

TOWN OF STANTONSBURG

DATE: 05-11-2015

The monthly Town Council Meeting was held on May 11, 2015. Mayor Bill Edmundson called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following Council members were present: Councilman Robert Watson and Councilman Powell Dew, Jr. Also present were: Town Manager Gary Davis, Town Clerk Debra Beamon. Councilman Donnie Bass and Councilman Ken Horne arrived at 7:05 pm. Councilwoman Jackie Grice and Chief John Hunt arrived at 7:08 pm. There was no one present from the public.

A. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Prayer:

Town Manager, Gary Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman Watson opened with prayer.

B. Approval of Regular Minutes and Closed Session Minutes for April 13, 2015

Councilman Horne made a motion to approve the minutes as written. With a second from Councilwoman Grice, all members present voted in favor of the motion.

C. Financial Report:

Receipts: \$280,927.56 Disbursements: \$436,228.45 Difference \$(155,300.89)
Mr. Davis informed the Council that the Town had (4) large invoices this month that are not routine.

Annual Sewer Rehab Loan Payment \$44,735.84
Annual WWTP Imp. Project Loan Payment \$55,287.00
An Energy True-up charge on the utility bill \$46,063.83
New Library Roof \$14,600.00
These (4) invoices total **\$160,686.67**

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

D. Invoices for Payment: Total: \$105,150.20

Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the invoices for payment. Councilman Horne seconded the motion with all members present voting favorably.

E. Public: N/A**F. Police Report:** At this time, Chief Hunt presented the police report (see attachment)

Chief Hunt reported that the Park restrooms are still being vandalized. Councilman Horne suggested that the police check the restrooms regularly and record the hour they were checked so that if they are vandalized, they can narrow down suspects by viewing the

surveillance cameras. Chief Hunt stated that the department is working on letters and citations for junk cars and tall grass in Town. August 28th and 29th has been set for the annual Town festival this year. Chief stated that he will have karaoke on Friday night and the usual festivities on Saturday.

Next, Chief Hunt asked the Council who is responsible for keeping a ditch mowed and cleaned out between 2 property owners on N. Saratoga St. Mr. Davis stated that the deed for each owner likely states their property goes to center of the ditch and they are responsible for their side.

At this time, Mr. Davis presented (1) utility extension request. Councilman Dew made a motion to grant the request. Councilman Horne seconded the motion, with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

G. Parks & Recreation Committee: Mayor Edmundson informed the Council that the P & R Committee has scheduled a rain date for the Park Dedication on May 16, 2015 from 11:00 am-12:00 pm.

I. Appearance Committee: N/A: Mr. Davis spoke on behalf of the Town that the Town crew is working on curbs & gutters removing grass as their work schedule allows.

G. Town Manager's Report and Updates: Next, Mr. Davis presented the overtime report. (see attachment) Overtime was up slightly from last year due to a couple of trouble calls for power outage and the gas company hit a water line after hours.

At this time Mr. Davis informed the Council that the Town still has so many customers that leave without paying their final bill that the Town's staff feels that the Town should raise the deposits to cover the final bills. Proposed deposits are as follows:

1. \$75.00 to \$100.00 : Good credit with a letter of credit from previous service provider
2. \$150.00 to \$200.00: Good credit without a letter of credit
3. \$300.00 to \$400.00: Bad credit based on the online credit review

A customer usually has 2 months bills due by the time they are cut off for non-pay.

Councilman Dew made a motion to approve the deposit increase as stated above.

Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion, with all other Council members voting in favor of the motion. If a customer is disconnected for non-payment they will have to upgrade their deposit to \$400.00 because that makes them a bad risk.

At the last meeting Mr. Davis informed the Council that the pumping rate at Well #1 had dropped off dramatically. Mr. Davis informed the Council that a contractor has been in and pulled the pump and the pipe and found several sizable holes in the piping that definitely affected the pumping rate. The contractor videoed the well and found that the screens were somewhat dirty. At this time, Mr. Davis stated that he is waiting for the well company to give him their recommendations as to how to move forward with this problem and he will keep the Council informed.

Next, Mr. Davis informed the Council that the Town's main checking account was compromised in February 2015. The expense checks that went out in February included a check to Ferguson Enterprises in Atlanta, GA. for approximately \$1,900.00. A

representative from Ferguson called to inquire about an outstanding invoice on May 4, 2015. Mrs. Beamon checked the bank statement and found that the check had cleared the bank on February 24, 2015, but when she actually looked at the check copy online, the payee's name had been changed to an unknown individual with a Hickory, N.C. address. After further investigation, it was obvious that the font was different from what we use to print checks, so the bank will make the check good. It was cashed at a BB&T in Seven Lakes, N.C. BB&T informed Mrs. Beamon that we would have to close the account and block it, or sign a waiver stating that the bank would not be liable for any other fraudulent actions against the account. The bank was given a list of outstanding checks and a list of check numbers to be covered so we could continue to write checks until the new checks arrived. We opened a new account and we will be reimbursed for the cost of the new checks by EZ Shield.

At this time, Mr. Davis presented Budget Amendment #2 for the Council's approval (see attachment) After reviewing the amendment, Councilman Watson made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #2 as presented. With a second from Councilman Dew, all others voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Davis asked the Mayor to schedule a Budget Workshop for May 26, 2015 at 7:00 pm and a Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for Monday, June 8, 2015 at 6:30, prior to the regular scheduled meeting. Mayor Edmundson confirmed the dates for the workshop and the public hearing

J. Councilman Horne: Mr. Horne asked the result of the Board of Adjustment's meeting concerning the Internet Café. Mr. Davis informed the Council that it was turned down 7-0. There will be no Internet Café.

Mr. Horne asked Mr. Davis who cuts the lot between the Cotton Gin and Ernest Winstead's lot. Mr. Davis said the Town cuts the lot occasionally and that Mr. Whitley cuts it sometimes. Mr. Horne said he wanted to be sure that the Town was fair to both the adjacent landowners when mowing grass since there are occasions when people park on the lots when events are at the park. Mr. Davis stated the additional mowing had been done for the park dedication which was rained out in April.

K. Councilman Watson: N/A

L. Councilman Bass: N/A

M. Councilman Dew: Mr. Dew said he wanted to thank the Mayor for being present and supporting the Town in all the discussions regarding the location of the EMS station in the southern part of the county. Mayor Edmundson told the Council not to give up on the location being in Black Creek because the final decision will be up to the Wilson County Board of Commissioners, not the EMS Director.

Mr. Dew asked what steps need to be taken to take down the burned out houses on Main St. Mr. Davis responded that the attorney is already working diligently on this

project and the parking lot project at the park. Mr. Dew also inquired about the dilapidated gas station on Main St., but was told that the Brownsfield Group discovered that the soil was contaminated from underground tanks and that it would be a very expensive project. The property owner is responsible for this, but he does not have the money to do anything. The concern of the Council is that it is a health hazard and dangerous since it is about to fall down. The Mayor will contact Ron Townley with UPCCOG about this situation and to inquire about possible inclusion of this property in Phase 2 of the Brownsfield project.

Next, Mr. Dew asked the Mayor if the P&R Committee had a list of rules to be approved by the Town Council. Mayor Edmundson said he had the list to present at this time.

N. Councilwoman Grice: Mrs. Grice asked the Town Manager if he would be spraying for mosquitoes soon and he said he would. Mrs. Grice also asked the Mayor if any plans had been made for the Bicentennial Celebration. Mr. Edmundson said no plans have been made at this time.

O. Mayor Edmundson: Next, Mr. Edmundson asked Mr. Davis about the progress on the water tank painting project and Mr. Davis gave an update on the progress. A bid advertisement will be in the paper on May 13, 2015. A pre- construction meeting will be on June 4, 2015 and bid opening is scheduled on June 17, 2015. Mr. Davis informed the Council that the tank would be painted sometime this summer and it would a very expensive project since the tank was found to have lead paint.

Mr. Edmundson reminded Mr. Davis that the handicap parking areas need to be painted. Mr. Davis said the handicap parking would be striped this summer.

Next, each Council member read the proposed rules for the park. After much discussion Councilman Dew made a motion to adopt the rules to ordinance as listed and amended. (see attachment) Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion with all other members voting favorably.

At this time, the Council discussed a rental fee for the picnic shelters at the park. It was decided to number the shelters #1 & #2, so each could possibly be reserved for (2) separate functions at the same time. After much discussion Councilman Horne made a motion for the shelter rental to be \$25.00 for in- town residents and \$35.00 fee for out- of- town renters and the shelter can only be reserved for a maximum of 4 hours. Councilman Dew seconded the motion with Councilmen Watson, Horne, Dew and Bass voting in favor of the motion. Councilwoman Grice voted against the motion. The motion passed 4-1

Next, Councilman Dew made a motion to charge a \$50.00 deposit for use of the shelters which would be refunded if the shelter area is left clean and satisfactory. Councilman Bass seconded the motion. Councilmen Horne, Watson and Councilwoman Grice voted against the motion. The motion did not pass.

Councilman Dew made a motion that any nonprofit organization that wishes to make an application for use of the park for an all day function will have go before the Town Council for approval. Councilman Horne seconded the motion with Councilmen Watson, Dew, Horne and Bass voting in favor of the motion. Councilwoman Grice voted against the motion. The motion passed 4-1.

At this time, Councilman Bass made a motion to adjourn. With a second from Councilwoman Grice, all others voted favorably.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Beamon
Finance Officer/Town Clerk

William Edmumndson
Mayor

