

TOWN OF STOKESDALE
Regular Town Council Meeting

8325 Angel Pardue Road

Stokesdale, NC 27357

May 12, 2016

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Stokesdale Town Council was held on Thursday, May 12, 2016, at the Stokesdale Town Hall on 8325 Angel Pardue Road in Stokesdale, North Carolina.

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

OTHERS PRESENT INCLUDED: Katy Gregg, Town Attorney; Kim Hemric, Town Clerk; Diana Marcus, Deputy Clerk; Philip Pulliam, Finance Officer.

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

INVOCATION: Given by Mayor Braswell.

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 carried.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE FOLLOWING: December 10, 2015 Regular Town Council Meeting; February 5, 2016 Closed Session; March 10, 2016 Regular Town Council Meeting; March 15, 2016 Water Workshop; April 1, 2016 Budget Workshop; April 14, 2016 Regular Town Council Meeting: Tim Jones said that he would like to withhold the December 10, 2015 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes. He is waiting for some information. Frank Bruno said he would like to withhold the March 10, 2016 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes. He has not had a chance to listen to the audio.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to approve the following minutes: February 5, 2016 Closed Session, March 15, 2016 Water Workshop, April 1, 2016 Budget Workshop, and April 14, 2016 Regular Town Council Meeting. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR: Joe Thacker, 7936 Lester Road, Stokesdale, said he wanted to speak about committees. We do not have any because Town Council started doing away with them in December, 2015, and sometime in January or February, 2016, Frank Bruno was going to write some guidelines for committees. The Town needs a Budget Committee, Land Use Plan Committee, Economic Development Committee, Public Safety Committee, Water Committee, Parks and Recreation Committee, and a Property Committee for the lawn care of the Town Park, Town Hall, and water tower. In January, 2016, Council asked for volunteers to serve on the Land Use Plan Committee and received several applications, but Council said they wanted to delay appointing them until the guidelines were written. During the past two months, I have attended a couple of workshops and during those meetings there have been two items that have been discussed that involved using Town funds and one was for close to \$100,000.00. I feel that

it is not right for five people to decide in the course of an hour what to do with that amount of money. The purpose of committees is to allow citizens to provide input, have discussion, and make recommendations to Town Council. Town Council reviews the committee's recommendations and then decides how to proceed. He feels that it would have been better if the two items that are coming up shortly would have been discussed in a committee meeting before they are decided on. He understands that the Budget Committee consists of five Town Council members. He feels that Town Council, in his opinion, is not a committee but is a governing body that makes the decisions and votes. It takes only three members of Town Council to make a decision. He feels that the Town should not leave citizens and committees out of the decision making process.

NEW BUSINESS:

Report from Guilford County Sheriff's Department: Deputy Scott Casey was not present at the meeting, so no report was provided.

Finance Report – April, 2016: Philip Pulliam provided the General Fund, Water Enterprise, and Water-Sewer financial reports for April, 2016.

Presentation of the 2016-2017 Budget & Budget Message – Finance Officer: Philip Pulliam provided highlights from the 2016-2017 Budget and Finance Officer's Budget Message which are available on the Town website.

Set Date for Budget Hearing and Authorize Advertisement for Hearing: Mayor Braswell made a motion to set the Public Hearing for June 9, 2016 at the regularly scheduled Town Council meeting and authorize the staff to place that Public Hearing date in the newspaper which is the Greensboro News and Record. Bill Jones seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Application for NorthRidge Phase 2: Mayor Braswell made a motion to approve the application for Phase 2 pending the attorney's opportunity to review it. I want to hold it until the next Town Council meeting. And authorize the Mayor to sign it as soon as Ms. Gregg is finished with it. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Facility Use Agreement from Stokesdale Parks and Recreation: Mayor Braswell said that Stokesdale Parks and Recreation is requesting to use the ball fields on June 18th, but Town Council previously authorized some maintenance on the fields that should start on June 1st. Once maintenance is started on the fields, those fields will be closed for the rest of the year.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to respectfully decline the application.

Mayor Braswell asked Vicki White-Lawrence to call Stokesdale Parks and Recreation and inform them.

Tim Jones seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Yates Construction Company – Review Rate Increase: The Stokesdale Water System has increased by 20 percent since Yates Construction Company started reading the meters. This is a normal rate increase request due to the increased service Yates Construction Company is providing and the Town has budgeted for this increase.

Public Hearing Previously Scheduled for May 12, 2016 is Postponed Until June, 2016: Mayor Braswell said that the applicant asked the Planning Board to have time to amend their application and re-advertise the Public Hearing. Therefore, the Public Hearing has been rescheduled for the June 9th Town Council meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Stokesdale Water System:

Citizens' Comment Period on the Stokesdale Water System: Joe Thacker, 7936 Lester Road, Stokesdale, said he wanted to comment about the new Tap Fee Schedule and the fee increase to connect to the water system. He does not see how that is going to get the Town any new customers to connect to the water system. When he was on Town Council, he was trying to create incentives in order to get residents in the older areas of the Town to connect to the water system. He feels that this increase is going to deter residences from connecting to the water system. In a previous workshop, he remembers hearing from Town Council that Greensboro has this same type of fees. He would like to point out that there is a big difference between Greensboro and Stokesdale. In Greensboro, you cannot drill a well, but in Stokesdale, you can drill a well anytime you want to. I do not think that this new Tap Fee Schedule is going to really help Stokesdale get any new customers along the existing water line.

Other Issues Pertaining to the Water System:

Republic Services – Expiration and Contract Renewal Continued: Dennis Moriarty from Republic Services said that the contract expires on June 30, 2016. Mayor Braswell said that he would like 30 more days in order to give Katy Gregg an opportunity to review the contract and for Republic Services to address the public feedback that the Town has received. He requested Kim Hemric to email the public feedback to Town Council and Republic Services for their review, so that a decision can be made by the next Town Council meeting on June 9th.

Frank Bruno asked if the price would be lower if Republic Services picked up the recyclables every other week instead of every week. Mr. Moriarty said yes, the price would be lower because the cost is usually based on how often they send the truck out. Mayor Braswell asked if that would put everyone on a two-week recycle pickup schedule. Mr. Moriarty said that his personal opinion is if the Town is going to go to every other week, it would be easier to put everybody on every other week, but the weeks could be split by putting half of the customers on one week and the other half on the next week so that everyone is on a rotation.

Tracy Nestor from Republic Services said she resides at 216 Union Square in Hickory, North Carolina. She showed up late due to flooding on the highway caused by the heavy downpour of rain that was happening at the time. Mayor Braswell advised her what had transpired in her absence and that this item would be continued until the next Town Hall meeting on June 9th. Ms. Nestor said that if the Town decides to have recyclables picked up every other week, Republic Services would look at the waste that is picked up every week and determine if the customer receptacles for recycling should be changed from the smaller size of 65 gallons that is currently being used to a larger size of 96 gallons. She will let Town Council know what she finds out before next month's meeting.

Town Clerk to Provide Public Feedback: Public feedback pertaining to Republic Services that has been received will be emailed to Town Council and Republic Services for their review.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS:

Review and Adoption of Agenda and Purpose of Town Committees continued: Frank Bruno said he came up with a final version of the mission statement for each committee that was discussed at last month's Town Hall meeting. He used the comments and changes made by Town Council for the final version. He did leave the Commemorative Events Committee on the list since Town Council did not vote to remove it, but he feels that it should probably be removed. He listed the changes that were made. Discussion took place about possibly combining the Commemorative Events Committee and the Parade Committee.

Frank Bruno made a motion to adopt these ten committees and take the Commemorative Events Committee off with the mission statements that are listed.

Tim Jones said that he would like to second the motion if it is possible to remove the Economic Development Committee that was previously removed off of this list. Frank Bruno said that they had taken the Economic Development Committee off originally, but he put it back on because of discussions he has had with some of the Town's residents that thought the Town should have an Economic Development Committee, so he would like to leave the Economic Development Committee on the list.

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

Frank Bruno made a motion to add "I have read and understand the purpose and mission statement of the committee I am applying for" to the Town's committee application after "Committee applied for". Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Discussion took place about making changes on 'Basic Agenda for Committees' under 'Committee Policies'.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to adopt the Basic Agenda and Rules for Committees. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Administrative Report – Town Clerk: Kim Hemric said that the revisions to the Town of Stokesdale's Tap Fees have been going smoothly. There have been some questions from potential developers and consumers which have been addressed. Time has been spent working on the budget in Budget Workshops. On Monday, May 9th, she and Sandra Murrell completed their 90-day probationary period with the Town of Stokesdale, so it is time to meet with Town Council for a feedback session. The best three forms of internal communication are the Friday Report, the Town Clerk's Mid-Month Report, and the weekly Operations Meeting the clerks hold. It is important to stay on top of the communication that comes into Town Hall. The archiving of records, the codification of Town ordinances with Municode, and cross-training for the clerks are some immediate short-term and long-term goals that need to be focused on. She appreciates Town Council's patience while she has been learning what comes with the Town Clerk position.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Braswell read the announcements listed on the agenda. Vicki White-Lawrence said that Summerfield's annual Founders Day celebration will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 13th and 14th.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL: Vicki White-Lawrence said that the Parade Committee needs volunteers. She is not sure if Pam Micks will continue to chair the Parade Committee. It may depend on whether or not any new volunteers step up. She also would like to note that supplemental law enforcement for Stokesdale is not included in the proposed budget.

Bill Jones said that he and Mayor Braswell attended a County Commissioners Budget Workshop and provided them with some updated information pertaining to sales and use tax distribution. Apparently, Guilford County has problems just like Stokesdale has problems. Stokesdale is paying about 30 percent more per person on a per capita basis than the average citizen in Guilford County. He explained to the County Commissioners that Stokesdale deserves to have their sales tax distribution returned. He is still working on this issue and plans to attend more Guilford County Commissioners Meetings. He would like to invite the Town's citizens to attend these meetings.

Tim Jones said he wants to thank everyone who came to the meeting tonight in the heavy rain. Town Council voted in a Special Meeting to spend \$18,000.00 renovating the two soccer fields in the Town Park which is a large amount of money.

Frank Bruno said he wants to thank everyone who came out Saturday for Stokesdale Community Day. A large amount of books was sold and WoodmenLife gave away about 180 hotdogs. He would also like to thank Mayor Braswell for working hard at Town Hall and the Town Park like it was his full time job. He really appreciates it and the citizens of Stokesdale are lucky to have him as their Mayor.

Mayor Braswell thanked the staff for all their hard work. Philip Pulliam did a great job on the budget. The Town is fortunate to have Diana Marcus and all her experience. Thanks to Sandra Murrell and Kim Hemric for their hard work.

ADJOURNMENT: Tim Jones made a motion to adjourn. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.



Diana Marcus, Deputy Clerk

Approved:



D. Randall Braswell, Mayor