

TOWN OF STOKESDALE

Regular Council Meeting

8325 Angel Pardue Road
Stokesdale, NC 27357
February 12, 2015

The regular meeting of the Stokesdale Town Council was held on Thursday, February 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; Deputy Scott Casey, Guilford County Sheriff's Department; Chief Todd Gauldin, Stokesdale Fire Department; Deputy Chief Randy Southard, Stokesdale Fire Department.

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

Invocation: Given by Deputy Chief Randy Southard.

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

Review and Adopt Agenda: Frank Bruno said that he wanted to add the NC League of Municipalities to the agenda under Committee and Board Reports. Mayor Braswell said to add Bill Jones' letter to the agenda under Unfinished Business before the Mountains-to-Sea Trail Update.

Frank Bruno made a motion to adopt the agenda with those changes. 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 April 4, 2014, Regular Council Meeting of April 10, 2014, Workshops of April 11, 2014 and April 22, 2014, Special Meeting of May 5, 2014, and Regular Council Meeting of May 8, 2014: Vicki White-Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the minutes were approved.

Comments from the Floor: No comments were made from the floor.

New Business:

Report from Guilford County Sheriff's Department: Deputy Scott Casey said that from the last meeting until today, there were ten reports from the calls that were received two of which were Part One Crimes. One is inactive where a cross-bow was taken from a bedroom and tools were taken from an unlocked vehicle in the second one. Mayor Braswell and Joe Thacker said that there are speeders on their streets. Deputy Casey said that the radar trailer is set up on Daltonshire Drive right now and there is a request to put it on Haw River Road. Mayor Braswell and Deputy Casey agreed that the best thing to

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do would be to lock your vehicle when you are not in it.

Consider Participation in Purchase, Installation, and Training for Semi-Automated Heart Defibrillators for Use at Town Hall and/or Park: Deputy Chief Randy Southard of the Stokesdale Fire Department said that he and Todd Gauldin happen to think that a lot of the public access places in Town, mainly churches and Town Hall, have not been given the opportunity to take a look at semi-automated heart defibrillators. The Stokesdale Fire Department has seen them work and there have been lots of studies done on them. The Stokesdale Fire Department sent a letter about semi-automated heart defibrillators to all of the churches in the Town and to Town Council. If Council members are interested, he could see if a bulk purchase could be made along with training. It is important because a semi-automated heart defibrillator could save a life. The heart defibrillator gives voice commands and will tell the person that turned it on what to do, such as where to put the pads, when to turn the pads on, when to start CPR, and when to stop CPR. Mayor Braswell asked if the heart defibrillator can also give voice commands in Spanish. Deputy Chief Southard said not yet, but that may happen in the future. Mayor Braswell asked if there were any heart defibrillators mounted in parks. Deputy Chief Southard said that he has seen several heart defibrillators in a park in Greensboro and Catawba College has them. The heart defibrillators are user friendly due to the voice commands and a lot of places have them. Vicki White-Lawrence said that a lot of middle schools and high schools have heart defibrillators too. Deputy Chief Southard said that Stokesdale Elementary does not have one and a lot of businesses in Stokesdale do not have one. Mayor Braswell was concerned about children using it as a toy. Deputy Chief Southard said that was possible unless you put a lock on it, but that defeats the purpose of having one available to the public. The heart defibrillator will not emit a shock unless it detects a rhythm irregularity. He does not think a prank would occur but he cannot say it would never happen.

Mayor Braswell said that Stokesdale Parks and Recreation had a heart defibrillator several years ago and would bring it to the soccer fields when they practiced and had games. He asked how much a heart defibrillator would cost. Deputy Chief Southard said it would cost approximately \$1,200.00, but that might change if it was a bulk purchase. Mayor Braswell asked what kind of training would be available. Deputy Chief Southard said that the Stokesdale Fire Department would be willing to have a training class at the Fire Station to show everyone how it works and answer any questions. Mayor Braswell asked Deputy Chief Southard to let him know what kind of response he receives from the places he sent the letter to. Carolyn Joyner said that the Stokesdale Fire Department would like a response by March 6th so they would know how many to consider purchasing.

Mayor Braswell asked Mr. Trevorrow what the liability was for hanging a semi-automated heart defibrillator in the Town Park. Mr. Trevorrow said that the benefits of having a heart defibrillator available to the public in the Town Park outweigh the risks of having one there. Deputy Chief Southard said that Mayor Braswell can personally purchase a heart defibrillator from any place that sells them so Council is not restricted in any way. It is safe enough to sell to the public. Mr. Trevorrow asked if there was an emergency symbol located on the heart defibrillator so the public knew what it was for. Deputy Chief Southard said that a heart symbol is located on the heart defibrillator but he is not sure if teenagers would know what it was for. Mr. Trevorrow asked if a medical emergency label could be put onto the heart defibrillator. Deputy Chief Southard said he was not sure but suggested that a label could be put on a mounted box that held the heart defibrillator. Nancy McCoy, a resident of the Springdale subdivision in Stokesdale said she questions negligence if a heart defibrillator is not available on the athletic fields. Mayor Braswell suggested that a heart defibrillator could be mounted in the Park's concession stand. Ms. McCoy said that there was a heart defibrillator available in every building of the

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school she taught at in New York before she retired. Deputy Scott Casey said that the supervisors at the Guilford County Sheriff's Department have heart defibrillators and he sees them everywhere. His biggest issue would be theft, but fire extinguishers are usually never messed with. A heart defibrillator could also be mounted in one of the Park restrooms.

Consider Renewal of Deer Urban Archery Season for 2016: Frank Bruno made a motion to renew the Deer Urban Archery Season for next year, 2016. Bill Jones seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

NC League of Municipalities 2015 Town Hall Day: Wednesday, March 18: Mayor Braswell said that he will be attending the NC League of Municipalities 2015 Town Hall Day in Raleigh. Frank Bruno said that there will be meetings set up for the guests to meet with State Legislators.

Frank Bruno made a motion that for any members of Council that want to register, the Town will reimburse the \$50.00 registration fee. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Unfinished Business:

Mayor Braswell said that in the last Town Hall meeting, Council authorized Bill Jones to write a letter to state legislators. Bill Jones said that he has written a letter asking the state legislators to consider an amendment or change to the general statute so Town Council can, by a majority vote, request the county commissioners to put it on the ballot for the November 2015 election. He thinks it would be better to let the citizens vote to increase the fire cap from 10 cents to 15 cents which would finance the Stokesdale Fire District for the next several years. The Stokesdale Fire District is currently maxed out with the cap of 10 cents. He will need to revise his letter to change something that is incorrect. Mr. Trevorrow wanted to know if Bill Jones' intent of his request is to give an option to the 35 percent petition. Bill Jones said yes. Mr. Trevorrow said that he is asking for a more direct approach from the county commissioners without a petition. Bill Jones said that was correct. Mayor Braswell said there is a need throughout the state for this change.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to send the letter by certified mail to the state legislators and county commissioners as quickly as possible. Bill Jones seconded the motion.

Frank Bruno asked if there was a plan to contact Rockingham County about the change from 10 cents to 15 cents. Bill Jones said that Rockingham County would not be able to vote on the change this year, but would have to go the same route at some point to get their cap increased.

Joe Thacker said that he had some issues he needed clarified from the Stokesdale Fire Department. He does not want to do anything that would hurt the Stokesdale Fire District. He is not sure at this time if this would help them or not. He needs more time to find out what the effect would be on the Fire Department. Randy Braswell asked Joe Thacker why he thinks that this route might hurt Station 12. Joe Thacker said that the information he received the other day was that it would hurt the way the Fire District set up their budget. He is not sure if he understands why this needs to be done. He knows that time is critical but he would like more time to find out what effect this would have on the Fire Department.

Vicki White-Lawrence said that she agrees with Joe Thacker. She thought that when Council decided to authorize the letter, the Fire Department and the Town were working together and it is not that way right now. She would feel better if it was a more collaborative effort.

Bill Jones said that Council has already had lengthy discussions about this issue. We could talk all day but he does not think they would get to the point where they all agree. It is just a difference in philosophy he thinks. It is not necessary for all of Council to sign the letter and send it. Time is critical because if they do not get it on the ballot for 2015, they would have to wait until 2017. The Fire Department is maxed out. All he is requesting is that the legislature would consider changing the language so that a majority vote of the Stokesdale Town Council would be enough to put it before the county commissioners so they can decide if they want to put it on the ballot for 2015.

Mayor Braswell said that he agrees with Vicki White-Lawrence with the collaboration. Town Council represents the Fire Department and he would like to send a very strong signal to the community that everyone is on the same page. To him increasing the cap by a nickel is the best way to fund the Fire Department. He feels that trying to get 35 percent of the residents to sign a petition is a very cumbersome and labor intensive process in order to get the funding. It is being done in other communities so if the legislators can get this on the ballot, residents would have the opportunity to vote for the increase which the Fire Department needs. He does not understand how a nickel increase would hurt the Fire Department. Joe Thacker said he would just like more time to investigate further and get more information. Randy Braswell said that after two years of talking about this, there does still seem to be some confusion. However, the Fire Department needs funds and will need it sometime in the near future.

Vicki White-Lawrence said that right now the Fire District is at the 10 cent cap and if the Fire District needed to increase the cap to 15 cents, she wanted to know what their process would be at this point. Deputy Chief Southard said that the Fire District would have to go with the vote or the Town would have to sign a resolution accepting the Fire Service District Overlay that was put in place by the Guilford County Commissioners for every fire district in Guilford County. Deputy Chief Southern said that the Fire District 10 cents cap was set in 1954 and the Fire District just reached the cap in 2013, so it took 60 years to cap out.

Mayor Braswell said that he is totally against going around the voters. If the voters do not get to vote on how to spend their money, then this whole system is really fouled up. He is confident that the voters would vote to increase the cap from 10 cents to 15 cents. Discussion continued about the tax increase, getting it on the ballot, the Fire Service District Overlay, the people that can make this request, how the Stokesdale Fire Department was initially set up, Stokesdale's recent increased growth, the Fire District's budget process, and the many reasons the cap needs to be increased to 15 cents.

Council members Mayor Braswell, Frank Bruno, and Bill Jones voted aye. Vicki White-Lawrence and Joe Thacker voted nay. The motion was approved based on Council's 3-2 vote.

Mayor Braswell said that the Fire Department has their Board Meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00pm, and it is open to the public.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to take a 5-minute recess. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the meeting recessed at 8:32pm.

The Town Council Meeting reconvened at 8:43pm.

Mountains-to-Sea Trail Update – Frank Bruno: Frank Bruno said he attended the Mountains-to-Sea Trail Annual Conference on Saturday. Michael Murphy who is the Director of the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation spoke at the meeting. The Mountains-to-Sea Trail is part of the North Carolina State Park System and 620 miles of the 1100 plus miles is now complete and more will be completed by the end of the year. Next year in 2016 is the North Carolina State Park Centennial. To celebrate the Centennial, there are events planned in all of the NC State Parks including some of the trail towns that are on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail. Five regional meetings will be held this spring in order make plans. The Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail does most of the work on the trail and maintains over 530 miles of it with volunteers. Most of the maintenance on the trail is done by volunteers that live in the towns along the trail. A very small amount of the trail is paved or gravel. Most of the trails are dirt trails through the woods with very little maintenance necessary. He is looking to see what value the Mountains-to-Sea Trail would bring to the citizens of Stokesdale. Elkin, NC is a small town similar to Stokesdale and has an amazing trail system and a huge amount of volunteers that participate. Elkin has “trail days” where approximately 200 volunteers show up from all over the state to perform trail maintenance. Elkin uses the Mountains-to-Sea Trail as a draw for town events in order to encourage people to come to Elkin and spend money. Discussed at the meeting were the economic impact, tourist impact, transportation impact, and health impact that the trail brings to a community. He thinks that there would be approximately seven and a half miles of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail through Stokesdale. Over the next month, he plans to see how many volunteers he can put together to start a Mountains-to-Sea Trail Committee. The Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail will come to Stokesdale and help the residents plan the route through Stokesdale. The Mountains-to-Sea Trail website is at ncmountaintosea.org. On the website is a map of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail and the proposed trail route through Stokesdale. The route through Stokesdale can be changed in order to accommodate anyone that does not want the trail on their property. The map of the trail will also include landmarks, restaurants, and facilities that are along the trail. He will have more information at the next Town Hall meeting.

Consider Stokesdale Community Choir Facility Use Agreement for Additional Dates for the Use of Town Hall: Frank Bruno made a motion to approve the additional dates for the Stokesdale Community Choir to use Town Hall and also waive the fees. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion.

Mayor Braswell confirmed with Carolyn Joyner that all of the people in the Stokesdale Community Choir have been signing the release forms.

All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Guilford County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: Carolyn Joyner and Council reviewed the meeting schedule and information provided. No action was necessary from Council.

Planning for Stokesdale Community Day at Town Hall – May 2, 2015: Frank Bruno said he is asking for permission to have a Community Day at Town Hall on May 2nd, and will take the lead on this event. He plans to get some volunteers to help and will set up a committee meeting for it. He plans for people to set up tables to sell crafts and gifts. The library will be open and a book sale will be set up in the Town Hall lobby. Woodmen of the World will give out free hot dogs. If it rains on Saturday, May 2nd, then Saturday, May 9th will be the rain date for Community Day. He also plans to put a table out for Good

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Samaritan Ministries of Stokesdale to collect canned food donations.

Frank Bruno made a motion to reserve the Town Hall for May 2nd with a rain date of May 9th to do a Stokesdale Community Day. Mayor Braswell seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Stokesdale Water System: Mayor Braswell said that the water rate increase will take effect on the March billing. Water will cost citizens \$5.30 for one thousand gallons of water. Carolyn Joyner confirmed that the customer fee of \$30.50 will be separated from the water on the invoice in March.

Citizens' Comment Period on the Stokesdale Water System: No comments were made by the citizens attending tonight's meeting.

Other Issues Pertaining to the Water System: Discussion took place among Council members and Carolyn Joyner about the information that was received about taking credit card, debit card, and check payments over the telephone, in person at Town Hall, and on the internet from the Town's water system customers. There would be fees involved for using this service which the Town would need to pass onto the customers who utilize this payment method.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to authorize the Finance Officer to proceed with setting up credit card payments and any other payment options that go along with this and the notification of a four percent administration fee to process it, on a trial basis for six months. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Mayor Braswell said that there are a lot of commercial meters in Stokesdale that should be converted to electronic read instead of switching them out because the meters are very expensive. A Special Meeting of Council will be held on Friday, February 20th at 2:30pm to discuss comparisons and whether the Town should replace the meters or convert the meters.

Mayor Braswell said that he is not comfortable with some of the construction projects in new housing developments. He was at the Marshall Woods subdivision checking on a leak on one side of the road and found that the homeowners had filled in the side ditch. He thinks that would be a Department of Transportation (DOT) issue. The homeowner across the road who is building a house on the corner put a concrete culvert driveway pipe on top of the Town's water service line. If there is ever a problem with that water service line, the Town of Stokesdale is going to have to dig up the homeowner's driveway in order to get to the line. He is not really sure what to do. He spoke to Gene Robertson, Charlie McGougan, and Carolyn Joyner about the situation. We need a trigger point so Town Hall knows that there is construction going on. There is nothing to alert Mr. Robertson or Mr. McGougan to catch a driveway culvert going over a service line. Council needs to look at Ordinance 54 and the Town's specifications. If someone goes to the Guilford County Planning Department to get a permit to build a house like the builder in Marshall Woods, no one at Town Hall knows about it until someone calls Town Hall about a water leak. If the Guilford County Planning Department could send Stokesdale Town Hall an email alerting Carolyn Joyner that a building permit was requested, and if the address is within the Town's water system infrastructure, the Town can send someone to look at it. Someone needs to go to Marshall Woods and advise the homeowner that the culvert pipe needs to be moved or he would have to pay the Town of Stokesdale to relocate the meter box. He asked Carolyn Joyner to call Les Eger at Guilford County Planning and see if there is a way to notify Town Hall that a permit has been issued in

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Stokesdale. Then the Town Hall can confirm that the builder is aware of what he can and cannot do in accordance with Ordinance 54. Stokesdale does not have a Town Manager that could ride around to check on these things.

Paperwork for Providing Parameters for Connecting to the Town's Water System:

Consider Dawn Acres Water Plans: Council members and Carolyn Joyner reviewed the paperwork and discussed corrections that were made on the Application for Approval of Engineering Plans and Specifications for Water Supply Systems and the Three Party Right of Way Encroachment Agreement on Primary and Secondary System. Carolyn Joyner said that if this is approved tonight, Charlie McGougan will be provided with copies of the documents.

Frank Bruno made a motion to approve the Application for Approval of Engineering Plans and Specifications for Water Supply Systems and the Encroachment Agreement for the Dawn Acres subdivision and authorize the Mayor to sign them. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Mayor Braswell said that Gene Robertson of Yates Construction has reviewed the plans for the Angels Glen, Northridge, and Dawn Acres subdivisions and the Town needs to compensate Yates Construction for this service. He asked Mr. Robertson to have Bob Yates send the Town an estimate for their services. Mr. Robertson is also full of great information that needs to be added to the Town's specification sheets and he wants to have him attend an upcoming workshop. Carolyn Joyner said that in the past, Gene Robertson and Hiram Marziano went over the specifications and both of them made changes after the review. Part of Mr. Robertson's concern is that even though it may be in the Town's specifications, does anybody really go and look, for example, at the tracer wires that are supposed to be put on top of the pipe and make sure it was done. When it is actually put in the ground is anybody checking these things off on the specification sheets. Randy Braswell said that this was discussed in pre-construction meetings for the subdivisions that were held. When Mr. McGougan went for the final pressure test he sent one of his associate engineers to look at all of these check points along the way as things were completed, and Carolyn Joyner should be receiving an invoice for this service. However, he still does not understand how the culvert pipe covering the Town's water line was overlooked, because that can cost the Town \$6,000.00 for a \$200.00 repair. Discussion took place about meter boxes that were found under water in the ditch line in an area under construction and the Town's insistence that those meter boxes be relocated.

Mayor Braswell said he wanted to reference the Town's policy on collecting the past due water bills.

Mayor Braswell made a motion that the Town water fees collection policy for unpaid and uncollected water usage fees and water service availability fees be modified and clarified to authorize and include the use of legal process of obtaining a Writ of Execution of contract collection attorney, and after such attorney has obtained a Court Order or Judgment in reference to the collection of above stated water usage fees and water service availability fees. It is understood and agreed that by a Writ of Execution my real and personal property may be seized and sold.

Mayor Braswell asked Mr. Trevorrow to explain his motion. Mr. Trevorrow said that will appear in any judgment or order that will be granted by the court and signed by the property owner indicating that the property owner fully understands that if he is proceeding through a collection process that involves

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the court, a Writ of Execution could be issued if he did not honor the court Judgment. The property owner would realize by signing and accepting that judgment, a Writ of Execution could seize his property for personal and/or real property. This is just to clarify that the Town is serious about collecting these fees and the Town in its efforts to collect the outstanding and uncollected water fees will use whatever lawful means they have available to collect these fees which includes sending the Sheriff out to seize their property, if that is what it takes to collect these fees. The policy that the Town has been operating under includes that motion and is in Attorney Brian Walker's contract. The Town just wants to clarify that the policy itself allows this practice to go forward. It is a serious matter and the users of the water system and those who pay an availability fee need to understand that if they do not comply, their property could be seized. Attorney Walker wants to be sure that he is fully supported by Town Council in his collection efforts when he starts seizing property, if it becomes necessary.

Frank Bruno seconded the motion.

Bill Jones said that Town Council is required by law to collect all monies owed to the Town of Stokesdale. Mr. Trevorrow said that the Town is authorized to use whatever legal means that is available to collect the outstanding fees. Writ of Execution is just a part of collection efforts. It does not happen unless there have been court proceedings and a Judgment issued which has been ignored or followed in part and then stopped.

All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Committee and Board Reports:

Library Committee Update – Frank Bruno: Frank Bruno said that he received the supplies to finish printing the library cards so they can be picked up. He acknowledged that Tom and Nancy McCoy worked hard to organize the library and he appreciates their help.

Town Park Update: Frank Bruno said he spent last weekend walking around the Town Park looking at things that need to be done. There is a nice walking track and nice soccer fields but that is about it. A lot of children keep asking when swings will be added to the playground. He found the original proposal that was put together and also includes engineer drawings, but the estimate is three years old. He thinks that Council needs to seriously think about the playground. The playground needs mulch now, areas that flood need to be fixed, and a bench or two needs to be added. He is bringing this to Council now for consideration. There is also a serious sand problem on the sand volleyball courts. He has been trying to get in touch with Glenn Cashion so he can get him to come out to help figure out what needs to be done. There are rocks in the existing sand and he is not sure if more sand is laid on top it would make the rocks sink to the bottom. If the rocks need to be sifted out of the sand, Mr. Cashion said he had a lot of volunteers that would help. The sand needs to be worked on and the border around the sand volleyball courts is coming apart in a lot of places and has become a hazard. He looked at the sand volleyball courts at Greensboro College and none have any type of border around them. He thinks removing the border from the Park's sand volleyball courts would make it safer for the players. He would like to get these things done before sand volleyball starts in June. The swings are something that Council needs to think about and come up with a plan on how to proceed. He will get updated prices on the swings. Discussion took place among Council members about the mulch that needs to be purchased

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and put down on the playground, the swings and where they should install them on the playground, insurance and liability issues, enlarging the playground space to accommodate the swings, and maybe putting a fence around the playground.

Budget Committee Meetings: After some discussion among Council about when to meet, a Budget Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 3rd at 4:00pm to discuss the 2015-2016 Budget.

Consider a Planning Board Application: Vicki White-Lawrence made a motion to appoint James Greene to the Planning Board as an Alternate. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Mayor Braswell said that Mr. Greene, Alan Hart from the United States Department of Agriculture, and Council members met yesterday to discuss loans and grants for the Stokesdale Water system. Mr. Greene arranged the meeting and he really appreciates that Mr. Greene took the initiative to make that happen.

Frank Bruno said that he is on the Tax and Finance Committee with the NC League of Municipalities and he attended a meeting this morning at 8:30am. Dr. Barry Boardman, Chief Economist of the Fiscal Research Division of the NC General Assembly presented an update of the state's general fund and projected a \$271 million dollar shortfall. The Senate is getting ready to approve a 35 cent cap freeze on gas tax for the state of North Carolina for January 1, 2016.

Departmental and Administrative Report:

Finance Report: January, 2015: Carolyn Joyner said that assets decreased in the General Fund by \$19,789.41 from December. General Fund Checking Account Transactions include \$9,800.00 paid to Cannon & Company LLP for the 2014 audit, Guilford County was paid an administrative fee of \$60.00 for the police officers that worked the Parade, and Guilford County Finance Department was paid \$3,040.00 for Animal Control for 4th Quarter. There are a couple of other Parade expenses, but she hopes to have a Parade report by next month. Invoices were received in General Fund Accounts Payable from JaniKing of the Triad for \$711.20, Office Depot, and for 2 Dogipot Dispensers for the Park. In the General Fund Savings Account, there was a deposit of \$2,165.65 from Time Warner Cable for cable fees. In the General Fund Certificates of Deposit, CD #49 was renewed and earned \$385.37 in the previous year. Interest rates are still terrible.

Assets increased in the Water Enterprise Account by \$1,892.99 and assets increased by \$79.46 in the Water-Sewer Fund. In the Water Enterprise Checking Account, Cannon & Company LLP was paid \$3,000.00 for the Water Enterprise audit, ads were purchased for \$197.10 that ran in the Northwest Observer to advertise the water rate meetings, and \$200.00 was received from Blue Ridge Mowing for the damaged fire hydrant on Lester Road thanks to Joe Thacker who pursued the matter. In the Water Enterprise Accounts Payable, invoices were received from Yates Construction Company and Meritech Inc. for routine services and an invoice was received from BB&T for \$17.64 for water maps.

Mayor Braswell said that he thinks the Town of Stokesdale should receive an invoice from the Stokesdale Water Enterprise System. He thinks that a couple of years ago a motion had been made to start reading the meter at Town Hall.

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Mayor Braswell made a motion to set up an account with the Water Enterprise System immediately, so the Town of Stokesdale receives a monthly invoice for the water used at the Town Hall and Town Park and also go back and pay for all of the water that was ever used since Town Hall was connected to the water system. Bill Jones seconded the motion.

Mayor Braswell said that there are approximately 400 customers on the water system and it is not fair for those customers to pay the bill for the water used at the Town Hall and Park. He does not feel right about increasing the water rates without the Town paying for the water used at the Town Hall and Park. Carolyn Joyner said that budget amendments will need to be done in order to pay the water bill out of the General Fund. If the Town goes back and bills from the start, the water bill would be a very large amount, so a budget amendment will be necessary.

All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Mayor Braswell made a motion for a budget amendment of \$1,000.00, which will cover the accessibility fees for six months. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Administrative Report – Town Clerk: Carolyn Joyner said she wanted to remind everyone that there is a 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan that is available on the Greensboro Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) website and an Emergency Mitigation Plan that is also available. There are links to both of these on the Town's website and there are surveys for citizens to complete for both of these plans. The 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan also includes the US Highway 158 project.

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

Comments from Council: Frank Bruno said that the Piedmont Triad Regional Council meeting will be held Wednesday, February 18th in Kernersville at 12:00pm noon. Mayor Braswell thanked Bill Jones for fixing the Town Hall's ice maker and appreciates all the hard work he did on the letter to the Legislators regarding raising the Fire District's tax cap.

Adjournment: Vicki White-Lawrence made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Braswell seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the meeting adjourned at 10:25pm.


Diana Marcus, Deputy Clerk

Approved:


D. Randall Braswell, Mayor