

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 Thursday, March 18, 2010.

Mayor Randle L. Jones called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. The following members of Council were present: Mayor Randle L. Jones Mayor Pro Tem Mickie Halbrook, and James Attaway. Cheryl Steele arrived while the meeting was in progress. Bobby Richardson was absent.

Others present included: Carolyn Joyner, Town Clerk/Finance Officer.

Mayor Jones noted that the purpose of the meeting was to meet with the newly appointed members of the new committees.

Mayor Jones said that each committee will need to elect a chairperson and to keep minutes of each meeting. The minutes should include who attended the meeting, what time the meeting opened and adjourned and the topics that were discussed and any votes that were taken. Minutes should be given to the Town Clerk.

Scott Lawrence asked if meeting notice had to be posted. Mayor Jones said that they are posted so that the public will know when they are held. If three or more Council members attend a meeting then it has to be posted. Also if the committee is using Town Hall it needs to be coordinated with Ms. Joyner so that meetings will not be scheduled at the same time.

Mayor Jones said the committees were a good group of people. He said that each committee should set up their initial meeting and determine the 5 (five) most important things that they should look at and why and get this back to Council. Council will direct the committees. If committee members have questions, they may call Council members, Mayor Jones or Carolyn. Mayor Jones said that the best time to call him was late at night at home or to call his office and leave a message. Email is not the best because he is in court and not at the computer.

Athletics and Recreation Committee: Mayor Jones asked the committee to look at scheduling and pricing on lighting so that Council would have the information for a request for another Park grant. List other things that you think are important uses of the park and not just the athletic part, and get back to Council so they can coordinate it in the future. Reading days or story times for example could be listed.

Historic Preservation Committee: Mayor Jones said that he would like to hear Ms. Lawrence's ideas on this. He would like to look at identifying sites both residential and commercial buildings and the part that they have played in the history of the Town. Make a list and look at ways to preserve things like that.

Mayor Jones reiterated what was said at each applicant's interview: Committee members are not policy makers. If you incur debt, it is your own debt and not the Town's debt. Council sets policy. If something needs advertising, the committee is to let Council know and they will act on.

Wayne Southern asked if sponsorships could be secured to help out. Mayor Jones said that this would be something that the Committee could look into.

Scott Lawrence asked if Council has any particular frequency that they wanted the committees to meet. Mayor Jones said that generally in the past, the work of the committee may drive the frequency of the meetings.

Mr. Lawrence asked the reason for including rights of way for the Paths, Trails, and Right of Ways Committee. Mayor Jones said that people could grant an easement or right of way on their property for a trail or path. Mr. Lawrence said that when he was on Planning Board, he recalled that some property for a trail was dedicated to the Town. He asked for a list of them. Ms. Joyner said that she has a list.

Wayne Southern asked if Council has an estimation of a completion date for the Park or when it will be ready for the public. Mayor Jones said that Council tried to hold a groundbreaking but the weather did not cooperate. Council may have a grand

opening for the park and another one for Town Hall. It is premature to set a completion date. If the weather cooperates it would be helpful. Construction on the Town Hall may affect entry to the Park.

Jamie Southern asked if the park would be open for the summer. Mayor Jones said that at this point, it cannot be determined. He said that he would rather that it be delayed and have it done right rather than rushing it and having problems later.

Mr. Southern asked if there is any indication of the type of lighting that would be used for fields and security. Mayor Jones said that options are being explored. Temporary lighting may be used now and then apply for a second grant. Mayor Jones said that the committee could investigate and find out the most effective type of lighting for that type of facility and make it a committee priority to get pricing for lights. Mr. Southern said that it would severely limit the use of the park to weekends if lights are not installed. Mayor Jones said that the engineers are looking at lighting options also. Mr. Southern said that he was talking about everything at the Park such as at the playgrounds and not just the sports fields. He felt that it was just as important to have lights for all activities. Mayor Jones suggested that this should be one of the first things that the committee will look at. They could find out what would be appropriate, the costs for installation and they can look at what other parks have. Mr. Southern asked if the concession stand and bathrooms would be opened all of the time or would keys have to be obtained when events are being held at the Park and who would be stocking the concession stand. Mayor Jones said that these are issues that the committee can deal with it by investigating the issue and reporting back to Council. He suggested that the Committee should look at what other Towns are doing and report back to Council.

Ms. Southern noted that the Picnic Shelter may be used for Birthday Parties or family groups and asked who would handle the reservations and fees for using it. Mayor Jones said that that would probably be handled by the Clerk. The Committee can look at what fees are charged for other parks and what forms are used to reserve them. The Clerk asked if they would look for forms that could be used to reserve the shelter.

Mayor Jones suggested that Committees should set up initial meetings and try to get committees off the ground.

Pam Lemmons asked about the historic committee since properties have been identified in the Future Land Use Plan, she wanted to know what other focus would the committee have. Mayor Jones said that he did not know that all properties had been identified and there may be other things that can be. The Memorial Committee can dovetail with the historic committee. There may be a building that could be identified and recognized as a historical structure with a plaque for instance. With the new Town Hall, it could be memorabilia since the lobby area will have display areas. It could pertain to architecture, railroad, historic, tobacco planting, or stills at various periods such as the colonial times or WWII.

Mr. Southern asked if the committee members had been notified of the members on the committee and their contact information. The Clerk will provide the information.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Carolyn L. Joyner, Town Clerk

APPROVED:

Randle L. Jones, Mayor