

**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, February 19, 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, Cheryl Steele, and Mickie Halbrook. Councilman James Attaway and Councilman Norman Cook were absent.

Others present included: Town Architect Bill DeYoung with Stewart-Cooper-Newell; Guilford County Sheriff's Deputy Steve Christman, Town Attorney William B. Trevorrow; and Town Clerk/Finance Officer Carolyn Joyner.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Council considered the proposed agenda. Mayor Jones made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Ms. Steel seconded the motion. All Council members present voted aye and the agenda was approved.

Ms. Steele made a motion to adopt the minutes without reading. Ms. Halbrook seconded the motion. All Council members present voted aye and the minutes of a special meeting held on January 13, 2009 and minutes of the regular Council meeting of January 15, 2009 minutes were approved.

Mayor Jones noted that Councilman Cook had surgery and was unable to attend the last meeting. He is recuperating and is under doctors' orders but has been out some. Councilman Attaway had surgery today and is recuperating at the hospital.

**Report from Guilford County Sheriff's Department:** Deputy Christman reported that 28 incidents reports have been made since the last meeting. Some of the incidents were as follows: seven subjects were charged with drug offences, three DWI arrests, five assault incidents, two property thefts and one residential burglary.

In regards to Public Safety, Mayor Jones said that he and several of the other mayors met with the High Sherriff last week regarding law enforcement and law enforcement issues. A number of issues was discussed that will impact the Sheriffs Department's budget. In the current economic crisis, Crimestoppers will not be getting the corporate support that it has in the past. They will be sending letters seeking funds and asking if the Towns can find any additional funds in their fund balance in the upcoming year. Crimestoppers is very worthwhile and beneficial to the community. He suggested that the Town should check and see if there are any funds that can be budgeted for the program.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Town Park Project: Mayor** Jones welcomed Bill DeYoung with Stewart, Cooper, Newell Architects. Mr. DeYoung said that his firm has been working on the plans for the Park for several months. He anticipates having all of the reviews including those with Guilford County and NC DENR wrapped up in the next few weeks and will then move to the bidding phase of the project. The project will be out to bid for about one month and then Council will give the final approval of the bids. The Clerk noted that the Park specifications are fairly complete and Council may want to consider approval of them. Mr. DeYoung said that there are some dates which will need to be set out in the bid package. A six-month construction period has been set for the project. When the bids are received and a contractor has been selected, it should take about 120 days. Mr. DeYoung provided Council with a copy of the Bid Form that would be used by contractors to submit a bid. He said that the handout was only a small portion of the specifications. A member of the audience asked if there is any stipulation that says that the contractor must be from the area so that local contractors will be used. Mr. DeYoung said that there were no requirements but when bids come in, the Council will have the right to reject any bidder. He felt that many contractors will bid the project which will give a more competitive price. It is a single prime contract so there will be a single contractor over the entire project and he will hire the sub-contractors that are needed. A person from the audience asked if a performance bond is required. Mr. DeYoung said that it is required. Someone asked if Council has to take the

lowest bid. Mr. DeYoung said that Council would have the opportunity to accept or reject any bid. Someone asked if the architects would do an assessment of the bidders and provide Council with a comparison of the contractors who submitted bids. Mr. DeYoung said that his firm would run the meeting when the bids are opened and will review all of the numbers and compile a spreadsheet and then meet with Council. Mr. DeYoung said that they would interview contractors if they are not familiar with them and their work. Someone asked for a definition of a "qualified" contractor. Mr. DeYoung said that there are different levels of licenses that contractors can have. A qualified bidder would have to have an appropriate license to handle the project and they would have to have a bid bond to cover the project. He said that there are a number of things that Council may want to look at such as the following:

- Is the contractor a reputable contractor in the area?
- Have their projects in the area worked out well?
- What sort of change orders have there been on their projects?
- Have they been on time with their projects?

He said that they would follow up with other architects and contractors or clients in the area to see if they are reputable. They must provide the bid bond and their license. Any weeding out after that it is a matter of reputation and what they feel is an appropriate contractor.

Jim Flynt asked what notification would be given to the local contractors to let them know about of the project and that you will be seeking bids. Mr. DeYoung said that the project would be advertised in different ways. The biggest way is by submitting the plans to local plan rooms. Most of the contractors subscribe to them and are notified of projects from them. The project can be advertised in local newspapers. He said that contractors have their resources and he has already been receiving of phone calls about the project from contractors who are interested.

Mr. Trevorrow asked if there would be a pre-bid conference. Mr. DeYoung said that there would be a pre-bid conference and it was in the spec book although the date has not yet been set. They will keep a tally and if it is a required meeting, the contractors who are not at the pre-bid conference cannot submit a bid.

Mayor Jones noted that the Town has been through the process before with other projects. He asked if, from a legal standpoint, was Mr. Trevorrow aware of any paperwork that needs further review. Mr. Trevorrow responded that the paperwork that Council was provided tonight addresses the concept of single prime bid which seems to be the concept that most local governments are using. Mr. DeYoung said that he would not recommend using multiple prime contracts for this project since it would be more complicated.

Mr. DeYoung said that he has never dealt with anyone with an unlimited license. The projects that he deals with are one million or more. He said that Jim Stewart is the architect of record for this project and he has been an architect for many years and will review the bids for the project.

Mayor Jones made a motion to accept the bid form for a Single Prime Contract as presented tonight and to approve the specs as presented. Ms. Steele seconded the motion. The three Council members present voted aye and the motion carried.

#### **COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS:**

Mayor Jones said that he has had some meetings with the local mayors about issues dealing with law enforcement and they had discussions about other financial issues. In talking with representatives of the State government, they do not foresee anything in the immediate future different than we have had addressing us from their budgets. They feel that their budgets will be tight but there have been some changes in the laws since the last situation like this. The Guilford County small towns and cities are meeting regularly now and there may be cooperative situations where we can work together. The Jordan Lake Rules and issues such as water contamination can be addressed.

**Departmental and Administrative Reports: Finance Report: December, 2008:** The Finance Officer noted assets had decreased since the December report by \$3,717.71. Checking account transactions included several payments for items related to the Parade. A final report of the parade expenditures may be available next month. Accounts Payable include an invoice from Cannon & Company for the final billing for the audit in the amount of \$2,700.00 and an invoice for \$22,168.02 from the Guilford County Finance Department for law enforcement for the

fourth quarter. The water enterprise account reflects routine transactions. The Town received \$1,701.11 from Time Warner for cable fees. The Park Capital Project Fund includes a payment of \$2,500 to Trigon for the soil borings and the NC Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources were paid additional fees in the amount of \$585.00 which brings the total permit fee to about \$900.

**Administrative Report Set Fees for the 2009 Election:** The Clerk reported that municipal elections will be held in November and Council should set the filing fees for candidates. The fee has been set at \$5.00 for previous elections. Mayor Jones made a motion to set the filing fee at \$5.00. Ms. Steele seconded the motion. All Council members present voted aye and the fee was set.

The Clerk noted that a Public Hearing has been set for Monday, March 16 in the Blue Room of the Old County Courthouse for the Solid Waste Plan Update. The Clerk has attended most of the meetings with other County and municipal officials to update the plan. The draft of the plan will be placed on the Guilford County website and a link to the Town's website will be established. Comments about the Plan can be submitted online or at the meeting.

The Clerk also noted that Urban Archery season is over for this year. The number of deer taken was not known. She estimated that many people phoned Town Hall for details about the season with as many as ten calls on one day. Most of the people calling wanted a list of property owners who would allow hunting on their property. Some municipalities require that hunters register for the special season. If Council should want to make any changes in the season, the State must be notified by April 5.

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** There was no legislative action coming before Council.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Water System Issues: Mayor Jones noted that Council should consider a Resolution to seek funds for the expansion of the Town water system through the Stimulus package or through stimulus packages proposed for the future. The proposed resolution references the Federal Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987 and the Safe Drinking Water Act. It would authorize the Mayor or his successor to execute and file an application on behalf of the Town with the State for a loan or grant to aid in the construction of the expansion of the water system. Ms. Steele asked if the Town would be limited to just the water system or if money for other projects could be requested. Ms. Steele said that she would make a motion to submit the resolution and give the Mayor permission to sign it. She said that there are lots of opportunities for grants that are going to become available. Mayor Jones said that the water system expansion would be one project that the Town would be able to get prerequisites ready to apply by the deadline. Ms. Steele said that she would make a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the application to apply for the stimulus loans or grants whichever might be available. Ms. Halbrook seconded the motion. All Council members present voted aye and the motion carried. A copy of the Resolution is hereby incorporated into and made a part of the minutes of the meeting.

Mayor Jones noted that there have been some inquiries about expanding the system into other areas of the Town. If an area already has a water system that is managed by someone, the homeowners are in a contract situation with that entity and the Town cannot interfere with someone's current contractual agreement. If the contractual tie is severed or worked out amicably and they come to the Town and the Town will try to accommodate them if we can. If they have an agreement, then we cannot interfere with it.

Eileen Thiery, Springdale, said that her homeowners association had asked the same question. She said that Aqua of NC has them under contract and Aqua went before the Utilities Commission to ask for high rate increases. The attorney general is looking into it as well to see if there is any validity to the amounts that they want. She said that the homeowners may have panicked when they saw the amount of the increase. She said that the developer had probably signed a contract with Aqua for them to run the well system. Mayor Jones said that the Town is willing to try to help out in a situation but the Town is not actively recruiting people.

Mr. Trevorrow said that a project is on hold for Big Sky Developers for an extension to the Town water system. The extension calls for the property developer to extend the waterline onto his property and to take certain easements for the waterlines on the property and the Town to take over the lines when they are complete. He said that he has a plat but he has not heard from Mr. Nuttall as to whether he is satisfied with the plat. He felt that he would be ready to go when there is a signoff on the plat and on the contract for the extension. The easements on the

plat and will show where the location of the waterlines. He had talked with their attorney today and he suggested that he should speak with Mr. Greco. The Clerk noted that Council had authorized the Mayor's signature on the documents when Mr. Trevorrow approves them.

Ms. Halbrook said she had spoken with Porter Hawks who lives on Clintwood Street and he says when trucks make the turn, they are making deep routes at his driveway and he believes that some of the waterlines are exposed. She said that he had asked if some cement could be placed there. She was unsure if there was any damage to the waterlines. The Clerk will have it checked.

The Clerk noted that there have been several issues with the water system recently. There was a break in the line at Ellisboro Road and NC 65. The extremely cold temperatures may have contributed to the break. It took several hours for the repairs to be made. A fire hydrant on US Hwy 158 was damaged when a Coca Cola truck ran off of the road. An insurance claim will be filed for the damage.

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

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Steve Miller, Springdale Subdivision, commented that his background was in Internet marketing and he felt that the Town's website could use a facelift since it was dated. He said that he had gone to the Summerfield and Oak Ridge websites. He said he was not concerned about the data but he thought that there could be a better website to represent the Town. He said that he would volunteer to evaluate and to suggest and report back to Council. He said Council seems to be so compassionate about the community that he felt there was a much better way to represent the city to other people and to people coming into the community and buying homes in Springdale and this area. They do searches and make opinions based on websites. He said that he was not a web designer. He said that he would like to make suggestions and could provide some companies that would be able to do the work. He said that the Internet was very cost effective and it was a great way to communicate with citizens.

Eileen Thiery noted that one of the best ways to learn about the community is to attend the Council meetings. She said that she learned more at the meetings than visiting the websites. She asked if the Town could use protest petitions or if they pertained to municipalities of a certain size. Mr. Trevorrow indicated that the Town does have protest petitions. He said that they are available to municipalities but not to counties unless they have opted out of it such as Greensboro had done in the past. Mr. Trevorrow confirmed that it only pertains to rezonings.

**COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL:** Ms. Halbrook noted that Bill Peterson, the previous Mayor of Summerfield, died recently and she asked if the Clerk could send a card to the family from Council. Consensus was to send a card. Mayor Jones noted that Mr. Peterson had been a strong advocate for the small Towns and he had worked with him on a number of issues such as the sales and use tax. He was a dedicated public servant and his interest in the Town was based on his constituents and he wanted what was good for the community and not for personal motives. He sent his condolences to his family.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Jones made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Steele seconded the motion. All Council members present voted aye. There being no further business and no other persons to be heard, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

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Carolyn L. Joyner, Town Clerk

APPROVED:

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Randle L. Jones, Mayor

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