

TOWN OF STOKESDALE
PO BOX 465
STOKESDALE, NORTH CAROLINA

The regular meeting of the Stokesdale Town Council was held in the Town Hall at 8416 US Highway 158 on Thursday, December 20, 2007.

Mayor Randle L. Jones called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. The following members of Council were present: Mayor Randle L. Jones Mayor Pro Tem John W. Flynt, Bobby Richardson, Mickie Halbrook and Powell Shelton. Cheryl Steele, James Attaway, and Norman Cook were sworn in as new Council members during the meeting.

Others present included: William B. Trevorrow, Town Attorney; Guilford County Deputy Steve Christman; and Carolyn Joyner, Town Clerk/Finance Officer.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the invocation was given by Rev. Jerry Walker, pastor of Oak Level Baptist Church.

Council considered the proposed agenda. Mr. Flynt made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Shelton seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the agenda was approved.

Mr. Flynt suggested that the Clerk should read the minutes for the continuation of the November 20 meeting since she had put so much time and energy into the fifteen pages of minutes. He then made a motion to suspend with the reading of all of the minutes and approve them as presented. Mr. Richardson seconded the motion and the minutes of the regular meeting of Town Council held on October 18, 2007, November 15, 2007 and Town Council Public Hearing (Continued) of November 20, 2007 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Jones recognized the Council Members Shelton, Richardson, and Flynt that were stepping down from Council at this time. He said that it had been a pleasure working with them and a pleasure to have them step forward and work hard. He said that it is not a one night a month job. Mayor Jones noted that Mr. Shelton has served in the past and has been recognized for his services as Mayor Pro Tem and for filling a vacancy as a Council member and for his continuing work on roads when he had stepped down from Council.

Mr. Shelton congratulated Mr. Cook, Ms. Steele and Mr. Attaway on being chosen as Council members for the next four years and he hoped that they find it rewarding and enjoyable. He said that there is good leadership on the Council and that without Mayor Jones' leadership and efforts the Town would not be where it is today. The Town will continue to grow if Council works hard, smart and in the right manner. He felt that Council had made good decisions in hiring Ms. Joyner and Mr. Trevorrow and he also thanked Vicki White-Lawrence for her reporting of the Council meetings and her other community activities such as the PTA and the Christmas Parade. He said that Mr. Richardson and Mr. Flynt have a lot of experience and knowledge and they will be leaving Council and leaving big shoes to fill. He wanted the best for the Town and hoped Council would work hard and smart for the Town.

Mayor Jones recognized Mr. Bobby Richardson for his work on Council as well as his volunteer work in years past. Mayor Jones presented Mr. Richardson with a plaque which read as follows: "A Special thank you for your time and devotion during your tenure of dedicated service to the citizens of Stokesdale while serving as follows: Planning Board Member – 2001, Planning Board Vice Chairman 1998-2000 and 2002-2003; Planning Board Chairman 2004-2005; Member of Stokesdale Town Council 2006-2007.

Mr. Richardson said that it had been a pleasure and the new members would have a lot to look forward to. At times it is hard to make decisions when half of the people want one thing and the other half want the

opposite. He said that he appreciated the opportunity and looked forward to the Town continuing to grow.

Mayor Jones recognized Mr. Flynt who he said had served admirably in a number of ways including volunteer capacity on the Future Land Use Plan Committee and on other committees. He has done outstanding work in planning and zoning and has saved citizens money by working with the County on planning fees. Mr. Flynt has served as a Council member, Mayor, and Mayor Pro Tem. He said that he was sorry that he had moved away and could no longer serve on Council. He presented him with a gift as a token of appreciation and thanks for all that he had done for the Town and the citizens of the Town.

Mr. Flynt thanked Ms. Joyner and Mr. Trevorrow and said that they had done a good job. He said that when he was first elected there were things that he was unsure of and he had gone to Mr. Shelton for advice. Mr. Shelton had given him perfect advice. He said that Mr. Shelton, Mr. Joyce and Council members are a tremendous resource. He thanked the citizens of the Town for electing him to office and giving him the opportunity to serve on Council.

Mayor Jones then welcomed the Honorable Judge Stuart Albright who is the elected Superior Court Judge for this district. He has formerly served as the elected District Attorney for the County. Mayor Jones said that he had the opportunity to work with Judge Albright for a number of years when he was in High Point.

Judge Albright then swore in Mr. James Attaway, Mr. Norman Cook, and Ms. Cheryl Steele. Judge Albright said that it had been an honor to be with Council tonight.

The new Council was seated and proceeded with the election of a mayor pro tem. The Clerk counted the written ballots and announced that Ms. Halbrook had been elected to serve as Mayor Pro Tem with three votes from Mayor Jones, Ms. Steele, and Ms. Halbrook. Mr. Cook voted for Ms. Steele and Mr. Attaway voted for Mr. Attaway.

Ms. Halbrook thanked everyone and said that she would do her best. She noted that in the six years she has served on Council, she had only missed one meeting.

Mayor Jones congratulated all of the new Council members for their willingness to serve and their hard work during the campaign. He also thanked the other candidates that ran for office and said that it was gratifying to see good people that were willing to serve.

Report from Guilford County Sheriff's Department: Deputy Christman reported that Part One crimes had decreased this year from 64 reports last year to 52 reports this year. In the last month there has been one assault report, three property thefts, two residential break-ins, one business break-in which was Stokey's Pizza and two communicating threats reports. He said that Part One crimes include any break-ins, aggravated assaults, thefts, robberies, and rape. Mr. Attaway said that it speaks well of Deputy Christman.

Presentation of the 2006-2007 Audit: Ashley Crim with Cannon & Company, CPA firm, congratulated the new Council members. She said that she prepared the audit for the Town for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2007. Ms. Crim had prepared a brief report with information from the audit. A copy of the report is hereby incorporated into and made a part of the minutes of the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Planning and Zoning Workshop Opportunities to be Considered: Mayor Jones asked the Clerk for some explanation of the opportunities that are available. Ms. Joyner indicated that Mr. Nuttall had asked for some discussion as to whether the workshop would be a joint session for both the Planning Board and Town Council or if Council would prefer a separate session. The County is also planning a workshop that will be available to the Towns and will include speakers from the School of Government. Mayor Jones said that since the duties of the Planning Board has changed, he felt that all Board members should attend the training. The Clerk noted that the Planning Board has discussed having their training on their regular meeting date when there is a light agenda.

Ms. Steele made a motion to replace Robert Wurz, Mr. Attaway, Scott Lawrence, and Stewart Hommel and she had applications from three Stokesdale citizens who had applied for positions on the Planning Board. She gave Mayor Jones the applications. Mayor Jones asked if their terms were up or if they were still active members. The Clerk confirmed that they were active members. Mayor Jones asked Ms. Steele if her motion was to fire these individuals. Ms. Steele confirmed that it was her motion. Mayor Jones asked for her basis. Ms. Steele said that members served at the pleasure of the Board and it was her pleasure to have a more diverse group. There are no women that serve on the Planning Board and she would like to have a woman serve. She said that there are no minorities on the Board and she would like to see a minority serve. She said that Mr. Worth Mitchell is a resident of Arbor Run and he brings more diversity to the Town. Mayor Jones asked how she selected the individuals to be taken off. Ms. Steele said that she did not realize that she needed a reason. Ms. Steele said that the members have been on since the inception of the Board and she believed that it was time for a change. Mr. Cook seconded the motion. Mayor Jones stated that it had always been Council's practice that when there are openings, to have applications from a number of people and they are not pre-selected so that everyone has an opportunity to apply and Council then interviews the candidates and he felt that Council should continue that method. He said that he had no problem in considering anyone from the list for new openings but to discharge people who have not done anything inappropriate other than for the fact of diversity when their terms are not up and select people without giving the public a chance to apply is not the standard that Council has set to look fair and impartial and for that reason he opposed the motion. Mr. Attaway said that he opposed the motion as well. He said that it is arbitrary to come in change members of the Board that have served well and are dedicated members and it would be appropriate when positions occur, then you pick from the current Board and add new members in that order.

Ms. Halbrook said that she felt that Council should consider setting a time limit for serving on the Board like Council has. Mayor Jones said that there are term limits but Council can reappoint if they want to and he would not have a problem with changing term limits.

Mayor Jones called the question. Mayor Jones said that the motion was to discharge Robert Wurz, James Attaway, Scott Lawrence, and filling the positions with the new applicants of Jaycee Spruill, Cathy Gauldin, and Worth Mitchell. Mr. Attaway clarified that he was no longer on Planning Board. Mayor Jones indicated that the motion included removing Stewart Hommel as well. Mr. Cook, Ms Halbrook and Ms Steele voted aye. Mayor Jones and Mr. Attaway voted no. The motion carried with a vote of three to two.

Mayor Jones said that he felt that the change sets a dangerous precedence as Council has always done things up and above board and when you start this way you are going to run into problems. He said that he knew that the new Council members wanted to go forward but removing people who have done a good job and are taken off when there has been no improper conduct, is setting a bad precedence. Council has always given people the chance to be heard and interviewed and you are starting down a dangerous road.

Mayor Jones then returned to the discussion of training workshops for the Planning Board. He said that with new members on the Planning Board, he felt that the training should be mandatory for all members and if members do not attend the sessions, they should be removed from the Board. They are making decisions for which they can incur liability for themselves and liability for the Town. He made a motion that the training would be mandatory for all Planning Board members. Mr. Attaway seconded the motion. Mayor Jones said that this protects the Town as well as the Board members. The Clerk asked for a clarification as to whether the motion included the County workshop and the Town training by staff. Mayor Jones clarified that his motion was for both sessions to be mandatory. All Council members voted aye and the motion passed.

Issues relating to the Town Property: Mayor Jones noted that there was a proposal for subsurface exploration on the Town property that must occur to check for building suitability. Stewart Cooper Newell had sent a letter indicating that two geotechnical engineering firms had been contacted and have submitted proposals for soil borings at the proposed Town Hall site. They recommended acceptance of the proposal

from S&ME for the basic scope of 7 borings and Option 2 for to extend one boring 60 feet to determine site class for a total fee of \$3,280.00. Mayor Jones made a motion to adopt the proposal from S&ME with Option 2. Ms. Halbrook seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Mayor Jones noted that the park grant application is due on January 31 and information from the park survey is a part of that application. The Clerk needs some volunteers to help count the surveys. Ms. Steele and Ms. Halbrook indicated that they would be willing to help with the surveys.

Water System Issues: Mayor Jones indicated that the Town has received two notices of violations for tests that are required. The contractor is required to do the tests and he has sent a letter to the previous contractor requesting for the records to be sent to the appropriate authorities. Mr. Trevorrow has attempted to contact the contractor but has been unable to do so. If the information is not received, the consumers must be notified. It has been the Town's policy to send out the notices if there is some issue with the water whether they are needed or not. There is a Consumer Confidence report and a lead and copper test that are due every six months and the authorities have not received the last report. Mayor Jones said that if the deadline for notice, that the Town should send out appropriate notices as required whether or not is was done. Mr. Trevorrow may have to address the issue with our former contractor. Mayor Jones made that in the form of a motion and to have Mr. Trevorrow follow up on the matter and if the Town does not have an appropriate notice within the 30-day period, then the Town would send out the required notices. Ms. Steele seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS:

Committee/Board Reports: There were no committee or board reports made to Council.

Departmental and Administrative Reports - Finance Report: November, 2007: The finance report for November was not available.

Service Agreement with Covington Detroit Diesel for Generator: The Clerk noted that the annual service agreement with Covington for the servicing of the generator is due. They have been making one annual and one semi-annual service on the generator. Mayor Jones made a motion to renew the agreement with Covington for one annual and one semi-annual check on the generator. Ms. Joyner indicated that the price for the service was the same as the prior year. Ms. Steele seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Administrative Report – Town Clerk: Community Map Now Available: The Clerk noted that the Northwest Triad area Merchants group has published a map of the Stokesdale, Oak Ridge, Summerfield area and it is available now at some of the merchants that have advertised on the map. It will soon be available online and it can be downloaded to GPS/palm pilots etc.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

2008 Essentials of Municipal Government Sessions – Budget Amendment: Mayor Jones noted that this is a training session for the new Council members and a budget amendment is necessary to cover the costs of the session. Mayor Jones made a motion to adopt the budget amendment in order to send the new Council members to the municipal government training session. Ms. Halbrook seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried. A copy of Budget Ordinance Amendment #2 is hereby incorporated into and made a part of the minutes of the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was no other business coming before Council.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Jones read the announcements listed on the agenda.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR: Mr. Flynt said that the action taken by the Council earlier regarding eliminating some positions on Planning Board really concerned him. He noted that Mr. Wurz was a facilitator for the Long Range Plan and was an outstanding candidate. Mr. Hommel has only served

two months on the Planning Board and Scott Lawrence has served for some time. He said that it is ironic that Mr. Louie's behavior had been questioned at a previous meeting and someone had asked if he was going to be allowed to speak on his own behalf. And now Council members have come in without any courtesy to the old members and without other members of Council having the right to interview the candidates. It was a cheap shot and it is setting a dangerous precedence. It is tough to get people to volunteer and the people who step forward should be appreciated. Robert Wurz and Scott Lawrence have spent an extraordinary amount of time on Boards and committees. It is a shame to let that talent and energy leave. He said he would like to see Council reconsider the issue next month.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL: Ms. Halbrook wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Attaway said that he was disappointed with the vote on the Planning Board issue and felt it was wrong to come in and for political reasons, take people that volunteer their time and cast them aside. He thanked the people who were removed for their time and service to the Town and said that it was appreciated.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Jones made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Halbrook seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Carolyn L. Joyner, Town Clerk

Approved:

Mayor Randle L. Jones