

**TOWN OF STANTONSBURG**

DATE: April 11, 2016

Mayor Bill Edmundson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following Council members were present: Jackie Grice, Powell Dew, Jr., Donnie Bass, Robert Watson and Ken Horne. Also present were Town Manager Gary Davis, Deputy Clerk Patsy Godwin, Slade Rand and two newspaper reporters. The Town Clerk, Debra Beamon was absent on sick leave.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Prayer:**

Mr. Dan Whitley led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman Watson began the meeting with prayer.

**A. Approve minutes for March 14 2016 and Closed Session Meeting on March 22, 2016.** Councilman Horne made a motion to approve the regular minutes and closed session minutes as written. With a second from Councilwoman Grice, all members voted in favor of the motion.

**B. Financial Report:**

Receipts \$354,396.70 Disbursements \$438,695.04 Difference \$(84,298.34)  
Mr. Davis explained the deficit was due to the payment for the cleaning and painting of the water tank. (\$181,950.00)

**MMB:** Councilwoman Grice made a motion, with a second by Councilman Watson, to approve the Financial Report. All Council members voted in favor of the motion.

**C. Invoices for Payment: Total: \$19,105.03**

Councilman Watson made a motion to approve the invoices for payment. With a second by Councilman Dew, all Council members voted favorably.

**D Public Present:** At this time, Councilman Horne informed the public of the rules to speak at the meeting. He explained that each person would have 3 minutes to speak and there will be only one spokes- person for each subject. Mr. Horne also informed the public that the issues about the Police Dept. would be discussed in closed session and that the Council is interviewing candidates for Chief of Police. Mr. Horne asked the public to respect the policy of conducting personnel discussions in closed session.

Joann Lucas presented a petition to the Mayor and Council to promote Officer Carlo Talarico to the permanent position of Police Chief. June Downing asked Mr. Davis where he had advertised for the Police Chief position. Mr. Davis stated that he had run ads in the Wilson Daily Times and that this ad has been picked up by several employment websites.

At this time, the new PA, Karyl Noonan from the Stantonsburg Medical Center, introduced herself to the Town Council and informed the public that the clinic is now open full time. She also stated that Wilson Medical Center is recruiting a medical doctor for the clinic.

**E. Police Report:** Interim Chief Carlo Talarico presented the monthly police report.

**F. Town Manager:** Mr. Davis presented the overtime report for March which was down from March 2015.

Next, Mr. Davis presented the delinquent 2015 property taxes for approval to advertise. Councilman Dew made a motion to approve the delinquent taxes for advertising. Councilman Horne seconded the motion with all other members voting in favor of the motion.

Mr. Davis presented (1) utility extension request. Councilman Dew made motion to grant the extension with a second from Councilman Watson. All other members voted in favor of the motion.

At this time, Mr. Davis presented Budget Amendment #1. After reviewing the amendment, Councilman Dew made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #1. Councilman Bass seconded the motion with all other members voting favorably.

**G. Councilman Horne:** Mr. Horne informed the public that the Council understands their concerns regarding the police department, but the Council has heard them and any personnel issues will be discussed in closed session.

**I. Councilman Watson:** Mr. Watson said he has been made aware of rumors going around town about the Council's salaries. He informed the public that all the Council and Mayor's salaries together total less than \$1,000.00 a month. He also informed the public that no Council member or the Mayor has an expense account and that the Employee Appreciation luncheon given each year is paid for out of the pockets of the Council members and the Mayor.

**J. Councilman Bass:** N/A

**K. Councilman Dew:** Mr. Dew announced that he is running as a Republican for the seat in the US House of Representatives that is currently occupied by G.K. Butterfield.

**L. Councilwoman Grice:** Issues for Closed Session

**M. Mayor Edmundson:** Mr. Edmundson talked about the phone system at the Police Department, Wi-Fi etc.

Next, Councilman Horne made motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel issues. Councilman Dew seconded the motion with all members voting in favor of the motion.

At 9:05 pm Mayor Edmundson declared the meeting back in open session.

Councilman Horne made motion to promote Interim Chief Talarico's salary to entry level for Police Chief retroactive to 30 days after his initial appointment as acting Chief per the personnel policy. Councilman Watson seconded the motion with all other members voting favorably.

At this time Councilman Horne made a motion to reconvene at 7:00 Tuesday, April 12, 2016. Mayor Edmundson dismissed the meeting at 9:11 pm.

**Tuesday, April 12, 2016 7:00 pm**

Mayor Edmundson called the meeting back in session from April 11, 2016. The following members were present: Councilmen Horne, Watson, Bass, Dew and Councilwoman Grice. Also present were Town Manager, Gary Davis and Deputy Clerk Patsy Godwin. John Ruppe (candidate for Police Chief) was also present.

Mr. Davis presented a resolution to apply for a grant for an Asset Management Plan for the water system. Councilman Watson made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented. With a second from Councilman Horne, all other Council members voted in favor of the motion.

Next, Mr. Davis presented a second resolution to apply for a grant for an Asset Management Plan for sewer system. Councilman Watson made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented with a second from Councilman Horne. All other members voted favorably.

At this time Councilman Horne made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters. Councilman Dew seconded the motion with all other members voting in favor of the motion.

Mayor Edmundson declared the meeting back at in open session at 8:50 pm. Mayor Edmundson recessed the meeting until Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

**Thursday, April 14, 2016 7:00 pm**

Mayor Edmundson reconvened the meeting from April 12, 2016 with the following Council members present: Councilmen Horne, Watson, Bass and Councilwoman Grice. Councilman Dew arrived at 7:45 pm. Also present were Town Manager, Gary Davis and Deputy Clerk, Patsy Godwin. Mr. Steven Howell (candidate for Police Chief) was also present.

At this time, Councilman Horne made a motion to go into closed to discuss personnel matters. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion. All other members present voted in favor of the motion.

At 9:15, Mayor Edmundson declared the meeting back in open session. Mayor Edmundson recessed the meeting to continue Friday, April 15, 2016 at 6:30.

**Friday, April 15, 2016 6:30 pm**

Mayor Edmundson reconvened the meeting from April 14, 2016. The following Council members were present: Councilman Horne, Watson, Dew and Councilwoman Grice. Councilman Bass arrived at 6:32 pm. Also present were Town Manager Gary Davis and Deputy Clerk Patsy Godwin.

Mr. Davis informed the Council that John Ruppe has accepted their offer for the position of Police Chief for the Town of Stantonsburg with his start date being May 1, 2016 at a salary of \$48,000.00. Mr. Davis stated that he would personally meet with Interim Chief Carlo Talarico after this meeting to inform him that the Council has hired John Ruppe as Police Chief. Mr. Davis will also notify the other candidate, Mr. Steven Howell, who was also interviewed.

Councilman Dew made a motion to hire John Ruppe for the position of Police Chief for the Town of Stantonsburg. Councilman Watson seconded the motion with all other Council members voting in favor of the motion.

Councilman Watson made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Horne seconded the motion with all other members voting favorably.

Adjourned at 6:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Patsy Godwin/ Deputy Clerk

William H. Edmundson, Mayor

