

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, September 17, 2009.

Mayor Randle L. Jones called the meeting to order at 7:31 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; Guilford County Sheriff's 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 adopt the agenda. Mr. Richardson seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the agenda was adopted.

Ms. Steele made a motion to adopt the minutes of the Special Meeting held on August 13, 2009 and the regular meeting of August 20, 2009 without reading. Mr. Attaway seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the minutes were approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Report from Guilford County Sheriff's Department: Deputy Christman reported four assaults, seven drug arrests, two DWI's, and one residential breaking and entering. He noted that the new video camera has been installed in the patrol car and the old camera that was removed is downtown. He asked if the Town wanted the camera back or if they would like to have it auctioned off at the auction that is to be held one week from Saturday. He also said that the camera is broken. It would probably be costly to repair it. Mayor Jones made a motion to allow it to be sold at auction. Mr. Attaway seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Consideration of a Proposal for the Operation of the Water System: Mayor Jones said that the water system requires a certified operator to maintain and operate the system. They must be properly licensed by the State and submit certain reports. It is time for renewal of the contract for the operation of the system. He said that the service appears to be good from the current provider and their price was substantially lower than the other operators the last time proposals were submitted. A modest increase is requested. The Clerk confirmed that their work had been satisfactory. Mayor Jones said that in light of their general performance and service, he would make a motion to renew the agreement with Water Technology. Mr. Richardson seconded the motion. All Council Members voted aye and the contract was approved.

Authorize a Contract Adjustment With AT&T: The Clerk indicated that an upgrade from dial-up internet service to DSL or DSL Lite is needed for Town Hall. She said that it would not be a large increase in the monthly fees for the service if a one or two year contract period is selected and this would also qualify for reduced pricing for the equipment and the monthly service fee. Ms. Steele pointed out that the price for DSL Lite was the same for a one or two year contract. Ms. Joyner said that she is having trouble sending larger size attachments with emails. She noted that with DSL Lite you can use the phone and the computer at the same time. She proposed changing the fax machine to the other phone line in Town Hall. This arrangement would eliminate the need for a phone cord going from one side of the room to the opposite side. She said that she had checked with Time Warner Cable and found that the security system for Town Hall may not work with a digital phone system. DSL Lite would increase the monthly AT&T fee by about \$5 per month. Ms. Steele asked if DSL Lite would be sufficient. The Clerk indicated that you can upgrade from DSL Lite to DSL without being penalized by the contract. Ms. Steele made a

motion to go with the one year agreement since it was the same price and to go with the DSL Lite. Mr. Attaway said that he felt that Lite would be sufficient unless there was a need for a lot of graphics. Ms. Halbrook seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS:

Planning Board: Consider Filling Board Vacancy; Mayor Jones noted that is a vacancy on the Planning Board. Ms. Steele made a motion to ask for applications to fill the vacancy created when Mr. Richardson was appointed to Council and for additional alternates. She asked the Clerk to post a notice on the website. Ms. Steele suggested accepting applications for 30 days and then hold interviews and appoint members at the next Council meeting. Ms. Halbrook seconded the motion. Mr. Richardson asked if vacant position on the Board would be filled by a current alternate. Ms. Steele said that was the way it has been done in the past. Alternates would be moved up to fill vacancies and new applicants would then fill the remaining vacancy. Ms. Steele said that interviews could be held and the appointment could be made at the next regular council meeting. Mr. Richardson made a friendly amendment to the motion. The amendment was to move an alternate up to the vacant position and the new applicants would fill the vacant alternate positions. Ms. Halbrook seconded the motion with the amendment. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried.

Public Safety Committee: The Public Safety Committee met on Tuesday, September 8 at the Stokesdale Fire Department. Mr. Hooks, Chairman of the Committee, gave a report of the meeting. Mr. Sammy Pegram demonstrated the use of the mobile generator that is housed at the Fire Department. The Committee also worked on the maps which will be a part of the Emergency Action Plan and they began to identify areas that NC 68 and US Hwy 158 would segregate into quadrants of the Town. They looked at other locations for an emergency shelter and the potential for transportation if persons had to be moved out of an area quickly. A representative from the Guilford County Emergency Management will meet with the group in November about training for anyone in the area for CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6 at 5:00 pm at the Fire Station.

Departmental and Administrative Reports: Finance Report: August, 2009: Ms. Joyner reported that Assets decreased by about \$22,400 from the previous month. Checking account transactions included the payment of \$39,604.92 to Guilford County Finance Department for Law Enforcement for second quarter with \$22,022.43 for the purchase of new patrol car and the remaining \$17,582.49 covering law enforcement services for the second quarter. Accounts Payable include an invoice from the Guilford County Finance Department for Planning services in the amount of \$12,500.00 and Stokesdale Electric Company has billed the Town for \$98.50 to correct a problem with the connection used for charging the generator that is housed at the Fire Department.

Two checks were written from the Money Market Savings account for the purpose of transferring funds from the general fund back into the water enterprise and water-sewer accounts. This was needed because the funds had been placed in the money market account in error by the Bank. The interest earned by WE Certificate #19 and Water Sewer Certificate #19 will be deposited back into the certificates of deposit each month. Water Enterprise Checking Account transactions include the payment of \$41.92 to the NC Department of State Treasurer for an unclaimed funds which was part of water deposit that was not applied to a tenant's outstanding account. The City of Winston was paid \$8,610.23 for water. The Finance Officer noted that Winston has increased their water rates. Piedmont Natural Gas Company paid \$3,786.88 to the Town for damage to the water lines that occurred near the US Hwy 158 and US 220 intersection. Water Enterprise Accounts Payable includes billing from Yates Construction for the installation of water system.

The Park Capital Project Account shows the Payment of Pay Request #2 from R. P. Murray in the amount of \$29,584.00. Accounts Payable for the Park includes an invoice from R. P. Murray for \$93,480.00.

The Clerk noted that the Park is progressing with a lot of the grading work having been done. Storm water devices are being installed at the park. The footings are in place for the concession stand and the location of the ball fields can be seen. The project is on schedule.

Ms. Joyner noted that the State will be keeping about two thirds of the Beer and Wine distribution next year. The Town should expect to receive about \$5,000 instead of \$15,000. This is for one year only.

Administrative Report - Clerk's Report: The State Demographer estimates that the Town of Stokesdale has a population of 3,813 people as of July 1, 2008. This is an increase of 57 people over the previous year.

Statutory Bans on Items: Effective October 1, 2009, wooden pallets, oil filters and plastic bottles will be banned from landfills. Everyone is encouraged to recycle. The Plastic bottles include drink and water bottles, (#1 PETE)and milk, shampoo and detergent bottles (#2 HDPE).

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

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR: Mr. Hooks noted that the Public Safety Committee meeting will start at 5:00 pm.

Susan Giles, 8305 Stokesdale Street, commented that the Town Park and Town Hall projects appear to have morphed into one project. She was of the opinion that building a Town Hall in this financial climate is a mistake. She asked if Council knows the cost of maintaining and operating the building for a year. She asked the following questions: Will the building be open for daily, community use as it is located on the 25 acre community park and will there be a fee for its use? Are funds from the NC Parks Grants funds being used in any way for the development of the proposed Town Hall? Exactly how much money has been spent or committed for the development of this Town Hall including architectural fees. She felt that the questions were reasonable and she said there are many, many more that she would be submitting to Council this evening. She asked Council to hold an open community forum to answer all of the questions raised by Stokesdale citizens and to do so in the near future. A meeting of this sort would be helpful in educating Stokesdale citizens who are distressed by the unknown direction and expenses of the proposed Town Hall and other related issues. She submitted two pages of questions to Mayor Jones and said that she anticipated getting answers for them.

Mayor Jones said that he had received some other questions from her and a response has been prepared and they are ready for the Clerk to type and return them to her.

Pam Lemmons said that the Saturday market will be held on October 3 and will feature a meet the candidates event which all candidates are invited to attend. It s from 9 – 11. After it, there will be poetry readings for as long as poets want to read their work. In November, she is planning a birthday celebration for the Town and she would like to use the Town Seal to make some buttons which say we are celebrating but she needs Council approval to do that.

Frank Bruno, Anthony Road, commented that he attended the last meeting and there was a lot of discussion about Town Hall pricing and what things would cost. The problem that he has found over the last month is the fact that there is not a lot of information coming from Council so people are making assumptions without having facts. He said that he is a financial planner and he is looking for a 5 or 10 year plan with what things might cost. He suggested looking at the Oak Ridge Town Hall and the Summerfield and Oak Ridge parks to come up with some numbers. He wanted some way to get concrete information.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL: Ms. Halbrook said that Council will be sending out information soon that will answer some of the questions. Council does not know the cost of Town Hall because bids have not been put out yet.

Mayor Jones said that Mr. Bruno was right and that information has been going out that is incorrect. It is confusing people. Information has been put out that is erroneous and Council would like to correct it. Plans have been made and money is budgeted for the project. Council started planning the project years ago and this is the end of some of the planning schedules. Information will be put out in the near future that will clarify some of the incorrect information.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Steele made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Jones seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Carolyn L. Joyner, Town Clerk

APPROVED:

Randle L. Jones, Mayor