

TOWN OF STOKESDALE
Regular Town Council Meeting

8325 Angel Pardue Road

Stokesdale, NC 27357

December 8, 2016

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Stokesdale Town Council was held on Thursday, December 8, 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: Kim Hemric, Town Administrator; Katy Gregg, Town Attorney; Diana Marcus, Deputy Clerk; Philip Pulliam, Finance Officer; Oliver Bass, Guilford County Planning Department.

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: The MOU (Memorandum of Understanding), an Application for Charles Place at Arbor Run Water Main, and a Discussion for a Full-Time Deputy Clerk were added to the agenda. Placement of the Finance Report was switched with the Cannon & Company Audit Review.

Mayor Braswell made a motion that Council adopt this agenda with these changes. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE FOLLOWING: July 14, 2016 Regular Town Council Meeting; August 11, 2016 Regular Town Council Meeting; September 8, 2016 Regular Town Council Meeting; October 13, 2016 Regular Town Council Meeting; November 2, 2016 Town Council Business Meeting; November 10, 2016 Regular Town Council Meeting; November 16, 2016 Town Council Business Meeting: Tim Jones requested (made a motion) to hold the Regular Town Council Meeting minutes of July 14, 2016, August 11, 2016, September 8, 2016, October 13, 2016, and November 10, 2016. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

The other minutes were not approved either.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Report from Guilford County Sheriff's Department: Deputy Nick Southern advised that there have been a lot of trailer thefts in the area. Part one crimes are down in Stokesdale, but call volume is up. Mayor Braswell asked about "Lock It or Lose It" signs. Deputy Southern advised he would put some "Lock It or Lose It" signs out in Stokesdale.

Cannon & Company Year-End June, 2016 Audit Review: Richard Tamer from Cannon & Company, LLP, was introduced. Cannon & Company prepares the financial statements for the Town. Mr. Tamer advised that everything has been submitted to the LGC (Local Government Commission) and approved. Mr. Tamer provided some financial highlights of the Town's performance for the year. The assets for the Town of Stokesdale exceeded its liabilities at the end of the fiscal year by \$9,556,680.00, which is an increase of \$223,989.00 from the prior year. At the end of the current fiscal year the combined ending fund balance for governmental funds was \$2,701,708.00, which was an increase of \$133,624.00. Of that total fund balance, approximately 7.27 percent of this total amount or \$196,449.00 is considered restricted. At the end of the current fiscal year, the unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was \$2,505,259, or 811 percent of the total General Fund expenditures for the fiscal year. In the Enterprise Fund, there were operating revenues of \$445,041.00, and operating expenses of \$471,551.00, for an operating loss of \$26,000.00. There was a capital contribution of \$197,000.00 with a change in net position of \$173,101.00. Of that \$471,551.00 in operating expenses, \$105,675.00 of that was a non-cash operating item, depreciation. The actual out-of-pocket expenses for the year was approximately \$366,000.00. At the end of the year, the Enterprise Fund had assets of \$4,626,704.00, cash of \$1,439,000.00, liabilities of \$82,000.00 and a net position of \$4,544,000.00. At the end of the year, the Town had a bank balance of \$4,042,882.00 compared to \$3,814,000.00 last year. (Please see the Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2016, for further details.)

Finance Report – November, 2016: Philip Pulliam provided the General Fund, Water Enterprise, and Water-Sewer financial reports for November, 2016. (Please see the Financial Reports for details).

PUBLIC HEARING – Rezoning Case #16-11-STPL-05953: AG to CZ-LI: Said property is located on the south side of US Hwy 158 approximately 0.45 miles west of US Hwy 158 and US Hwy 220. Property address is 6715 US Hwy 158, Guilford Tax Parcel 0150644 (part), Bruce Township, Stokesdale, NC. Applicant: Carmen Nerida Combs.

Mayor Braswell made a motion that Council open the public hearing rezoning case #16-11-STPL-05953. Bill Jones seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Oliver Bass advised that this case went before the Stokesdale Planning Board with a public hearing. The Planning Board found that the proposed rezoning request and general development in the area is consistent with the Stokesdale Land Use Plan. The Planning Board made a recommendation to Town Council that the rezoning request from AG to CZ-LI be approved.

Those speaking in favor of the rezoning request:

Rob Combs, 6715 US Highway 158, Stokesdale, advised he is the property owner and in favor of the rezoning request. His family would like to build something there that would help the economy in Stokesdale.

No one spoke against the rezoning request.

Vicki White-Lawrence made a motion to close the public hearing. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Bill Jones made a motion that Council approve the modification based on the recommendation of the Planning Board, based on the fact that it is consistent with the Stokesdale Future Land Use Plan and is in the betterment of the Town, improves the Town, promotes commercial growth, and adds economic value to the Town. Mayor Braswell seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

"Holiday Parade" name change to the "Stokesdale Christmas Holiday Parade": Tim Jones held up the parade poster that was recently printed with "Stokesdale Holiday Parade" instead of "Stokesdale Christmas Parade". Discussion took place about the printing error that was made. An apology was made and a promise was made to prevent this from happening again next year.

2017 Holiday Schedule: Frank Bruno made a motion that Council adopt the 2017 Holiday Schedule as written. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Discussion of Property Tax Alternatives: Discussion took place about supporting other alternatives to a property tax.

Inventory and Release of Closed Session Minutes: Tim Jones made a motion that Council have the Town Clerk inventory those (closed session minutes) by meeting dates, the subject discussed, and the number of pages that are being held within that set of minutes, whether it be two pages or twenty. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Mayor Braswell suggested listening to an audio of the minutes on a CD in the library computer to determine if it works.

Consider Closing Town Hall at 3:00pm on Thursday, December 22nd: Tim Jones made a motion that they close (Town Hall) all day (on Thursday, December 22nd). Discussion took place.

Vicki White-Lawrence would support closing (Town Hall) at 3:00pm (on Thursday, December 22nd), if staff feels that would be reasonable (motion). Mayor Braswell seconded the motion. Mayor Braswell, Bill Jones, Frank Bruno, and Vicki White-Lawrence voted aye. Tim Jones voted nay. The motion carried with a 4 to 1 vote.

MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the County of Guilford, the Town of Oak Ridge, the Town of Stokesdale, and the Town of Summerfield: Mayor Braswell spoke about the MOU meetings he has been attending. He does not want to vote tonight, but wants to continue this until the Thursday, January 12, 2017 Regular Town Council meeting. At that meeting, he would like to vote on a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for engineering/professional services to conduct a Preliminary Feasibility Study for the development of a regional water system. Discussion took place. Mayor Braswell said, for the record, the 2030 (year) expiration date is difficult when you have developers out here building massive infrastructure in new housing developments, and if you look at the contract, the thing (contract) expires in 2030. That needs to be perpetual and the utility board over there agreed. Further discussion took place about the potential cost to Stokesdale.

Application for Charles Place at Arbor Run Water Main: Hugh Creed and Associates submitted an application to extend the water lines.

Bill Jones made a motion that Council authorize staff to look for an engineer (get several names of engineers) and get some prices (costs per hour and information) to add to our (the Town) Vendors List. Mayor Braswell seconded the motion. Tim Jones amended the motion to get a minimum of three (engineers). All Council members voted aye.

Bill Jones made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the application to send to DENR (now DEQ, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality) along with any accompanying documents necessary. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Discussion for Full-Time Deputy Clerk: An ad was posted to Listserve on November 30, 2016, at 3:52pm, for a full-time deputy clerk. Mayor Braswell advised that it was his error and the Town is not advertising for a full-time deputy clerk at this time. Tim Jones said, for the record, he has not voted to support hiring another full-time deputy clerk, nor has he voted for the Town to consider a benefits package or full benefits package for the Town's staff.

Tim Jones made a motion that Council post a retraction and refer to this ad (full-time deputy clerk ad). Mayor Braswell seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Stokesdale Water System:

Citizens' Comment Period on the Stokesdale Water System: No citizen comments were made.

Other Issues Pertaining to the Water System: Mayor Braswell advised that he is going to move forward with purchasing the lap top and the software for the auto-read that was previously passed. It is in the budget. Discussion took place about water tank recycling.

Bill Jones asked for an update on advertising for a Water Technician. Kim Hemric advised that the Town is continuing to advertise on the North Carolina Rural Water Association website, indeed.com website, and the Water Listserve website. She received quotes for newspaper advertising for about \$600.00 for a couple of days. She is working with Mike Moore to get a quote for a radio spot. Discussion took place about advertising in the Eden newspaper and pursuing benefit package costs for consideration.

Poll of Council – There were no polls this month.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS:

Water Committee: Mayor Braswell and Thearon Hooks are working on some things.

Public Safety Committee: Mayor Braswell and Thearon Hooks are working on some things.

Library Committee: Nothing is happening right now.

Economic Development Committee: Frank Bruno will explore getting a group together in January.

Property Committee: Grass is growing in the fields. The irrigation system has been blown out. A park walk-through inspection is planned. A disc-golf hole needs to be remarked.

Parade Committee: Mayor Braswell and several guys will get the barrels from Summerfield and put them out tomorrow at noon.

Ordinance Review Committee: Questions need be answered soon about dumpster screening.

Departmental and Administrative Report – Town Administrator: Kim Hemric advised that the water meters will be read this Saturday. Four backflow preventers were inspected and tested last month. Ten new water meters were sold. Ten new water service applications were processed. 536 water bills were sent out. A mandatory lead and copper report was mailed to DENR (DEQ) by the December 1st deadline.

Representation Letter from Cannon & Company: Mayor Braswell made a motion that he sign the Representation Letter. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Tim Jones advised that the cover letter was not with the report he was given and he would like a copy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Braswell did not read the announcements. He advised the audience to take a copy of the agenda from the table in the lobby, which includes the announcements.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL: Tim Jones advised that he is opposed to a property tax in Stokesdale. He hopes that Bill Jones can continue going to Raleigh to pursue getting the Town's sales and use tax money back. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.


Frank Bruno reminded everyone about the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and wants everyone to remember the men and women overseas who are not able to come home during the holidays and to pray for them. He spoke about John Glenn passing away and that he was a great American hero.

Bill Jones advised that John Glenn was a great American hero and he spoke about war veterans not getting the respect they deserve.

Mayor Braswell told a story about a 97-year-old salesman that works for him. Congressman Mark Walker presented this man with a flag that was flown over the Capitol building in his honor. He also spoke about the hard work being done on the water system.

Vicki White-Lawrence advised there was a great turnout at the Tree Lighting. She appreciates all the hard work that went into decorating. Everything went very well. She reminded everyone that the parade is this Saturday in downtown Stokesdale. They will be decorating the float tomorrow night.

ADJOURNMENT: Tim Jones made a motion to adjourn. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.


Diana Marcus, Deputy Clerk

Approved:


D. Randall Braswell, Mayor