

Town of Stantonburg
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2012

Opening:

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Stantonburg Town Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on November 12, 2012 in Town Hall by Mayor William Edmundson.

Present:

Councilman Ken D. Horne, Donnie Bass, H. Powell Dew, Robert Watson and Councilwoman Jackie Grice were present. Also, Town Manager Gary Davis and Town Clerk, Debra Beamon were present. Those attending from the public were Michael Jaenicke, a reporter for the Wayne-Wilson News Leader, former Councilman Dan Whitley, Mrs. Marguerite Whitley, Tom Riddle and Joanne Lucas. Also attending were Town employee, Jeff Reddick, Wade and Lori Farmer.

A. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Prayer:

Wade Farmer led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilwoman Grice began the meeting with Prayer.

B. Approval of Minutes:

October 15, 2012 Regular Schedule Meeting
October 29, 2012 Called Meeting

MMB: Councilman Horne SEC: Councilman Watson Yes: All No: ___ *For minutes listed above*

C. Financial Report:

Receipts \$372,615.94 Disbursements \$296,333.38 Difference \$76,282.56

MMB: Councilman Watson SEC: Councilman Horne Yes: All No: ___

D. Invoices for payment:

Total \$ 40,532.84 MMB: Councilman Bass SEC: Councilman Grice
Yes: All No: ___

E. Police

Chief J. Hunt:

Chief Hunt presented the Police Department's Citation/Activity report. (see attachment) Chief reported that he had a Community Watch meeting with Zones 3 & 4 on October 25, 2012. He had a very positive response with approximately 30 people attending the meeting. The citizens requested that the Chief ask the Town Council to consider installing speed bumps on Yelverton Street to slow the traffic. The Chief said that he will be having another Community Watch meeting with Zones 1 & 2 on November 15, 2012. Chief Hunt expressed that he would like for the Council members to try to attend.

F. Public Present:

At this time, Mayor Edmundson recognized Mr. Dan Whitley. Mr. Whitley expressed concern about the Town Council's decision not to renew the lease with the Thompson family for the ball field behind Stantonsburg School. Mr. Whitley presented the Council with a list of signatures of citizens requesting that the Council reconsider its decision to abandon the ball field. (see attachment) Mr. Whitley said he had spoken with Denise Taylor, Principal of Stantonsburg Elementary School, about the school using the ball field for school activities. Mr. Whitley stated that Ms. Taylor said that she did not realize that the ball field was for public use. Mr. Joanne Lucas responded that Ms. Taylor said that she would like to see the ball park maintained for school activities. Town Manager, Gary Davis responded that he had received a letter from Ms. Taylor (see attachment) regarding the ball field. Councilman Bass questioned the Town Manager about the liability to the Town if an accident occurred during a school activity. Mr. Davis said the school should have insurance coverage for school activities, but he would research the Town's insurance policy.

G. Parks & Recreation:

There was no representative from this committee. Mayor Edmundson presented a revised budget for Project Costs for the Town Park (see attachment) The revised budget reflects a cost over run for the picnic shelters and bathrooms. The budget needs to be amended in order for the Town to submit a reimbursement request to the State. After some discussion, Councilman Dew made a motion to approve the budget amendment. With a second from Councilman Horne, all other Council members voted in favor.

H. Town Manager's Report/Updates:

Next, Mr. Davis presented (1) extension request for the November billing cycle. After reviewing the request, Councilman Dew made a motion to grant the extension. With a second from Councilman Bass, all others voted in favor.

At this time, Mr. Davis passed out copies of the letter he received from Denise Taylor, Principal of Stantonsburg Elementary School, regarding the ball field lease. Councilman Horne reminded the Council and the public that the survey mailed to the

citizens from the Parks & Recreation Committee did not show a softball or baseball field as top priority for the community. Tom Riddle, a guest from the public, suggested contacting Mickey Davis, President of the WCYAA and Rod Skinner of the Wilson County Fast Pitch Softball League about the possibility of renting the ball field for baseball and softball tournaments to help offset the cost of the upkeep of the ball field. After some discussion, the Council decided to schedule a meeting with the Thompson family and a representative from the Kiwanis Club to discuss the future of the ball field.

Mr. Davis presented the overtime and gas reports for October.

For the next item of business, Mr. Davis asked the Council to declare the 2003 Ford Explorer surplus and to dispose of it by private negotiation and sale. Councilman Watson made a motion to declare 2003 Ford Explorer as surplus and dispose of said property by negotiated offer and sale. With a second from Councilman Horne, all others voted favorably.

For the last item, Mr. Davis requested that the Council approve Christmas bonuses for the Town employees this year. Councilman Bass suggested the Council give an increase this year. After a brief discussion, it was decided to increase the bonus from \$250.00 to \$300.00 for full time employees and from \$125.00 to \$150.00 for part time employees. Councilman Watson made a motion to approve the employee Christmas bonuses. With a second from Councilman Horne, all other Council members voted in favor of the motion.

I. Council Members:

Ken Horne

Councilman Horne expressed concern about the rules and regulations for the new park. He stated that he would like to see the rules and regulations visibly posted at the park. Mayor Edmundson said he would speak to the Park & Recreation Committee members about this issue and have them work on this request.

Councilman Watson, Councilman Bass and Councilwoman Grice had no concerns or requests.

Powell Dew

Councilman Dew asked the Town Manager about the status of the Town Hall renovations. Mr. Davis stated he is still waiting to hear back from the architect, who is currently working on the plans and specifications.

Mayor Edmundson

The Mayor asked the Council to think about another Council retreat to discuss long term planning for the Town of Stantonsburg and to come back to the December meeting with a date for the retreat. Mayor Edmundson stated that he could reserve the Upper Coastal Plain COG business incubator for the retreat. All members agreed to think about this proposal and decide on a date in January.

Next, Mayor Edmundson reported that he had met with Bill Bass of the DOT about resurfacing S. Main Street from the creek bridge to Highway 58 and on N. Saratoga

Street from Commercial Avenue to Moyton Avenue. Mr. Bass is supposed to get back with him before the end of the week about this project.

At this time, Mayor Edmundson asked the Council to make a decision on the Animal Control Ordinance. After much discussion, Councilman Watson made a motion to restrict the amount of dogs per household to (4) adult dogs and no restrictions on cats. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion. Councilman Horne, Watson and Councilwoman Grice voted in favor with Councilman Bass and Dew voting negatively.

The Mayor reported that Barbara Dantonio had until November 15, 2012 to remove debris from her yard or the Town would remove it at Ms. Dantonio's expense.

The Town Manager made the Council aware that he was having problems with the aerator at the WWTP. He stated that at this time it was working but failure is possible at any time.

At this time, Councilman Watson made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Horne seconded the motion with all other Council voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Beamon
Finance Officer/Town Clerk

Mayor

William H. Edmundson

