

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

8325 Angel Pardue Road  
Stokesdale, NC 27357  
**October 13, 2016**

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Stokesdale Town Council was held on Thursday, October 13, 2016, at the Stokesdale Town Hall on 8325 Angel Pardue Road in Stokesdale, North Carolina.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Mayor D. Randall Braswell; Mayor pro tempore William N. (Bill) Jones, Frank Bruno; Vicki White-Lawrence; Tim Jones.

**OTHERS PRESENT INCLUDED:** Katy Gregg, Town Attorney; Kim Hemric, Town Administrator; Philip Pulliam, Budget Officer; Diana Marcus, Deputy Clerk; Oliver Bass, Town Planner, Guilford County Planning.

**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:** Tim Jones advised he would like to discuss the reserve price on the deputy's car. He would like Bobby Norris from NCDOT (North Carolina Department of Transportation) to be moved ahead on the agenda.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to adopt the agenda with the changes. Tim Jones seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE FOLLOWING:** June 9, 2016 Regular Town Council Meeting; June 29, 2016 Planning Workshop; July 14, 2016 Regular Town Council Meeting; July 20, 2016 Special Meeting; August 11, 2016 Regular Town Council Meeting; August 24, 2016 Town Council Business Meeting; August 31, 2016 Town Council Business Meeting; September 8, 2016 Regular Town Council Meeting; September 14, 2016 Town Council Business Meeting; September 21, 2016 Town Council Business Meeting; September 28, 2016 Town Council Business Meeting: Tim Jones held the Regular Town Council Meeting minutes for June 9<sup>th</sup>, July 14<sup>th</sup>, August 11<sup>th</sup>, and September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Tim Jones made a motion to hold approval on the June 9<sup>th</sup> minutes, July 14<sup>th</sup> minutes, August 11<sup>th</sup> minutes, and September 8<sup>th</sup> minutes. Mayor Braswell seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried. Mayor Braswell amended the motion to approve all the other minutes with the same second and the same vote.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:** Joe Thacker, 7936 Lester Road, Stokesdale, noticed that there was a problem with one of the gates, the one on the right side, at the entrance to the Town Park. He offered to repair the gate for the Town at no cost. Mayor Braswell appreciates Mr. Thacker's offer and asked him to update his volunteer form with the Town.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Report from Guilford County Sheriff's Department:** No report was given.

**Discussion of Safety on NC Highway 68 with District Engineer for NCDOT:** Tim Jones had asked Bobby Norris from NCDOT to come to the meeting and talk about what the Town could do to interface with NCDOT, because of the recent accidents on NC Highway 68 that led to fatalities and injuries. Perhaps the signage could be changed or updated to warn people of the congested highway.

Bobby Norris advised he was at the meeting to talk about the accidents and fatalities on NC Highway 68. Every fatality that happens along NCDOT roadways is investigated by their regional traffic people. They receive a report with recommendations to alleviate issues. Speed, DUIs (Driving Under the Influence), and distracted drivers are the main reasons for accidents and fatalities. Mr. Norris went over the details related to the recent fatalities on NC Highway 68. An NCDOT traffic engineer is looking into getting additional signage for NC Highway 68. The US Highway 220 – NC Highway 68 Connector is scheduled to open to traffic by the end of the year and is expected to reduce traffic on NC Highway 68 by about 30 percent. The Governor introduced NC Vision Zero, a collaborative initiative to eliminate roadway deaths and injuries in North Carolina. Safety is the number one issue on roads.

**PUBLIC HEARING: Case Number 16-08-STPL-04054: To Consider Text Amendments to the Stokesdale Development Ordinance:** Mayor Braswell made a motion to open the Public Hearing, case number 16-08-STPL-04054. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider text amendments to the Stokesdale Development Ordinance. Tim Jones seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Oliver Bass advised that the Ordinance Review Committee made some recommendations and the Planning Board made some modifications. Mr. Bass went over the recommendations and modifications. Katy Gregg and Mr. Bass have reviewed the proposed text amendments jointly and are okay with them. Tim Jones would like to vote separately on the Dumpster Screening, section 6-7.

Mayor Braswell opened the public hearing up to the public for comments.

Thearon Hooks, 8135 Shoeline Road, Stokesdale, wanted to know if this is the ordinance to amend for the Town of Stokesdale as the state statutes have also changed that will address all the changes and bring the Town in line. Oliver Bass confirmed yes, and advised that a public hearing was held at the Planning Board Meeting and the Town Council Meeting tonight in accordance with the state statutes.

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

Tim Jones advised that the Ordinance Review Committee had voted to remove Dumpster Screening and the Planning Board had reinserted it. Some of the changes were mandated by state statutes changes and others were voluntary on the Town's part. Dumpster Screening was not mandated by the state of North Carolina and a change in the statute.

Vicki White-Lawrence had attended the public hearing held at the Planning Board Meeting and their concern was the aesthetic impact on neighborhoods if there was no screening for the dumpsters. Tim



Jones thinks that there are some issues associated with requiring dumpster screening that he thinks are important. Discussion took place about how to move forward with a motion.

Tim Jones made a motion that Council approve the conditional zoning special use permit and etcetera, etcetera, all the way through page 18 down to ordinance 6-5.7 through subsection G. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. (The motion is to approve everything except Dumpster Screening) All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Vicki White-Lawrence made a motion that Council approve it (Dumpster Screening) as it was submitted from the Planning Board. Bill Jones seconded the motion. Bill Jones, Frank Bruno, and Vicki White-Lawrence voted aye. Mayor Braswell and Tim Jones voted nay. The motion carried with a 3 to 2 vote.

Eileen Thiery, 8101 Meadow Springs Place, Stokesdale, thanked Oliver Bass for his explanations and patience. Town Council also thanked Mr. Bass.

**Finance Report – September, 2016:** Philip Pulliam provided the General Fund, Water Enterprise, and Water-Sewer financial reports for September, 2016. Please see the finance reports for further details.

**Disconnecting Water Service – Review of Draft Letter:** Mayor Braswell made a motion that this Council adopt this letter into our (the Town) policy on the water side. Bill Jones seconded the motion. Mayor Braswell amended his motion to have the letter sent by certified mail with a return receipt request. Bill Jones seconded the motion. Tim Jones said that if we're going to send these out, and we're going to spend the money to pay the postage, let us go ahead and indicate on the letter that it was sent certified mail so there is no confusion among the staff, the Council, or anybody. Mayor Braswell said okay. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

**Review and Approval of the 2017 Development Bulletin:** Frank Bruno made a motion that Council adopt the Town of Stokesdale 2017 Development Bulletin. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

**Memorandum of Agreement – GCSO – Donation of Surplus Items:** Bill Jones made a motion that Council move forward with the Memorandum of Agreement and authorize the Mayor to sign it on behalf of the Town. Frank Bruno seconded the motion.

Discussion took place about the two other fire arms that are missing, have been filed as 'missing' with the Guilford County Sheriff's Department, and are confirmed registered to the Guilford County Sheriff's Department. Katy Gregg advised that due to her experience with law enforcement officers, she may be able to help.

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.

**Reserve Price on the Deputy Car:** Discussion took place about lowering the price, because the car has not been sold, so the reserve price of \$8,500.00 may be too high. A sealed-bid auction was also discussed.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to lower the reserve price and run it again at \$6,000.00. Tim Jones 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 one commented.

**Other Issues Pertaining to the Water System:** Culp Home Fashions is upgrading to a large commercial water meter this weekend.

Discussion took place about reviewing the monthly customer fee of \$30.50 for larger commercial accounts with 6-inch water taps. A representative from the North Carolina Rural Water Association is expected to be in Stokesdale on October 18<sup>th</sup>, and help Town Council review all of the Town's water fees, which includes volumetric rates and water user fees, and then make recommendations.

**Poll of Council:** No polls of Council have been taken since the last meeting.

## **COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS:**

**Consider Committee Applications for Approval:** Frank Bruno made a motion to approve Mauri Kelly, Steve Kelly, Elaine Guthrie, and David Baily for the Parade Committee. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

**Parade Committee:** Vicki White-Lawrence advised that progress with the parade is coming along very well. The volunteers are working hard. Decorations have been inventoried and a sub-committee of the Parade Committee will be decorating the float.

**Ordinance Review Committee:** They have been meeting regularly now.

**Property Committee:** They have been watching the grass grow on the fields and it looks good.

**Water Committee:** They have not been meeting.

**Public Safety Committee:** Thearon Hooks reported on the portable generator located at the Stokesdale Fire station. He is looking into having the diesel fuel removed and filling it with fresh fuel. A decision needs to be made soon about whether to keep the portable generator, not keep it, and how to maintain it if keeping it. Mayor Braswell suggested getting together, pulling it out, cranking it, running it, and switching it over.

Mayor Braswell asked if the diesel fuel in the portable generator can be designated as surplus and let the farmers or truck drivers bid on it and remove it. Katy Gregg will do some research and get back to Town Council with an answer. Discussion took place about the fuel.

**Library Committee:** Frank Bruno is working on the children's section.

**Departmental and Administrative Report – Town Administrator:** Kim Hemric advised that the Culp Home Fashions water meter upsizing (from a 2-inch to 6-inch meter) project will start on Saturday. The



annual audit has been taking place at Town Hall this week and is going well. The water meters were read this past Sunday instead of Saturday, due to the heavy rain on Saturday. 532 water bills will go out tomorrow afternoon and about \$12,000.00 in past dues have been collected by staff.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Vicki White-Lawrence read the announcements listed on the agenda.

**COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL:** Tim Jones continues to be concerned about the Town's budget and the possibility the Town is headed towards property taxes.

Frank Bruno thanked everyone, especially the new people on the Parade Committee. He also reminded everyone to go out and vote.

Bill Jones has been contacting the County Commissioners by email regarding getting the Town's sales and use tax distribution back. He is concerned about the lack of support from the surrounding towns in Guilford County and encourages support from residents. The Town of Stokesdale, since January 1<sup>st</sup>, has accounted for 25 percent of the building permits in Guilford County for new residential construction.

Mayor Braswell plans to continue working with Bill Jones to get the sales and use tax money back for the Town. He thanked him for all the hard work he has done. He also thanked the staff for all the work they do.

Vicki White-Lawrence thanked all the volunteers and staff.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Braswell made a motion to adjourn. Tim Jones seconded the motion. All Council Members voted aye and the meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.

  
Diana Marcus, Deputy Clerk

Approved:

  
D. Randall Braswell, Mayor