

TOWN BOARD MEETING – REGULAR MEETING

April 4, 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 Holleman at 5:30 p.m. The invitation was given by Mayor Holleman. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Simms to add the following items to the agenda.

Item 6a: Town Attorney Discussion

Item 8a: Possible Budget Workshop Dates

Item 9a: Tree Work Bids

Item 11a: GF Budget Amendment – move salaries to Cemetery Dept for summer mowing

The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Simms to approve the minutes as presented from March 13th, 2023. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Simms to approve the closed session minutes as presented from March 13th, 2023. The motion was passed unanimously. See Closed Session Minute Book.

Open Forum:

Gina K. with the Apple Festival Committee gave a briefing to the Town Board regarding the past success of the Apple Festival. She states that the Apple Festival and May-Fest operate under a 501(c)3 per IRS regulations. From 2008 thru 2019, a total of \$195,350.00 has been given to the Needy Children's Benevolent Fund. The last 5 events have not been held because of COVID-19. Expenses such as trash clean-up are handled by the ROTC at a cost of \$1200.00 per event. There are over 200 vendors and those fees are remitted to the Town. She also noted that the festival is as big as it can be because there are no more spaces available unless more streets are closed.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Robinette to open the public hearing regarding the rezoning request #23-02 for Clearview Ventures LLC for approx. 5.45 acres located on Clearview Lane off Old Wilkesboro Road. The request is to change the zoning from R-1 Single Family Residential to R-2 General Residential. The reason is to allow the previously created lots (which are now legal nonconforming) to be in a zoning designation that would bring those lots into conformity. Brian Burgess, Alexander County Planner states that The Alexander County Planning and Zoning Commission and staff recommend the approval of the rezoning request. No other comments were made and the

hearing was closed by a motion from Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Poole. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Poole to approve the rezoning request #23-02 for Clearview Ventures LLC for approx. 5.45 acres located on Clearview Lane off Old Wilkesboro Road. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment A, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes herein.

Bill Rogers, with Alexander Co. Building Inspections – Chief Code Building Official mentioned that the property at 26 Saunders Lane is now declared uninhabitable by the Fire Marshall due a recent structure fire at the location. The special use permit for the junkyard was denied but the property owners were continuing to operate while accumulating over \$2,000 in fines. 3 letters have been sent from the Planning/zoning office. Legal steps will need to be taken to address the problem and it may turn into the same as the Grover Bowman MHP situation. He stated that as for Grover Bowman MHP the response time ended 3-27-23. The next step is to ask for abatement of the property and place a lien on the property for the costs to have the structures removed and cleaned up. More information will follow as events unfold.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Robinette to approve naming Lt. James Moore to fill the vacant position of Secretary for the Central Alexander Fire Dept. made vacant by the death of Phil Hartis. The motion was passed unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding the Town Attorney. Attorney Monroe Panel was present. He has extensive Municipal Governmental experience having served as the Attorney for the Town of Conover, City of Maiden, Catawba School System and the Town of Longview. He is a practicing Attorney of 39 years. His monthly retainer is \$650.00 per month and a hourly rate of \$200.00 per hour. More discussion will be held at the next Town budget workshop.

A motion was made by Councilman Poole and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to approve declaring all PD rifles as surplus and sell to Duncan's in Wilkesboro. The credit will be used to purchase new sights and scopes that are all the same. New rifles will be purchased with drug task force money recently received. The cost for all new rifles and sights and scopes will be approximately \$13,250.00. This will make all the equipment new and up to date and will be interchangeable. The motion was passed unanimously.

Surplus Rifles:

Bushmaster	AR15 5.56	Serial#ARG100346
Delton	D15 5.56	Serial#DT15209958
Bushmaster	AR15 5.56	Serial#BK5036654
Bushmaster	AR15 5.56	Serial#BK5036322
Bushmaster	AR15 5.56	Serial#L049906
Delton	D15 5.56	Serial#S209959
Delton	D15 5.56	Serial#DTI-S209960
CMMG	AR15 5.56	Serial#BOD07869

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Poole to accept the highest bid for the properties on 610 & 614 E. Main Street from Mayes Brothers Inc. for \$85,0001.00 for each. The Resolution for the 10 day upset bid process will be on Wednesday April 12th and continue until April 19, 2023 when the bids will be opened at 2:00 pm. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment B, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes herein.

By unanimous consent, a budget workshop date is set for Tuesday, April 11th, 2023 at 10:00 am.

A motion by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Robinette to approve the Mayoral Proclamation designating Arbor Week as April 24, 2023 thru April 30th, 2023 in Taylorsville. 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 Councilman Robinette to approve the Resolution adopting and approving participation in the NC State 457 Deferred Compensation Plan as an additional savings opportunity for the Town employees. 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 Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Poole to accept the all the bids for tree work with Hollar Brother's having the lowest bid on a per day basis. This will be used in emergency cases only; all other work will be bid on a case-by-case basis as needed. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Robinette to approve the adoption of a Project Budget Ordinance for the On-Road Diesel Vehicle Replacement Project totaling \$211,211.98. 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 Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Simms to approve the budget amendment from W&S fund balance for \$49,944.00 to Maintenance & Repairs – Lift Stations to purchase 2 new pumps at Bob McLelland and recycle #2 at the WWTP. 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 the transfer within the general fund from Streets salaries to Cemetery salaries to cover the seasonal part-time mower position, totaling \$4,075.00. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment G, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes herein.

Staff Reports:

Police Dept. Report: Chief Doug Bowman

Chief Bowman stated that there continues to be drug and illegal activity resulting in arrests at Grover Bowman Mobile Home Park. The same conditions are developing at Adrian and Matthew Dr. The same property owner owns both places. The PD will help with Prom Promise this year. Its main focus is against drinking and driving. Will also be participating in Spring Fling and will be handing out materials at the schools. The Apple Blossom is scheduled for May 6th, 2023. Preparation meeting has already been had.

Utility Manager Report: Aaron Wike:

The new playground equipment was installed approximately 3 weeks ago. The condition of the park will be discussed in the budget workshop. It was created in 1990 and the tables and bathrooms will need updating soon. All the trees are now removed from Main Street and the concrete placed over the holes.

Town Manager Report: David Odom

There will be several community requests presented at the upcoming budget workshop.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilman Poole to enter into closed session per N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a) to discuss personnel and a contractual matter. The motion was passed unanimously.

See the closed session minute book.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilman Robinette to exit closed session and return to the regular meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

By unanimous consent, A special called meeting will be held Wednesday, April 19th, 2023 at 2:30 pm.

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

Mayor

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman

Attest: _____
Yolanda T. Prince, Town Clerk

Closed Session Minutes:

April 4, 2024

Council Present: Mayor Holleman

Mayor Pro Tem Kenny Poole

Councilman Ronnie Robinette

Councilman Jack Simms

Councilwoman Kim Brown

Staff Present: Town Manager, David Odom

Town Clerk, Yolanda Prince

Public Utility Manager, Aaron Wike

Police Chief, Doug Bowman

Attorney, Monroe Panel

The topic of discussion was the handling of the termination of Melissa Johnson and the severance package the Town Manager worked out. Mayor Holleman stated that the goal was achieved and he now wants to work to put the Town back on track. Councilman Simms asked for an exact date of her separation from the Town? Councilwoman Brown stated that if an employee was no longer an employee that they should not have access to any buildings and should have been made to remove all belongings immediately. They shouldn't be given a month to do that. Councilman Simms asked why she was given all the benefits that a good employee would be given? He asked the Chief if morale was getting better? The Chief replied, "It's getting there." Councilman Simms asked, "Is resign to retire" in the personnel policy? He stated he did not like the way it was handled. Councilman Robinette asked why the Town Board wasn't informed of the NCLM Attorney's recommendations and why those recommendations were not followed? Why no release was obtained? He stated that, "I don't agree with what Town Manager, David Odom did in the handling of the termination of Melissa Johnson." No further comments were made.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilman Robinette to exit closed session and return to the regular meeting at 7:00 pm. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mayor

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman

Attest: _____
Yolanda T. Prince, Town Clerk