

## **TOWN BOARD MEETING – REGULAR MEETING**

January 10, 2023

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

The regular meeting was opened for business by Mayor Pro Tem Poole Holleman at 5:30 p.m. Mayor Holleman was detained and arrived at 5:40 p.m. to preside over the meeting. The invitation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Pool. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilwoman Brown approve the minutes as presented from December 6th, 2022. The motion was passed unanimously.

Open Forum:

There were no comments in open forum.

Charlie Marshall and other representatives of the Central Alexander Fire Department came before the Town Board to present a formal request for additional funding of \$120,000.00 above the yearly Town allocation of \$89,000.00. The volume of calls for last year totaled 1033 which is much more than the other stations within the county. Greg Foster states that they would like to have 1 staff person and 1 driver on duty at all times to ensure faster response times to calls. “Volunteers are much harder to get and a price cannot be put on safety”, he stated. The Town Board unanimously agreed to look into the request during the upcoming workshops for the budget preparation for FY2023-2024.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Poole to approve adopting a Resolution authorizing the sale of surplus property to be placed on GovDeals.com on-line auction site. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment A, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes herein.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilman Poole to approve the adoption of a Resolution authorizing the sale of real property owned by the town located at 610 & 614 E. Main Ave. & 36 & 46 N. Center Street by sealed bid. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment B, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes herein.

A motion was made by Councilman Poole and seconded by Councilman Simms to approve the engineering services contract for the 2022 Sewer Collection System Assessment Project (AIA-W-ARP-0167). The project totals \$155,000.00 and will assess all 28 pump stations, manhole and smoke test inspections in specific areas to assess assets, review assets and recommend rehab/repair improvements and the creation of a sewer Asset Management Plan. The motion was passed unanimously. The contract will be filed in the project folder in the Town Clerk’s office.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Robinette to approve the Budget Project Ordinance for the 2022 Sewer Collection System Assessment Project (AIA-W-ARP-0167) totaling \$155,000.00. The project is a grant with no town matching funding required. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment C, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes herein.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to approve the contract for engineering services with Withers-Ravenel for the Water System Asset Inventory Assessment project (AIA-D-ARP-0107) totaling \$155,000.00. The project will consist of mapping the water distribution system in GIS and to complete an asset management plan. The motion was passed unanimously. The contract will be filed in the project folder in the Town Clerk's office.

A motion was made by Councilman Poole and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to approve the Budget Project Ordinance for the Water System Asset Inventory Assessment project (AIA-D-ARP-0107) totaling \$155,000.00. The project is a grant with no town matching funding required. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment D, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes herein.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Poole to approve the contract for engineering services with Withers-Ravenel for the Water MRF Study (MRF-D-ARP-0008) known as merger regionalization feasibility study of the water system totaling \$90,000.00. The study will consist of developing an updated 10-year Capital Improvement Plan, updated Financial Analysis and Rate study. The motion was passed unanimously. The contract will be filed in the project folder in the Town Clerk's office.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to approve the Budget Project Ordinance for the Water MRF Study (MRF-D-ARP-0008) known as merger regionalization feasibility study of the water system totaling \$90,000.00. The project is a grant with no town matching funding required. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment E, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes herein.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Robinette to approve drafting a contract for debris removal during a state of emergency per FEMA guidelines. FEMA guidelines request that local governments have a contract(s) in place in the event of an emergency for debris pickup in order to be eligible for reimbursement. We will advertise for bids seeking companies to assist in debris pickup during an event that calls for a State of Emergency. The companies must have liability insurance and meet other criteria. FEMA requires strict documentation of the location, type of debris, and amount/weight of the debris picked up that the companies will be required to collect. Once bids are collected, staff recommends choosing 2 of the lowest bidders (based on hourly rate) that meet the criteria to contract with for a one-year term. In the event a State of Emergency occurs and assistance with debris cleanup is needed, the companies will be called and the town will be divided up giving each company a section to assist with. All debris would be required to be disposed of at the Alexander County Landfill or an Alexander County designated emergency disposal location as the town does not currently have a permitted disposal site. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Poole to approve a budget amendment receipting in sponsorship of 2022 Hometown Christmas totaling \$2500.00. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment F, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes herein.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to approve an amendment to the Town's Personnel Policy – Article VI Employee Benefits – Section 7 - Retiree Insurance Supplement, effective January 2023. The change reflects current rates associated with medicare supplement policies and current premium rates on a tiered basis based on years of service with the Town.

The new rates reflect an average as follows:

\$1,500.00 per year (\$125.00 per month) on Tier 1 of retirement of 26 or more continuous years of service

\$1,250.00 per year (\$104.17 per month) on Tier 2 of 20 or more years of service

\$1,000.00 per year (\$83.33 per month) on Tier 3 of 15 or more years of service.

The motion was passed unanimously.

By unanimous agreement, the Town Board instructed the Acting Town Manager and Public Utilities Manager, Aaron Wike to find a vacuum truck for the public works department and report back with the findings.

Councilwoman Brown stated that 2022 Hometown Christmas went very well and had lots of positive feedback from the community. She is working on more dates and activities for next year. More information will be forthcoming as the year progresses.

Police Dept. Report: Chief Doug Bowman

Chief Bowman stated that there was vandalism at Matheson Park the Friday before Christmas by teenagers. They were identified. The position for the SRO at Taylorsville Elementary is being advertised for and Gordon Knight is filling in when he can. There is a requirement that an officer has 1 year of experience before they can be an SRO. Logan Corley is newly hired at the Taylorsville Police Department fresh out of BLET school. The 2 cars ordered thru Enterprise Lease are not available yet. The PD was awarded another grant of \$24,500.00 from the NC Governor's Crime Commission for radios.

Utility Manager Report & Acting Town Manager Report: Aaron Wike noted that there were 26 calls regarding water issues over the Christmas Holidays. There were 2 major leaks and we are still working on the one on Liledoun Road. The leak is 6 ft. deep. A valve will need to be installed at Taylorsville Elementary to be able to shut off water and it not affect the school. Regarding the vehicle grant – still looking for trucks per the grant specifications. He hopes to locate them soon

Town Manager David Odom is out on medical leave.

Legislative Update by Representative Jeffrey Elmore: The new house session begins on Wednesday January 11, 2023. Some of the issues to be discussed include the tax policy and income tax rates decreasing in 2023 and subsequent years. The high cost of living that NC residents are facing. He stated that NC is rated #1 in fastest growth of business. He wants to see more economic growth and more grant funding for rural towns and areas in NC. Councilman Simms mentioned that there is a possibility that our area might see redistricting. Rep. Elmore said it is being discussed. Mayor Holleman asked if he could help with NCDOT and getting the roads paved around here and the diagonal parking returned to main street. Councilwoman Brown mentioned the economic impact of the Wilkesboro speedway reopening and the increased tourism for Wilkesboro and the surrounding areas. Rep. Elmore stated that the reopening has and will continue to attract increased tourism and will be an economic boost to all the surrounding towns and communities. The Council thanked him for his leadership and efforts on our behalf.

By unanimous decision, a budget workshop is scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

With no other business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:00 pm.

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Mayor

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Councilman

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Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Yolanda T. Prince, Town Clerk