

**TOWN OF STOKESDALE**  
**PO BOX 465**  
**STOKESDALE, NORTH CAROLINA**

A Special Meeting of the Stokesdale Town Council was held in the Town Hall at 8416 US Highway 158 on Tuesday, January 13, 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, James Attaway, and Norman Cook. Mayor Pro Tem Mickie Halbrook was sick and did not attend.

Town Clerk Carolyn Joyner was present.

The special meeting was held for the purpose of interviewing applicants who had submitted applications for various Town committees.

The applicants were interviewed as follows:

**Sylvana Mazo:** Mayor Jones noted that she had applied for the Education Committee. Mayor Jones asked how long she had lived in Stokesdale. She replied that she has lived here for six years. He asked if she was selected for the committee, how did she feel that she could contribute most to the committee and the Town. She said that presently she is a high school librarian in Greensboro. She said that she has worked with children of all ages and has been a librarian for elementary, middle school, and day care centers. She said that she would like to see data compiled on what is being taught in the schools in Stokesdale and to see how they are being prepared for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In Greensboro, the children are not being prepared and it is a concern. Mayor Jones said that the committee is an advisory committee and the Town does not operate its own education system but it is part of a consolidated countywide system. Mayor Jones asked her what did she see as her role on the education committee. She said that she would like to seek grants as she does now for educational institutions and advise them on grants that they could apply for. Mayor Jones advised that there is no pay for committee members and that committee's work under Council. Committees cannot incur expenses and they cannot make policy for the Town. He asked if she was interested in serving on any of the other Town Committees. She asked for a list of the committees. Ms. Mazo said that she would consider economic development and the Parade Committee. Mayor Jones asked what she would like for Council to know about her. She said that she wanted to be involved in Stokesdale. She said that she was flexible.

Mayor Jones explained to Ms. Mazo (and to each of the other candidates when they were interviewed) that interviews were being held tonight and Council would make a decision as soon as possibly at the next Council meeting if all Council members were present and let the applicants know when the decisions are made. He said that if applicants wanted to add to their interview, they are to notify the Clerk so that she could get the information to Council.

Ms. Steele said that Tim Jones would be coming for his interview this evening.

The Clerk noted that Suzanne Carlson and Robin Gauldin had withdrawn their applications.

**Jimmy Landreth:** Mayor Jones noted that it is a volunteer and non-paying position. He noted that Mr. Landreth's application was for the Ordinance and the Budget/Finance Committee. He asked Mr. Landreth what was his interest in those committees and what could he contribute to the Town. Mr. Landreth said that those particular ordinances concern him because you can get carried away. He said that in Florida they locked a lady up because she did not have grass in her yard. Some things must be balanced and people from both sides need to show up. As to the Finance Committee, he said that Council has done a great job as far as handling the money and now there are being to be pressures from people who want to spend

money that may end up starting a tax. He said that he could be a voice to air out opinions. He said that he can be respectful even if he disagrees and he could contribute that to a committee. He said that he looks at the positives and the negatives of an issue. Whenever he has a problem he puts all of the good things as well as the bad things on paper and weighs them both. He said that he also has management experience. Mayor Jones noted that usually committees work on a specific problem or a problem that Council has assigned to the committee. He said that usually the Budget Committee is short term and operates for one or two months where the Long Term Finance looks at expenditures and long term projects. Mr. Landreth said that he would be glad to help wherever he could. Mayor Jones noted that committee members work at the pleasure/discretion of Council and they are not a voice for the Town and they cannot incur debt. Committee members can incur liability if they go outside the scope and do things on their own. Mayor Jones asked what would be his main contribution to the committee. Mr. Landreth replied that it would depend on the committee and that he would be a sounding board for ideas. He said that he was volunteering about 20 hours a week and has been doing that for years. Mayor Jones asked if he would consider working on committees other than the two than the committees that he had listed. Mr. Landreth replied that he would work on others if needed. Mayor Jones asked if there was anything not listed on the application that he would like for Council to know. He said that he felt that the first questions had covered it. He said that he had lived here all of his life and his children will be here so he has a vested interest in the Town.

Mr. Attaway asked if he knew of other ordinances are needed. Mr. Landreth said that he was not aware of any but he liked to keep things simple. He said that ordinance that help or are needed for instance to stop loitering in parking lots but he would not be in favor of ones that take away citizens rights. Mayor Jones said that the committee might look at issues concerning LCID landfills and perhaps the requirements for landscaping for instance and looks at the pros and cons of it. Sometimes committees research what other Towns have and use the information in determining what we need.

**Eileen M. Thiery:** Mayor Jones asked why she would like to work on the Ordinance Committee and what did she think that she could contribute to the committee. Ms. Thiery responded that she applied for things that she felt that she had some knowledge of and she felt that the Town is on the cusp of development and some things need to be put in place for guidelines. If the right guidelines were in place then the developers, the Town and the planning board, then everyone's job would be easier. Ordinances should not be restrictive where they take rights away. You have to be flexible and look at what is in the community now and what people and developers want in the community. She said she wanted to be on the committee because she felt that she could see it from all angles because of her past work. Mayor Jones asked if there was some particular ordinance that she felt took away rights. Ms. Thiery said that existing ordinances should be used but there are some things that could be changed. She said that for instance there is drought resistance greenery that could be used in our area. A list could be developed and given to developers. She said that Leyland Cyprus has some problems as screening plants and they are not drought resistant. Mayor Jones asked what did she see as her role on the Ordinance Committee. Ms. Thiery said that it would be a learning process for her and she would defer to those who have experience and she would hope to grow and work in cooperation with them. Mayor Jones said that the Ordinance Committee takes directions from Council. The committee does not work independently of Council and they would have no authority to incur debt or speak on behalf of the Council or to set policy. Council is responsible for a certain amount of public policy and there is a certain amount of liability. If committee members make a representation or make a statement, they could be liable if is not following the policy of Council. Ms. Thiery said that from her previous job, she had learned that you do not speak for a Town Board. Generally the committee works at Council's direction. The Ordinance Committee in the past has worked on projects that the Council wants them to work on. They gather public input and report back to Council. Council would make a decision based on their recommendations. If the Committee worked on a project for 6 months and made a recommendation and Council said no, what would she think. Ms. Thiery said that she would abide by Council's decision. Mayor Jones asked if there were other committees that she would be willing to work on. Ms. Thiery said that she was on the Parade Committee and she is committed to her homeowners association architectural review committee. She did not want to overextend herself. Mayor Jones asked if there were too many people on the Ordinance Review Committee would she consider working on another

committee. Ms. Thiery said that she did not want to give a blanket "no" but she tends to volunteer where she feels that she is most adept. Mayor Jones asked what she would like for Council to know about her application and the qualities that they should take into consideration. Ms. Thiery responded that she has become a part of Stokesdale and she attends meetings and she thanked Trevor and Mr. Trevorrow for educating her on issues. She said that she chose to retire here and this is her hometown now and that is why she volunteers. Mayor Jones explained procedure. Ms. Thiery asked if there are any courses that you could take online. Mayor Jones said that there are courses and usually the School of Government has schools. They also have publications available. He also said that County Planning and Mr. Trevorrow has provided some in-house training sessions in the past with the Planning Board. Ms. Thiery asked if there were some other qualifications that she should bring to the table. Mayor Jones said that her application appeared to be complete and she would be taken into consideration with the other applicants. Mayor Jones said that her interest and contributions to the Town are appreciated. Ms. Thiery noted that she was a residential and commercial tax assessor for 20 years. She worked with the building department and reviewed site plans and she could see where good planning paid off.

**Joe Thacker:** Mayor Jones asked why he selected the Ordinance Review Committee and what did he think that he could contribute to the committee. Mr. Thacker said that since he had been on Planning Board, he has realized that the ordinances were the way that the Town was governed but from time to time things must be addressed or changed. He said that he felt that he could present the perspective of someone who has been a resident of the town (had a Stokesdale address since 1970). Committees that review the important changes need to be made up of a wide spectrum of citizens representing a variety of views on how the government should be operated. He said that he has been a farmer and a small businessman and because of this he has interacted with people in Stokesdale and he does business in Stokesdale. He said that he would like to be a part of the committee and present his perspective of the changes and how the changes would affect others in similar situations and represent the views of people who may be in similar situations and give different ideas of how things should be done. Mayor Jones said that it is a non-paying volunteer position. Committees work at the pleasure and discretion of the Town Council. Committees cannot accrue liability for the Town. The Ordinance Committees in the past has worked on special projects which can be based on citizen requests or Council's request. Committees can generate their own ordinances for consideration. Generally public meetings with discussion are held. Mayor Jones asked what Mr. Thacker felt would be his role on the committee. Mr. Thacker said that he would be a member of the committee and give his perspective as a small businessman who works here in Town and what the small businessman would like to see happen. Mayor Jones asked what some of those things might be. Mr. Thacker responded that while on the Planning Board, some issues such as the LCID's had come up and there need to be some changes made. He said that the Committee should find a range that is workable between the neighbors and the property owner that wants the operation. He said that it was good to have opinions of those who have lived here a long time as well as those who have moved into the area. He said that sometimes you have to weight things and see what is best for the whole Town rather than just for one person.

Mayor Jones asked if he would consider being on any other committee if the Ordinance Review committee were full. Mr. Thacker said that he would try to help out where he was needed. He said that he had not been involved in government and he wanted to learn more about it. He may be interested if there are openings on other committees. Mayor Jones asked if there was anything else he would like for Council to know before they make a decision. Mr. Thacker said that he would try to keep a broad perspective. Change is inevitable and you have to control it for the betterment of the community. Mayor Jones said that Mr. Thacker's service to the Town is appreciated.

**Tim Jones:** Mayor Jones asked why he had chosen to apply for the Ordinance Review Committee and what did he think that he could contribute to it. Mr. Jones replied that he had applied because of his interests in the ordinances, his involvement in the construction industry and his property management experience. He found some jurisdictions where ordinances were antiquated or overbearing or burdensome to businesses. He had concerns about whether an ordinance will be enforced fairly and if it is cost effective and if it will create more problems than it solves.

Mayor Jones asked what did he feel that his role would be on the committee. Mr. Jones replied that he wanted to give his opinion. He said that he has been in Stokesdale a long time and knows a lot of people and feels that he can contribute positively to the group.

Mayor Jones said that the position is totally volunteer with no salary. All Committees work at the pleasure and the discretion of the Town Council because Council incurs liability. Committee members do not act as a spokesperson for the Town and they do not set policy. Committee members can incur their own liability but not liability for the Town unless the Council sends them out on something specific. Generally in the past, the Ordinance Committee has worked on specific projects. They may look at ordinances from other jurisdictions and make them applicable to the Town. The committee may be looking at landfill issues. The Committee would do their research and have public meetings and work with the Town attorney and make a recommendation to Council. Mayor Jones asked what did he see as one of the most important things that he would like to see the Ordinance Committee work on. Mr. Jones said that it was a hard question since he did not have a pet project or anything that he was interested in undoing. Generally he feels that less is more and sometimes ordinances are enacted that sound good and are popular but they are difficult to enforce. He would want to see if an ordinance is enforceable and if it is cost effective and not just a "paper" law. Mayor Jones said that generally the Town does not look at Ordinances as a revenue producing kind of thing and few of them have fees. Mr. Jones said that he was referring to building code issues and some are passed and then enforced which sometimes makes the situation worse.

Mayor Jones asked what he would like for Council to know about that has not been asked and that he feels that Council should consider. Mr. Jones said that he has lots of experience with property management in different jurisdictions on construction projects, and building codes. He is familiar with codes and how to read them. Mayor Jones said he appreciated him coming out. Mayor Jones asked if he would be interested in serving on a committee other than the Ordinance Review Committee. Mr. Jones said that he his preference would be this committee but if there were a pressing need, he would consider doing something else.

**Stephen Louie:** Mayor Jones noted that Mr. Louie was interested in serving on the Ordinance Review Committee. He asked why he chose that committee and what did he feel that he could contribute to it. Mr. Louie responded that by being on the Planning Board, he has seen citizens say that we should have various ordinances. His experience on the Planning Board would help him to contribute on ordinances. More importantly, a lot of ordinances are promulgated because folks want others to be under laws and rules and he would like to have an evenhanded approach to ordinances. Ordinances will govern the future direction of the Town. Mayor Jones said that the Committee would be looking at issues such as the landfills since that issue had come up recently. He noted that committees work at the direction and the pleasure of the Council and they are not an independent entity that can set policy on their own without Council approval. They cannot incur debt for the Town.

Mr. Louie said that the stump dump issue was the reason for his interest in committee. He said that there are conflicting issues. The zoning of land is part of the property owners' rights and to take it away from them is a taking. If zoning is changed for instance to residential, they should know they are surrounded by agriculturally zoned property and it associated uses and it existed before and the owners have rights also. Mr. Cook said that stumps must be placed somewhere. Mayor Jones said that the Committee would look at both sides of the issue. Mr. Louie said that citizens should have their input at that point instead of having it all at a council meeting. He said that sometimes the meetings can be contentious and he has experience from the Planning Board meetings.

Mayor Jones asked what he would like for Council to know that may not have been asked on the application that he would want Council to consider before making a decision. He said that Council had known him for about ten years and he knows people and has been around. He said that he is retired. Mayor Jones asked if he would consider any other committees. Mr. Louie responded that he would consider it but he is more interested in the Ordinance Review Committee. Mr. Louie said that he has a technical engineering background and perhaps he could add something to water issues for instance. He asked how many members would the committee have on it. Mayor Jones said that it had not been decided.

The number of returning members and having an odd number may be important. Mayor Jones said that Council appreciates the time that he has been on the Planning Board as a volunteer. Mr. Louie said that his term on the Board will end in March and if appointed, he can continue to serve.

**William N. Jones, Jr.:** Mayor Jones noted that he had indicated that he was interested in the Public Safety Committee and he asked why he had selected it and what could he contribute to it. Mr. Jones said that his background was in public safety. He had started at the Sheriff's Department in 1978 and he had worked his way up to lieutenant when he left in 1989. He had a lot of in service training that went along with the position so he has experience in many facets of public safety. He has also served in the Fire Department. Mayor Jones noted that committees are given assignments by Council, although the Public Safety Committee has been a bit more independent. Committees cannot set policy or be a spokesman for the Town as only Council can do that. Generally they do research on a subject and report back to Council. They may gather information or do research and report back to council. He asked what did he see as his role on the Public Safety Committee. Mr. Jones responded that he has some experience in reading ordinances and statutes and could help to decipher them or he would know where to look for certain information. He has experience in meeting the public and asking questions and recording the answers. Mayor Jones noted that he had experience in construction and other areas and asked if would be interested in serving on any other committees. Mr. Jones replied that he would prefer the Public Safety Committee because of his experience. Mayor Jones asked what would he want Council to know about him that was not in his application or if there was anything else he would want Council to consider. Mr. Jones said that nothing came to mind.

**James S. Hardy, Jr.:** Mayor Jones noted that there is no pay for committees and they work at the pleasure of Council. It is not an independent, policy-making situation. Committees cannot incur debt but they can incur liability for the members but not for the Town. Mayor Jones asked why he selected the Public Safety Committee and what could he contribute to it. Mr. Hardy replied that he is in electronic security for 37 years and has had his own company for 15 years. He said that he is active in scouting, church, and works part time at the coliseum parking lot and has been a volunteer fireman. He moved to Stokesdale one and a half years ago and he would like to be more active in the community. He felt that with his background, he could help out on the committee.

Mayor Jones noted that the Public Safety Committee has been fairly active. The Town has a contract for additional law enforcement for 40 hours a week and works with the Fire Department on issues such as the water system which has fire hydrants. The Town can set up a disaster shelter and owns a generator. There may be traffic issues such as dangerous intersections or speed limits that need to be considered. He asked Mr. Hardy what would he see as his role on the committee. Mr. Hardy said that his past experience as a fireman and with traffic control would contribute and if he does not know the answer to something, he knows how to find the answer. He has to deal with fire and building codes and knows how to find information. Mayor Jones asked if he would be willing to serve on another committees. Mr. Hardy said that both he and his wife would be Wilmington to serve. They would like to get involve.

Mayor Jones asked if there was anything that he would like for Council to consider when they are making a selection for the committee. Mr. Hardy said that his experience such as being a volunteer fireman at Franklin outside of Mt. Airy. HE has lived in Greensboro for over 30 years before moving to Stokesdale. Mr. Attaway asked about his availability. Mr. Hardy said that he was self-employed and his schedule is flexible. He said that he schedules at the coliseum vary. He said that he has attended several Council meetings and he and his wife would like to get more involved.

Mayor Jones noted that Mr. Hardy was the last applicant to be interviewed. He suggested that Council should look over the applications and their notes. Council may want to think about a workable number for the Ordinance Review Committee. Perhaps 7 members and 2 alternates would be a good committee. There should not be more than two members of Council on the Committee. Ms. Steele said that she would be interested in serving on the Ordinance Review Committee.

Mayor Jones said that he felt that all Council members should be present when the Committee members are appointed. Since Mr. Cook would not be able to attend the Council this week, Council would probably consider it in February if everyone can be present.

Mayor Jones made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Cook seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

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Carolyn L. Joyner, Town Clerk

APPROVED:

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Randle L. Jones, Mayor