure unsound. Additionally, the backyard area would be significantly sloped which is not suitable for our small children to play on and maintenance of the yard would be difficult. He walked the property and it is quite steep in that particular area so he is proposing to move the house forward to about 100 feet off the front of the property so there is a much gentler slope. Furthermore, no other house in the development is set back anywhere near this far back and moving the property forward would bring the house more in harmony with the look of the neighboring houses. He has spoken with the president of the Homeowners Association (HOA) and he has no issues with this request and agrees that the house would be more consistent with the look and feel of the neighborhood. The proposed house location does encroach slightly on the already approved septic field. He has been in contact with Environmental Services and inspections were done to try to push the septic field farther back to make up for that encroachment. The inspection was done and an additional 50 feet was added to the back of the approved septic field to make up for the encroached area. The septic contractor has gone back and plotted out the required piping and everything would fit within the newly approved septic field. He did not create the hardship since the topography of the land already existed. By going back through the records of previous Council meetings, he found that on June 18, 2013, another property in the neighborhood about three lots down from his requested a variance from the exact same Ordinance for the same hardship reasons and was granted it so there is some precedence to this variance request.

Mayor Braswell asked if Mr. Collie had a statement from the Homeowners Association or documentation from the septic contractor. Mr. Collie said that he is expecting a letter from the Homeowners Association but has not yet received it. He has received verbal and email confirmation from the septic contractor and will have documentation once the final inspection is done.

Oliver Bass said that if the septic field has not been permitted by Environmental Services a building permit will not be issued.

Mayor Braswell closed the Public Hearing.

Vicki White-Lawrence made a motion to grant the variance, because if Council did not, an unnecessary hardship would result from the strict letter of the Ordinance. Hardship results from conditions that are peculiar to the property such as location, size, or topography. The hardship did not result from actions taken by the applicant or the property owner and the requested variance is consistent with the spirit, purpose, and intent of the Ordinance such that public safety is assured and does substantial justice. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to take a five-minute recess. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. The meeting recessed at 8:31PM.

The meeting reconvened at 8:39PM.

Issues with Downtown Stokesdale: Frank Bruno said that in the last couple of weeks he has been receiving calls about parking issues in Downtown Stokesdale. The parking issues started after a new business opened which became very busy and cars started parking diagonally on the street. Limited sight

and traffic speed have been contributing factors. He called the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to find out how to handle the situation, but they have not responded. It is an NCDOT issue, but he thought that Town Council should be aware of the parking problem.

Adoption of the Continuity of Government Plan: Frank Bruno made a motion to adopt the Continuity of Government Plan dated July 2015 for the Town of Stokesdale and authorize the Mayor to sign it. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Stokesdale Water System:

Citizens' Comment Period on the Stokesdale Water System: Mary Maness of 8405 Tree Court in Stokesdale said that if Stokesdale will be selling water to Oak Ridge, the Town will be making money. She wants to know if the Stokesdale residents that want to connect to the Town water will be able to connect now. Mayor Braswell said that that it would benefit Stokesdale primarily by moving more water through the water lines. He does not believe that Stokesdale will make big money off of Oak Ridge. There will be no cost for Stokesdale to connect Oak Ridge to the Town water. At this time, he does not think further connections will be possible for Town residents that do not have water lines running past their property. The water system is still operating in the red and needs to be operating in the black before the Town will be able trying to extend the water line.

Proposals for Marking Waterlines for NC 811 Requests – Continued: Bill Jones made a motion to accept the proposal for Yates Construction to do the Town's 811 locates based on their proposal dated December 2, 2015, as it applies to the specifications of the North Carolina 811, Inc. membership agreement. Frank Bruno seconded the motion.

Mayor Braswell amended the motion to recognize the 72-inch variance rather than the normal 36-inch variance that is in the Yates Construction proposal.

All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Any Other Issues Pertaining to the Water System:

Set Fees for Construction Inspections: Discussion took place about charging a \$750.00 minimum inspection fee or 3.5 percent of the cost of the project for a major subdivision and charging a \$250.00 minimum inspection fee for a minor subdivision.

Mayor Braswell said to continue this agenda item until the January 2016 Town Hall meeting.

Authorize Mayor to Sign Dawn Acres Applicant Certification: Bill Jones made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the application for certification for Dawn Acres Subdivision Phase 1. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Mayor Braswell said that the contractor for the subdivision at Eversfield Road is charging \$1,400.00 for each dry tap and bore installed on the five properties along Eversfield Road. The property owners would have to purchase a meter that currently costs \$358.00 to install.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to contact the five property owners along Eversfield Road by letter showing the Town's cost to put a tap in as the lines are being extended and the Town needs a response as soon as possible. It would be \$1,400.00 for the tap and \$358.00 for the meter, and there is a monthly customer fee of \$30.50 regardless of whether or not a meter is installed. The letters would be sent by certified mail with a return date based on the construction schedule.

Discussion took place about allowing the property owners as much time as possible to make their decision depending on when the contractor will start digging for the installation of the water lines. The current rate will be charged to property owners once the water lines are covered if they have not requested that a tap be installed. The letter will be sent to the address of the property owners referenced on GIS (Geographical Information Services) since some properties do not have homes on the property. Council discussed whether or not there were any other property owners along the road other than those five property owners.

Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Review of Administrative Task List – Continued: Frank Bruno said that the task list will be finalized over the next couple of months while they work on staffing Town Hall. Mayor Braswell said that he would like to schedule a workshop next week to address the Administrative Task List and the Staffing of Town Hall. Council scheduled a Special Meeting for 3:00PM on Thursday, December 17th.

Public Records Request Policy – Continued: Frank Bruno said that the Town of Summerfield sends public records requests to the Town Attorney to review in order to make sure no private information is released to the public. There was not enough time to discuss this issue further so it will be continued.

Staffing of Town Hall: This agenda item will be addressed in the Special Meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 17th at 3:00PM.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

Land Use Plan Review Committee – Update: Frank Bruno asked if the previous committee members had been contacted. Diana Marcus said that she contacted all the previous committee members, except one that she could not find the telephone number for, and most of them said that they would be willing to continue serving on the Land Use Plan Review Committee.

Tim Jones made a motion to take all new applications for the Land Use Plan Review Committee. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Trails/Paths/Right-of-Ways Committee – Update: Diana Marcus said that there were a couple of previous committee members that were willing to continue serving on the Trails/Paths/Right-of-Ways Committee. She also called the people on the October 8th Town Hall meeting sign-in sheet that provided telephone numbers and many had indicated that they were interested in serving.

Tim Jones made a motion that the Town discontinue the Trails/Paths/Right-of-Ways Committee.

Bill Jones said we've updated all of the committees by name I think when we first came on. Was that one of the ones left on the list. Carolyn Joyner said yes. Bill Jones said I don't know if they ever met at all. They may have never met. Ms. Joyner said they may have but the main function was to work with the study group, the study that was done. So that's over there's not been I guess any need for them to meet since then. Bill Jones said I guess that could really be rolled into the Land Use the way it used to be. I don't know the difference the trail, you say the trail, trails are best in the Land Use Plan Committee. Ms. Joyner said Roads and Transportation are as well. Vicki White-Lawrence said I see what you're saying. It's like with the Ordinance Review. It's taken them a long time just to deal with ordinances. To vote in something else just doesn't seem right. Bill Jones said I guess the Land Use Plan what we really need to do is redo the Land Use Plan. My thought is if you've got people interested in trails then get them on the Land Use Committee rather than trying to reenergize two or three committees and have people spread out and then if somebody is interested in the trail and they are also interested in land use then now we got to go to two meetings when the same thing could be done in one meeting. If you could do land or volunteer or help advise that have an interest in trails. I think that's the place to handle it as well. Tim Jones said it's also open space advocated in Guilford County (unintelligible) interesting and that sort of thing. Frank Bruno said that the whole idea of having that committee until now is exactly what my thought was that should be part of the Land Use. Since we've had such a large amount on both sides of the trail was to kind of get them together as a group and to come up with. It's almost like the Ordinance Committee. Come up with suggestions to give to the Land Use Committee. My thought was hoping to push those people on the Land Use Committee. But I think right now you've got such a large group right there discussing that one subject it's best to get together and hash out hey where are we going with that and then make the suggestions to the Land Use Plan Committee. I hope you have some thoughts. I thought that would be perfect. I'd say we have three or four people. There's a lot there (unintelligible). My goal is that get a few people to sign up (unintelligible). Ms. Joyner said Diana has talked to many of them and actually we do have one application for somebody that has applied. Whether others will or not I don't know.

Mayor Braswell said Okay, we got a motion, need a second. Bill Jones said so the motion is to actually do away with the Trails/Paths/Right-of-Ways Committee? You say that the motion is to expand into the Land Use Plan Review Committee? Is that what you were saying? Tim Jones said my motion was to discontinue that committee because it has never met.

Mayor Braswell said I'll second that motion.

Mayor Braswell said just to continue the discussion, they never met and you're saying they went to the A & Y Greenway Steering Committee. That's where they actually met. I don't really see a need for them here and I would base that statement solely on the petitions that have been presented to the Town. There's over 200, as many as 250 by now with really not a lot of effort to rally a group in opposition. And what I see that are proponents of the trail are really just a small handful of people in Stokesdale. So I would a, almost like Tim, he's got some open space committee application down there. So far my research and things that I've read that's where all that's coming from anyways. I think anybody out here in Stokesdale that really has a passion for that would go there.

Frank Bruno said I disagree with that and I'll bring up something that's kind of a sore spot to me about that. It's easy to get people to sign petitions when we don't give them correct information. I'm stopping it there. There's a lot of misinformation that I think when we had that meeting a lot of good stuff came out of it and you have a lot of people who are interested in finding out more. A lot of people who are interested and saying is it good, is it not good, but getting them the correct information. I think by having

that committee together you get both sides of that group together to discuss it and come up with a plan that works for the Town. And you got 200 signatures on a petition out of 5,400 residents. So to me that's a very small that I believe was not given correct information that signed those petitions.

Tim Jones said where is the information available at, that is not in the 184-page study. Frank Bruno said that study is being used in the wrong way. The study was put together to say in the ideal situation if you put together a DOT standard trail this is what it would cost. That's all that study...the study was not put together to say this is how you have to put a trail and this is the way it's done. That's the only reason that study was done was to see the viability on doing something based on DOT standards. And when you go to the meetings and talk to some of the smaller towns that have done it, there's very little maintenance cost. They get a ton of volunteers to put these trails together and it's run as a community thing. And a community decides if it's right for their community, and if it is, do they want it. That study doesn't dictate to the community this is how you have to do it.

Tim Jones said it's my feeling this Town couldn't afford that trail if they gave it to us because of the maintenance costs, security costs, fire and rescue costs. You're also forgetting that most of these people who build this trail are from outside of Town and our neighbors don't want this in their backyard and don't want to pay for it. Frank Bruno said I would not want to use tax money for it but there are trails being done in towns where all those concerns that you're saying there haven't cost them anything. Tim Jones said volunteers can't dig a tunnel under NC 68, 158 and so on and so forth. Frank Bruno said we're talking about just doing natural trails where people come out, volunteer. When they did the one up in the Elkin area, they came out from all over the state to volunteer their time. They've got a large network of people and I would think to just go out to say we're just going to (unintelligible) just because people aren't getting the correct information about it. And that's the whole point of having a committee is to get both sides together to discuss an issue and to have more public input. We've had one public input session that we had about two months ago and the reason the committee hasn't met up until that point was it was the only meeting for that one thing to do that A & Y study. That's the only reason it was originally put together. We kind of held off on that because we were waiting to see what happened with 158, but at this point it could be 20 or 30 years. So really the goal was to see hey, what does the committee want to do. Give them a say in it. I'm not just disregarding this and sweeping it to the side. I think we'd be doing a disservice to our citizens if we just said we're just going sweep this whole committee to the side because we don't think it is valuable when you've got a bunch of people who signed up (unintelligible). What do you say to that?

Vicki White-Lawrence said I've walked the Elkin trail since we last met, and it is part of the MST Mountains-to-Sea Trail. But it is not, what they did there was to incorporate it as part of their park and the other part they took over, it wasn't necessarily a railroad bed, but it was down by the river. They had scouts who put in projects, benches and stuff. Elkin's population is pretty much the same as Stokesdale's, and if I heard information right, they don't charge a property tax either. Just a county tax but not a property tax.

Mayor Braswell said I'm almost hearing an accusation the public was misled, those 250 names on there, I don't know how many was on there, that they were given false information or erroneous information was a word that was used and I mean I think that discussion needs to start right here instead of committees because you're going to start a war if you get those in opposition together with those that are for. I'm afraid you'd be grossly misunderstanding the voice of those people. That was a huge number of people that signed that. You had that A & Y steering committee had months and months and months to send out surveys. They didn't get but, they didn't even get that many responses period. So I think when you start

talking about the percentages of those 5,400 people here, you guys kind of noticed the signatures. It was like one and a half percent of people responded to that original deal. I think I've been here 35 years. I was here the day they started pulling up the tracks. And if you don't have a trail in 35 years, it ain't happening. And there's these pitch points. And since it's come back up, I've really put some effort into reading about it and I just, I just don't think it's gonna happen through Stokesdale. Now, there could possibly be some interconnectivity here in Stokesdale, from one housing development to the other which would be the responsibility and cost burden on the developer, but for the tax payers to tackle their portion of a state park that travels, it would absolutely zig zag through town, that is not erroneous information. That's like those people saying, no, I don't want to sell my land, I don't want to donate my land, they're not coming across my land. I don't if we had this discussion during the feasibility study I asked the lady, okay look, what if you get here and it stops. She said you just go to the guy next door. Well those petitions you get the maps out like I suggested months and months ago, and you have people start marking their property saying no or yes and you'll see where your trail is, but to get people in a room that are for and against, I think that's a mistake.

Frank Bruno said, see, I disagree with that because I think that's the way our country is run. You get two sides opposed to each other and you sit down and have a logical conversation to work out their differences. You're saying that the citizens of Stokesdale can't do that. I disagree 100 percent. I think we have very intelligent citizens who can work out their differences.

Mayor Braswell said what I see is a huge number in opposition to. And I see a very small number for. Now hey we go out there and bring you know hundreds or thousands of people in here to support a trail. You still have to cross those people's lands and their names are on that petition and they said no. So I mean if all of a sudden no doesn't mean no. I'm not saying that's not the democratic way of going about it, I don't want to give you a different idea but those people have said no. So that's the reason that I would support to resolve this local because it's never met in 35 years so let them go to the open space committee at Guilford County those get involved in that MPO. And maybe their whole vision of this Mountains-to-Sea Trail can come to light maybe in a town that is saying they got 250 people that are begging for this thing to cross their land. It's is not fair to say this is false information. I kind of take offense to that statement because I have not lied to anybody. I've been straight with them. In fact, we have a Rockingham County commissioner that told Bill and I, he said Randy, you're on the wrong side of this issue. He said this is all gonna be built with private dollars. And that is absolutely incorrect. That's a Rockingham County Commissioner making that statement. So if a commissioner is misinformed. Now this is gonna be tax payer dollars. If you're gonna build this thing to DOT, you've gotta build to their specs.

Frank Bruno said see that's the misconception. You don't have to build it to DOT. That's the whole misconception of it. And I didn't say somebody lied. I said they used the wrong information, because you do not have to. You can go towns all over the state that have this. The majority have not conformed to DOT because they built natural trails. Mayor Braswell said so where is this money going to come from? Frank Bruno said it comes from private, it comes from people who donate money, it comes from people who donate time. That's why my whole point is not to say yes or no, but to get more information out there to show the people the possibility of what it can and what it is and what it's not, so they have the correct information to make the correct decision.

Mayor Braswell said you know this whole economic boom that the Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail are pitching. I got an email from a guy in Greensboro saying wouldn't it be so nice for me to get on my bicycle and ride out to Stokesdale. He said there's no place north of Greensboro that I can ride my bicycle.

I'm sitting here and saying, you know to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars if not millions of dollars for very very little economic impact. I don't buy the economic impact. I think that is a tactic used that could set possibilities for eminent domain. Frank Bruno said that's the word that comes up, but it's never mentioned in anything that the Mountains-to-Sea Trail talks about. Tim Jones said yes, but it is still there in the law. Frank Bruno said it's only mentioned by people who are afraid of doing it. And they have never at any point gone in and said we're gonna take your land. And that's another misconception that's put out there. Yes, it's in the law. It's in the law that we can charge a tax if we want, but if you're smart enough you don't do those things. And again, it comes back to your local community controlling what they do. We as a community would be in control. If it's something that the citizens wanted, they could control how it's done. It's not being dictated to them to say you have to do it this way, it has to go in this space here. Go back to the Appalachian Trail. It's only, the original trail is only five percent of it is where original trail was put because it moved as people wanted it moved (unintelligible). So, again, my whole point is to get the right information out to people so they can make informed decisions. That's all my whole point about it is.

Bill Jones said misinformation. We sit up here in the meeting and people represented to me. I was assuming these people are representing the fact that they donated these easements. And I find out later you know the county commissioners in 2010 voted to spend \$750,000.00 buying easements in Guilford, in Stokesdale. Not in Guilford. So that's not private money. The county commissioners voted to spend \$750,000.00 in Stokesdale buying easements and at least \$250,000.00 has been spent. So you're going to sit up there and imply that you're donating an easement because a good fellow and you'd like to have a trail. So no, you sold it for \$250,000.00. You want to run one through my backyard, I'll sell it to you for \$250,000.00. But that's not misinformation. That's fact that was not put out at that meeting. So that's not misinformation, that's fact.

Frank Bruno said that was my point. It all needs to be put out there so people have the right information. There's been false information and misinformation on either side but this is how it's done and now you can make a correct decision. That's all I, that's my whole point about the whole thing is to get the correct information out to the people so they can make the right decision.

Tim Jones said you cannot present us with a 184-page feasibility study, then when we read it and rely on it tell us it's inaccurate. Frank Bruno said it's accurate if you build a DOT standard trail and that's what their study was put together, what it would cost you in an ideal situation to put it together. Nowhere in there does it say that's how you have to do it. It basically gives you the option of, hey if you don't, you have to have a guideline to say if you want to get federal money to build your trail, you have to follow it to DOT standards this is what you have to do. That's all that study was.

Tim Jones said there has also been some heavy handed dealings with Guilford County, Guilford County Planning and this town over some very questionable practices when rezoning property and when submitting site plans wherein owners have been told they need to dedicate trail space or else they are not in compliance and they can't get their rezoning of their site plan approved. Frank Bruno said I haven't looked at that. I'd like to see that. I had no idea about that. That has nothing to do with what I'm talking about but that would be something that you would be put out to the public as information to say this is part of what has been done. Now you guys make a decision.

Vicki White-Lawrence said I just have a question about whether the issue with this is because it's about connecting to the Mountain-to-Sea Trail. What we've had is a Trails/Paths/Right-of-Ways Committee and

it was not, that does not identify anything about Mountains-to-the-Sea, so is the issue Mountains-to-the-Sea? Could we not still have a Trails Committee to look at our local issues, what we want to do as a town. You know, if it connects it connects and if it doesn't it doesn't. But you know just to get a group together to see if what common ground we can find for a trail. Mayor Braswell said I think that's already in the comprehensive plan. I do lean more to Bill's suggestion. If they wanted to get involved instead of being such a small group and I fear a very large group showing up in opposition for that. I don't want to start that kind of war. This thing has been going on for years and with no traction I think it's dead. Have those people get on ordinance review or land use or this open space committee because that's really where it's happening. This local two or three people, or five or six people. I mean I've sat on these committees around here. I just, I don't want to throw cold water on your trail but I'm gonna tell you what. I just, I don't like it. It smells bad in lots of areas. What Tim was talking about, I mean that's not right. Frank Bruno said just get rid of it then. I don't really care because you're coming up with all of these conspiracy theories which is ridiculous. You've got a bunch of people we've called that are interested in serving. So we'll just tell them that as a Council we're not interested in having them serve. Tim Jones said we've had two people on a committee that has never met. That's two. Frank Bruno said we already explained why but that's fine, I'm done talking about it at this point.

Mayor Braswell said I think it is just best to let it go. So we've got a motion to basically dissolve the Trails/Paths/Right-of-Ways Committee. We got a second. We talked about it and I think we could talk about it all night long. Let's vote.

Mayor Braswell, Bill Jones, and Tim Jones voted aye. Frank Bruno and Vicki White-Lawrence voted nay. The motion was approved by a 3-2 vote.

Joe Thacker was sitting in the audience and said he wanted to ask the Mayor a question. He said that he thought the job of a Councilman was to represent all of the residents of the Town. All he has heard from three of the Council members is that the trail is not going to happen because there are too many residents against it. There was one Public Meeting with a room full of people which the Mayor feels the majority of which was against the trail. Is he basing his decision to dissolve the Trails/Paths/Right-of-Ways Committee on this fact? Mayor Braswell said yes. Joe Thacker said that he does not believe that is what a Councilman should be doing. Mayor Braswell said that in response to Joe Thacker's comment, he would like to see an equal amount of people that are willing to donate land. Frank Bruno said that fifty percent of the residents that attended the Public Hearing were in favor of the trail. Joe Thacker said that the people that want to serve on the Trails/Paths/Right-of-Ways Committee want to talk about the trail and would not be interested in talking about the Land Use Plan along with the trail. He thinks that residents should be given the opportunity to talk about the trail. Mayor Braswell said that he does not see support in Stokesdale for the trail. Discussion took place about a map that Mayor Braswell had previously suggested be laid out on a table for residents to mark whether or not the trail could cross their land.

Thearon Hooks provided a year-end summary report for the Safety Committee and Water Committee. He said that the Public Safety Committee will continue in 2016 to provide up-to-date information to residents regarding public safety issues and informational sites that will give each of us options, advice, and a better sense of security in Stokesdale. The Water Committee will continue to work on and finalize the Emergency and Disaster Response Plan. The Town is updating its customer information list and after-hours emergency contacts for water customers. A system of informational door hangers is being developed to inform residents who are affected by a water system issue. The Town is also working on a vendor list that would

be utilized in the event of a water system emergency or disaster. The next Water Committee meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2016.

Departmental and Administrative Report:

Finance Report - November, 2015: Carolyn Joyner said that assets decreased by \$29,728.64 in the General Fund over the previous month. In the General Fund Checking Account Transactions, a deposit of \$1,050.00 was made due to rezoning fees, a deposit of \$506.59 was made due to a North Carolina Sales Tax Refund, a deposit of \$2,785.30 was made due to Greensboro ABC Profits. Cannon & Company was paid \$6,000.00 towards the cost of the audit, several Parade donations were deposited, AED Brands was paid \$260.00 for the wall cabinet and signs for the defibrillator, Guilford County Finance Department was paid \$15,922.30 for law enforcement, and Plyler & Sons Pine Needles was paid \$1,989.00 for pine needles and putting them out. In General Fund Accounts Payable, invoices were received from Matthew Bender & Company for \$60.40 for Annotated Rules of North Carolina 2016 and from JaniKing of the Triad for \$711.20 for their monthly service. There were no real transactions of interest in the General Funds Savings Account. General Fund Certificates of Deposit Earned Interest was basic money market savings interest that was deposited.

Carolyn Joyner said that assets decreased for the Water Enterprise Fund by \$8,000.77 over the previous month and increased by \$202.57 for the Water-Sewer Fund over the previous month. In the Water Enterprise Checking Account, a deposit of \$320.63 was made due to a portion of the North Carolina Sales and Tax Refund, Cannon & Company was paid \$3,000.00 towards the cost of the audit, \$600.00 was paid to the U.S. Postmaster to add to the bulk mail account for mailing out water bills, and Yates Construction Company was paid \$18,869.00 for a gang meter, changes to the chlorinator, installing taps, and reading meters. In Water Enterprise Accounts Payable, invoices were received from Yates Construction Company and Meritech, Inc. for regular monthly services and from Fortiline Waterworks for \$1,537.20 for eight new water meters. There was one Water-Sewer Fund Certificate of Deposit #19 that matured and earned \$1,516.25.

Administrative Report – Town Clerk: Carolyn Joyner said she does not have anything to report.

Discussion took place about taking credit card payments and the convenience fee that would be charged.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Vicki White-Lawrence read the announcements listed on the agenda.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL: There were no comments from Council.

ADJOURNMENT: Vicki White-Lawrence made a motion to adjourn. All Council members voted aye and the meeting adjourned at 10:26PM.



Diana Marcus, Deputy Clerk

Approved:



D. Randall Braswell, Mayor



Town of Stokesdale

Mayor D. Randall Braswell
Frank A. Bruno
William N. Jones
Vicki White-Lawrence
Joe H. Thacker

Proclamation

HONORING VETERANS MONUMENT COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, Peggy Joyce, Barbara Marshall, Betty Shelton and Juanita Southern wanted to see a Veterans Monument in Stokesdale, NC and began exploring how to make that happen in 2004, and

WHEREAS, these determined women visited other monuments in other towns and did much research about the best materials and what the costs might be, and

WHEREAS, in early 2005 they addressed Stokesdale Town Council to let them know of their plans, and

WHEREAS, they sent letters, made calls and personal visits to area businesses to see what these businesses were able to do to make the monument a reality, and

WHEREAS, they raised almost four times the amount they originally sought, plus even more in in-kind donations, and so were able to expand the monument from its original plan to include flags from all of the branches of the military, the POW flag, and our state and the American flags, along with bricks to honor local veterans, and

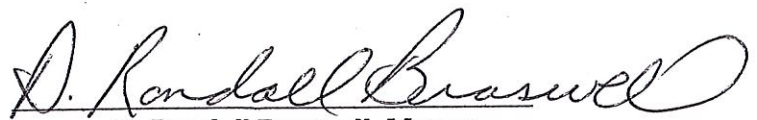
WHEREAS, they have inspired others throughout the community to become involved to help maintain the monument and the surrounding area, and

WHEREAS, they have provided a ceremony remembering and honoring veterans each Nov. 11 since 2005, and

WHEREAS, these women have now found a new group of volunteers to take over their responsibilities and so are retiring from the committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Randy Braswell, Mayor of Stokesdale, NC, and on behalf of the Stokesdale Town Council, do hereby proclaim its appreciation and congratulations to Peggy Joyce, Barbara Marshall, Betty Shelton and Juanita Southern for all of their work and dedication in establishing and maintaining the Veterans Monument located on Highway 158 in Stokesdale.

This the 10th day of December 2015.


D. Randall Braswell, Mayor