

**TOWN OF STANTONSBURG**

DATE: March 13, 2017

Mayor William Edmundson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The following Council members were present: Powell Dew, Jr., Donald Bass, Ken D. Horne and Jackie Grice. Also present were Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey, Deputy Clerk Patsy Godwin and Coley Rhodes of the Appearance Committee. Police Chief Orlando Rosario was also present. Town Manager Gary Davis was absent due to sickness. The public present was Mrs. Ada Hunt.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Prayer:** Mrs. Ada Hunt led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman Horne opened the meeting with prayer.

At this time Ms. Coley Rhodes was sworn in by Mayor Edmundson as the Town's new Council member.

The Town's electrical consultant, Kevin O'Donnell, updated the Board on the situation with Duke Energy's coal ash spill. Mr. O'Donnell stated that Duke Energy, in the Town's contract, has the right to assert a claim to the Town to recover their cost of coal ash. Mr. O'Donnell has estimated that cost to be around \$200,000 for the Town of Stantonburg. Duke Energy has sent the Town a letter asking the Town to either settle with them or Duke will be filing a lawsuit against the Town at the end of March. Mr. O'Donnell will be able to give a review and a firm recommendation on March 21, 2017. The Town Council agreed to meet March 21, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. to hear Mr. O'Donnell's recommendation and make a decision on this matter.

**A. Approve minutes for February 2017 Meeting:** Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 2017 regular and closed session meetings. With a second from Councilman Bass, all Council members voted in favor of the motion.

**B. Approved Financial Reports for February 2017:**

*Receipts \$258,430.35 Disbursements \$222,744.35 Difference \$35,686.00*

**MMB:** Councilman Horne made a motion, with a second by Councilman Dew, to approve the Financial Report for February 2017. All Council members voted in favor of the motion.

**C. Invoices for Payment: Total: \$19,888.39**

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

**D. Public Present: N/A**

**E. Police Report:** The Council reviewed the monthly police report. Chief Rosario informed the Council that the Police Department hosted (4) Governor Highway Safety checkpoints in the month of February.

Chief Rosario suggested September 15-16 for the upcoming Bicentennial Celebration. Councilwoman Rhodes made a motion to have the Town of Stantonsburg Bicentennial on September 15-16 of 2017. With a second by Councilwoman Grice, all Council members present voted favorably.

Chief Rosario stated that February was a good month, with traffic violations down from the month before.

Chief Rosario informed the Council that he had hired (2) new part time officers, Officer Terry L. Williams Jr. and Officer Mitch T. Pittman. Chief Rosario asked that the Town Council allow the Police Department to go from 92.5 hours to 84 hours to prevent having to pay overtime. He also asked the Town Council to change the pay cycle for the Police Department from the 15<sup>th</sup> and last day of the month to every other week. This would afford Chief Rosario the opportunity to make a schedule consistent with the 12 hour rotation that is already in use. Councilman Dew made a motion to shift the Police Department schedule from 92.5 hours twice a month to an 84 hour period every other week. With a second from Councilman Horne, all Council members voted in favor of the motion.

At this time Chief Rosario informed the Town Council that there had been some personnel issues with the Town's K-9 officer. With this being said, Chief Rosario presented the Town Council with a quote from Ventosa Kennel for \$1,500 for certification of a new K-9 handler. Councilman Horne suggested that the Town Council table this request until the end of the meeting to allow for a closed session.

**F. Parks & Rec: N/A**

**G. Appearance Committee:** Councilwoman Rhodes informed the Town Council that the Appearance Committee met and was in the process of making plans for the upcoming Bicentennial and other projects for the Town.

At this time, (4) extension requests were brought before the Board for their approval. After reviewing each request, Councilman Dew made a motion to grant all (4) extension requests, with the stipulation that the (2) extension requests for March 24<sup>th</sup> be paid by noon on that date. Councilman Horne seconded the motion with all other Council members present voting in favor of the motion.

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

**I. EMS: N/A**

**J. Town Managers Report:** At this time, Mayor Edmundson gave the overtime report. The overtime for February 2017 was 38 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hours versus 52 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hours in February 2016.

**K. Councilman Horne:** Councilman Horne asked that the Town look into providing bank drafts and taking payments over the phone, possibly through some type of automated service. Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey agreed to look into the cost of this service.

Councilman Horne questioned who is responsible for clean up after an accident on the highway. Mayor Edmundson suggested asking the Police Department who would be responsible for clean up after an accident.

**L. Councilman Bass:** Councilman Bass stated that Tabitha Bailey has completed her 6-month probationary period as Town Clerk/Finance Officer. Councilman Bass made a motion to grant Tabitha Bailey the customary 5% probationary raise increase retroactive to the February 1<sup>st</sup> pay period. With a second by Councilwoman Grice, all members present voted favorably.

**M. Councilwoman Rhodes:** Councilwoman Rhodes stated that she was not pleased with the work that Harper Landscaping is doing for the Town of Stantonsburg. Councilwoman Rhodes asked that the Town Council consider eliminating the contract with Harper Landscaping and allocate those funds to the Appearance Committee. Mayor Edmundson suggested requesting Harper Landscaping provide an itemized invoice by March 20<sup>th</sup> and the Town Council discuss this further when they meet again on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Councilwoman Rhodes suggested that the Town set up some sort of sign to display upcoming news and events. After much discussion, Councilwoman Rhodes agreed to get quotes for a marquis to be placed in the Town and bring them before the Council at the next meeting.

At this time, Councilwoman Rhodes inquired about the status of the Seal Building. Mayor Edmundson stated that Mr. Speight's attorney had seriously delayed the process of deed transfer, but it is now on the fast track to be executed.

**N. Councilman Dew: N/A**

**O. Councilwoman Grice: N/A**

**P. Mayor:** Mayor Edmundson stated that the Town of Stantonsburg had a Community Development Block Grant application that was denied. He informed the Council that the Town would be able to file again the 29<sup>th</sup> of September and there are seminars to be held for application training.

At this time, Councilman Horne made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters. With a second by Councilwoman Grice, all members voted favorably.

Mayor Edmundson declared the meeting back into open session at approximately 10:10. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to allow Officer Williams to be K-9 certified through Ventosa Kennels for a fee of \$1,500.00. Councilman Dew seconded the motion. Councilman

Dew, Councilwoman Grice and Councilman Horne voted in favor of the motion passing the motion with a 3-2 vote. Councilman Bass and Councilwoman Rhodes voted against the motion.

At this time, Mayor Edmundson stated that the Town Council will reconvene on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 P.M. and continue the meeting. Mayor Edmundson declared the meeting in recess.

Respectfully submitted,

Tabitha E. Bailey, Town Clerk/Finance Officer

William H. Edmundson, Mayor

