

TOWN OF STOKESDALE
PO BOX 465
STOKESDALE, NORTH CAROLINA

The regular Stokesdale Town Council meeting, scheduled for January 17, 2008 was not held due to weather conditions. The meeting was held on Tuesday, January 22, 2008.

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 Mickie Halbrook, Cheryl Steele, James Attaway, and Norman Cook.

Others present included: William B. Trevorrow, Town Attorney; Trevor Nuttall, Guilford County Planning Department, and Carolyn Joyner, Town Clerk/Finance Officer.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Rev. Danny Miller, Pastor of Bethel United Methodist Church, gave the invocation for the evening.

No one asked to be placed on the agenda with a non-agenda item. Mr. Attaway made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Halbrook seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the agenda was approved.

Ms. Steele made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented and without reading. Mr. Attaway seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the minutes of the December 20, 2007 Town Council meeting were approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Report from Guilford County Sheriff's Department: Deputy Christman was not present at the meeting so there was no report from the Sheriff's Department.

Planning Board Resignations: Mayor Jones indicated that two individuals, Worth Mitchell and Cathy Gauldin, have resigned from the Planning Board since the December meeting. Council has received letters of resignation from those members. Ms. Steele made a motion to appoint Scott Lawrence and Robert Wurz to the Planning Board with their terms expiring in March, 2008 and to appoint Stewart Hommel to the Planning Board as an alternate with his term expiring March 2011. Mr. Attaway seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

Mayor Jones noted that Council has always had a policy but it had never been a written policy. He made a motion that when there were openings on the Planning Board, that there should be a formal request for applicants. Council would then review the applications of the citizens that had applied. Council would conduct interviews with the applicants and make appointments. It would be a four step process. Mr. Attaway seconded the motion. Mr. Cook asked if this was already in the Ordinance with a limit of the terms of Planning Board members. Mayor Jones indicated that it was not in the Ordinance, this was the process that Council has always followed and this would make it a written policy. Term limits will be discussed. Council unanimously voted to approve the written policy for the selection process for Planning Board members.

Mayor Jones, regarding term limits of Planning Board members that Mr. Cook had brought up, indicated that there is maximum term limit of six years for a regular member. Since it has been brought to Council's attention there may be some members who are subject to that provision. He suggested that Council request an assessment be made of all Planning Board members by the February Town Council meeting. All members and all alternate members should provide the following:

1. The year of appointment to the Board as a member or as an alternate member
2. Dates of any reappointments
3. The number of years of service

When Council has this information, some terms are expiring in March and Council will have to decide if there are Board members who terms go past March and exceed the maximum two term limit, whether they can continue to the end of their term or if Council will have their positions become open seats. Mayor Jones made this a motion. Ms. Steele seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried. Mayor Jones encouraged people to send in their applications now for the openings that will occur in March.

Public Comments on Planning Board Resignations: Ms. Thiery said that her comments were not confrontational or giving criticism but an attempt to learn how the government functions. She passed out a handout to Council. She noted that there

was a question of Mr. Worth Mitchell's residency even though he has resigned from a position on the Planning Board. She indicated that he is a developer who resides in High Point and she questioned if there is a residency requirement for the Planning Board. Mayor Jones said that in the past, applicants have been a resident of the Town. There may have been instances where members relocated in mid-term.

Ms. Thiery said that there was a question of ethics and propriety concerning the action of Councilman Norman Cook when he took part in the vote to dismiss members of the Planning Board who had voted in opposition to a rezoning request on NC 68. She indicated that Kurt Kusche has submitted a rezoning request for property located on NC 68 that is owned by Mr. Cook. She questioned whether the vote to restructure the Planning Board by eliminating potential opposition to the upcoming rezoning request should have been invalidated. Mr. Trevorrow said that it is a matter of State law and ordinance also if there is a monetary or fiduciary interest involved. She said that she concurred with the purpose of it but she questioned the way that it was handled. She said that she has volunteered for several projects and she hoped that she could continue to be of service. She said that it should be ethics and propriety.

Tim Jones, 8402 Southard Road, supported the ethics of Mr. Cook and his way of doing business. He said that he had never heard a complaint about Mr. Cook.

Mayor Jones asked that all comments should be limited to comments on the resignations and not individual personalities.

Robert Wurz, 7900 Dorsett Downs Drive, thanked the Council for taking in hand the matters around the Planning Board and making the decisions that were made tonight. He said that he was looking forward to seeing new policies and when he goes off of the Board, he would be willing to help out on anything else.

Mayor Jones thanked everyone for their comments and said, on behalf of Council, that there is more a greater awareness of matters. It is not always easy as it seems to be but Council is working together on some issues and will move forward.

Public Hearing – Collector Streets: Mr. Nuttall said that the Proposed Collector Street Plan was presented to the Planning Board and Council in August. At that time, both Boards requested more information, more time to study the proposal and obtain additional public input. On January 23, 2008 the Planning Board recommended the adoption of the plan by unanimous vote.

The locations of the proposed new collectors are conceptual and are not intended to be precise. The general location and alignment will serve as a planning tool to help guide the layout of future street networks as land development occurs.

Lydia McIntyre represented the Greensboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) which serves as the regional transportation planning agency which includes Stokesdale along with Greensboro, Oak Ridge, Summerfield, Sedalia, and Pleasant Garden. Before federal funding can be obtained, there must be an agency in place to do technical analysis of the project and that is what the MPO does for Greensboro and the urban area which includes Stokesdale. She passed out handouts which gave an overview of the Plan. She said that the purpose of the collector street plan is to provide mobility and access. The purpose of I -40 is moving traffic and goods and providing mobility. A collector street is the other extreme and its purpose is to give accessibility to abutting land use. Usually collector streets have lower speed limits. Attachment 1 shows a diagram of how a collector street supports streets with higher classification. The major thoroughfares, US 158 & NC 68, are not up for discussion. Minor thoroughfares are shown for a point of reference. The collector streets will carry traffic to major or minor thoroughfares. The plan supports the Development Ordinance. Table 5-13-2, shows the standards for a rural area which would be applicable to Stokesdale. The minimum right of way or minimum width is the same whether it is a local or a collector street. The only variance is in the stopping sight distance and the centerline radiance. The collector street plan is development driven meaning that it would only come about if the property is developed. Collector streets are shown in purple on the map with the dashed lines showing proposed alignments. It will be up to Council to enforce it and change the plan as needed. It will be accomplished in phases. MPO will do any updates to the maps that are needed.

Mr. Nuttall noted that the planning staff would inform developers and land owners about collector streets but the approval authority lies with the planning board with appeals going to the Council. The Planning Board gave it unanimous recommendation on January 3 with good input from citizens at that meeting.

Thearon Hooks inquired about the US Hwy 158 alignment that was shown on the proposed Collector Street Plan and why other alternate routes were not shown. Ms. McIntyre said that multiple alignments cannot be shown on this map but NCDOT will study alternative routes for US Hwy 158.

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing at this time.

John Flynt, 5305 Perrou Court, Greensboro, indicated that he was a member of the Long Range Planning Committee and that it was a recommendation of the committee to adopt the Collector Street Plan since it was a good planning tool. He noted that it would give the Planning Board a tool to help alleviate some of the traffic issues as development occurs in the area. The streets will be developed as property owners come forward with a plan. He noted that some time ago DOT came out and asked Council to consider a route that was located to the south of the alignment that is shown. When Council did not endorse a new southern route, NCDOT had to study multiple routes to determine the best route for the road and Council had to continue to recognize the route shown on the map as the location of the proposed bypass. He endorsed the collector street plan.

Ms. McIntyre said that the MPO serves as a liaison with NCDOT and work closely with them on the development of projects in the area.

Mayor Jones closed the public hearing. Mayor Jones made a motion to approve the proposed collector street plan. Mr. Attaway seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the Collector Street Plan was adopted.

Ms. McIntyre noted that there is a recommended resolution for Council to consider adopting for the approval process. Mayor Jones, with regard to adopting the proposed Collector Street Plan, moved to adopt the resolution as set forth as Attachment #4 in the hand out. Ms. Steele seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the resolution was adopted. A copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated into and made a part of the minutes of the meeting.

Urban Deer Season – 2009: Ramon Bell stated that the NC Wildlife Commission had adopted the first Urban Deer Season this year and it began January 12 and runs through February 16 of this year. It is open to cities and towns. The Season has been created as a wildlife management tool to help maintain control of white tail deer in the community by using bow hunting techniques by those with valid hunting licenses to remove surplus animals in a humane manner. It will help to reduce the populations to numbers that can exist on available habitat with natural food sources. It will help reduce the number of deer/motor vehicles collisions, reduce deprivation of crops, gardens and ornamental shrubbery on personal property and make healthier populations existing deer herd. He said that there was a dramatic increase in Guilford County in the number of deer and motor vehicles collisions. Guilford County was 602 reported collisions with animals in 2006 which was a 35% increase over the 2005 numbers. He estimated about 60 collisions with animals were reported in 2006 in the Stokesdale area.

Urban Deer Season is available to municipalities that submit a letter of intent to the NC Wildlife Resource Commission by April 1 of each year. A map with clearly defined areas to be included in the season must be included with the letter of intent. It is an archery only hunting season. Harvested deer must be registered and bag limits apply. Antlerless deer tags are available and are unlimited. Hunters must obtain a map to show the lawful hunting areas and any specific restrictions that may apply to the area. The Town of Elkin has an Urban Deer Season this year. Private land owners are not obligated to allow hunting on their property and hunters must have the landowner's permission to hunt on their property and it must in writing if the land is posted. Mr. Bell noted that several cities in Virginal have an Urban Deer Season with some requiring hunters to register at Town Hall and some require the purchase of special permit to hunt.

Ms. Halbrook said that it bothered her that the extended season would keep others out of the woods for a longer period of time. Mr. Bell said that the effective range of a compound bow is about 30 yards and they will be shooting down into the ground.

Ms. Steele made a motion to approve the Urban Deer Season. Mr. Attaway seconded the motion. Council members Cook, Attaway and Steel voted aye and Mayor Jones and Ms. Halbrook voted nay. The motion carried.

Haw River Watershed Re-classification: The Clerk indicated that the State is considering classifying the Haw River as a watershed. In addition to Stokesdale, the Towns of Summerfield, Oak Ridge, Reidsville, unincorporated Guilford County, and Rockingham County would be impacted by this change. A meeting of representatives from the municipalities, the counties, and Greensboro was held at the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments to discuss the matter. The group had questions and a letter has been sent to the NCDENR seeking answers so that the governments can respond to DENR regarding the implications and possible impact should the change be made.

Request to support 2008 Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant Application with participating local Governments: The Clerk reported that she had recently attended a Solid Waste meeting which includes representatives of the

County as well as the municipalities recently. One item on the agenda was the possibility of the County seeking a grant for the purchase of recycling containers that could be placed in various locations such as Town Halls, parks, post offices, and fire stations. The containers costs about \$70 but the grant would pay for about 90% of the costs. The containers are for recycling plastic bottles and aluminum cans. The committee is looking at several options for the removal and collection of the recyclables. Ms. Steele made a motion to support the grant for the containers. Ms. Halbrook seconded the motion. Ms. Steele amended her motion to request five of the containers for the Town. Ms. Halbrook seconded the amendment. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Selection of a delegate to the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments (PTCOG): Mayor Jones noted that Mr. Flynt had served as the delegate to PTCOG and that he was an alternate. Ms. Steele indicated that she would be interested in being a delegate. Mr. Attaway made a motion to nominate Ms. Steele as the delegate to PTCOG. Ms. Halbrook seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and Ms. Steele was nominated as the delegate to PTCOG.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Watershed Text Amendment – Authorize advertising for public hearing: Mayor Jones noted that a copy of the text amendment was included in Council's packet. Mayor Jones made a motion to authorize the advertising for the public hearing. Ms. Steele seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Park Grant Application: Mayor Jones noted that the deadline for the grant application is January 31, 2008. He suggested that a special meeting should be scheduled for the Council to approve the grant application package. Ms. Steele requested that the meeting be set for 7:00 PM. Ms. Steele made a motion to set a special meeting for January 29, 2008 at 7:00 PM for Council to deal with the park grant application. Mayor Jones seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS:

Ms. Steele noted that there are vacancies on committees and changes with chairpersons no longer on Council and she would like to see this addressed next month. Mayor Jones suggested that a list of the committees should be distributed to Council in order that they can review it and the March meeting may be a better time. Mayor Jones noted that generally there are only two Council members on a committee so that there will not be issues relating to public meetings laws.

Departmental and Administrative Reports

Finance Report: November & December, 2007: The Finance Officer noted that the reports for November and December have been combined since the November report was not available at the last meeting. She noted that several certificates of Deposit matured during the month and some were combined into one certificate. Total Assets increased over \$91, 811. over the October statement. She noted that Guilford County Finance Department was paid \$17,744.56 for law enforcement during the 4th quarter and News & Record was paid for newspaper ads. Happy Rentz was paid \$547.29 for the 10 stanchions and 575 chairs for the November meeting that was held in the Business Center. There are several payments for parade expense such as the installation of banners, portable restrooms and a payment to McMichael High School Band. Council was paid stipends for 4th quarter.

The General Fund Savings Account reflects a Utility Franchise Tax Deposit of \$45,238.84. Over \$26,000 was earned in interest on maturing certificates of deposit. The certificates that matured have been renewed with them being transferred to institutions offering the highest interest rates. The Federal Reserve has lowered interest rates again and this will cause the interest rates to fall. Mayor Jones made a motion to authorize the finance Officer to invest the certificates at the institutions that provide the best interest and under the best terms that she deems is appropriate based on current conditions. Ms. Halbrook seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

The Water Enterprise Checking account transactions are routine transactions. Funds in the checking account have accumulated and interest is being paid on those accounts. There were no accounts payable when the report was printed. An invoice was received from Winston today for \$4,25.03 for water. One Water-Sewer Fund Certificate of deposit matured and it was renewed for one year.

Administrative Report – Town Clerk: Guilford County Solid Waste Services Guide: The Clerk noted that copies of the Guilford County Solid Waste Services Guide are now available at Town Hall. It contains information on recycling, and how to get rid of unwanted items such as hazardous household waste and electronic waste.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION: Resolution Regarding Designation of an Official to make Recommendations to the NC Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission on ABC Permit Applications: Mayor Jones noted that a member of Council is appointed to deal with this type of applications should any be presented. He noted that Mr. Attaway has served in this capacity previously. Mayor Jones made a motion to appoint Mr. Attaway as the official to make recommendations on ABC permit Applications. Ms. Steele seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Resolution For Addition of the Following Roads to the State Maintenance System: B & G Court; Springdale Meadow Drive Extension; Haw Meadows Drive (South); Trebbiano Drive; Trebbiano Court; Zinfandel Drive; Barbera Drive; Apple Grove Road; and Riesling Drive. Mayor Jones noted that resolutions were included in the packets. The Clerk noted that some of the Plat books and recording dates varied in the materials that were provided by NCDOT . She had not been able to reach Mr. Lane Hall to inquire about the differences. Mr. Trevorrow noted that Council could adopt them iwth the provisions that if changes are needed that they be corrected. Mayor Jones made a motion to approve the resolutions with corrections if needed. Ms. Steele seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the resolutions for the addition of the roads to the State Maintenance were approved. Copies of the resolutions are 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: No comments were made.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL: There were no comments from Council.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Jones made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Attaway seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 PM.

Carolyn Joyner, Town Clerk

Approved:

Randle L. Jones, Mayor