

**TOWN OF STANTONSBURG**

DATE: March 14, 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 Waston and Ken Horne. Also present were Town Manager Gary Davis, Town Clerk Debra Beamon and Interim Police Chief Carlo Talarico.

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

Mrs. Annie Artis led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman Dew began the meeting with prayer.

There were approximately 100 citizens present so, due to limited space, Mayor Edmundson recessed the meeting and moved it to the Stantonburg Community Building.

At this time, Mayor Edmundson called the meeting back in session and changed the order of business. First, Fire Chief Tim Wolfe of the Stantonburg-Moyton Fire Dept. reported that the renovations have begun on the fire department and that the department answered 121 calls from January 1<sup>st</sup> up to March 14, 2016.

Next, the Captain of the Stantonburg EMS reported that the EMS is recruiting new members and that their franchise has been renewed with Wilson County.

**A. Public Present:** Mayor Edmundson opened the floor for questions or comments from the public. Mayor Edmundson explained that everyone that is recognized to speak would have 3 minutes and would not be allowed to speak again. There were 27 citizens that expressed that they were in favor of keeping the Stantonburg Police Department. There was no one in favor of contracting with the Wilson County Sheriff's Dept. for police protection in the Town of Stantonburg. A petition with approximately 450 signatures of people in favor of keeping the police department was presented to the Town Council.

**B. Approve minutes for February 8, 2016, Closed Session and Special Meeting**

**February 18, 2016:** Councilman Dew made a motion to approve the regular minutes, closed session and special meeting as written. With a second from Councilman Horne, all members voted in favor of the motion.

**C. Financial Report:**

Receipts \$301,972.63 Disbursements \$217,024.32 Difference \$84,948.31

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

**D. Invoices for Payment:** Total: \$43,050.55

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

**E: Police Report:** Interim Chief Carlo Talarico presented the monthly police report. At our February meeting, a citizen made a comment that the criminal activity in Town is up since the resignation of the former police chief. Mr. Talarico presented a comparison of criminal activity from November 2015 thru February 2016. The criminal activity is not up since the resignation of the former police chief.

At this time Mr. Davis presented (9) extension requests: After reviewing each request, Councilman Dew made a motion to grant all the extensions as requested. Councilman Bass seconded the motion with other members voting favorably.

**G. Parks & Rec:** Mayor Edmundson had no report other than the committee is seeking new volunteers. Cindy Russell and Annie Artis volunteered to be on the Parks & Rec committee.

**H. Appearance Committee:** N/A

**I. Town Manager's Report:** Next, Mr. Davis presented the overtime report which showed that overtime was down from February 2015.

At this time, Mr. Davis reported that the Town was ultimately not funded with a CDBG grant for the sewer rehab project, but we have been offered a state revolving loan with 0% interest. Mr. Davis recommended to the Council that they turn down the loan offer and reapply for the CDBG grant. Councilman Horne made a motion to turn down the 0% infrastructure loan for the sewer rehab and resubmit an application in the next CDBG grant cycle. Councilman Dew seconded the motion with all other members voting in favor of the motion.

Mr. Davis informed the Council that he had received a press release from NTE (future power supplier) that they had secured all their funding and were going ahead with the new generation facility. Mr. Davis informed the Council that the town received the letter of collateral from NTE today and it is in the safe.

Mr. Davis also informed the Council that one demolition has essentially been completed at N. Main St. and the others should be done soon. Mr. Davis also reported that two other properties are being looked at for possible condemnation.

At this time, Councilman Dew thanked the citizens for coming out and expressing their concerns and opinions. Councilman Watson informed the public that the Council would make a decision about the police department tonight. Councilmen Bass, Horne and Councilwoman Grice expressed their appreciation to the public as well for their support. They also encouraged them to attend the monthly Town Council meetings to see first-hand what business the town is discussing.

Next, Mrs. Jane Thompson, 311 Denver Drive, expressed concern about the grass growing up and the vacant lots not being mowed in the new Wainsfield Subvision as often

as they should be. Mrs. Thompson does not know who to contact about the problem. Mr. Davis informed Mrs. Thompson that the developer would be notified about this situation.

At this time, Councilman Dew made a motion to accept the Wilson County Sheriff's Department's proposal to police the Town of Stantonsburg. There was no second, so the motion died for lack of a second.

Councilman Horne made a motion to keep the Stantonsburg Police Department active and fully staffed for 24 hour coverage. Councilman Bass seconded the motion with all other members voting in favor of the motion.

**H. Councilman Horne:** Mr. Horne asked if the Town would contact the home owner at 306 S. Main to clean up the unsightly debris in their yard and on the porch.

**J. Councilman Watson:** Mr. Watson commented that the public spoke for him tonight

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

**L. Councilman Dew:** Mr. Dew informed the public that he fully supports the police department and that he truly thanks everyone for coming out and showing their support.

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

**N. Mayor Edmundson:** Mayor Edmundson thanked everyone for coming out and showing their support for the police department

Also, Mr. Edmundson informed the public that the Stantonsburg Clinic is staffed with a PA five days a week and the hospital is seeking a doctor to come to Stantonsburg.

Next, Councilman Watson made a motion to adjourn. With a second from Councilwoman Grice, all other members voted in favor of the motion. Adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Beamon, Finance Officer/Town Clerk

William H. Edmundson, Mayor

