

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, May 21, 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 Halbrook, James Attaway, Cheryl Steele and Norman Cook.

Others present included: Guilford County Sheriff's Deputy Steve Christman, Town Attorney William B. Trevorror, Town Architect Bill DeYoung, and Town Clerk/Finance Officer Carolyn Joyner.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Jones brought the loss of former Councilman A. B. Fulp to the public's attention. Mr. Fulp passed away on May 17, 2009. He served on the original elected Town Council for a number of years. Mayor Jones said that he had the pleasure of serving with Mr. Fulp and that he brought a lot of straight forward talk, keen wit and humor to the proceedings and he did a lot of work for the Town and provided leadership to the community. On behalf of the citizens of Stokesdale, he sent his condolences and sympathy to the family. Ms. Halbrook pointed out that Mr. Fulp is shown in a photograph that is hanging in Town Hall.

Council considered the proposed agenda. Ms. Steele made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Attaway seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the agenda was adopted.

Mr. Attaway made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and waive the reading of the minutes. Ms. Halbrook seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the minutes of the regular meeting of the Town Council meeting held on April 16, 2009 were approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Report from Guilford County Sheriff's Department: Deputy Christman reported six drug violation arrests, 2 DWI arrests, and several B&Es (breaking & entering) since the last meeting. The five B&Es involved a vehicle, a garage where other vehicles broken into, a vacant house and a house that was under construction where appliances were stolen. Another residence was broken into but nothing was taken. There has been one property theft.

Consider Awarding Contract for Park Construction: Mayor Jones said that the bids had gone out and have now been returned and opened. Mr. DeYoung, architect with Stewart, Cooper, Newell Architects and project manager for this project said that the project has been bid and the base bid was \$802,252. A contingency of 5% of the project has been reserved for the project. An Allowance for signage of \$2,000 for interior and \$4,000 for exterior signs was included. Some modifications have been made to the contract. An allowance of \$15,000 was included in the bid for materials testing for the project. It has been determined that it would be in everyone's best interest to pull the testing outside of the construction contract and have the it paid for independently by the Town. Mr. DeYoung had proposals from testing companies. \$15,000 is an estimate of the needed service. In working with the low bidder, R. P Murray, the Town will get a credit of \$30,500 by keeping some of the excess soil on the site. They are in the process of working out plans for where the excess soil will be placed. In addition, an irrigation system for the soccer fields has been included. It will help the field to get established and will keep the field maintained. The subtotal comes to \$847,912. There was one alternate on the project which was paving for the entire driveway and parking at a cost of \$90,200. If Council wishes to move forward with the project, including the alternate, the total cost will be \$938,112. Mayor Jones said that the low bidder was R. P. Murray, Inc. out of Kernersville. Mayor Jones noted that by not removing the soil the contractor was able to give the Town a credit of \$30,500 and that money could be used to pay for the irrigation system. The alternate bid for the paving came in at \$90,500. The entire bid came in under what Council was anticipating with the irrigation system and the additional paving. With these items added in the contract will be for \$938,112. Mayor Jones said that there were good companies and competitive bidding. Mr. DeYoung said there were 24 bids with more bidders expressing an interest in the project. Mr. Trevorror had received draft of the contract and had reviewed it and the matter was with the Council as to whether to accept the bid from R. P. Murray, Inc. and to decide if the alternates would be a part of the motion. This is the lowest qualified bid. Stewart Cooper Newell has done a background investigation and has

checked on references of people they have done work with and some of the work they have done in Oak Ridge and other municipal government would be recognized. They have done churches and other buildings as well. They did the Oak Ridge Town Park and Oak Ridge Military Academy.

Mayor Jones made a motion to accept the bid and add in the alternate for paving of \$90,200 for a total cost of \$938, 112. Mr. Attaway seconded the motion. Council voted 4 to 1 to accept the bid with the alternate with Mr. Cook voting no.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Jones	<u>Aye</u>	Halbrook	<u>Aye</u>
	Attaway	<u>Aye</u>	Steele	<u>Aye</u>
	Cook	<u>No</u>		

Mr. Trevorrow said that he has reviewed the contracts and a separate motion was needed to authorize the Mayor’s signature.

Ms. Steele noted that the contract says soccer field and she thought that they would be multipurpose fields. Mayor Jones said that the design is so that it can be used as soccer fields or one big football field or they can be used as baseball fields. Ms. Steele said that she would rather that the verbiage be used as multipurpose. Mayor Jones pointed out that some drainage issues are being handled differently so that they can be used as multipurpose fields. The Clerk noted that a letter would have to be sent to the PARTF because of the changes in the contract with them. The total cost of the total project is now \$1,037,921.96. She also noted that the PARTF grant says “Soccer Fields” and the purchase of soccer goals is included in the contract for the park even though the fields can be used for other activities. Mayor Jones said that the local park group had said that there was a need for soccer fields more than anything else. Mr. DeYoung said that all of the equipment specified in the contract has the ability to be moved around on the site even the bleachers can be moved although there will be concrete pads for the bleachers to sit on which will be outside the boundaries of the fields. There will be a good size field that can be used for any field sport that you would want. Mayor Jones said that the facility can be used for things other than sports. Ms. Steele asked if football goals would be included. Mr. DeYoung responded that they are not included in the contract but the Town can purchase them later if they wanted them. They are mobile units that can be moved.

Mayor Jones made a motion to accept the total project cost which includes architect fees and the items that the Town will be paying for making the total project cost of \$1,037,921.96. This includes testing, soil borings, permitting, and design fees. Ms. Halbrook seconded the motion. Council voted 4 to 1 to approve the motion with Mr. Cook voting no.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Jones	<u>Aye</u>	Halbrook	<u>Aye</u>
	Attaway	<u>Aye</u>	Steele	<u>Aye</u>
	Cook	<u>No</u>		

Mayor Jones made a motion that when the contracts are in the final stages that Council would authorize the Mayor to sign the documents. Ms. Steele asked about change orders. Mr. DeYoung said that there is language in the contract that handles these issues. There is a process to be followed and there is language in the contract that spells out how the process will work. The contractor will send information to Mr. DeYoung’s office. It will be reviewed and then it will be sent to the Town for approval. He said that they do not see any change orders to the contract and that once the contract is signed, they will be ready to break ground within two weeks. There are unit prices in the contract for the removal of unsuitable soils.

Ms. Steele seconded Mayor Jones’ motion. Council voted 5-0 to approve the motion.

The Clerk noted that Council had three contract proposals to consider for testing that would need to occur on the site. Stewart-Cooper-Newell has reviewed the contracts and recommends Kleinfelder. Mr. DeYoung noted that this is the same company that did soil borings for the Town previously and they have merged with Trigon Engineering and have a different name. They are familiar with the site. Mr. DeYoung said that they have reviewed all of the proposals for the testing theirs is in line. Ms. Steele asked if there were differences in the bid because she was a fan of one of the other companies. Mr. DeYoung said there are some differences. This applies to the \$15,000 testing allowance that was pulled out of the contract. The unit prices are what should be considered for the various tests. After comparing the unit prices, Kleinfelder was the best value. The final

costs will not be known until you are finished with the project. Ms. Steele said that she thought S&ME did the original testing on the site for the Town. Mr. DeYoung said that all of the companies are qualified and they have worked with them in the past.

Mayor Jones made a motion to adopt the proposal by Kleinfelder. All three seem to excellent and well qualified and he would defer to the judgment of the people that Council has hired to handle this project. That is their expertise and he would base it on their recommendations. Mr. Attaway seconded the motion. Council voted 4 to 1 to adopt the Kleinfelder proposal with Ms. Steele voting no.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Jones	<u>Aye</u>	Halbrook	<u>Aye</u>
	Attaway	<u>Aye</u>	Steele	<u>No</u>
	Cook	<u>Yes</u>		

The Clerk asked if Council wanted to consider a groundbreaking ceremony. Mr. DeYoung said that a preconstruction meeting has been scheduled for June 3 and that may be a good time to do it since that is a good date for R. P. Murray. The time has not been set for the meeting. Ms. Steele suggested 9:00 am.

Disc Golf Presentation: Tyson Harton: Mr. Harton was not present to make the presentation.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

Updated Committee List: The Clerk said that she has provided Council with an updated list based on the changes that Council made at the April meeting. She noted that the Planning Board now has six full members and three alternates. At the meeting last month, there may have been some confusion since Ms. King was not listed as being an alternate member of the Board. At the last meeting of the Planning Board, an alternate filled in so the Board did have seven voting members. Ms. Steele made a motion to appoint Kay King as a full member. Mayor Jones seconded the motion. Mayor Jones said that it has been tradition that someone from the alternates be selected and there has been no indication that any of the alternates do not wish to serve. Mayor Jones said that the alternates end up having as much input as the full members. All Council members voted aye and Ms. King was appointed as a full member. The Clerk noted that there are only two alternates and more are needed if anyone who would like to apply.

Ms. Steele asked if a meeting time for the Ordinance Review Committee needed to be set at the Council meeting. Mayor Jones said that the committee members can set it up whenever they want to. Ms. Steele said that she and Ms. Halbrook would discuss it. Mayor Jones also noted that they should check with the Clerk to make sure that Town Hall was available.

Departmental and Administrative Reports: Finance Report: March 2009: The Finance Officer indicated that the assets of the Town had increased by \$2,510 in April. Checking account transaction show a payment of \$270 to Toshiba Business Solutions for the maintenance agreement for the copier, \$597 To the State of NC for payroll taxes, and \$262 to Liberty Mutual for insurance on the generator. Accounts Payable for the General Fund includes a payment of \$29.15 to Matthew Bender for updates to the General Statutes. The General Fund Savings account shows a transfer of funds to the checking account and interest was added. Two General Fund certificates of deposit matured and the financial report shows the amount of interest that was earned on each of them. One was renewed at 1.15% for 6 months and one was renewed at 12 months at 1.724%. Money Market Checking account reflects the deposit of \$8,025.22. The account earned \$29.82 in interest. The Town Park Capital Project Account shows payment of \$1,967.82 to Stewart Cooper Newell Architects and \$275 to Thomas Stanley Grading and Hauling for some excavation work that was done some time ago. Transactions for the Water Enterprise Checking account includes the payment of \$5,922.84 to the City of Winston for water, the refunds that were discussed at last month's Council meeting, Water Technology was paid \$2,141.66 for the operation of the water system. A Water Enterprise Certificate of Deposit and a Water Sewer Certificate matured during the month and both were renewed at 1.149% for twelve months.

Ms. Halbrook asked if a lot of repairs were being made to the water system. Ms. Joyner said that the same invoice may be shown in Accounts Payable on one month and in the checking account transactions the next month. The repair on the report this month was for the repair of a fire hydrant that was destroyed by a Coke truck. An insurance claim was filed and payment for the damage has been received.

Presentation of the 2009-2010 Budget & Budget Message - Finance Officer: A copy of the Budget Message is hereby incorporated into and made a part of the minutes of the minutes. Mayor Jones noted that the 2009-2010 budget has decreased by 14% from the current budget for 2008-09. Ms. Joyner noted revenues are anticipated to be less than the previous year. The Town generally matches the expenditures to the revenues and seldom spends money from the Town's reserves. Mayor Jones said that it is appropriate to do that and other municipalities have problems now because their revenue expectations were not realistic. Ms. Joyner pointed out changes in the proposed budget such as an expenditure of \$100 for travel expenses for a NC Dept of Commerce to attend the Ordinance Review Committee meetings. Maintenance is needed for the banner brackets. A proposal for the work is for the work to be completed at a cost not to exceed \$490 is included as a parade expense. Some funds are designated for the building maintenance, mowing, equipment and marking of the new athletic fields at Town Park which should be completed by the end of the year. The Stokesdale Youth Football Association is proposed to receive \$2,500 for additional equipment to help better serve the youth of Stokesdale. Public Safety includes \$25,000 Animal Control/Shelter services and the donation of \$1,000 to Crimestoppers Program. Ms. Halbrook said that the town would get \$3,000 from the old patrol car. The Finance Officer said that it is an estimate and the exact number will not be known until the car is sold at auction. Deputy Christman said that recently a similar vehicle brought \$2,500.

Mayor Jones noted that the proposed budget does not include a tax. Ms. Steele asked how the amount of \$2,500 was determined for SYFA. The Finance Officer responded that they had requested \$10,000. The Budget Committee discussed it and Mayor Jones commented that the Committee looked at the money that was available and what would have to be cut and tried to help out by providing some funds. The Town has to look at future needs of the Town. Mayor Jones said that if the Town were receiving the Sales & Use Tax under the per capita system then the request may have been fully funded. But the Town does not receive that money now. Ms. Steele asked if there were any extra funds such as when the Sheriff's car is sold could the Town give more to the Football group. Ms. Joyner noted that was the budget is approved, then changes can only be made if Council approves a budget amendment. She noted that there will be needs for the new Town park that are not included in the budget proposal. Expenditures for items such as balls, and marking of the fields, and the Town will have to upkeep the new fields. She suggested that perhaps the SYFA would be able to use the Town fields rather than pay maintenance for other fields. Ms. Steele said that her son played on a football team last year and it was a phenomenal program. The team won the Rockingham County championship. They play in Rockingham County because they say it is cheaper to play there rather than Guilford.

Set Date for Budget Hearing: Mayor Jones made a motion to set the Budget Hearing for June 18. Ms. Halbrook seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Contract for Phone Service: The Clerk said that Internet service has been changed from BellSouth to AT&T. Since this change occurred, she can no longer send emails with attachments and many documents are now transferred using email. This week there has also been a problem with using dial up to access the Internet so there was one day when there was no email access at all. She noted that additional funding for the phone service was included in the Budget proposal so that at least DSL Lite could be used at Town Hall. With this service, the phone and computer could be used at the same time, the cord that runs from one side of the room to the other could be eliminated, and the fax machine could be placed on the second line. Ms. Steele suggested that Time Warner Cable could be used for digital phone and Road Runner service and perhaps it should be checked on.

Administrative Report – Town Clerk: There was no further report from the Clerk.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

Consider a Resolution Opposing Pending Legislation Transferring Responsibility For State Roads To Local Governments: Mayor Jones said that this was the most ludicrous thing to come out of Raleigh. The State collects the money for this and the responsibility should stay with the State. To divide it up among the local municipalities while some fall under the rural roads act would be a nightmare of jurisdictions. The prospect of keeping up the roads in some sort of order that is consistent needs to remain with the State. He would support a resolution opposing it. It would be more expensive for municipalities and local governments to upkeep roads. The State can get much more competitive bids on road projects than a small municipality such as Stokesdale. The State wants to allege that they are not increasing taxes but they want to pass it down to the cities and counties. The State will keep the money that has been used for roads and the towns will have to tax to pay for it. Mayor Jones made a motion to adopt the resolution opposing the transfer of responsibility of State Road to local government. Ms. Halbrook 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.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR: Sue Galiano suggested holding the groundbreaking for the Park in the evening or on a weekend so that more people can attend. She asked if there has been any discussion about the sheds or tobacco smoke houses that are on the side of the road and seem to be crumbling in such as the one at the intersection of NC 65 and NC 68. Mayor Jones confirmed that they are on private property and most of them are tobacco curing barns. He said that he has two of them on his place and they are well over 100 years old. Some of them are wrapped in tin with ax-hewn logs underneath the tin. Because tobacco is not the cash crop that it once was, farmers are no longer using the barns and they have fallen into disrepair. People may not have the money now to maintain them or to tear them down. She said that she brought it up because her husband is from Madrid and he thought that they might be safe havens for drug abusers and she thought they could be a potential hazard. Mayor Jones said that most barns he was familiar with are inhabited by snakes, raccoons, and other animals.

Mayor Jones said that the groundbreaking schedule may be difficult for him because of his court schedule. Mr. DeYoung said that the discussion can be continued on the time for it.

Jennifer Homol said that her son plays Youth Football and her husband is President of the Youth Football. She thanked Council for their support and she said that they needed every cent because all of the funds from last year were spent on the kids. She said that they had a successful year and they won the Rockingham County Youth Association. It was only the second season they have been in existence. She said that there is other equipment that is needed for the Youth. She asked that if any other funds become available that Council consider giving them more support.

Mayor Jones said that when the Town received a portion of the Sales and Use Tax from Raleigh, the Town received \$300-\$400,000 based on the population of the Town and now because the Town does not have a tax, the Town does not receive any of these funds. The other Towns have levied a property tax but Stokesdale has put it off for about five years. Now is not the time for the Town to have a tax. Council tries to provide as much funding as possible but may be limited.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL: Mr. Cook noted that there was a proposal from SouthRich and he asked if Council was going to discuss it. Mayor Jones said that it was included for Council's review and it could be on the agenda for the next meeting. He said that there were other proposals including one from Cooper James. He said that Council could review the information and the proposed budget and make decisions based on it.

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 8:29 pm.

Carolyn L. Joyner, Town Clerk

APPROVED:

Randle L. Jones, Mayor

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