

**Town of Stantonsburg
Regular Board Meeting
January 13, 2025**

Mayor Coley Rhodes called the monthly Town Council meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The following council members were present: Donnie Bass, Jackie Grice, Steve Mooring, and Eartha Butler. Also present was the Town Manager Brian Hawley, Town Clerk Alexis Whitley, and Town Attorney Slade Rand. Council member Ben Harper was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer: Mayor Rhodes led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Agenda: Mayor Rhodes requested to add Parliamentary Procedures under Financial Reports and additional old business items for discussion. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes: Minutes were discussed among the council and town attorney. December 9th regular board meeting minutes and closed session meeting minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

Public Comment: Carla Davis, who resides on West Thompson Ave, was present to discuss her concerns regarding a neighboring property and our police chief.

Presentations: Town Hall construction bids were unsealed. No submissions were accepted after 5pm. The following 5 bids were received: S.W. Contracting & Consulting, Wilson, NC, \$938,423.00; Silver Ladder Construction, Kenly, NC, \$638,832.00; Diamond Contracting, Garner, NC, \$1,110,420.00; Carolina Bay Construction, Goldsboro, NC, \$795,900.00; and Berry Building Group, Greenville, NC, \$753,000.00. The RFP submissions and scoring sheet will be scanned and emailed to the town council for review. Manager Hawley will provide all bidders with a formal bid tab with all bids included.

Financial Reports:

December: Monthly Receipts: \$360,335.48 Disbursements: \$291,969.15 Difference: \$68,366.33. Report referred to our auditors. Councilman Mooring requested the maturity date for the KS Bank CD be updated on the financial report.

Councilman Bass requested clarification on the personal reimbursements that occur monthly. There was further board discussion on invoices.

Councilman Mooring made a motion to include detailed Agri & Hardware Supply statements with the financial reports. Passed unanimously.

Invoices for Payment: Report referred to auditors. Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve invoices. Passed unanimously.

Councilman Bass discussed the approval on invoices process as he and Councilman Mooring still had unanswered questions. Manager Hawley requested clarification on this process as paying invoices are part of a day-to-day operation that have already been paid out. Councilman Mooring mentioned that

this process is part of internal controls and should continue. There was discussion by the board on invoices.

Town Attorney Rand recommended the council still approve these invoices and that if the council has a finance question it needs to be directed to the Town Manager and not the employees. Councilwoman Butler made a motion that all questions in the board packets, including financial items, are to be addressed with Brian only. Passed unanimously.

Mayor Rhodes discussed Parliamentary Procedures. The public comment section will continue as that is the only time the public may address the board. The public will be made aware of this in a written statement included with the agenda. A reply to the public who addressed the board will be sent by the office after the council has a discussion about their concerns.

Mayor Rhodes requested that the council email her if any additional items need to be added to the agenda. While discussing business items, each council member must wait to be acknowledged before speaking. The council will have time for discussion before voting on any item. Meetings will begin promptly at 6:30 and at approximately 9:20, the council will assess where they are on the agenda. The goal is to adjourn by 9:30pm. That will be implemented starting tonight.

The board discussed the Request for Proposals (RFP) and bid process. Because this process was behind before a board vote, the board will go into closed session to discuss the particulars.

Councilwoman Butler made a motion to accept the Parliamentary Procedures discussed by Mayor Rhodes. Passed unanimously.

Mayor Rhodes requested a motion to go into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 a (6). Councilwoman Grice made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 a (6). Passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Grice made a motion to go into open session. Passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Grice made a motion to ratify the actions concerning the RFP for new town hall. Vote 3 to 1 with Councilman Mooring opposed.

Councilman Mooring made a motion to be transparent and not conduct votes or a consensus by email, text, phone calls, or personal visits and that if there is something that needs attention, a special meeting can be called. Passed unanimously.

The council discussed the Employee Christmas Bonuses. The council reached a consensus to leave the Christmas bonus amounts as they were given, although the manager shared his bonus with staff improperly without allowing board approval. The board requested approval for any further decisions of this nature.

Councilwoman Grice made a motion to go into closed session.

Councilwoman Grice made a motion to go into open session. Passed unanimously.

Mayor Rhodes and the council discussed when they can meet to evaluate the Town Manager and Town Attorney and also when to meet for discussion on the new town hall. The council requested that Turpentine Design be involved in the discussion process regarding the new town hall bidding

submissions. Manager Hawley will reach out to Turpentine Design tomorrow to confirm a date during the week of the 27th.

Mayor Rhodes recommended Thursday, January 23rd at 6:30pm for the evaluation of the Town Manager and Town Attorney. This date was acceptable to all board members.

Old Business:

Manager Hawley discussed the RSM and Associates engagement agreement to provide services for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Councilwoman Grice made a motion to approve RSM and Associates to provide housing services for the CDBG Grant. Passed unanimously.

Manager Hawley discussed the SELC Solar Pilot Test Agreement with the town. He presented a resolution for approval. Councilwoman Butler made a motion to approve the SELC Solar Pilot Test Agreement Resolution. Passed unanimously.

Manager Hawley and the board briefly discussed GAP coverage and options. It was the consensus of the board to table this discussion.

Councilman Mooring requested clarification on compensation time. Town Attorney Rand will look into that.

Town Attorney Rand gave an update on title opinions for the CDBG properties. The titles have not yet been cleared. The town is planning to request an extension for the grant.

Mayor Rhodes requested to go into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 a (6).

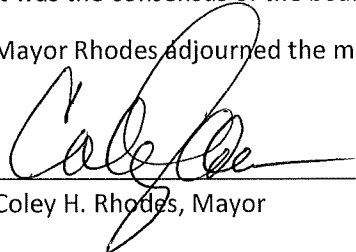
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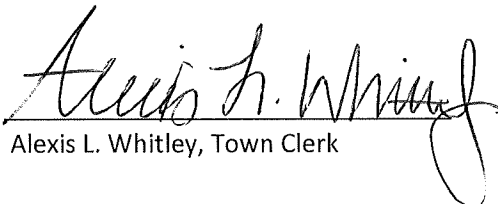
Manager Hawley discussed concerns about no cameras in town hall. Councilman Mooring made a motion to install cameras inside town hall as soon as possible. Passed unanimously.

It was the consensus of the board to continue this meeting until tomorrow, January 14th at 6:30pm.

Mayor Rhodes adjourned the meeting at 10:05 pm.



Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor



Alexis L. Whitley, Town Clerk

