

TOWN BOARD MEETING – REGULAR MEETING

December 5, 2023

Present: Mayor George Holleman
Mayor Pro Tem Kenny Poole
Councilman Ronnie Robinette
Councilman Jack Simms
Councilwoman Kim Brown
Newly Elected: Tamara Odom
Eric Bumgarner

The regular meeting was opened for business by Mayor Holleman at 5:30 p.m. The invocation was given by Mayor Holleman by reading Psalm 121.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilman Robinette to approve the minutes as presented from November 7th, 2023 regular meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

Judge Dale Graham presided over the swearing in ceremony for the Mayor and Town Council for the term of 2023 thru 2027. Mayor George Holleman was re-elected along with Councilwoman Kimberly Brown and Councilman Jack Simms and newly elected Councilwoman Tamara Odom and Councilman Eric Bumgarner all affirmed the Elected Oath of Office for the Town of Taylorsville Town Council. A short recess was called and a reception held in honor of the new Board for the Town.

Mayor Holleman reconvened the meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to adopt the agenda for new business for the Town. The motion was passed unanimously.

Open Forum:

There were no comments in open forum.

Director of Alexander County Board of Elections, Patrick Wike gave a brief overview of the Municipal Elections results. In 1973 the NC General Assembly required all municipal elections to be held in odd years. In 2001 Alexander County started administering Municipal Elections. On March of 2006, absentee voting was allowed. The Town Board changed to consist of 4 council members and a mayor with full voting rights serving a 4 year term. The filing fee is \$5.00. In 2023 there was a 30.25% voter turnout with 416 ballots cast out of 1,372 registered voters. Currently there are 552 municipalities in NC and 43 have moved their elections to even-numbered years. Just this year another 18 municipalities petitioned the NC General Assembly to change their election year to even-numbered years. The main reason is cost. If the municipal election is held on even-numbered years, the candidates can be added to the national and local ballot already being printed with a savings to the Town of approximately \$8,500.00 per election cycle.

A motion was made by Mayor Holleman and seconded by Councilman Simms to elect Eric Bumgarner as Mayor Pro Tempore. Councilman Bumgarner received the highest number of

votes in the election. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded Councilwoman Odom to approve the amendment #1 to the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town and the NC League of Municipalities approving the agreement to contract with Black Mountain Software for new municipal accounting software and support through a grant from the NC League of Municipalities as approved at the November 2023 Town Council meeting. These League Grants are provided to local governments at no cost through American Rescue funding. The Town will benefit greatly as a beneficiary of this grant opportunity because the cost to purchase the software and the first 3 years of support are paid by the grant. On the 4th year the town will pick up the cost of the support which will be approximately 12,500.00 per year. The town currently pays over \$20,000 for our current support. We will save that for the first 3 years and then only incur slightly more than ½ of that cost going forward. The software will be an improvement over our existing software and is cloud based making data storage and security much easier. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to approve the informal bids for the culvert repairs at Matheson Park. This has been an on-going issue which will be addressed completely when applying for grant assistance during the spring funding cycle. For the immediate problem, Gunner Grading LLC had the low bid of \$15,866.00 to replace 40 feet with box drains at both ends. Gunner Grading recently completed work for the YMCA and reports are that they did a good job. They had the lowest bid. Councilwoman Brown stated to make sure once starting the work that numerous additional work orders don't appear from them since the bid is so low compared to others. Gilbert Grading and Hoeing Around Excavation also submitted bids. The motion was passed unanimously.

Staff Reports: Police Chief, Mike Millsaps

Chief Millsaps stated that there were 40 incidents and 10 arrests, 13 wrecks and 4 incidents at the High School in November 2023. The department is aggressively seeking new officers to fill the open positions. BLET graduated on December 8th and there are new recruits wanting to come to work here. He states that the Christmas parade went well. He has been working the road to help because of being short staffed. Mayor Holleman personally thanked Chief Millsaps and his officers for their dedication to the Taylorsville Police Department.

Town Manager/Public Utilities Manager: Aaron Wike

Aaron Wike stated that the Christmas lights are up and looking good. There are 7 that Duke power did not connect and we are working to get those fixed and turned on. 52 lights were installed. We have replaced over 100 water meters and hope to get the other 100 as soon as possible. They were over 10 years old and have aged out and were not reading correctly. We have applied for a safety grant to put more security cameras at Matheson Park, town hall and the shop. We have advertised for the Finance Director position and have received applications and will be conducting interviews soon. Studio 3 plans Christmas caroling on December 21st and has asked to temporarily close Emergency Street for that event. The Town Board was unanimous with approval for temporary closing the street for the event. Discussion was had about a workshop for the new Town Board. A time was set for December 29, 2023 at 9:00 am.

Councilman Simms thanked Councilwoman Brown for all her hard work for the Taylorsville Hometown Christmas events.

Town Attorney – Monroe Panel
No business to address for this meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to adjourn and set the next regular scheduled meeting for Tuesday January 2, 2023 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

Mayor

Mayor Pro Tem Bumgarner

Councilwoman Brown

Councilwoman Odom

Councilman Simms

Attest: _____
Yolanda T. Prince, Town Clerk