



**Town Council Meeting**  
**DATE: July 12, 2018**  
**TIME: 7:00 p.m.**  
**Stokesdale Town Hall**  
**8325 Angel Pardue Road**  
**Stokesdale, North Carolina**

Present were Mayor John Flynt, Mayor Pro Tem Thearon Hooks and council members Tim Jones, Bill Jones, Frank Bruno, Town Clerk Alisa Houk; Deputy Clerk Priscilla Hunsucker, Budget Officer Philip Pulliam; Town Attorney John Bain.

- I. **Call to Order:** Mayor John Flynt called the monthly council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Invocation:** Randy Southard gave the invocation
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Lead by Mayor Flynt
- IV. **Review and Adopt the Agenda:** Tim Jones motioned to add as #6: Discussion to hire an employee to run our flushing program. Mayor Flynt seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 to add number 6 and accept the agenda.
- V. **Approval of the Minutes:** Mayor Flynt asked for approval of the Minutes May 31, 2018, and June 14, 2018 without reading them.  
**Frank Bruno motioned to approve the minutes without reading them. Thearon Hooks seconded the motion. Vote: 4-1 with Tim Jones voting no.**
- VI. **CITIZEN COMMENTS:** Vicki White-Lawrence reminded everyone of the Opioid Forum Sunday @ Oak Level Baptist Church.  
**Charlotte Gladney from Oak Springs Missionary Baptist Church:** Introduced herself as the director of the church's Excel Program. She said the Excel Program assist about 45 children with tutoring in math and reading. They had heard that we donated money to purchase

tablets for Stokesdale Elementary School and wanted to know if we would assist them in purchasing computers for their students.

**Marcia Spivey also from Oak Springs Excel Program also spoke:** She is a reading specialist with the program and she said many of the students don't have computers at home. She also asked if the Town would extend the generosity to the Excel Program.

**Joe Thacker:** Asked for clarification of the Dry Tap fee and hookup fees.

**VII. 1. Public Safety: Sheriff's District 1.** Cpl. Anna King said the Guilford County Sheriff's Office responded to 577 calls for service in District 1 this past month. She clarified for Thearon Hooks that Part 1 crimes are burglaries, simple assault, etc. 4 of those were in Stokesdale. Crime is down in District 1 to 20%.

**2. Fire Department:** Assistant Fire Chief Randy Southern reported 68 calls, 44 of those calls were for medical emergencies, 24 were fire calls. He wanted to remind everyone that we all should have a Home Escape Plan in the event of not only fire, but home invasions, active shooters, and weather emergencies. Stokesdale's Fire Department not only covers Stokesdale but they are also back up for Oak Ridge, Summerfield, Bethany, and Huntsville.

**VIII. Monthly Financial Report:** Mr. Pulliam reported that the Town's General Fund checking and Savings balance for the month of June 2018 ended with a total of \$2,960,452.29. The General Fund checking has a balance of \$67,939.27, Profit and Loss total income at \$316,847.62 which is very good at 82.4%. The total payroll expenses were \$63,805.99, and Legal Fees came to \$ 14,918.50. Profit and Loss total in undesignated funds is \$242,530.18 which is 63.1% which is good.

The Water Enterprise Fund has a total checking and savings balance of \$ \$739,489.28. The Water and Sewer fund shows total assets of \$818,352.11 in CDs, with interest bringing the total to \$ 819,597.30. The town took in \$453,989.17 in deposits (water bill payments). The total water sales came to \$496,187.92 which is at 93.9%. This account incurred \$37,388.75 total professional fees and the total expenses were \$425,208.95.

#### **IX: New Business:**

**1. Discuss Budget Spending Authority Approval Requirements:** Mayor Flynt asked Mr. Pulliam, if the town has a certain amount of money budgeted for a line item, does council have to vote if a portion of that budgeted amount has to be spent on an item included in that budgeted amount? Mr. Pulliam said as long as you don't go over the budgeted amount no there doesn't have to be a vote of council. If the item is more than the budgeted amount you may vote then to transfer money from undesignated funds to that line item to cover the extra expenses. Bill Jones said this may be confusing for Mr. Pulliam because he used to work for Madison and they had a different form of government from Stokesdale. They had a Town Manager. Tim Jones agreed with Bill Jones. Bill Jones asked John Bain, does any one council member have the right to spend money

without a vote of the rest of council? John Bain said he has not seen a policy that gives any one council member the authority to spend. He said we need to write a policy. He is willing to help write the policy.

**Tim Jones made a motion to contact Dana Luther to come in and verify that every expenditure made since January 1, 2018 is within the Town's audit perimeters. Bill Jones seconded the motion. Vote: Bill Jones-Aye; Tim Jones-Aye; Frank Bruno-No; John Flynt-No; and Thearon Hooks-No.**

**Bill Jones says he found minutes where they discussed that the Mayor was authorized to spend up to \$2,000.00. But he couldn't find where they voted. Bill Jones motioned to suspend all previous spending limit authority until which time they can meet and come up with a policy. Tim Jones seconded the motion, adding as delegated to one member. John Bain stated if we can't find it, it doesn't exist. Vote: 5-0 to suspend all previous spending limit authority until which time they can meet and come up with a policy.**

**Frank Bruno made a motion to authorize the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and the Finance officer to spend up to \$5,000.00 for emergencies at Town Hall and for the Water System. And up to \$2,500.00 at the Town Park for both maintenance and emergencies. Thearon Hooks seconded the motion. Vote: 4-1 with Tim Jones voting the No.**

- 2. Discuss Worker's Compensation Coverage for the Town Employees (Includes Council Members):** Mayor Flynt said he wants the coverage clarified because council is in disagreement about what their boundaries are. Thearon Hooks suggested before moving forward on this subject that they define if the chlorination station building is considered a confined space area.
- 3. Approve Yates Construction Contract to take over subdivision inspections:** John Bain spoke to Gene Robertson from Yates and called the State Board of Engineers. His findings were that Yates Construction is not considered an Engineering Firm. If Yates adds an Engineer to their contract we could move forward with the contract. Mayor Flynt asked that this approval be tabled until John Bain and Yates Construction can review further.
- 4. Hazen and Sawyer report was deleted because they will be at Town Hall to present their formal findings on July 18, 2018.**
- 5. Extension of the Town Water Lines was also tabled until the August meeting.**
- 6. Discuss hiring a part-time employee to run a flushing program.** Mayor Flynt asked Tim if this would be a consultant , a contract person, or an employee? Tim Jones answered an employee. Mayor Flynt then said we would have to add them to our worker's compensation insurance, buy them a vehicle, and tools. **Tim Jones motioned to hire an employee. Bill Jones seconded the motion. Vote: Tim Jones-Aye; Bill Jones-Aye; Frank Bruno-No, Thearon Hooks-No, Mayor Flynt-No.**

#### **X. Old Business:**

- 1. Vote for Sign for Stokesdale Elementary School: Frank Bruno motioned to purchase the sign for \$ 23,633.68, adding that Attorney John Bain put the purchase in the form of a contract for**

**the builders and Mayor to sign. Mayor Flynt seconded the motion. Vote: 4-1 to purchase with Tim Jones voting No.**

2. **Discuss RS-30/RS40 Lot size.** Mayor Flynt wants to eliminate RS-30 and restrict all future lot sizes to RS-40 (1 acre per dwelling). John Bain talked to our planner Oliver Bass and he was concerned that in doing this we could run into legal issues. Mayor Flynt asked to table this until August.
3. **Development Ordinance 5-13.6 regarding distance criteria for requiring hookup to the Town's water system.** John Bain suggested bringing this back to the Planning Board. John Bain said it will not have to come back to council.
4. **Discussion of Bids for resealing the Town Hall and Town Park paved areas.** Frank Bruno motioned to accept Carolina Pavement's bid for repairing and resealing the parking lots of the Town Hall and Town Park parking lots and walking track at a price of \$22,192.80. The money will come out of the budget for undesignated funds, because this item was not budgeted for. The acceptance will be subject to John Bain putting together a contract for Carolina Pavement to sign. Thearon Hooks seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0 to accept the bid.**
6. **Status of Bids for Maintenance and Painting of the Elevated Tank.** Mayor Flynt asked to table this until we get our report from Hazen and Sawyer.
  
7. **Discussion of the Town Clerk position:** Frank Bruno motioned to promote Alisa Houk to the Town Clerk/Finance Officer position effective retroactively back to July 1, 2018 with a raise in salary to \$20.00/hour. Tim Jones asked that these two positions be voted on separately. Frank Bruno motioned to promote Alisa Houk to the Town Clerk position effective retroactively back to July 1, 2018 with a raise in salary to \$20.00/hour. Thearon Hooks seconded the motion, **Vote: Bill Jones- No, Tim Jones-No, Frank Bruno-Yes, Thearon Hooks-Yes, Mayor Flynt-Yes.** Frank Bruno motioned to promote Alisa Houk to the Finance Officer position effective retroactively back to July 1, 2018. Thearon Hooks seconded the motion, **Vote: Bill Jones- No, Tim Jones-No, Frank Bruno-Yes, Thearon Hooks-Yes, Mayor Flynt-Yes.**

#### **XI: Committee and Board Reports:**

1. **Committee/Board reports:** Frank Bruno reported that since the vandalism on the concession stand walls and bathroom doors, the walls have been pressured washed and all of the bathroom doors were repainted. He is working on pulling the plans for the new shelter to be built on the playground. And the benches have been installed and several citizens have commented on how nice it is to have those benches for them to rest on.
2. **Administrative Report:** Alisa Houk reported that staff has fielded 276 phone calls, opened and processed 422 pieces of mail, had 167 visitors to Town Hall. Sold 7 water meters, and processed 32 -811 locates since the last Town Council meeting in June.

Staff is continuing to work with Hazen and Sawyer providing information to assist them in the research and study of our water system. Staff is also always working with McGill and Associates regarding inspections and paperwork for the new subdivisions coming into Town. Staff posted the 2009 Dodge Charger on GovDeals. Com this month and is monitoring and answering questions from the website. Staff also works closely with Meritech to make sure the chlorine levels are being monitored and the levels stay at an acceptable rate. Alisa worked with Procom, Yates Constructions, and Meritech to coordinate the meeting and installation of a new chlorine pump. Alisa also reviewed the town's insurance renewals with Frank Bruno and submitted them to the league to renew. Mailed the Town's letter addressing our TTHM violation back to NCDENR with explanation of our action plan to prevent anymore violations and continue to provide the citizens with clean water. Alisa attended the June 21, Special called water meeting. Alisa met with a representative from Paychex to hear about some new additional software features they can provide to assist with Human Resource processes. Sentry Watch installed our new up-to-date cameras in the town park. Alisa has also received an initial waterline installation packet from Craig Fleming Engineering for Phase 4 of Northridge Subdivision to review and pass onto McGill Associates.

**XII: Citizens Comments:** Katherine Buntoff on behalf of a small group of Stokesdale Citizens wants us to address the historical section of town. They would like to see a visual gateway into town for example erecting a large clock in front of the fire department or a mural painted on the side wall of the last building on the block of Newberry Street. Mayor and Council told her to have her group come up with some suggestions and bids and the council would be happy to listen and offer their help.

**XIII. Closing Comments from Council: Bill Jones** wanted to share an article he read where for the second year in a row Stokesdale was voted the most affordable Town to live in North Carolina. In 2016 we were the 2<sup>nd</sup> most affordable, being beat out by Knightdale. He was on kind of high after reading this, Bill then stated after being on council for the last 6 years he would like to think he had a little small part to do with this. Then he listened to the minutes from the last meeting and he got sick. He said it sounds like we want to compete, become Disney World. Sounds like we want to be like Oak Ridge and Summerfield have everything they've got, spending money and spending money. He was devastated while listening to the minutes and hearing how we want to spend money on this and throw money at that. He said we took it off the agenda but he was at the meeting when part of council met with some developers and discussed working with the developers and possibly paying a portion of extending the water lines. Bill said he personally has a problem with that, there has never been a policy written to do that. He is also not happy about 3 council members meeting with developers to discuss these matters without the other two council members present. **Frank Bruno**-thanked the 3 citizens that stayed and hung out with us. He is still looking for volunteers to come forward to help out with our events committee. Frank also wanted to mention that our new Website will be live next week. Some things will roll over but we will have to go in and tweak some other things and add others.

**Tim Jones**-Tim said he wasn't going to make any comments this month, the main reason being he can no longer have his comments added to the minutes for the Town of Stokesdale. That action was taken without a vote by someone in this building. He's not sure who or how this happened. He said that is why he had reservations about making comments tonight. A lot of his comments would mirror some of the ones Bill has made. He is concerned about some of the town's financial controls that are slipping a little bit here in the building and some of the things going on with the water system. Tim said he wouldn't belabor the entire meeting. He wants to make sure we are always following the public meeting laws, that we don't have 3 council members together somewhere they shouldn't be. Making sure we are getting notices out to the public and the Sunshine List, and all the appropriate places. He has complained about this and complained about this and it doesn't seem to do any good. He is also looking for a way to reach out to the citizens to communicate his own thoughts. He doesn't think anyone is going to put him on the radio, like they have Frank Bruno at WMYM, but when he does find a way, he expects the Town of Stokesdale to put it on every last agenda so he can reach out to the citizens who might be interested in what he has to say. Tim thanked the three citizens who stayed until the end.

**John Flynt** –Mayor Flynt addressed Tim Jones and said he would like to take exception to Tim's comments about his comments being omitted from the minutes. Mayor Flynt said he would like an example of when his comments weren't included. Mayor Flynt said he doesn't think the Town Clerk is purposefully discriminating against anyone. Obviously, the minutes are not verbatim so not every single word is printed. Also, at the beginning of every meeting when we have discussion and approval of the minutes if you feel your opinion has not been adequately represented you have the right to ask for an amendment of the minutes. Mayor Flynt stated, that said he respects Tim's opinion.

**Thearon Hooks**- Thanked the 3 remaining citizens. He thinks council has gotten a lot of things in place, for example approving the building of the shelter. He asked the citizens to please spread the word that we are in need of volunteers for the events committee. He said council will never stonewall a citizen's ideas. What council does ask is that the public be get involved in these ideas. Council can't legally go out and do some of things citizens' request. But if the citizens will do the leg work and bring a plan back to council then council will do what they can to help. Thearon congratulated Vicki White-Lawrence on her appointment as President of the League of Women Voters.

**John Flynt**- wanted to read a letter we received from Republic Waste: Copy of the letter is attached to these minutes.

Then Mayor Flynt wanted to address one of Bill's comments. Mayor Flynt said he understands that Bill thinks we spent too much money last month. Mayor Flynt listed the following: Council voted to approve the shelter for the park which will be an asset to the Town Park and community. Council voted to approve the sign for the school which will benefit both the school and the town. Council voted to purchase 12 tablets for the elementary school teachers. And Council set up a committee to try to bring some activities to Stokesdale and gave them \$5,000.00 seed money to work with.

Then Mayor Flynt said when we talk about 3 members of council can't be together, he recalls when he was on council years ago. He used to go to church with Powell Shelton, Mickie Halbrook, and James Attaway. So, is Bill saying more than two council members can't attend the same church or go to a civic event together. Bill said he wasn't talking about going to church. He doesn't think we are holding worship services at Town Hall. He is talking about 3 members meeting in the same office at Town Hall. Tim Jones spoke up and said he thought council was out of order and off topic. Mayor Flynt said he should be free to make his comments. Tim Jones asked Mr. Bain to clarify the public meetings law. Mr. Bain stated that the law states 3 or more members can't meet together to transact business without holding a public meeting.

Mayor Flynt had one more thing he wanted to bring up. He said 2 years ago prior council instituted the \$750.00 Capacity Use Fee. He said he believed Bill was at both of the meetings held with Dale Schepers of McGill and Associates regarding the justifications for having a Capacity Use Fee. At those meetings Mr. Schepers stated that the \$750.00 Capacity Use Fee had to be kept in a separate account and the only thing that this money could be used for was expansion and/or improvement of the water system. It absolutely could not be used for maintenance. So, Mayor Flynt said if you or other members of council say you never intend to add onto this water system then he thinks it would be more than appropriate for us to vote to take away the \$750.00 capacity use fee. Why do we need it if we aren't ever going to use it? Mayor Flynt told Bill that if he wants to entertain this vote at the next meeting that he will be glad to put it on the agenda and vote it up or down. Bill said if the Mayor's intention is to use the money for expansion then he should develop a policy.

**Tim Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Flynt said he still had to make the announcement unless Tim wanted to motion to suspend the announcement. Tim Jones motioned to suspend the announcements and adjourn the meeting. Thearon Hooks seconded the motion. No vote was taken. At 10:45PM**

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Alisa Houk Town Clerk/Finance Officer

Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor John Flynt