

TOWN OF STANTONSBURG

DATE: October 17, 2016

Mayor William Edmundson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The following Council members were present: Jackie Grice, Powell Dew, Jr., Ken Horne and Robert Watson. Also present were Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey, Chief Orlando Rosario, Deloris Drummond and Fire Chief Tim Wolf. The public present were Mr. Mickey Davis (Wilson County Youth Athletic Association), Mr. James Speight, Mr. Jim Fontane and several Jr. Firemen. Councilman Bass arrived at approximately 7:04 along with Town Manager Gary Davis arriving at approximately 7:06.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Prayer: Mr. Jim Fontane led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman Watson opened the meeting with prayer.

A. Approve minutes for September 12, 2016: Councilman Horne made a motion to approve the September meeting, closed session, and recessed meeting minutes as written. Councilman Dew stated that he would like to approve the minutes separately. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion to accept all minutes. Councilman Horne, Councilwoman Grice and Councilman Watson voted in favor of the motion passing the motion with a 3-2 vote. Councilman Dew and Councilman Bass voted against the motion.

B. Financial Report:

Receipts \$393,266.31 Disbursements \$336,940.82 Difference \$56,325.49

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

C. Invoices for Payment: Total: \$31,407.58

Mayor Edmundson, for comparison, asked to get a computation of what was spent on the Taste of Stantonburg and what the income was for the next Board meeting in November. Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey agreed to have the information at the next Board meeting. Councilman Horne made a motion to approve the invoices for payment. With a second by Councilman Bass, all Council members present voted favorably.

D. Public Present: Mr. Jim Fontane asked the Board to do something about the school buses dropping off elementary children down from their houses and leaving before they get to their homes. Mr. Fontane was concerned about the safety of the children. Councilman Horne informed Mr. Fontane that Wilson County sets up the bus stops and that The Town of Stantonburg has no jurisdiction over this. Councilman Horne suggested that Mr. Fontane take this matter before the school board.

Mr. James Speight came to the meeting with an issue about the seal buildings that he owns. Mr. Speight stated that he met with Town Manager Gary Davis, County Inspector Kenneth Batts and the Town Attorney. At this hearing Mr. Speight was informed that the buildings needed to come down or be repaired because they were a hazard. Mr. Speight informed the Town Council that 35 to 40 percent of the buildings have now been torn down. He has had several residents ask him why the Town does not buy the buildings because of the historic value. Mr. Speight is requesting that the Town reconsider purchasing the seal buildings and preserve what they can of the buildings.

At this time Mr. Mickey Davis with Wilson County Youth Athletic association addressed the Board. Mr. Mickey Davis was invited by Councilman Watson to speak about sports opportunities for the Town of Stantonsburg. The WCYAA currently has five active communities and they offer a wide abundance of sports. This includes baseball, softball, volleyball, soccer, basketball and a Batter Up Buddy Ball program for mentally and physically challenged kids. Mr. Mickey Davis stated that there are a lot of kids in this area that deserve a chance to participate. The WCYAA is offering to do whatever they need to do to help put an organized athletics program of any type here in Stantonsburg. Mr. Mickey Davis left his contact information with Councilman Watson and encouraged those present to check out their website at wcyaa.org and look at their different programs available. Councilman Dew asked Mr. Mickey Davis what sport he thought would rise to the top in Stantonsburg. Mr. Mickey Davis stated that t-ball and basketball would do well. WCYAA has access to the gym at Speight Middle School with their lease agreement with Wilson County Schools at a cost. At this time, Chief Rosario offered to serve as a volunteer. Mrs. Drummond asked if this would include girls also. Mr. Mickey Davis said that it would include girls. He also informed the Council that if the Town had an event and wanted the WCYAA to set up a booth to advertise, they would be more than willing to do that. Councilman Watson asked Mr. Mickey Davis if there is safety equipment available to get started with. Mr. Mickey Davis informed them that there is equipment available and that it was a part of their budget along with insurance.

E. Police Report: The Council reviewed the monthly police report. Chief Rosario informed the Council that they had sworn in the last full-time police officer that day (October 17th). The new officer's name is Crystal Jo Daughtry. She has 10 yrs of experience and in various police programs. Including Chief Rosario, there are now four full-time officers.

F. Parks & Rec: Mayor Edmundson reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee met the first Tuesday in October. They are getting some things lined up to possibly request the Town to purchase. The Parks and Recreation Committee also expressed an interest in helping with the organization of sports leagues.

G. Appearance Committee: Mrs. Deloris Drummond reported for the Appearance Committee in place of Mrs. Coley Rhodes, who is recovering from foot surgery. The Appearance Committee offered Mr. Speight any help that he may need on the cleanup of the seal buildings. Mrs. Drummond stated that they are waiting on another load of mulch. This

will depend on when they can get some volunteer help from the court system. At that point they are going to try and have Town Manager Gary Davis' men go and pick up the mulch.

H. Stantonsburg/Moyton Fire Dept.: Fire Chief Tim Wolfe provided a report for the Stantonsburg Moyton Fire Department. He reported that the Fire Department has done all of their updates. Fire Chief Tim Wolfe stated that they want to get a fence connecting to the town's fence up to the backside of their building. They are also looking into purchasing a rescue boat. The fire department had 11 calls during Hurricane Matthew and brought in over 20 people off of Pelt Rd. Some residents didn't want to evacuate the first day and they had to go back in the next day to get them out. He received a call from the Wilson Times that someone complained about it taking them too long to get to a person that needed rescuing. His understanding was this individual was picked up sometime between 2:00 and 2:30. Moyton Fire Department did not receive the call until after 6:00. That is also when the Police Department got the call. Fire Chief Tim Wolfe is supposed to talk with the woman from Wilson Times again to get this story straightened out. He stated that this individual is one of the residents that chose to stay the first day. The firemen will be taking a rescue class and a boater's safety course. They did receive help from Saratoga during the storm by using their brush truck. Mayor Edmundson stated that the Town wanted to recognize the Fire Department and Police Department for a great job of sacrifice during the storm and these water rescues.

J. EMS: Mayor Edmundson stated that they have one bid of \$800.00 to get the doors to the EMS building fixed so that they will roll up and down. Mayor Edmundson informed the Board that he thinks they are going to have a work day and fix those themselves.

At this time, Town Manager Gary Davis presented 12 requests for extensions on payment of utility bills. Councilman Dew made the motion to approve 10 extensions as presented with the exception of 2 that requested extensions until the end of the month. These two would be granted an extension, but must pay by the 25th. With a second by Councilman Horne, all members voted in favor of the motion.

I. Town Managers Report: Mr. Davis presented the overtime report, which was up from the previous year. Mr. Davis noted that thirty of the overtime hours were festival-related hours making the overtime pretty close to what it normally is.

He then brought before the Town Council a resolution accepting a State Reserve Grant of \$100,000.00, a grant which Mr. Davis had brought before them previously. This grant is for a Sewer Assessment Management Plan and it also designates the authorized official, the Mayor, to sign the grant documents. Mr. Davis read the Resolution aloud (see attached). Councilman Watson made a motion to accept the Resolution. With a second from Councilman Horne, all members voted favorably.

Mr. Davis proceeded by informing the Town Council that The Town of Stantonsburg encountered numerous problems during Hurricane Matthew. Particularly in regard to the

sewer system, wastewater treatment plant and the electrical system. Eddie Evans and Roger Sullivan worked numerous hours on Saturday, October 8th, to control or limit sewer issues and overflows. The Town did experience a brief overflow at the lift station, but the problem was caught fairly quickly. Mr. Davis stated that there was a brief overflow at the oxidation ditch and some from the distribution box as they adjusted the valve to control the flow to regulate the amount that was coming in. Both spills have been estimated and reported to the state as required. The Town experienced a two hour power outage in Saratoga during the afternoon that was restored relatively quickly. Also, the Town experienced a system wide outage for approximately 8 hours. There was an additional 50 to 100 customers in the Tyson and Saratoga St. area that were out for another 2 ¾ hours due to a large tree on the line. Mr. Davis stated that there were 4 main employees that worked to restore power during the torrential rain and high winds. At this time Mr. Davis commended the 3 employees that worked with him for an outstanding effort. He then asked the Town Council to consider an additional bonus for Eddie Evans, Spencer Floars and Roger Sullivan for their outstanding effort in restoring power. Mr. Davis informed the Town Council that they have purchased a small aluminum boat from a local resident. This will be an asset that the Town can use in the future that will give them the ability to ride in and look at lines that they cannot reach by vehicle due to flooding. At this time, Councilman Horne made a motion to grant a one-time bonus of \$350.00 for the afore mentioned 3 Town employees for the outstanding work that they performed during the storm. Councilman Dew seconded the motion. All Council members present voted in favor of the motion.

At this time, Mayor Edmundson read a letter given to the Town Council from Kimberly and Dooley Ezzard praising the men who worked so hard and tirelessly in the storm to restore power.

K. Councilman Horne: Councilman Horne asked if there was any movement to beautify Main St., primarily the burned out house and the Turner oil lot. Town Manager Gary Davis responded by saying that they would probably have to move to the next phase (condemnation) with the burned house because there has been no movement on the owners part if that is the wishes of the Board. Mr. Davis then stated that he would contact Mr. Turner about his lot as well.

Councilman Horne then addressed Chief Rosario and asked if there has been any push back from the residents because of the violations that have been handed out during recent traffic stops. Chief Rosario stated that they have received positive feedback from the residents. He also informed the Council that 90% of the individuals that are committing these traffic violations are not residents of Stantonsburg.

Councilman Horne then stated that he has noticed, while driving through town, several residences with dogs unleashed. He asked if we have an ordinance against that. Chief Rosario informed him that there is an ordinance in place to address this. He said the way they go about correcting that is they notify the owner. If it is not taken care of and the animal is found in the roadway, they seize the animal and contact Wilson County Animal Control.

L. Councilman Watson: Councilman Watson asked if the Town employee appreciation luncheon was still on board. Mayor Edmundson stated that the luncheon will be held on Tuesday, October 25th at 12:00.

Councilman Watson then made it known that he would like to consider the options of what Mr. Speight had brought before the Board with regard to the seal building.

Councilman Watson also informed the Town Council that the local grocery store property had been sold and it will hopefully be up and running soon.

Councilman Watson stated that Mr. Steven Mooring approached him with a complaint about a tree that is brushing up against his house. Councilman Watson suggested that it might be time to take that tree down. Mayor Edmundson asked Mrs. Drummond to make note of this issue and forward this request to Mrs. Coley Rhodes with the Appearance Committee.

M. Councilman Bass: Councilman Bass inquired about an ordinance regarding landscaping between the curb line and the sidewalk and it obstructing the view. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that there is an ordinance that has been previously submitted to the Board and that he will look it up again for presentation.

Councilman Bass' other concern was the potholes in the streets. Mr. Gary Davis stated that they had someone lined up to fix them, but they will probably have to find someone else with all the street work that is going on now because of the hurricane.

Councilman Bass stated that there is a section of sidewalk by the Medical Clinic with a lot of overhanging branches. This makes it hard to walk down the sidewalk. Councilman Bass asked that we get the street crew to take care of this.

N. Councilman Dew: Councilman Dew apologized for not being able to make it to the other part of the meeting last month. He then stated that it was his understanding that the only remaining item of business was to approve the minutes of the public hearing from the previous night. However, during that meeting a new item was brought to the table about renaming the Town's annual festival to the Crepe Myrtle Festival. Councilman Dew's contention was that it was not a part of the agenda. Councilman Dew felt that this should have been brought before the entire Council. He would have liked to have a process that would have allowed citizen input and a Board vote on that matter. Councilman Horne stated that the meeting was still in regular session and therefore open other matters to be brought up and discussed. He further noted that the only reason the vote was made then was because they wanted to be able to announce the change at the upcoming festival.

O. Councilwoman Grice: At this time, Councilwoman Grice thanked Chief Rosario for the efforts that he put forth to get the Taste of Stantonburg together. She also thanked the Fire Department and all others that took part in this event.

Councilwoman Grice proceeded to ask Town Manager Gary Davis what time of year we scale back the lights at the park. Mr. Davis stated that the lights are typically adjusted at daylight savings time.

P. Mayor: Mayor Edmundson asked how we stand on being able to accept credit/debit cards. Town Clerk Tabitha Bailey informed the Town Board that the program has been installed. Mrs. Bailey also stated that the Town cannot take payments over the phone as of yet. Councilman Horne suggested that we look into that. At this time, Mayor Edmundson made the Board aware that he had received a complaint about being charged a late fee. This individual was flooded in and unable to get to Stantonsburg to pay the bill. Mayor Edmundson stated that he himself was reminded that the bills are due the 1st of the month and only after the 10th, is the late fee applied. This means that there was ample time before hand to have the bill paid on time. The Council was in agreement with the Mayor's statement.

Mayor Edmundson informed the Town Council that the pictures they had discussed having made of the seal buildings for preservation purposes have been taken at a cost of \$98.16.

Mayor Edmundson asked if there has been any scheduling of town resources to regularly clean the Town streets. Town Manager Gary Davis stated that they are cleaning the streets on Wednesdays, but weather had been an issue recently.

Mayor Edmundson also asked Mr. Davis had he heard anything else from Saratoga regarding it's sewer extension request. Town Manager Gary Davis informed the Council that we are still waiting on Saratoga to investigate the sewer line off Highway 222. The City of Wilson has agreed to come and clean and video the line at no charge to the Town of Saratoga or Stantonsburg. Town Manager Gary Davis and Eddie Evans met with the City of Wilson the week prior to the storm. Their superintendent has contacted him since and hopes to reschedule the work this week or next.

At this time, Mayor Edmundson read a thank you card from Debra Beamon for the gifts and dinner that the Town provided for her in celebration of her retirement.

Mayor Edmundson stated that there is an opportunity with Electricities to share in some grant funds to do some things that they recommend with regard to electrical systems.

The Mayor also informed the Town Council that former Police Chief Neal passed away. Chief Rosario stated that the Stantonsburg Police Department showed support by presenting the family with a flag. Chief Rosario noted that Mr. Neal was the first African-American Police Chief in Stantonsburg.

Mayor Edmundson brought to the attention of the Council that the hurricane that we just experienced was another reminder that the Town drains through a limited number of drain ditches. When the weather and conditions allow, the Mayor would like to get in to these areas and make the ditches flow better. Councilman Bass stated that there is a sinkhole on Tyson Dr. as a result of the storm.

The Mayor asked if the Town was taking any action on the beauty shop on Commercial. Town Manager Gary Davis stated the Town has already had a hearing on this building and it has been posted for condemnation.

Mayor Edmundson wanted to make the Board aware that Duke Energy has taken the first legal step to setting coal ash rates for it's clients. It has not yet been approved, but they have taken that first step to force their customers to pay for this expense.

Mayor Edmundson did mention that he was honored to swear in our 4th police officer, Officer Daughtry, earlier that day. He also asked that the Council reflect on what happened

this past week. The Mayor suggested that each Councilman take notes as to what happened and what needed to happen during this storm, so that we will do the right thing to the right degree if and when this situation happens again. Mayor Edmundson has asked that the Fire Department, Police Department and the Town Organization to construct a list of needs for emergencies. The Mayor plans to present the list to the UpperCoastal Plain Council of Governments the following night. At this time, Town Manager Gary Davis commended the Electrical Department for their tree trimming efforts because it prevented a lot of damage during the storm. At this time, Councilman Bass asked Fire Chief Tim Wolfe if there is an operational siren that can notify residents in case of a storm warning. Fire Chief Tim Wolfe stated that there is, but some residents had said they did not want to hear the sirens. Mr. Wolfe informed the Council that he will look into having it send out a certain tone for weather related warnings only.

At this time, Councilman Horne made a motion to go into closed session to discuss legal matters and land acquisition. With a second from Councilman Watson, all members voted in favor of the motion. (8:35 P.M.)

At 9:18 P.M. Mayor Edmundson declared the meeting back in open session.

Councilman Dew made a motion to get an engineer to do an evaluation of the seal building. With a second from Councilman Horne, all members voted in favor of the motion.

At this time Councilman Horne made a motion to adjourn. With a second by Councilman Bass, all members voted favorably.

Respectfully submitted,

Tabitha E. Bailey, Town Clerk/Finance Officer

William H. Edmundson, Mayor

