

TOWN BOARD MEETING – REGULAR MEETING

January 4, 2022

Present: Mayor George Holleman
Mayor Pro Tem Kenny Poole
Councilman Ronnie Robinette
Councilwoman Kimberly Brown
Councilman Jack Simms

The regular meeting was opened for business by Mayor Holleman at 5:30 p.m. The invitation was given by Mayor Holleman. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Simms to approve the January meeting agenda as presented. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Simms to approve the December 7th, 2021 regular meeting minutes and the December 16, 2021 Special Called Meeting minutes as presented. The motion was passed unanimously.

Open Forum:

Charles Coxen spoke before the Town Board expressing his appreciation for the speed bumps along 2nd Street. He also mentioned the need for some corrective measures regarding the water that flows down 2nd Street when there are heavy storms with excess rain. There were no other comments in open forum.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to open the public hearing on the question of the Town's Code of Ordinances Section 91 – Fire Prevention. The town's ordinance, which has been in existence since 1949, only regulates the open burning of trash. The NC Air Quality Act regulates burning. Persons are required to get a permit to burn through the NC Forest Service DEHNR – Air Quality Division. Manager Odom suggested that the Town follow the NC Division of Air Quality state general fire code which is on the state website. Councilwoman Brown suggests that we should follow the state guidelines and to have printed information on do's & don'ts so all town personnel and emergency services will be informed. Councilman Robinette stated that all persons can get a burning permit through the local NC Forest Services office. No other discussion was made and the public hearing was closed by a motion from Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Poole.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Poole to leave the Town Ordinance as is with the following addition: "All persons must reference the 1900 series of the NC Air Quality Act prior to burning". The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilman Poole to approve the budget amendment receipting in proceeds from FEMA for the November 12, 2020 flood event totaling \$78,528.58. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment A, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

Police Dept. Report: Chief Doug Bowman stated that there were 13,293 calls for the year of 2021 thru the 911 dispatch call center. The police calendars are now here. Judge Crosswhite made a special visit to the police department in order to compliment the professionalism of Lieutenant Sergeant Tyler Land. Lieutenant Sergeant Land testified in a mental health case recently. Judge Crosswhite stated that it was the most professional testimony that he had ever had.

Public Works: Public Utilities Manager Aaron Wike stated that there will be more FEMA money coming soon related to the November 12, 2020 storm event. FEMA only reimburses 75% of costs. The state of NC will reimburse the other 25% in this case, which is not the norm. We have received our 2nd allocation of powell bill funds, making the total received this year \$68,944.35. He provided a list of surplus equipment that he recommends to be sold and/or scrapped out. A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Simms to adopt the Resolution authorizing the sale and or disposal of the equipment. See attachment B, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

Town Manager Report: David Odom
Manager Odom presented the response letter to the Independent Auditors findings, recommendations and the Fiscal Matters (FPIC) Response from the Town. All Board members and Administrative/Financial Town staff must sign the letter and it be sent to the Local Government Commission within 60 days of the FY audit financial presentation. He noted that the W&S department may be placed on the watch list due to the operating loss incurred last fiscal year, which is due to COVID 19 impact and reduced revenues from out largest sewer customer. See attachment C, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be February 1st, 2022 at 5:30 pm.

With no other business, a motion was made by Councilwoman Brown seconded by Councilman Robinette to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mayor

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman

Attest: _____
Yolanda T. Prince, Town Clerk