

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, January 15, 2009.

Mayor Randle L. Jones called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM. The following members of Council were present: Mayor Randle L. Jones, Cheryl Steele, and James Attaway. Mayor Pro Tem Mickie Halbrook, and Councilman Norman Cook were absent.

Others present included: 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. Mr. Attaway 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. Mr. Attaway seconded the motion. All Council members present voted aye and the minutes of the November 20 and the December 18, 2008 minutes were approved.

Mayor Jones noted that Ms. Halbrook was sick and that Mr. Cook had a medical procedure done today and he is recuperating. He will need some additional time for recuperation will be necessary.

Report from Guilford County Sheriff's Department: Deputy Christman reported two DWI arrests since the December meeting. One of the arrested parties blew about three times the limit and the second one was knocking barrels out of the roadway. There has also been one residential break-in, four assaults with one leading to an arrest for robbery with a dangerous weapon, four drug arrests and three property thefts. There have been a number of vehicle accidents. He suggested that some more traffic enforcement may be needed.

Audit Report: Cannon & Company: Craig Hopkins with Cannon & Company thanked Council for allowing his company to audit the Town's Financial records. Mr. Hopkins said that they had issued an unqualified opinion which means that they did not take any exceptions to the numbers that they had been provided. The Town had revenues of \$438,000 this year in General Fund compared to \$424,000 for the previous year or about a \$14,000 increase in revenue. Expenditures were about \$251,000 or about \$4,000 more than the prior year. He said it was good to control expenditures. Excess revenues over expenditures for 2008 were about \$187,000 compared to last year at \$178,000 or an increase of about \$9,000. In these economic times it shows great control of expenditures. The total Fund Balance at the end of the year was \$3.8 million dollars and of that about 3.7 M is in cash. Compared to other towns of the same size, the state average fund balance is about 2.3 M and that shows good stewardship by the Council and staff. The enterprise fund (water) shows that revenues are up this year to \$195,000 and operating expenses were \$218,000 which shows an operating loss of \$22,000 but there is a non-cash item that is included, depreciation on equipment. If this were not included, the Water Enterprise Fund would have a net operating income of about \$65,000. The non-operating income is \$46,000 and there were capital contributions of about \$40,000 which would show a total increase of about \$64,000. Total Net Assets are about \$4.3 M. Mr. Hopkins pointed out that there is an item of receivables of approximately \$68,000 and about \$48,000 of those are in the over 90-day column.

The Total Cash Balance for the Town for both the water and the general fund at the end of the year is about \$4.8 million compared to about \$4.5 million last year. He thanked Ms. Joyner for her diligence and professionalism during the audit and he thanked Council for allowing Cannon & Company for being the auditors.

There were no questions from Council. Mayor Jones said that Council appreciated the job that the Finance Officer does. Mayor Jones commented that Council was appreciative of the professionalism and the job that Cannon & Company has done for the past several years.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS:

Consider Applications submitted for Committee Members: Mayor Jones said Council did conduct interviews for candidates for some committees and boards. Council will review those and make recommendations when the full Council is present probably at the February meeting.

Four Planning Board Members have terms expiring in March: Mayor Jones noted that four Planning Board Member's terms will expire in March. Three of the four members will have served two terms. Ms. Steele noted that Joe Thacker could be reappointed. Mayor Jones suggested that Council asked for applications that would be due on Monday or Tuesday before the February meeting. Council can set a time for interviews at that meeting and can make appointments by the March meeting when the terms expire. He said that he would make that as a motion. Mr. Attaway seconded the motion. Council voted 3 to 0 to approve the motion.

Departmental and Administrative Reports: Finance Report: December, 2008: The Finance Officer noted that assets increased by about \$15,000 over the previous month. General Fund transactions include several expenditures relating to the Parade such as the rental of portable restroom, hanging of the banners, and parade candy. Cannon & Company was paid \$1,500 and insurance with Alliance Mutual for Town Hall contents coverage cost \$250.00. Council was paid stipends for the fourth quarter. General Fund Savings Account transactions include deposits made for parade entries and a deposit of Utility Franchise Tax Distribution for \$44,302.62. Accounts Payable include an invoice from the News & Record of \$420.08 for the December ads, and Stokesdale Fire District was paid \$225.90 for the electricity used by the Town generator for six months. The money market savings account reflects the deposit of \$8,341.81 which was the monthly interest paid on CD's and the interest earned by the account for the month. One General Fund Certificate matured. It was deposited into the Capital Park Project checking account to pay upcoming bills for the Park. Transactions for the Capital Park Project account include payments to Stewart, Cooper, Newell Architects and DENR for the plan review in the amount of \$390.00. The fees are based on the amount of land that will be disturbed when constructions begins. There will be additional fees due since the amount of distributed land was incorrect. \$50 was paid to NCDOT for the driveway permit. The Water Enterprise Fund checking account reflects routine transactions. A portion of the billing (\$3,000) from Cannon & Company was applied to the Water Enterprise account. The City of Winston billed the Town \$6,495.39 for water.

Administrative Report – Town Clerk: The Clerk reported that there are job openings with the Census Bureau. There is literature available for anyone who is interested in applying. The Census Bureau needs a location to hold training sessions. They had hoped to use town hall but the facility did not meet their needs. They are looking for another location in Stokesdale.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION: Mayor Jones indicated that a meeting was held with representation from the local municipalities as well as Kernersville and Archdale. The impact of the Jordan Lake rules was discussed, Senator Berger was there and the concerns of the group were made known to him and the Guilford Delegation. The impact on counties and municipalities in this area of the State

OTHER BUSINESS:

Water System Issues: The Clerk noted that Tom Bell is constructing a building on, NC 68 and he is almost ready to install water lines on his property. A contract has been prepared but there is some additional information that is needed before it can be completed. Mr. Trevorrow compared the request to the Food Lion expansion since there would be users of the water lines in leased spaces. Water allocations would be created for users other than the owner. Between our engineer and the way other municipalities handled that type of allocation, there could be an agreement for the extension of the water line from the public service line in the highway right of way and the agreement provided that there would be individual meters for each of the proposed retail outlets that would be using water and this facilitates the billing process so that each user knows how much water has been used and it does not flow through a master meter where there would be only one charge. This is the same concept where there is a primary 6-inch line coming off of the public service line at NC 68 feeding various retail establishments. He had talked with their lawyer, Mr. Gary Wolfe. He suggested that Council could approve in concept the same that was used in the Food Lion project which has been done in the agreement. Council would authorize Mayor Jones to sign the agreement along with the user agreement that would be done with the owner and then he and Mr. Wolfe would put the final touches on the contract. Mr. Bell said that there would be a 10 foot easement on each side of the water line and he had concerns that should the adjacent property be developed, they would be allowed to tap onto the 6" line and reduce his water pressure. Mayor Jones said that Town has contractual obligations from the municipality that water is purchased from and the Town has requirements that integrity of the lines must be maintained and the Town must have access to make repairs. Backflow is to be considered also. He said that he felt that Council could approve the concept of the extension and if it should be different, an emergency meeting could be held. Ms. Steele made a motion to approve the extension contingent on

Mr. Trevorrow's review of the contractual agreement and to authorize Mayor Jones to sign the contract and the NCDENR application when it is appropriate. Mr. Attaway seconded the motion. All Council members present voted aye and the motion carried. Mayor Jones said that Council would try to work with Mr. Bell.

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

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Eileen Thiery, 8101 Meadow Spring Court, said that she read that Oak Ridge was preparing a request for stimulus money. She asked if Stokesdale was eligible. Mayor Jones said that he does not have all of the details on it but it was discussed at the Mayors' meeting. He said that he was pleased with the Town's audit report and it speaks volumes about Council. He said that he was not opposed to the Town asking for it. He asked the Clerk to check and see what the criteria are for applying and to route it to him. Mr. Attaway made a motion that if any funds are available to authorize the Mayor to make a request for funds. Ms. Steele seconded the motion. All Council members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Tim Jones, 8402 Southard Road, asked about the status of the Park plans and when they would be completed. Mayor Jones said that the general plan was to start construction in early spring rather than during the winter season. He also said that the plans are under review and that application fees must be paid and permits obtained. It should be a good time to bid the project since many people in the construction business are out of work so bids are coming in lower than they had been. Mayor Jones said that the Town cannot designate local contractors but it must be put out to bid and anyone can bid on the project. Local contractors are encouraged to bid on the project.

Pam Lemmons reported that IRS has approved the 501(c) 3 status for ROADS. The lights on the main section of buildings are now solar powered. Kate Dixon with the Friends of the Mountain to Sea Trail will meet with ROADS on February 10. She said that Council might be able to help with another issue. After speaking with Lane Hall, NCDOT, and with Trevor Nuttall and Les Eger, County Planning Department, the Town may want to consider an overlay for the central business district that may help ease some restrictions on the property development there and some traffic calming. Mayor Jones suggested that the Roads & Transportation Committee and the Ordinance Review Committee could look into the matter. Bill Lemmons said they have been told that if a central business district was established, they may be able to automatically get a flashing light for the Fire Station so that when they had a call, traffic would be stopped and it would be easier to reduce the speed limit in the Town. Mayor Jones said that the flashing lights may have been looked at before and the issue was the cost and not the designation. Ms. Lemmons said that she has a call into the person in charge of emergency lighting.

The Clerk noted that the Stokesdale Fire Dept Auxiliary would hold a blood drive on Monday, February 2, 2009 from 1:30 until 6:00 pm. Their goal is to collect 30 units of blood.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL: Ms. Steele mentioned that a fundraiser for Casey Stone who has leukemia on Saturday, January 17 at Huntsville Community Center from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The funds will help defray her medical costs. Ms. Steele thanked Ms. Joyner for her hard working in getting the audit done.

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.

Carolyn L. Joyner, Town Clerk

APPROVED:

Randle L. Jones, Mayor

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