

TOWN OF STOKESDALE

Regular Council Meeting

8325 Angel Pardue Road
Stokesdale, NC 27357

March 12, 2015

The Regular Council Meeting of the Stokesdale Town Council was held on Thursday, March 12, 2015, at the Stokesdale Town Hall at 8325 Angel Pardue Road.

Council members in attendance: Mayor Randy Braswell, Frank Bruno, William N. (Bill) Jones, Vicki White-Lawrence, Joe Thacker.

Others present included: William B. Trevorrow, Town Attorney; Carolyn L. Joyner, Town Clerk/Finance Officer; Diana Marcus, Deputy Clerk; David Homol, President of Stokesdale Youth Football Association; Sondra Beene, Stokesdale Community Choir; Gerri Hunt, Northwest Observer.

Call Council Meeting to Order: Mayor Braswell called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Invocation: Given by David Homol.

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited by Council members and citizens in attendance.

Review and Adopt Agenda: Frank Bruno made a motion to adopt the agenda. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the agenda was adopted.

Reading and Approval of the Minutes for the Following Meetings: Workshop of May 1, 2014; Regular Council meeting of June 12, 2014; Workshops of July 11, 2014 and July 21, 2014.

Frank Bruno made a motion to adopt the minutes listed on the agenda. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the minutes were adopted.

Comments from the Floor: There were no comments from the floor.

New Business:

Report from Guilford County Sheriff's Department: Deputy Scott Casey from the Guilford County Sheriff's Department was not in attendance so no report was given.

NCDOT Considering the Designation of NC 68 for Use by Trucks with Twin Trailers:

Public Comment Period on the Use of NC 68 by Trucks with Twin Trailers: Mayor Braswell said that this is the public comment period for citizens to speak for or against the designation of NC 68 for the use by trucks with twin trailers.

Roger Brown, 7779 Springdale Meadow Drive, said that he is opposed to the designation of NC 68 for

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use by trucks with twin trailers. He read in the Northwest Observer about a man that was recently killed by a car at the intersection of NC 68 and US 158 where there is an elementary school. He feels that NC 68 is very busy and quite dangerous for Stokesdale residents. Construction work for the I-73 connector has been going on to connect NC 68 to US 220 in a couple of years which was designed to relieve the traffic on NC 68, so he does not understand why there is a need to open NC 68 to more vehicles and designate it as a route for trucks with twin trailers.

Nancy McCoy, 8516 Springbirch Terrace, said that she is opposed to the designation of NC 68 for use by trucks with twin trailers. She had an experience two years ago when she had to go to the hospital in an emergency situation and it took 10 to 15 minutes to get out of the subdivision onto NC 68 due to the heavy traffic. She called the Department of Transportation (DOT) a year ago and requested a traffic light be installed outside of her subdivision due to the heavy traffic. A representative of DOT said that there was no need for a traffic light because soon all of the trucks are going to go down US 220. If the trucks are going to be going down US 220, why would we need trucks with twin trailers on NC 68?

Shevante Keaker, 8118 McCrory Road, said she is new to the area and wanted to know why we need trucks with twin trailers on NC 68. She has seen twin trailers on NC 68 and wants to know if these trucks are restricted. Vicki White-Lawrence said that trucks with twin trailers are not supposed to be on NC 68, but that does not mean they are not on NC 68. Ms. Keaker said she is trying to understand the rules and why the twin trailers are not supposed to be on NC 68 now. Mayor Braswell said that there is a statute that explains why NC 68 does not have the capacity to handle that type of vehicle. NC 68 was never designated for that type of vehicle. DOT has a map online with truck routes in order to keep trucks out of areas that cannot accommodate trucks that are too wide, too heavy, or too tall for the roadway. NC 68 was never designated for trucks with twin trailers and DOT is asking to change that. Ms. Keaker said that she is opposed to trucks with twin trailers on NC 68. She drives on NC 68 fairly often and there are no shoulders on NC 68, so if there was a problem, there is no place for the trucks pull over. There are no left turn lanes to get in some subdivisions and a problem could occur if a car stops on NC 68 suddenly ahead of a truck with twin trailers to make a left turn. Joe Thacker said that twin trailers have to follow US 220 to US 158, and then follow US 158 through Stokesdale to I-40 in Winston-Salem.

Layton Spencer, 8280 Coldwater Road, said he is opposed to trucks with twin trailers on NC 68. Due to the weight of the vehicles, they require a much longer breaking distance. There is an elementary school there and parents are driving in and out dropping off and picking up children. He has seen trailers run through that location at very heavy speeds. Millions of dollars is already being spent on the bypass so he does not see the need to allow trucks with twin trailers on NC 68. There is a safety issue for the school children, school buses, and elderly people that drive on NC 68.

Patrick Sanecki, 8317 McCrory Road, said this looks like a ploy for logistics by trying to save money on gasoline. UPS and FedEx are typically the trucks with the twin trailers that are driven long distance and he does not know if they are pressuring DOT to make this change in order to save on mileage and gas. He moved to Stokesdale a few years ago because of the bypass. It was supposed to be a safer place for families and communities and that is not happening. He is opposed to trucks with twin trailers on NC 68.

Tom McCoy, 8516 Springbirch Terrace, said that this idea is totally unnecessary and does not address the needs of the people who live in Stokesdale. The stretch of NC 68 from US 220 down to Pleasant Ridge Road is full of small businesses and residential neighborhoods. A lot of money is being spent on

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the bypass and the widening and expansion of US 220 which can better accommodate tandem trucks. It is a better equipped highway for tandem trucks so there is no reason why they cannot wait a year until it opens up. He is opposed to trucks with twin trailers on NC 68.

Mayor Braswell said that he makes his living working on trucks and is very pro truck. He spent some time sitting at the intersection of NC 68 and US 158 and was amazed at how many trucks ran the red light. He is definitely in favor of drafting a resolution to present to DOT. Council has until April 17th to respond. This was an opportunity for the public to voice their concerns and he welcomes letters and emails on this issue. His concern is the distance it takes for trucks with twin trailers to stop after the brakes are applied.

Bill Jones said that he saw tanker trucks going north on NC 68 run the red light at the intersection two times. The second time he saw the tanker truck run the red light, he went online to find the name of the company. He called the owner of the company who did not seem concerned so he called the highway patrol. He would encourage people who see this happening in Town to get the tanker number and call highway patrol. A tandem truck is not aligned as well as a single truck and has a swivel to it. The road on NC 68 is crooked and goes up and down hills so a tandem truck could swing out of the lane and hit a car because with all the guard rails there is no place to go. He thinks it is ridiculous that DOT is asking for this and he would encourage others to call DOT about this issue.

Vicki White-Lawrence said she is also concerned about the speed of the trucks and is opposed to trucks with twin trailers on NC 68.

Frank Bruno said he thinks that even after the connector is completed a lot of tandem trucks will still go up NC 68 at night in order to save a dollar on gas. The whole point of the connector is to relieve the traffic on NC 68 so he does not understand why DOT is asking for this change. With all the new guard rails on NC 68, there is no way to get away from the trucks with twin trailers so it is really dangerous. He is opposed to the designation of NC 68 for use by trucks with twin trailers.

Mayor Braswell said that he heard that it was just one driver that was asking DOT to designate NC 68 for use by trucks with twin trailers. Nancy McCoy said that if only one person made the request that resulted with DOT's consideration to allow tandem trucks on NC 68, she wants to know what power our board has. Will DOT listen to the board and the citizens of Stokesdale and Oak Ridge? Mr. Trevorrow said that the State is in charge of state roads. Towns and counties have no responsibility for the roads. Effective numbers is always more beneficial than just individual or singular comments going to DOT. A body such as the Town Council or County Commissioners or whomever, coming together as one unit and opposing something like the designation of NC 68 for use by trucks with twin trailers will definitely be more effective. Nancy McCoy asked if a petition would help. Mr. Trevorrow said you never know unless you try and make an effort collectively.

Carolyn Joyner said that historically, this has occurred before. All it takes is one person to make the request of DOT and then DOT has to do their investigation or their studies to justify their decision. She does not remember what year it was, but previously, Mayor Jones wrote a letter to DOT voicing the Town's opposition, and it was not approved. However, this is a different time, a different year, and a different situation.

Mr. Trevorrow said that he thinks DOT is going to take all comments as they come in from Stokesdale,

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Summerfield, Oak Ridge, Guilford County, and citizens and then form an opinion and create a resolution in support or opposition. That is the way he understands the process. Getting opposition will certainly give DOT something to think about than if they did not get any opposition.

Tom McCoy asked where their comments should be directed. Mayor Braswell said that there is an address, a telephone number, and the name of a person at DOT that their comments can be directed to. He will get that information and make it public. He spoke to Ray Combs, Mayor of Oak Ridge, who is also opposed to designating NC 68 for use by trucks with twin trailers.

Consider a Resolution Regarding the Designation of NC 68 for Use by Trucks with Twin Trailers: Mayor Braswell made a motion that Town Council consider drafting a resolution regarding the designation of NC 68 for use by trucks with twin trailers. Through public comments and emails, it seems to be the general consensus of all to be opposed to designating NC 68 for use by trucks with twin trailers. Bill Jones seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Mayor Braswell said that Council will draft the resolution and have it to DOT by April 17th.

Unfinished Business:

Park Update on Swings: Frank Bruno said he has provided Council with a proposal from Summit Supply Corporation of Colorado, an approved vendor, for a heavy-duty tripod swing set and a plan showing where the swing set should be installed on the playground. For a ten foot swing set, 20 feet is required to be in front of the swing set and 20 feet is required to be in back of the swing set. The proposed cost of the swing set with a five percent discount is \$3,460.50. If approved tonight, the swing set could be delivered to the Town Park by the end of April, and it is easy to assemble. Discussion took place about delivery of the swing set, unloading it from the delivery truck, mulching the playground area, and a price for concrete to anchor the swing set.

Frank Bruno made a motion to allocate \$3,700.00 for the purchase of the swing set based on the invoice from Summit Supply Corporation and a budget amendment for \$2,200.00 to cover it. Joe Thacker seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Update for Upcoming Event at Town Hall – May 2, 2015: Frank Bruno said he made a flyer that advertises Stokesdale Community Day at Town Hall on May 2, 2015. He presented the flyer to Council members and said changes could be made if there were any suggestions. The Community Day event is free. Woodmen of the World will be giving out free hot dogs and water. There will be a table set up for canned-food donations for Good Samaritan Ministries. There will be a book sale set up in the Town Hall and vendors are invited to set up a table outside of Town Hall in the parking lot to sell items. May 9th will be the rain date. Discussion took place about the vendors that may participate, the available parking space for vendors and cars, and advertising in the Northwest Observer.

Frank Bruno made a motion to budget \$250.00 for event supplies for Stokesdale Community Day on May 2nd, with a rain date of May 9th. Mayor Braswell seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Mayor Braswell said that residents concerned about the designation of NC 68 for use by trucks with twin trailers can send their comments to NCDOT Traffic Engineer Lisa Avery at lavery@ncdot.gov or call her at

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919-773-2893. Please reference 'STAA designation D-14-1' in your communication. He asked Carolyn Joyner to read the letter from NCDOT that the Town received, so she read the letter to Council members and those attending the meeting.

Consider Facility Use Agreements:

Stokesdale Community Choir Request for Additional Dates for the Use of Town Hall: Sondra Beene said that a Choir member plans to pay for the Town's piano to be tuned. Mayor Braswell said that was a gracious offer and he accepts it.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to accept the Stokesdale Community Choir's application to use Council Chambers for additional time on Sunday, May 24th (from 3:00pm to 6:30pm) and waive the fees. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion.

Tom McCoy said that the House of Stars will be donating an 8'X12' storage building which is valued at \$1,700.00 for a raffle and the Stokesdale Community Choir will be selling tickets. The money raised will be used to purchase a portable PA system for the Choir. Tickets are one for \$1.00, seven for \$5.00, and 15 for \$10.00. The drawing date will be May 24th after their performance.

All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Stokesdale Youth Football Association Request for Use of Ball Fields: David Homol said he resides at 7805 Charles Place Drive, Kernersville, and serves as President and Co-founder of the Stokesdale Youth Football Association. He thanked the Town of Stokesdale and Stokesdale Town Council for allowing their Youth Football Association to hold their practices on the Town Park's fields this year. He gave an overview of the Stokesdale Youth Football Association about the history of their organization, mission statement, team growth, statistical record, and championships. He presented the Town of Stokesdale with a commemorative plaque. The Stokesdale Youth Football Association greatly appreciates all of the support the Town has given them.

Mayor Braswell spoke about his deep admiration for David Homol and the Stokesdale Youth Football Association.

Discussion took place about the dates, days, times, and fields that will be used by the Stokesdale Youth Football Association in according with the Facility Use Agreement that was submitted. The Stokesdale Youth Football Association will use one field at the Town Park for practices from 8:00am to 10:00am on Saturdays from August 1st to September 5th and from 6:00pm to 8:00pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from August 1st to November 14th.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to approve the application with these dates and waive the fees. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Stokesdale Water System:

Citizens' Comment Period on the Stokesdale Water System: Patrick Sanecki of McCrory Road said he approached the college he works at about water testing in Stokesdale. He was told that the college does

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not have the chemistry equipment to test the water. There is a lab at UNC-Greensboro's advanced chemistry program which he contacted, but they were hesitant about water testing. He suggested that the NC Rural Water Association might be able to offer some options for water testing.

Other Issues Pertaining to the Water System:

Review of Amounts Required for Water Deposits: Carolyn Joyner said that a \$175.00 deposit is required from renters and a \$50.00 deposit is required from new property owners when submitting an application for water. Discussion took place among Council members, Carolyn Joyner, and Mr. Trevorrow about the deposits and whether or not the amounts were sufficient. Mayor Braswell asked Carolyn Joyner to make a list of renters and property owners over the last three years that have defaulted on their water payments in order to see the number of renters versus property owners that default for comparison purposes. It will be discussed at the next water workshop.

Consider Dawn Acres Water Contract: Mayor Braswell made a motion to approve Contract 11-2015 To Extend Waterline by Connection to Town Water Supply System and authorize all signatures required. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Wording to be used on Billing for Separation of Fees: Mayor Braswell said that Counsel has advised the Town not to use the words "accessibility fee" on the water bills and instead use "customer fee". Mayor Braswell read an email from Jeff Hughes at UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government that stated the following: "If they have a connection, even if they do not use water, I think you can call it a customer fee. If they do not have a connection, and instead of requiring them to connect you decide to allow them to pay an availability charge, you can call it an availability charge. If you are not sure of what the background is on the customer, it is probably safer to call it a customer fee."

Mayor Braswell made a motion to split the customer's invoice into two parts. The first part will be described as a "customer fee" which is \$30. 50. The other part will be "water usage" which will be gallons used. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Frank Bruno said that Deputy Scott Casey, who would normally be attending tonight's meeting, sent him a text. Deputy Casey was out investigating several motor vehicle break-ins on Huntington Court, so he was not able to attend the meeting.

Mayor Braswell said the Town received two bid proposals, one from Yates Construction Company and one from Pennington Electric. The Town should also receive a proposal from Mark Helms for the construction of a building down at the vault. The tank and the pump for the chlorinator have been received and Winston-Salem is going to install a register for \$638.60.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to purchase a register from Winston-Salem which will be installed by Winston-Salem and approve Yates Construction Company's proposal for a lump sum total of \$9,000.00 to install the pump, poly tank, trench and pump, drill through the vault and connect to the existing water line, pour a 7'X7' concrete pad which will be like a dike in case something happens to the chlorine tank itself and the chlorine cannot get out of the building, and improve the gravel that is inside the vault area, and also approve Pennington Electric's proposal of \$2,345.00 for the necessary electrical up-fit to operate the pump, light, heater, and a required fan. Energy United will provide the service at

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approximately \$50.00 per month. He also wants to approve an estimate for a 6'X6' custom-built building to sit on the concrete slab, but he will have to get back with Council on that, unless Carolyn Joyner can check her email now to see if she received the proposal.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to recess. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the meeting recessed at 9:02pm.

Mayor Braswell reconvened the meeting at 9:15pm.

Mayor Braswell said that he also wants his motion to include approval of \$2,600.00 for a proposal from Mark Helms, a private contractor, for a custom-built building which will be insulated and have a metal roof.

Mayor Braswell said that he and Bill Jones researched other buildings that were less expensive but were made of low quality materials that could break down and wear out requiring replacement in the near future. It was more cost effective and made better sense to purchase a higher quality building that was a little more expensive and would last a very long time.

In summary, Mayor Braswell made a motion to approve four proposals. One from Winston-Salem for the register, one from Mark Helms for \$2,600.00 for the building, one from Pennington Electric for \$2,345.00, and one from Yates Construction for \$9,000.00. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Committee and Board Reports:

Parade Committee – Financial Report for the 2014 Parade: Vicki White-Lawrence went over the Parade Income and Expenses Report for the 2014 Parade. Parade income totaled \$2,155.00 and Parade expenses totaled \$2,019.61, so the Town made \$135.39 on the Parade which is significant, because it may be the first time the Town ever made money from the Parade. Sponsorships were offered to businesses this year with incentives. If a business sponsored the Parade, the name of the business appeared on Parade posters that were displayed and in Parade ads in the Northwest Observer. A Parade Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24th at 7:00pm in order to discuss the Parade and things they might be able to improve on and how the committee wants to proceed. The Parade Committee will also be looking for a new Chairperson for the 2015 Holiday Parade, because Vicki White-Lawrence plans to step down as Chairperson.

Budget Committee: Set Meeting Date: Council members agreed to schedule the Budget Committee meeting for Wednesday, March 25th at 3:00pm.

Mayor Braswell said that the Property Committee removed the boarder around the sand volleyball courts because it was falling apart and was very dangerous to the players. The Park restrooms made it through the recent deep freeze with no damage. Mayor Braswell wants to poll Council members on the purchase of pine needles for approximately \$2,000.00 for this year. The sand on the sand volleyball courts will need to be worked on in order to remove the rocks from the sand. Bill Jones asked when the sand tining would be done to the fields again. Mayor Braswell said he wants to see what Stokesdale Parks and Recreation wants to do with the fields first.

Departmental and Administrative Report:

Finance Report: February, 2015: Carolyn Joyner said that assets in the General Fund decreased by \$5,576.45 for the month of February. In the General Fund Checking Account Transactions, a Greensboro ABC profit of \$3,202.07 was deposited, Clontz Backflow Service was paid \$170.00 for backflow tests on the Town Hall and Town Park backflow preventers, Guilford County Emergency Services was paid \$112.50 for Fire Code/Fire Investigations for 4th Quarter, and Stokesdale Heating and Air Conditioning was paid \$193.20 to check the heat at Town Hall and reset it. In General Funds Accounts Payable, invoices were received from Guilford County Finance Department for \$12,500.00 for Planning Services. In the General Fund Savings Account, \$35,000.00 was transferred to the General Funds Checking Account to pay bills with. The General Funds Certificates of Deposit Earned Interest Account received CD interest of \$254.92 for February.

Carolyn Joyner said that assets increased by \$1,788.00 in the Water Enterprise Account and assets increased by \$71.00 in the Water-Sewer Fund. In the Water Enterprise Checking Account, Clontz Backflow Services was paid \$300.00 for backflow tests at the master meters and the NC Rural Water Association was paid \$225.00 for annual dues. In Water Enterprise Accounts Payable, invoices were received from Redline Data Systems for \$194.47 for a year's supply of water billing cards, MBD Consulting Engineers for \$577.50 for Charlie McGougin's work on the Northridge subdivision, and Meritech, Inc. for \$2,866.00 for a pump and tank for the chlorinator.

Mayor Braswell asked Carolyn Joyner whether the \$577.50 for Charlie McGougin was for Northridge and Angels Glen. Carolyn Joyner said that it was for Northridge's plan review, inspection, and pre-construction meeting. Mayor Braswell said the Town's fee structure indicates that a developer/contractor should be billed \$250.00, so that is why he thought the invoice was for both Northridge and Angels Glen. He asked Carolyn Joyner to clarify the invoice with MBD Consulting Engineers. Further discussion took place about pre-construction meetings, reviewing plans, inspections, a modified fee structure, and budget amendments.

Mayor Braswell made a motion for a budget amendment of \$2,000.00 in anticipation of additional invoices received from MBD Consulting Engineers, Dawn Acres, and Angels Glen. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Mayor Braswell made a motion for a budget amendment of \$10,000.00 to cover attorney fees for the collection of past dues for the Town's water system. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Mayor Braswell asked Carolyn Joyner to amend the fee structure to show plan review and site inspection. She will look into the matter and make the necessary changes for Town Council to review next month.

Administrative Report – Town Clerk: Carolyn Joyner said she did not have anything at this time.

Mayor Braswell said he is still concerned about the words "customer fee" that will be printed on the water bills and would like to get some further thoughts about that before this month's water bills are printed.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to use whatever words Jeff Hughes and Mr. Trevorrow agree with. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Mayor Braswell asked about positions that are still needed on the Planning Board. Carolyn Joyner said the current members can serve until you appoint someone to fill their seat. Two people that are voting members now that can serve another term and there are two that are supposed to rotate off. Stephen Louie and Stewart Hommel can serve another term.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to reappoint Stephen Louie and Stewart Hommel to the Planning Board to serve a three-year term as voting members. Joe Thacker seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Announcements: Mayor Braswell read the announcements listed on the agenda.

Additional announcements not listed on the agenda are as follows:

Good Samaritan Ministries (GSM) will hold a Thursday service at 7:00pm on April 2nd at Bethel United Methodist Church, 8424 Haw River Road, Oak Ridge.

Good Samaritan Ministries' Annual Cross Walk will begin at 11:30am on Friday, April 3rd, at Stokesdale United Methodist Church, 8607 Stokesdale Street.

Good Friday Service will be held at 7:00pm on Friday, April 3rd, at Flat Rock United Methodist Church, 6720 US 158 in Stokesdale.

An Easter Sunrise Service will be held at 6:00am on the east campus grounds of Oak Springs Missionary Baptist Church on US 158 East in Stokesdale.

Comments from Council: Mayor Braswell said he was glad Joe Thacker was feeling better.

Adjournment: Mayor Braswell made a motion to adjourn. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the Regular Council Meeting adjourned at 10:29pm



Diana Marcus, Deputy Clerk

Approved:



D. Randall Braswell, Mayor