

TOWN OF STOKESDALE
8416 US Hwy 158
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 17, 2009.

Mayor Randle L. Jones called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. The following members of Council were present: Mayor Randle L. Jones, Mickie Halbhook, James Attaway, Cheryl Steele and Bobby Richardson.

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

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Council considered the proposed agenda. Ms. Halbhook made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Attaway seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the agenda was adopted.

Ms. Halbhook made a motion to recommend that the minutes not be read and to pass them as presented. Mr. Attaway seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the minutes for the regular meeting of November 19, 2009 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Swearing In of Council Members and Election of Mayor Pro Tem: Mayor Jones said that Council was honored to have elected Superior Court Judge Stuart Albright at the meeting. He said that Judge Albright represents this district and is a resident of Guilford County. Superior Court judges serve statewide. Council is very appreciative of having him take time out of his busy schedule to conduct the ceremonies tonight.

Judge Albright proceeded to administer the Oath of Office to Ms. Mickie Halbhook and to Mayor Randle L. Jones. Time was allowed for photographs to be taken.

Election of Mayor Pro Tem: Council elected as Mayor Pro Tem by written ballot. Ms. Halbhook was elected to serve as Mayor Pro Tem with four votes from Mayor Jones, Ms. Steele, Ms. Halbhook and Mr. Richardson. Mr. Attaway voted for Mr. Attaway.

Report from Guilford County Sheriff's Department: Deputy Christman reported that he did not attend the previous Council meetings due to calls that he had at that time. The call volume has been low with only six incident reports having been filed since the previous meeting. Two reports were breaking and entering of residences.

Presentation of the 2008-2009 Audit: Cannon & Company: Craig Hopkins, Audit Manager and Ashley Crim represented Cannon & Company. Ms. Crim does the field work for the audit. Mr. Hopkins presented a brief audit report of the financial position of the Town as of June 30, 2009 to Council. He said that they took no exceptions to the numbers or balances of the Town. General Fund Revenues were approximately \$381,000 which was a decrease of about \$56,000 from the previous year. Expenditures decreased by about \$21,000 down to \$229,000 or an excess of revenues over expenditures of about \$152,000. There was a transfer to the Park Capital Project Fund of \$205,452 which decreased the fund balance total by \$53,000. The ending Fund Balance is \$3,785,065. Total assets in the general fund totaled \$3.8 million with \$3.7 million in cash. The Enterprise Fund (Water Fund) Operating Revenues were \$182,000 and Expenses were \$225,000 for a net operating loss of \$43,000. There was a nonoperating income of \$30,000 that offset the loss for a total net loss of about \$13,000. There was a \$408,000 capital contribution for some waterlines this year for a total increase of \$396,000 in net assets leaving the Town with total net assets in the water fund of \$ 4.7 million of which \$3.5 million is Capital Assets. There is

\$1.2 million cash in the Water Fund at the end of the year. Overall, the Town had over \$5 million cash in the bank compared to \$4.9 last year. He thanked the Finance Officer for a job well done and he thanked the Town for allowing Cannon & Company to serve the Town and said that he would answer any questions.

There were no questions from Council. Mayor Jones said that Council appreciated their efforts and diligence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Town Park: Ms Joyner noted that at the previous meeting, Council was given the changes in the amounts that were to be paid for park construction and a letter which was approved by Council was sent to State to justify the changes from the previous estimates. PARTF has approved those changes and have sent an amendment to the DENR PARTF contract for Council's approval and signature. Mayor Jones made a motion to approve the amendment and to authorize his signature. Ms. Steele seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the amendment was approved.

Ms. Joyner noted that weather has been a problem in trying to complete the Park. A number of things cannot be completed because of the cold temperatures. Paving for example cannot be done now.

Bid Tabulation for Town Hall Project: Mayor Jones noted that Jim Stewart with Stewart, Cooper, Newell Architects was present to report to Council. Mr. Stewart said that nineteen bids were opened on December 3 for the Town Hall project. R. P. Murray, Inc. was the low bidder at \$1,242,000 which included allowances. The high bidder was \$1,466,000. This was about a quarter of a million dollars less than was original estimate of the cost for the project. R.P. Murray is doing a good job on the Park as well. Mayor Jones noted that R. P. Murray is a Kernersville company that is building the Town Park. They do have an established record of their building. Mr. Stewart noted that he has two copies of the contracts for Mr. Trevorrow's review. Mayor Jones asked Mr. Stewart if he was of the opinion from the examination of the bids, the information furnished during the bidding process and his own investigation that R.P. Murray a qualified bidder. Mr. Stewart agreed that R.P. Murray, Inc. is a qualified bidder. Mayor Jones noted that at first, it was estimated that the project would cost about \$1.6 Million and then it was adjusted to \$1.4 million. Because of the economic situation, Council felt that it was advantageous to seek bids at this time and the bids have come in at a quarter million dollars less than the anticipated cost of the project. Mayor Jones said that his thoughts were that the project is not going to get any cheaper and this is a company that Council knows how they work. It is substantial funds but it is less than Council had anticipated. Saving a quarter million dollars should be seriously considered. Mayor Jones asked the Finance Officer if this could be done with current funds on hand and without a loan. Ms. Joyner agreed that this was the case. Mayor Jones said that additional money would be saved by not financing the project and having to have a twenty to forty year loan. Mayor Jones made a motion to accept the bids, to have this matter financed with funds on hand and this would be contingent on final review of the appropriate contracts, bonds and bid information by the Town Attorney and that Council go forward with the project and to accept R. P. Murray as the lowest qualified bidder. Mr. Attaway seconded the motion. Ms. Steele asked if this would mean that Council would be locked into the current specifications. She asked if allowances could be changed, and other items changed to trim the cost. She said that she was happy with the bids but that she wished they were lower. She asked if there were items such as purchasing slightly used furniture that could be used to cut costs. Mr. Stewart noted that furniture was not included in the bids and that this is the completed building and the kitchen appliances are included. Mr. Trevorrow said that when everyone bids on the same specifications, you cannot change those specifications unless you go out for another bid. Mayor Jones called the question. All Council members voted aye and the motion was approved. Mayor Jones thanked Mr. Stewart and said that the work of his group on the project was appreciated as well as their work on the Park. He said that their counsel and advice is appreciated also on the bidding process and that has saved the Town substantially and he looked forward to continuing the relationship with them. Mr. Stewart said that they appreciated the opportunity to serve the Town and they look forward to the completion of the project and the dedication and one year warranty inspection. Mayor Jones said that he felt it was an advantage to have the same company that was building the Park to build the Town Hall

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS:

Ms. Steele said that she did not have a committee report.

Mayor Jones said that some committee applications have been submitted since the last meeting. Council should review the applications and then consider setting up dates to interview committee and planning board applicants after the holidays. The Clerk suggested that Council set a deadline for submittal of applications. Mayor Jones said that he had spoken with people who said they were considering applying. Mayor Jones made a motion to set January 21 as a deadline for applications. Ms. Steele seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion. The Clerk said that the following applications had been received in addition to the one for planning board; one for the memorial committee; one for historic preservation; two for trails; and two applications for recreation.

Departmental and Administrative Reports: Finance Report: October, 2009: The Finance Officer noted the following from the November 2009 Financial Statement: General Fund Checking Account transactions included Time Warner Cable Fees \$1,512.25; Greensboro ABC profits of \$1,251.22 and donations and entry fees for the Parade were deposited during the month. Expenditures included Parade expenses including \$325.00 for banner installation. General Fund Accounts Payable includes an invoice for 3rd quarter Law Enforcement for \$17,575.99. Three general fund Certificates of Deposit matured during the month and were deposited into the Money Market Savings account. The Park Capital Project Account transactions include the payment of \$224,908.00 to R. P. Murray, Inc. for Park construction and payments to Kleinfelder for soil compaction testing. The first reimbursement from the PARTF grant has been received and it totaled \$121,138.41. Accounts Payable included a pay request from R. P. Murray, Inc. for \$103,640.00. Transactions for the Water Enterprise Checking Account were routine and included a payment of \$3,000 for audit services.

Service Agreement with Covington Detroit Diesel for Generator: Ms. Joyner noted that it is time for the service agreement for maintenance of the Town's generator to be renewed. In the past Covington has serviced the generator two times each year. The proposed cost for the service is \$600 per year which is the same as the previous year. Mr. Attaway said that he felt it was important to keep the maintenance contract because of the amount invested in the generator. Ms. Halbrook made a motion to adopt the plan again. Mr. Attaway seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Administrative Report:

Approval of 2010 Calendar for Council: The Clerk had prepared a list of the dates for Planning Board meetings for 2010 which were on the first Thursday of each month and Council meetings which were on the third Thursday of each month. She noted that there were no conflicts between holidays and the proposed meeting dates. Ms. Steele made a motion to adopt the calendar. Mr. Richardson seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the calendar was approved.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Resolution For Addition of the Following Roads to the State Maintenance System: Charles Place Drive (South) and Sangiovese Drive: Ms. Steele made a motion to adopt the proposed resolution. Mr. Attaway 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.

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

Mayor Jones said that he wanted to relay some of the excellent comments that he had heard from people at the Courthouse who came to the Parade both as participants and spectators and from the community about what a fine job the Parade Committee does every year. He said that the Committee take an inordinate amount of their own time to make sure that it is an excellent holiday celebration and they put a lot of effort and hard work into it and it really pays off. He said that their clout with the weather was undeniable this year. On the behalf of citizens, he thanked the Parade Committee for all the work they did. Ms. Halbrook said that she thought it was the largest amount of people that had attended. Mayor Jones said that people lined the streets on both sides.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Stewart Hommel, 8505 Deer Path Court said that the nominations for the Planning Board have been going for over 3 months and that was a long amount of time. He urged Council to proceed. Mayor Jones said that Council would proceed and there has been a delay because one applicant could not attend the interview and now the holidays are here. Council would like to have one session to interview all of the additional candidates that have applied. It is not an intentional delay and Council should be ready to proceed soon.

Clifton Matthews, 8510 Croft Drive, said that it was a pleasure for him to be able to participate and ride in the Holiday Parade and with the help of the Mayor's daughter hand out candy. He said that he felt that it was a well-organized Parade. He estimated that a third to a half of the Town was present. The Parade Committee and volunteers did a good job and he said he thought it would be nice if they got something in their stockings!

Mayor Jones pointed out that the Committee is made up of volunteers.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL:

Ms. Halbrook thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Ms. Steele seconded her comment.

Mayor Jones said that he appreciated the support of the citizens of the Town. Over the past year and during the election season, people had spoken to him as well as phoned and sent emails to say how supportive they were of Council. He said that it means a lot to those who serve on Council and Council considers it a privilege to serve the Town on the Council. He said that he considers it an honor to be fortunate enough to have served and to continue to serve as Mayor.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Steele made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Attaway seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Carolyn L. Joyner

APPROVED:

Randle L. Jones, Mayor