

TOWN OF STANTONSBURG

DATE: August 8, 2016

Mayor William Edmundson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following Council members were present: Jackie Grice, Powell Dew, Jr., Ken Horne and Councilman Donnie Bass arrived at 7:03 pm. Councilman Robert Watson was absent due to his work schedule. Also present were Town Manager Gary Davis, Town Clerk Debra Beamon, Tabitha Bailey and Attorney, Gabriel Du Sablon. Chief Orlando Rosario arrived at approximately 7:30.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Prayer: Mr. Gabriel Du Sablon led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman Horne opened the meeting with prayer.

A. Approve minutes for July 11, 2016 and Closed Session Minutes: Councilman Horne made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Dew seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

B. Financial Report:

Receipts **\$258,201.60** *Disbursements* **\$263,248.01** *Difference* **\$(5,046.41)**
Mr. Davis informed the Council that the Town's electric bill was the highest we had ever had and Duke Progress is going to check the meter

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

C. Invoices for Payment: Total: \$16,590.76

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

D. Public Present: Mr. Gabriel Du Sablon was here representing Brian Pridgen of Cauley Pridgen Attorneys. Mr. Du Sablon presented an ordinance to the Town Council directing the building inspector to demolish the property at 104 N. Main Street, herein described as unsafe and blighted and directing that a notice be placed thereon that the same may not be occupied. Also, Mr. Du Sablon presented an ordinance for the property at 106 Yelverton Street, herein described as unsafe and blighted directing that a notice be placed thereon that the same may not be occupied. Next, Mayor Edmundson declared the public hearing on the demolition of the property located at 104 N. Main St. With no public comment, Mayor Edmundson declared the public hearing closed. Mayor Edmundson declared the public hearing open for comments on the demolition of the property located at 106 Yelverton St. With no public present to comment, Mayor Edmundson closed the public hearing and declared the meeting back to order. Mr. Du Sablon informed the Council that

the owners of both properties have been notified and that 90 days has passed without any response from either one so he is recommending that the Council approve both of the demolition ordinances. After a brief discussion Councilman Horne made a motion to approve the ordinances to demolish 104 N. Main Street and 106 Yelverton Street.

Councilman Dew seconded the motion with all other members voting in favor of the motion.

E. Police Report: The Council reviewed the monthly police report. Chief Rosario informed the Council that one officer has been sworn in and that he is still waiting on Criminal Standards to approve (2) other officers who will be sworn in as soon as they are approved

Chief Rosario updated the Council about the plans for the Festival. He also informed the Council that the Town of Roper is dismantling their police department and selling all their police equipment. Chief presented a list of supplies that he would like to purchase from the Town of Roper at a very reasonable cost. Mr. Davis has looked over the list, and with the Council's permission, Chief Rosario would like to proceed to purchase the equipment that is needed. The Council gave their approval for the Chief to make the purchases.

F. Parks & Rec: N/A

G. Appearance Committee: N/A

H. Stantonsburg/Moyton Fire Dept.: N/A

Town Managers Report: At this time, Mr. Davis presented (2) utility extension requests. After reviewing each request, Councilwoman Grice made a motion to grant both requests. Councilman Horne seconded the motion with all other Council members present voting in favor of the motion. Mr. Davis presented a letter from a customer requesting a refund for the \$35.00 reconnect fee they had to pay in July. After a brief discussion, it was determined that the office staff had followed procedure. Councilman Dew made a motion **not** to refund the \$35.00 reconnect fee. Councilman Horne seconded the motion with others voting favorably.

Mr. Davis presented the overtime report which showed July overtime being up from July 2015. Mr. Davis noted that there had been several power outages due to storms and a water leak on the weekend.

Next, Mr. Davis presented the Tax Reconciliation to be approved for tax collections by Wilson County for 2015. Councilman Dew made a motion to approve the Tax Reconciliation for 2015, with a second by Councilman Horne, all other members voted in favor of the motion.

At this time, Mr. Davis presented a letter from Janelle Edwards asking the Town to replace (2) Crepe Myrtle trees that were destroyed several years ago by a storm. Her family's lot is in this area and her mother chose this lot because she liked the Crepe Myrtle trees. The Council suggested that Mr. Davis ask the Appearance Committee if they would consider replacing the trees from their budget as part of their beautification plans for the

Town. Councilman Dew made a motion to replace the Crepe Myrtle trees at the Town's expense even if the Appearance Committee did not want this as part of their projects for the future. Councilman Horne seconded the motion with all other members voting in favor of the motion.

Mr. Davis informed the Council that the Town has been approved for a grant for asset management plan for the sewer system. The approved grant is for \$100,000.00. The Town was denied a grant for an asset management plan for the water system, but he plans to reapply the next time around.

Mr. Davis reported the he has researched the cost of fees to accept Debit/Credit card payments and the cost of the equipment needed. The Town cannot charge a fee to accept cards at the counter, but there will likely be a charge for "over the phone" payments. He recommends that the Town proceed to purchase the equipment and accept Debit/Credit cards. He suggested that we monitor charges and we may have to eventually raise the electric flat rate charges a few cents to compensate for any excess charges. The cost of the card machine is \$449.00. The Council agreed to go ahead with this purchase.

Next, Mr. Davis introduced Tabitha Bailey who is training to take the position of Town Clerk/Finance Officer when Debra Beamon retires September 30, 2016. Mr. Davis asked permission to hire a part-time employee to work busy times of the month. He recommended Debra Beamon to fill this position and the Council agreed to his recommendation.

J. Fire Department Report: N/A

K. EMS: N/A

L. Appearance Committee: N/A

M. Councilman Horne: Councilman Horne suggested that the Town place a sign advertising free WI-Fi at the park since many people do not know that it is available. Also, Mr. Horne expressed that the lawsuit against the Town has been dismissed without prejudice.

N. Councilman Bass: Councilman Horne asked Mr. Davis about the status of patching Hwy. 222 where it was torn up due to water repairs. Mr. Davis noted that he had delayed patching the area because they had to go back to repair the same water line again and wanted to be sure that the leak is indeed fixed before they patch it.

O. Councilwoman Grice: Councilwoman Grice suggested that the Town have a retirement gathering for Debra Beamon. The other Council members agreed with this suggestion.

P. Councilman Dew: Mr. Dew shared Legislative Updates with the Council members.

Q. Mayor: Mayor Edmundson asked Mr. Davis about the issue with the Saratoga sewer. Mr. Davis informed the Council that Saratoga has requested an increase in their flow 13,000 gallons per day. Mr. Davis said the Town is denying their request due to inflow and infiltration issues in the past with Saratoga sewer.

Next, the Mayor asked if Computer Central is now doing the IT work for the police department computers. Mr. Davis responded that Computer Central is now doing the work for the police department.

At this time, Councilman Bass expressed concern about the parking issue at the Post Office on W. Thompson Ave. He said people are parking on both sides of the street and it causes problems turning on W. Thompson from Main Street. Mr. Davis will talk to Chief Rosario and decide the best way to improve this situation.

With no further business, Councilman Horne made a motion to adjourn, with a second from Councilwoman Grice. All other members voted in favor of the motion.

Adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Beamon, Town Clerk/Finance Officer

William H. Edmundson, Mayor

