

TOWN BOARD MEETING – REGULAR MEETING

September 3, 2024

Present: Mayor George Holleman
Mayor Pro Tem Eric Bumgarner
Councilwoman Tamara Odom
Councilman Jack Simms
Councilwoman Kim Brown

The regular meeting was opened for business by Mayor Holleman at 5:30 p.m. The invocation was given by Mayor Holleman by reading Isaiah chapter 40 verse 28. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

The Oath of Office for new Taylorsville Town Manager Charles N. Hester was administered by Mayor George Holleman. A short recess was held for a welcoming reception.

Reconvene from recess for the regular meeting:

Open Forum:

Greg Foster, representative from the Alexander Central Fire Department invited the Town Council to attend the 100-year celebration for the department planned for Saturday September 14, 2024 from 10 am until 4 pm.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilwoman Odom to accept the agenda with the following additions:

8a. Credit Card application for new town manager Nathan Hester

9a. Resolution disposing for old playground equipment

10a. Annexation information

10b. Resolution – Eagle Scout recognition

10c. Outside sewer connection request

The motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilwoman Odom to approve the following items:

1. Approval of regular meeting minutes from August 6, 2024
2. Approval of work shop meeting minutes from August 6, 2024
3. Approval of closed session minutes from August 6, 2024
4. Temporary street closure of Main Ave. from NC Hwy 16 South to Main Street and 1st Street from Main Ave. Dr. to Main Street for the annual Apple Festival on October 19, 2024
5. Temporary street closure of Main Ave. from NC Hwy 16 South to Main Street and 1st Ave. from NC Hwy 16 South to 7th Street SW for the annual Christmas parade on December 7th, 2024

The motion was passed unanimously.

Business Items:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Bumgarner to approve a one-year contract extension for 120 Water for the sum of \$11,847.00. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Bumgarner and seconded by Councilwoman Odom to approve the adoption of a Resolution designating personnel responsible for signatures drawn against town funds. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment A, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Simms to approve a document letter authorizing for a new credit card for new town manager, Nathan Hester for town use only. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Bumgarner and seconded by Councilwoman Odom to approve the adoption of a Resolution to declare the old playground equipment for Matheson Park as surplus. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment B, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

Staff Reports:

Police Chief, Mike Millsaps.

Chief Millsaps states they are trying to work on solutions for the homeless problems in town. He had information from 5th Street Ministries in Statesville. There were a total of 673 calls last month. National Night Out is set for October 1st, 2024 from 5:30 until 8:30. Mayor Holleman mentioned the addiction recovery clinic and the possibility of having Dr. Kearney speak about the program.

Public Utilities Manager: Aaron Wike

Aaron Wike states that the solid waste report was published as of September 1, 2024. The average cost per town citizen to furnish all curbside services like white goods, brush & limbs and trash pickup is \$22.60 per person per month. The solid waste fee is \$15.00 per month per customer which is a difference of \$5.60 per month per total of customers averaging 1087 for trash collection. The town crew has repaired a sinkhole at the corner of 2nd Street and 3rd Ave. where a culvert caved in and will be also repairing sidewalks nearby. The annual apple festival is approaching.

Town Manager: Nathan Hester

Nathan Hester states he spoke with Tim McCullen owner of the old hospital property and informed him that the town did not wish to further lease the property. The yard sales will cease at the end of September 2024. September 19th, 2024 from 5 to 7 pm will be a historic downtown drop-in meeting at 35 W. Main Ave.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown to approve the budget amendment for the road

diet for Main Street to the traffic study totaling \$18,000.00 from GF fund balance to Debt service-engineering. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment C, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

A motion was made by Councilman Bumgarner and seconded by Councilman Simms to approve the budget amendment to receipt in funds for the sale of surplus equipment from the police department totaling \$3,450.00. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment D, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Simms to set a public hearing for October 1st, 2024 for input regarding a petition for annexation into the town a large tract of land on Hwy 16 South and Happy Plains road. A 191 home sub-division is planned. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilman Bumgarner to approve the adoption of a Resolution acknowledging the efforts of a member of Troup #1234. She wants to raise money to improve the exercise equipment at Matheson Park. The Town agreed to match what funds she raises towards improvements of the exercise equipment at Matheson Park. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment E, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilwoman Odom to approve an outside sewer request from Alba Carbajal for property at 176 Gravel Hill Court. The motion was passed unanimously.

Council General Discussion:

Councilwoman Brown had some information on camera's to be used for videoing the meetings for placement on the website and live streaming possibilities. She also discussed the planters along Main Street and how to keep them watered so the plants will not die. Discussion was held regarding the benches along Main Street. Some are being moved without permission.

Discussion was held on commercial grade benches and bolting them in place. Hometown Halloween and Hometown Christmas were discussed. The dates for Hometown Christmas will be Thursday December 5th, 12th, & 19th, 2024. The grand re-opening for Valley Nursing home will be September 24, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

Councilman Bumgarner discussed the train. He states that the first step is to physically inspect several in order to know which type the town would possibly be interested in.

Mayor Holleman noted that at the Mayor/Manager's meeting the rail system from Salisbury to Asheville was discussed and that a per capita sur-charge will be accessed in the future to help fund the rail system project.

Councilman Simms noted that the 127 widening project has been pushed out until 2028.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilwoman Odom to enter into closed session as permitted by NCGS 143-318.11(a)3&6. The motion was passed unanimously.

Closed session account: Discussion was had regarding the Catawba County ABC Board asking for dissolution of the merger between the Town of Taylorsville ABC Board and the Catawba ABC Board. Attorney Panel and Town Manager Hester discussed with the Town Board options for the town regarding the next steps for the ABC store in Taylorsville. At this time, it was decided to write a formal letter from the town to the State ABC Commission and Catawba ABC Board stating the town's opposition to the dissolution.

Personnel items were discussed with no action taken.

Councilwoman Brown brought up the issue of the expense line item for the Town Attorney and how it is already overspent. She wants the following reflected:

"No town council member nor the Mayor individually can direct the Town Attorney to investigate or work on any matter. It must come as a majority vote from the Town Council in an open meeting or come directly from the Town Manager to the Town Attorney."

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Bumgarner to exit closed session and return to regular session. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Bumgarner to set the next regularly scheduled meeting for October 1, 2024 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers of Town Hall. The motion was passed unanimously.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman

Attest: _____
Yolanda T. Prince, Town Clerk