

TOWN OF STANTONSBURG

DATE: March 12, 2018

Mayor William Edmundson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following Council members were present: Donnie Bass, Jackie Grice and Ken Horne. Councilwoman Rhodes and Police Chief Orlando Rosario arrived at approximately 7:04. Also present were Town Manager Gary Davis and Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey. Councilman Dew was absent due to a prior engagement. Martin Amerson was present from Carr, Riggs and Ingram. Alex Ellis was also in attendance representing the Joseph Warren Masonic Lodge.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Prayer:

Martin Amerson led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilwoman Grice began the meeting with prayer.

A. Approve Public Hearing and Regular meeting minutes for February 2018:

Councilman Horne made a motion to approve the minutes for the Public Hearing and regular meeting as written. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

B. Financial Report:

Receipts \$394,949.23 Disbursements \$390,672.71 Difference \$4,276.52

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

C. Invoices for Payment: Total: \$19,822.22

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

D. Public Present: At this time, Martin Amerson with Carr, Riggs and Ingram presented the 2016-2017 audit for the Town of Stantonburg. After careful review, Mr. Amerson stated that the Town's audit was very good and he commended the office staff for a job well done. Mr. Amerson informed the Board that the Town's audit has also been approved by the Local Government Commission. Councilman Horne made a motion to accept the audit report as presented by Carr, Riggs and Ingram for fiscal year 2016-2017. With a second by Councilwoman Rhodes, all Council members present voted favorably.

At this time, Alex Ellis with the Joseph Warren Masonic Lodge addressed the Board. The Joseph Warren Lodge sent a letter to the Town of Stantonburg requesting that the Town pay for repairs to the natural gas supply line, the propane gas supply line and the shelter on the rear of the Masonic Hall. They also requested the Town reimburse the Lodge for utilities they have paid for the past 13 months, storage fees and that their 2017 taxes be forgiven to the Joseph Warren Lodge. Mayor Edmundson informed the Board that a committee for the Town had met with members of the Masonic Lodge and agreed that compensation for repairs was likely justified. These requests were made because of water damage from the Seal Building that is currently being demolished. Mr. Ellis stated that the Lodge has been unable to meet due to the water. The demolition also damaged the shelter and gas lines on the rear of the building. Mr. Ellis also informed the Board that they were forced to obtain a climate controlled storage facility to house their belongings. Town Manager Gary Davis informed the Board that he is not sure if the Town could legally forgive the taxes for the Mason Lodge. After much discussion, Councilman Horne made a motion to settle with the Masonic Lodge in the amount of \$2,500 for incidental expenses incurred due to the Seal Building causing issues for the Mason Lodge. With a second by Councilwoman Grice, all Council members present voted favorably.

E. Police Report: Chief Rosario asked to be excused at approximately 7:15 pm to handle traffic issues caused by the snow and was unable to answer questions.

F. Parks & Rec: Mayor Edmundson informed the Board that the Parks and Recreation Committee had met and were in the process of planning the next phase of the park.

Town Manager Gary Davis presented (3) utility extension requests. After reviewing each request, Councilman Horne made a motion to grant all three extension requests with the stipulation that any request for a Friday be paid by noon on that date. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion. Councilman Horne, Councilman Bass and Councilwoman Grice voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed with a 3-1 vote, with Councilwoman Rhodes voting against the motion.

After much discussion, Councilwoman Rhodes made a motion to establish a \$25.00 extension fee to be assessed starting June 1, 2018 in addition to a late fee and cut off fee if applicable. Councilman Horne seconded the motion. All other members voted in favor of the motion.

G. EMS: N/A

H. Appearance Committee: N/A

I. Town Managers Report: Town Manager Gary Davis presented the overtime report for February 2018. February 2018 overtime was up with 261 $\frac{1}{4}$ hrs compared to 38 $\frac{3}{4}$ hrs in February 2017. Mr. Davis stated that 197 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs will be reimbursed by NCDOT for work performed on the Pelt Road Bridge Project.

Town Manager Gary Davis presented Budget Amendment #1 to the Board. After careful review, Councilwoman Grice made a motion to accept Budget Amendment #1 as presented. Councilman Horne seconded the motion with all other Council members present voting in favor of the motion.

Mr. Davis stated that the Town of Stantonsburg has received a 50% grant of \$310,000 and a 50% loan of \$310,000 at zero interest for an additional well. This well will be constructed outside of the Central Coastal Plains Capacity Use Area. Mr. Davis stated that other than the hourly restrictions, this well will have no restrictions on it and will help the Town meet its future water needs. This will also enable the Town to continue to sell water to the County at the current level. There will be a grant fee of 1.5% and a loan fee of 2%.

J. Councilman Horne: N/A

K. Councilman Bass: Councilman Bass asked Town Manager Gary Davis if there were any plans for street repair. Mr. Davis stated that it was a part of the Sewer Rehab Project plans.

L. Councilwoman Rhodes: Councilwoman Rhodes asked Town Manager Gary Davis if the Town could repair some curbs and sidewalks when the repairs to the roads are paved. Mr. Davis stated that he would look into it.

Councilwoman Rhodes informed the Board that she was looking into getting some estimates to have some stumps at the cemetery ground up.

M. Councilman Dew: N/A

N. Councilwoman Grice: N/A

O. Mayor: Mayor Edmundson inquired about the logging that the Town of Stantonsburg is having done. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that the Board was polled as to whether or not to have the land the Town owns logged. The mobilization costs were avoided because the loggers were already logging in the area. Mr. Davis informed the Board that the Town was paid \$42,000 for the timber and he has contacted Brandon Webb with the Forestry Service about having the trees reseeded. Mr. Webb suggested to Mr. Davis that the Town wait until the fall and see what trees are coming back before they decide to do any seeding.

Councilman Horne made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion. All other members voted in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tabitha E. Bailey, Town Clerk/Finance Officer

William H. Edmundson, Mayor

