

**TOWN OF STOKESDALE**  
**Regular Town Council Meeting**

8325 Angel Pardue Road

Stokesdale, NC 27357

**June 9, 2016**

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Stokesdale Town Council was held on Thursday, June 9, 2016, at the Stokesdale Town Hall on 8325 Angel Pardue Road in Stokesdale, North Carolina.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Mayor Randy Braswell, Mayor Pro Tem William N. (Bill) Jones, Frank Bruno, Vicki White-Lawrence, Tim Jones.

**OTHERS PRESENT INCLUDED:** Senator Phil Berger, Town Attorney (Replaced Katy Gregg who was out on maternity leave); Kim Hemric, Town Clerk; Diana Marcus, Deputy Clerk; Philip Pulliam, Finance Officer; Oliver Bass, Guilford County Planning Department; Deputy Scott Casey, Guilford County Sheriff's Department.

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

**INVOCATION:** Given by Thearon Hooks.

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

**REVIEW AND ADOPT AGENDA:** Mayor Braswell switched the two Public Hearings under New Business. He placed the rezoning case before the budget report.

Frank Bruno made a motion to adopt the agenda with that one change. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE FOLLOWING: December 10, 2015 Regular Town Council Meeting; March 10, 2016 Regular Town Council Meeting; May 2, 2016 Budget Workshop; May 12, 2016 Regular Town Council Meeting:** Tim Jones requested to hold the December 10, 2015 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes. Frank Bruno said that he would like to hold the March 10, 2016 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to approve the May 2, 2016 Budget Workshop and the May 12, 2016 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes. Tim Jones seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:** There were no comments from the floor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Finance Report – May, 2016:** Philip Pulliam provided the General Fund, Water Enterprise, and Water-Sewer financial reports for May, 2016. (Please refer to the financial reports for details).

**Report from Guilford County Sheriff's Department:** Deputy Scott Casey said that from the last meeting until this one, the calls responded to in Stokesdale generated eight reports and three of them were Part One crimes. There was a theft of construction materials at 8013 Manakel Drive. There was a motor vehicle theft at the Bi-Rite parking lot on US Highway 158. There was a B & E (Breaking and Entering) at 9029 Ellisboro Road where guns and tools were taken. Other than that, it has been pretty quiet.

**PUBLIC HEARING: REZONING CASE #16-04-STPL-01707 (REVISED): A request to change zoning from LO to GO-M. It is a continuance of a public hearing on the original request to rezone from LO to HB. Property is located at 7823 US Highway 158 (Guilford County Tax Parcel #0164064) in Stokesdale, NC; totaling approximately 1.53 acres. (Applicant: XYZ Enterprises, LLC):** Oliver Bass said that this is a case to rezone property located at 7823 US Highway 158 in Oak Ridge Township. The request is to rezone from LO to GO-M (Light Office to General Office-Moderate Intensity). He certified that Staff had provided all notices that are required by the Stokesdale Development Ordinance. In reviewing the case, Staff and the Stokesdale Planning Board found that the proposed zoning is consistent with the Stokesdale Future Land Use Plan which recommends office space and light manufacturing. The approval of this request will allow moderate intensity office use and moderate density residential development which is compatible with the adjacent property and the property along a major thoroughfare which US Highway 158 is classified as in the Stokesdale Collective Street Plan. The Stokesdale Planning Board recommends that Town Council approve this request based on that it is consistent with the Land Use Plan and that it is compatible with the general development along the US Highway 158 area.

Mayor Braswell opened the Public Hearing and asked the applicant to come forward to speak.

Mindy Wesely said she owns Stokesdale Veterinary Hospital at 8208 US Highway 158 in Stokesdale. She is requesting the rezoning of this property for a proposed doggie day-care and boarding facility that also includes training. She is hoping to help the citizens of Stokesdale with training issues in order to have less turnover to animal shelters. There will also be a veterinarian on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week which will be herself. However, the daycare will transport the animals to another veterinarian the owner may work with.

Tim Jones asked if these animals would only be outside during business hours so neighbors do not complain about barking at all hours of the night. Dr. Wesely said that no dogs will be kenneled outside and will be in an environmentally controlled place. The neighbor across the street from the property requested a privacy fence be installed so that the neighbor's dog does not see the dogs at the daycare and try to cross the busy highway. Therefore, they plan to install a privacy fence so that the dogs will not be seen outside in order to resolve that problem.

No one else came forward to speak in favor or against the rezoning request.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Bill Jones made a motion to approve the rezoning request based on it is consistent with the Stokesdale Future Land Use Plan, the business uses are generally compatible with the property located along US Highway 158 which is a main thoroughfare, and it would be a business addition to that area in Stokesdale. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.



**PUBLIC HEARING: Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget and Adoption of Budget Ordinance #102:** Mayor Braswell opened the Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget and Budget Ordinance #102.

Alice Hoffman, 7559 Haw Meadows Drive, said she is a resident of Stokesdale and a mother of two children that attend Stokesdale Elementary School. She is representing the community and the school this evening. She is here to ask not to cut the Deputy's position from the budget. She feels that the community's sense of security will go down and will affect the response times in our area. She and the children playing outside feel safer seeing the patrol car in the neighborhood. Her family chose to move to Stokesdale five years ago due to the low crime and great schools. She and the people that signed a petition started about a week ago are concerned about what eliminating this position could do to her community. Close to 300 signatures on the petition have been received in just one week. She read a letter written by Meredith Chandler, Principal of the Stokesdale Elementary School and provided a stack of letters written by over 480 students of Stokesdale Elementary School. The student's letters were all written about how Deputy Scott Casey makes them feel safe by coming to their school often. The Principal's letter requests that the Stokesdale Town Council reconsider eliminating funds that have been used to secure the sheriff position. Ms. Hoffman also provided a copy of a survey that was done in 2004, which indicated that 75 percent of those surveyed said that they would like the deputy service continued. She suggested that budget reserves or implementing a property tax could be ways to continue the deputy service in Stokesdale. Please reconsider taking the deputy service out of the budget.

William Gibson, 8705 MG Trail, said he is a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Stokesdale Elementary and Student Council President. He read a speech in support of Deputy Casey and spoke about the reasons why Deputy Casey's presence at the school makes him and the students feel safe. He hopes that Town Council thinks about keeping the deputy in their town.

Mary Maness, 8405 Tree Court, said she thinks that the Town should keep Deputy Casey. She spoke about feeling safer with him patrolling through Stokesdale.

Joe Thacker, 7936 Lester Road, said he is a former Town Council Member. He said that Deputy Casey gives people, especially older people, a sense of security and spoke in support of keeping Deputy Casey. He also spoke about the water budget and spending \$45,000.00 for the purchase of electronic read meters. Other issues were also mentioned about the water system and a Town Administrator salary that pertain to the budget.

Mayor Braswell said that there have been over 50 Water Workshops since he has been on Town Council. Vendors and the public were invited to attend the workshops where issues about the water system were studied. The electronic read meters are a method being used to resolve the dangers associated with the current way the meters are read. The Stokesdale Water System is growing and improvements need to be made. He recommends input from the residents of Stokesdale regarding the water system by attending the water workshops that take place.

Bill Jones said to google the starting salaries of Town Administrators which shows \$40,000.00 to \$70,000.00 to hire one.

Karen McLaughlin, 7829 Charles Place Drive, said she is the parent of two children at Stokesdale Elementary. She wants Town Council to think about what price they would pay if something happened to a child because we did not have a sheriff. The price of a child is priceless.

Angel Fuller, 8114 McCrory Road, said she is a Stokesdale resident and the business owner of Kings Crossing Animal Hospital in Stokesdale. She is also the parent of a student at Stokesdale Elementary School. Her family decided to move to Stokesdale because it was a rural and beautiful community with beautiful people. She spoke in support of keeping the sheriff. Her son feels safe having Deputy Casey visit the school often and she feels safe seeing Deputy Casey patrol through the shopping center where her business is located and feels that his presence is a deterrent to crime. She is asking Town Council to reconsider taking the deputy out of the budget because he is invaluable.

Nancy McCoy, 8516 Springburch Terrace, said she just wanted to bring up one point. We are talking about a police officer who is a presence in our community for the protection of our community and it seems like you are talking about spending a huge amount of money for someone who drives a car in and out of people's driveways. Maybe we should take some of that concern and put it on our own community. I'm sure it can be worked out that we give security to everybody, but let's think of the kids and let's think of Stokesdale, please.

Mary Maness, 8405 Tree Court, said you have to have a Town Administrator that you said costs a fortune, but does the Town need a full time Town Administrator or can they be part time? Bill Jones said that Town Council does everything in the community to save money. He has been working with the County Commissioners for six months to get some of the Town's sales and use tax distribution back and that hasn't happened yet. Ideally, in a perfect world, the Town would have the money to do both (have the deputy sheriff and a Town Administrator). Oak Ridge and Summerfield have never paid for auxiliary police protection. He does not know how you can ask people to pay extra when you already have police service. He feels confident enough that it is better (things have calmed down in Stokesdale). Ms. Maness asked if the Town Administrator can work 15 hours a week and then we can still keep the deputy sheriff. The safety issue really worries her.

Alice Hoffman, 7559 Haw Meadows Drive, asked what happens now? Mayor Braswell said that if no one else wants to speak he wants to make a motion to close the Public Hearing. He withdrew his motion when someone approached to speak.

Tom McCoy, 8516 Springburch Terrace, said if it is going to cost \$125,000.00 or \$150,000.00 for a Town Administrator, and the Town does not have the income, then the Town just can't afford a Town Administrator. You don't cut back on safety and that is what Deputy Casey does and is the reason he moved to Stokesdale.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Tim Jones seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Mayor Braswell spoke about the hard decisions that Town Council has to make and the hard work and many hours Town Council puts in each week in order to get the things Stokesdale needs. He asked the citizens to call the Guilford County Commissioners in support of getting the sales and use tax back for Stokesdale.

Bill Jones spoke about the work he has been doing to try getting the sales and use tax back for Stokesdale. He spoke about the costs involved with running the Town and how getting back the sales and use tax money would help Stokesdale.



Tim Jones thanked Deputy Casey for his service in Stokesdale and spoke in support of the Guilford County Sheriff's Department. Stokesdale was a different place at one time that benefited from having a deputy regularly patrol through the Town. However, the Guilford County Sheriff's Department provides satisfactory service and response times to ensure that Stokesdale is safe and no longer needs to pay for a deputy. The money is now needed for other things in Stokesdale and he is opposed to a property tax and hopes to get the sales and use tax money back.

Frank Bruno said that there is no way that Town Council would do this if it impacted the safety of Stokesdale. He feels that the Guilford County Sheriff's Department provides the same coverage and the safety is the same without having to pay Deputy Casey out of the budget.

Vicki White-Lawrence said that her problem with this is the process, because Town Council did not let the citizens know that eliminating Deputy Casey's position in the budget was a consideration. Asking for input from the Town's residents should have been requested and she is not going to vote for the budget because she does not think that Town Council allowed that.

Bill Jones said that two and a half years ago he sent a questionnaire around Town that Vicki White-Lawrence said was not asked today. He was told that was not the way to do it and if you want to cancel the contract, cancel it, but don't ask for a tax. So he did attempt to get input from the community.

Vicki White-Lawrence said that she feels that issues about having a deputy were talked about, but to her knowledge, they did not go to the sheriff or anybody on his staff and ask if there was anything that could be done. She knows that in the past it has been done, but not in the recent past.

Mayor Braswell said that he is not willing to go public with his safety plan for the Town of Stokesdale so that all the undesirables in our surrounding neighborhoods know what Stokesdale is doing. There have been many opportunities for the Town residents to get involved in this process.

Bill Jones made a motion to adopt the budget as written. Tim Jones seconded the motion. Mayor Braswell, Bill Jones, Frank Bruno, and Tim Jones voted aye. Vicki White-Lawrence voted nay. The motion carried with a 4 to 1 vote.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to adopt the modified Budget Ordinance #5 that was prepared on June 9, 2016. Tim Jones seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to adopt the Budget Ordinance Amendment called Water Enterprise Fund June 9, 2016. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

**Facility Use Agreement from Stokesdale Community Choir:** Frank Bruno made a motion to accept the Facility Use Agreement from the Stokesdale Community Choir and waive the facility fees. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

**Facility Use Agreement from Jennifer Siddle for a Baby Shower:** Diana Marcus said that Jennifer Siddle called Town Hall and cancelled at 3:00pm this afternoon.

**Consider Committee Application:** Mayor Braswell made a motion to move the committee application for consideration to the July 14, 2016 Town Council Meeting. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Frank Bruno asked Diana Marcus to call Mr. Lawson and let him know that he filled out an old committee application which has been revised.

**Town of Stokesdale, NC Advocacy Goals for 2017-2018:** Bill Jones made a motion to sign the Town of Stokesdale, NC Advocacy Goals for 2017-2018 and forward them to the NC League of Municipalities. Mayor Braswell seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

**Sheriff Barnes Letter:** Mayor Braswell asked Senator Berger if it would be okay to make a motion to insert Sheriff Barnes' letter into the minutes in the Public Hearing portion of the budget and make that a part of it. Senator Berger said that the Public Hearing is closed and Town Council has already acted on the purpose of the Public Hearing. I think you can include this in your regular minutes but not in the Public Hearing. Mayor Braswell asked Kim Hemric to read the letter from Sheriff Barnes out loud, which she did.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Stokesdale Water System:**

**Citizens' Comment Period on the Stokesdale Water System:** Mary Maness, 8405 Tree Court, Stokesdale, said she wants to know what will happen when all the people want to come off of the water that are unhappy with their bills. Mayor Braswell said that if everyone came off of the water, then you would be bankrupt.

**Other Issues Pertaining to the Water System:** None

**Republic Services – Expiration and Contract Renewal – Continued:** Mayor Braswell made a motion to authorize the execution of this contract as it is written. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

**Webinar Ethics Training II:** Kim Hemric said that the webinar has been purchased and the three Council members that are required to take the Ethics Training have between now until the end of October to take it. She emailed it out to them this afternoon and she will follow up with them next week about this.

## **COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS:**

Mayor Braswell said that the Property Committee does not have anything to share. The Safety Committee is still resting. The Water Committee is resting. The Library Committee is still resting? Frank Bruno said that there have been a lot of book sales and within the next couple of weeks there will be new books put out for sale.

**Administrative Report:** Kim Hemric said that Ethics Training has been purchased. A little over 300 citizens came into Town Hall on Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, to vote. We are continuing to average about 50-60 calls into Town Hall each week. She reminded the public that [stokesdale@stokesdale.org](mailto:stokesdale@stokesdale.org) is the main and primary email to communicate with the Town of Stokesdale at Town Hall.



**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mayor Braswell read the announcements listed on the agenda.

**COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL:** Tim Jones said that he does not like to say no to anybody. He remains opposed to a property tax for Stokesdale and is a proponent for small government for Stokesdale and that is how he governs himself when making decisions for the Town of Stokesdale. That in a large part is how he thinks has been the way that previous Councils have, as a whole, and we are getting to a point where money is thin. We really need to work on getting back our sales tax distribution money and anybody that can help would be great. Thank you.

Frank Bruno said that he would like to thank Bill Jones for doing a great job working to get the property sales and use tax back to Stokesdale. One of the things that people do not understand is that the Town is dealing with a very limited budget and needs to be careful how the money is spent. Getting the sales and use tax money back would help a lot. The alternative is a property tax which he is 100 percent against, so getting that money back would help us. Tim Jones had a good point. Once you build a building like this and you build a park, you don't have a choice at this point other than to sustain it. There were a lot of arguments before this building was built. One of the points brought up by several people was how the Town was going to maintain it but there was never a budget put together for that. So that is one of the things Town Council inherited and has wrestled with over the past five years. It is not an easy decision to cut a sheriff deputy out of the budget, something that we have had for the last 20 years or so, but to him it came down to two things. Number one, safety, and he thinks that Sheriff Barnes and his sheriff deputies do a fantastic job with that. In Sheriff Barnes' letter, he said basically that we pretty much get the same service we have been getting. The second thing came down to cost. We just don't have the money in the budget right now to sustain it.

Vicki White-Lawrence said she would just like to continue to encourage people to participate in the process. She knows that she is guilty of not contacting her legislatures that she does not feel like will listen to her, because she knows that they hear from people who might not share her opinion but it is important to participate in the process and let your voice be heard.

Bill Jones said Mayor Braswell and himself attended the Town Hall yesterday in Raleigh with some of the congressman and some legislators from other counties too but mostly ours. They do understand what they are trying to accomplish with the sales and use tax. Right now he thinks it is all ad valorem or per capita. They are trying to figure out some way to get the law changed. It would help maintain the growth in Stokesdale. He appreciates those guys listening to them and they are going to help them.

Mayor Braswell said he has learned a lot from Bill Jones, Senator Berger and his firm and the strength that he brings to the table here for Stokesdale. When he and Bill Jones first met Katy Gregg, they thought she might not be there that long, but she assured us that our town would be covered and he greatly appreciates Senator Berger coming tonight.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Vicki White-Lawrence made a motion to adjourn. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

  
Diana Marcus, Deputy Clerk

Approved:

  
D. Randall Braswell, Mayor

**Footnote:** Be advised that documentation/petition for supplemental law enforcement (Deputy Casey) was not submitted to Town Hall. Town Clerk asked Ms. Hoffman for a copy of documents and the request was denied.



**TOWN OF STOKESDALE**  
**P.O. BOX 465**  
**STOKESDALE, NORTH CAROLINA 27357**

**BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT # 5**  
**June 9, 2016**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the Town of Stokesdale, North Carolina, that the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016:

Section 1: To amend the General Fund, expenditures for Expense:

	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Admin Exp, Services & Fees		\$3,500.00
Building Upkeep		\$1,500.00
Equipment		\$2,000.00
Printing/Office Supplies		\$2,200.00
Unemployment Insurance		\$2,200.00
Legal Fees		\$2,600.00
Planning/Inspection Fees	\$14,000.00	

Section 2: Copies of this budget amendment shall be furnished to the Clerk of the Governing Board, and to the Budget Officer/Finance Officer for their direction.

Adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2016

  
D. Randall Braswell  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
K. E. Hemric  
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF STOKESDALE**  
**P.O. BOX 465**  
**STOKESDALE, NORTH CAROLINA 27357**

**BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**  
**Water Enterprise Fund**  
**June 9, 2016**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the Town of Stokesdale, North Carolina, that the following amendment be made to the Water Enterprise Fund, annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016:

Section 1: To amend the Water Enterprise Fund, expenditures for Expense:

	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Salaries		\$14,000.00
FICA		\$3,000.00
Professional Fees		\$3,000.00
Postage		\$1,000.00
Office Expense		\$500.00
Meters/Purchase & Installation		\$10,000.00
 Water Sales	 \$22,000.00	
Tap Fee Income	\$9,500.00	

Section 2: Copies of this budget amendment shall be furnished to the Clerk of the Governing Board, and to the Budget Officer/Finance Officer for their direction.

Adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2016

  
D. Randall Braswell  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
K.E. Hemric  
Town Clerk