

TOWN OF STANTONSBURG

DATE: October 13, 2015

Mayor Bill Edmundson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following Council members were present: Jackie Grice, Powell Dew, Jr., Robert Watson, and Ken Horne. Councilman Bass was a couple of minutes late. Also present were Town Manager Gary Davis and Town Clerk Debra Beamon. The public present were Steve and Kimberly Harrell, Carla Davis, Marie Edmundson and June Downing.

A. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Prayer:

Mrs. Edmundson led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilwoman Grice began the meeting with prayer.

B. Approval of Regular Minutes for Sept. 17, 2015 Meeting (Cont'd Sept. 14, 2015 Meeting) Councilman Dew made a motion to approve the minutes as written. With a second from Councilwoman Grice, all members voted in favor of the motion.

C. Financial Report:

Receipts: \$375,487.19 Disbursements: \$286,442.35 Difference \$89,044.84

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

D. Invoices for Payment: Total: \$21,370.84

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

E. Public Present: At this time, Kevin O'Donnell with Nova Consultants was supposed to give a presentation, but he called the Mayor and informed him that he will be late due to an earlier meeting in Black Creek. Also, Tim Wolfe, Fire Chief with the Stantonburg Moyton Fire Dept. will not be able to attend tonight. Mayor Edmundson gave a report for the Fire Chief. He reported that the Fire Dept. now has 30 active members and all members have new turnout gear. Chief Wolfe is in the process of getting bids to have the fire station painted inside and out. Mayor Edmundson stated that it looks like the Fire Dept. is financially solid at this time.

Next, Mr. Edmundson presented a copy of a letter he has drafted to the Wilson Co. School Board addressing the issue with the excessive number of false alarms at Stantonburg Elementary School. The consensus of the Council was to go ahead and mail the letter, even though the number of calls was down on the Police Report this month.

At this time, Carla Davis, a resident at 306 W. Thompson came before the Council with a complaint and a petition (see attachment) about a street light that was removed between 304 W. Thompson and 306 W. Thompson Ave. Mrs. Davis stated that the light was removed about 2 weeks ago and that the light had been there for 40 years or more.

Since the light was removed it is very dark at the end of W. Thompson and she does not understand why the light was removed after all these years. Mrs. Davis also complained about the overgrown yard at 304 W. Thompson and the vacant property across the street which adds to the street being a haven for petty crime since it is darker. She wants the Town to have the property owner at 304 W. Thompson Ave. clean up their property and cut down the overgrowth and also, she requests that the Town re- hang the street light that was taken down. Another concern of Mrs. Davis was that bagged or boxed trash is lying beside the street has been lying there through two trash cycles. Mrs. Davis stated that sometimes the trash pickup is ignored on their block. Mr. Davis informed Mrs. Davis that Chief Hunt has approached the resident at 304 and is in the process of trying to get the lot cleaned up. Mr. Davis also stated that the property across the street is actually out of the city limits, but that the Town might could cut some of the growth back. Councilman Watson asked about the light that Mrs. Davis was referring to as to why it was removed. Mr. Davis said the office staff had a work order to repair a yard light at 304 W. Thompson Ave. and when the electric crew went to repair the light they were told that it was not the light out front but a light in the backyard. Tom Goff, the Electrical superintendent, said the light out front was a yard light and the resident was only paying for the light in the back yard. The resident was notified that she would be charged for 2 lights and she told him to take the light down at the street because she would not pay for it. Mr. Davis stated that Tom and Eddie put the light up about 10 years ago at the request of the previous resident and it was supposed to have been charged as a yard light. Mr. Davis stated that the lights on that block are spaced apart per Town policy.

Next, June Downing a resident of 209 Tyson Drive, addressed the Council about the cell tower located on Hwy 58 just outside the city limits. Mrs. Downing stated that she has tried to contact someone about activation of the tower and is unable to talk with anyone that can give her the information that she requests. One person she spoke with told her that they were going to contact the Town Manager and she has not heard anything from the Town. Mr. Davis stated that he has not heard from anyone, but that the Town has absolutely nothing to do with the cell tower other than the required permits that were needed to put up the tower and furnishing electric service to them. The Town has nothing to do with any of the business factor of the cell tower and that the tower is not inside the city limits. Mrs. Downing said the tower has not been activated and she wants to know who she can contact to have her questions answered. Mr. Davis will check the zoning permit and try to get her a contact.

Marie Edmundson informed the Town Council that she has a community service person that needs to fulfill his hours. This person can work on Sundays and that he could do some of the clean up that is needed at the end of W. Thompson. If the Town would like to use him she stated that he is covered through Community Support Agency Workers Comp.

F. Parks & Recreation: Mayor Edmundson reported that there is still some abuse at the park and the soccer nets are torn again.

At this time, Kevin O'Donnell with Nova Consultants arrived to present his Coal Ash Report. Mr. O'Donnell reported that he has learned that Duke Progress is going to pass along the expense for the coal ash clean up to their customers at an estimated cost of \$80,000.00 to \$100,000.00 per year for 15 years to the Town. Mr. O'Donnell has contacted a Washington DC attorney, Glenn Ortman who specializes in work with the FERC. Mr. Ortman will be asked to review the Towns' position with regard to the coal ash issue to determine if the Towns have a strong case or position moving forward. If the attorney determines that the Towns have a good case, we may make a filing on the coal ash issue. He has a quote from Mr. Ortman for the Tri-Towns with the Town of Stantonsburg's portion being somewhere between \$500.00-\$2,000.00. He will be sending a retainment package to Mr. Davis for the Council's approval to move forward with this process. Mr. O'Donnell recommends to the Council to let the clock expire on the recent notice from Duke since the Town's contract expires in 2017.

Next, Mr. Mike Bradley with NTE presented a proposal to the Town of Stantonsburg to supply full requirements power to the Tri-Towns when our contract expires with Duke Progress Energy in 2017. NTE is building a gas powered generator in Kings Mountain, N.C. The Tri-Towns would need to sign a letter of intent by October 23rd in order to meet NTE's financial deadline.

At this time, Mr. Davis presented three extension requests. After reviewing each request, Councilman Dew made a motion to grant Extension Request #1 to be paid by Oct. 30, 2015 @ 12:00 pm. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to grant Extension Request #2 as requested. Councilman Watson seconded the motion with all other members voting favorably. Next, Councilwoman Grice made a motion to grant Extension Request #3, with a second from Councilman Horne. Councilmen Horne and Dew plus Councilwoman Grice voted in favor of the motion. Councilmen Watson and Bass voted against the motion. The Council advised the Town Clerk to inform Request #3 that they would not grant any more extensions since this was their 3rd request in 12 months.

G. Town Manager's Report:

Next, Mr. Davis presented the September overtime report which was down from last year.

Mr. Davis reported that the buildings at the corner of Main and Greenwood and Yelverton and Greenwood have been inspected and posted. Condemnation hearings will begin.

Mr. Davis informed the Council that the leak at the Library has been repaired and that there were no leaks during the last 12 day period of rain. The leak was coming from the air conditioning unit on top of the building. The flashing around the unit was damaged and has been repaired. A problem with the condensation line on the unit was also repaired.

Also, Mr. Davis reported that the Water Tank Cleaning and Paint project officially began on October 6th.

Mr. Davis presented a quote for approval for new carpet in the Town Hall. The lowest quote was from Lowe's for \$4,680.00. Mr. Davis stated that this project could be handled in the budget. Councilman Dew made a motion to accept the bid of \$4,680.00 from Lowe's for the carpet replacement. Councilwoman Grice seconded the motion with all other members voting in favor of the motion.

Councilman Bass requested that Mr. Davis have Buddy Holland Roofing look at the roof at the police station and give the Town a quote to repair the leak.

H. Councilman Horne: N/A

I. Councilman Watson: Councilman Watson acknowledged the picture of Mayor Edmundson that has been added to the wall of Mayors.

J. Councilman Bass: N/A

K. Councilman Dew: Councilman Dew asked if the Council needs to take action on the presentation from NTE tonight. Mr. Davis said that he would gather more information from Mr. O'Donnell and that there would have to be a called meeting to take action on the matter before the October 23rd deadline for a non binding letter of intent.

L. Councilwoman Grice: N/A

At this time, Mr. Davis presented two possible dates for the Town Christmas party for approval. It was the consensus of the Council to have the party December 17, 2015 and to have the same caterers.

Also, Mr. Davis informed the Council that the Town attorney had been contacted about a request from a business to have its deposit refunded. Mr. Rand advised that the deposit could be applied to a delinquent residential account that is owed by the business partner or the Town could simply hold the deposit.

Mayor Edmundson: Mr. Edmundson asked Mr. Davis if S. Saratoga St. would be included in the new sewer rehab project. Mr. Edmundson is interested in having a white line painted down the middle of the street for traffic and safety. Mr. Davis said there is a possibility it would be included in the project. This was tabled until later. Mr. Edmundson encouraged everyone to vote on November 3rd.

Next, Mr. Edmundson informed the Council that he and Tom Goff attended the Saratoga Town Board Meeting in reference to access to the right of way behind several houses on Main St. Saratoga. The attorneys for the Town of Saratoga and the Town of Stantonsburg are going to get together and write letters to the owners of the property in reference to the right of way obstruction.

Councilman Horne made a motion to adjourn. With a second from Councilwoman Grice, all members voted favorably. Adjourned at 9:31 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Debra L. Beamon, Finance Officer/Town Clerk

William H. Edmundson, Mayor