

**TOWN OF STOKESDALE**  
**Regular Town Council Meeting**

8325 Angel Pardue Road  
Stokesdale, NC 27357  
**September 14, 2017**

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Stokesdale Town Council was held on Thursday, September 14, 2017, at the Stokesdale Town Hall on 8325 Angel Pardue Road in Stokesdale, North Carolina.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Randy Braswell; Mayor Pro Tem William N. (Bill) Jones; Frank Bruno; Vicki White-Lawrence; Tim Jones.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Katy Gregg, Town Attorney; Philip Pulliam, Budget Officer; Oliver Bass, Guilford County Planning Department/Town Planner; Steve Mann, Northwest Observer.

**OTHERS ABSENT:** Kim Hemric, Town Administrator; Diana Marcus, Deputy Clerk.

**CALL COUNCIL MEETING TO ORDER:** Mayor Braswell called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

**INVOCATION:** Given by Mayor Braswell.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited by Council members and citizens in attendance.

**REVIEW AND ADOPT AGENDA:** Frank Bruno made a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Bill Jones seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried with a 5 to 0 vote.

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE FOLLOWING: August 9, 2017 Town Council Business Meeting; August 10, 2017 Regular Town Council Meeting; August 23, 2017 Town Council Business Meeting:** Bill Jones made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 9, 2017 Town Council Business Meeting, August 10, 2017 Regular Town Council Meeting, and August 23, 2017 Town Council Business Meeting. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. Mayor Braswell, Bill Jones, Frank Bruno, and Vicki White-Lawrence voted aye. Tim Jones voted nay. The motion carried with a 4 to 1 vote.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR AND/OR COMMENTS ABOUT THE PROPOSED WATER AUTHORITY:** Mayor Braswell announced that the kickoff meeting for the proposed Regional Water Authority will be held on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mary Maness, 8405 Tree Court, Stokesdale, said that ballgames are going on and a lot of little kids on bicycles that play on McCrory Road are in danger of getting hit by speeding cars. She wants to know if the speed limit can be lowered or signs put up indicating "Children at Play". Vicki White-Lawrence said she will look into what needs to be done to lower the speed limit on McCrory Road.

Chief Todd Gauldin, Stokesdale Fire Department, advised that the Fire Department underwent an inspection in June, which was performed by the Office of the State Fire Marshall. On a scale from one (1) to ten (10) with one (1) being the best, in mid-August, they were advised that the Fire Department's rating went from a six (6) to a three (3) rating. He just wanted to make Town Council aware of that. The Fire

Department's insurance is based on that rating, which helps with savings. He is very proud of their personnel and the hard work that went into it.

Tim Jones asked what reason was for the rate change. Chief Gauldin said there were several reasons. The Fire Department is graded on communications, the Fire Department, their water supply, and there is a community risk reduction section. They scored very well on the Fire Department section because they upgraded equipment and staff is there now 24 hours a day, seven (7) days a week, which adds a lot of points. The Town's water supply was the biggest thing that helped them. He also wanted to thank their neighboring departments that trained with them, which was a big part of helping them achieve this rating. They couldn't have done this without them. There are a lot of factors that go into this.

Mary Maness, 8405 Tree Court, Stokesdale, wanted to say one more thing. She would like the candidates running for Mayor and Town Council to hold an event at Town Hall sometime before the election and tell the citizens what they plan to bring to the Town, if elected.

**Report from Guilford County Sheriff's Department:** Captain Robert Elliot from the District 1 Office in Summerfield said they had 670 calls last month in the District 1 office, which is an average of 21 per day. There were several larcenies in the Stokesdale area. A handgun was stolen out of an unlocked car. Wheels were stolen from an automotive shop and an arrest was made on that case. There were seven (7) Part one crimes in Stokesdale, which is low, and they made arrests on all of them. Fraud awareness is important. The number of fraud calls they receive is shocking. If anyone receives a call or an email that seems too good to be true, chances are it is a scam. He would like people to call if they receive anything they think could be fraud or a scam. He encourages people to speak to their elderly relatives and make them aware of fraud scams, because that is who they are contacting most of the time.

Tim Jones asked Captain Elliot to define Part one crimes. Captain Elliot said that Part one crimes are thefts, larcenies, violent assaults, homicide, sexual assaults, breaking and enters, burglaries, and any major crimes.

**Finance Report – August, 2017:** Philip Pulliam, Budget Officer, provided details about the General Fund, Water Enterprise, and Water-Sewer Financial Reports for August, 2017. (Please see the Financial Reports, which are available at Town Hall, for details).

**PUBLIC HEARING: Board of Adjustment – Appeal (Treeline Development Case #17-06-STPL-02951): Request for Waivers and Preliminary Plat with Conditions:** Mayor Braswell made a motion to recess as the Town Council and reconvene as the Board of Adjustment at 7:30pm. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried with a 5 to 0 vote.

Mayor Braswell advised that the record is not complete for the Appeal. The draft of the minutes from the August 3<sup>rd</sup> Planning Board Meeting has not yet been approved by the Planning Board. In order to build an accurate record, they would need approved minutes from the Planning Board for the case. They do have an audio tape, but the audio tape wasn't given to the Lawsons until today and Town Council didn't have an opportunity to listen to the audio tape until yesterday. All of Town Council still has not been able to listen to the audio tape yet. Therefore, the options are to continue the appeal to a "hard" date or proceed with the appeal now.

Katy Gregg advised that the Lawsons could proceed with the appeal, knowing there is not an approved set of minutes on the record from the August 3<sup>rd</sup> Planning Board Meeting and that the Lawsons and all of Town Council have not yet had an opportunity to listen to the audio tape of the meeting, or they could recess the quasi-judicial hearing and continue it to another date. Discussion took place.

Mark Lawson, speaking on behalf of his parents, Ted and Connie Lawson, chose to recess the quasi-judicial hearing and continue it to a "hard" date in order for everyone to have time to listen to the audio tape, so they can have a fair and informed hearing. Discussion took place about what date would be best for everyone.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to continue this (Board of Adjustment hearing) to the "hard" date of (Thursday) September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017, at 2:00pm, at Town Hall. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Board of Adjustment members voted aye and the motion carried with a 5 to 0 vote.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to recess until that day (Thursday, September 21, 2017, at 2:00pm). Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Board of Adjustment members voted aye and the motion carried with a 5 to 0 vote.

Mayor Braswell made a motion to reconvene as Town Council. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried with a 5 to 0 vote.

**Republic Services:** Tony Krasienko, Municipal Services Manager, Republic Services, introduced himself. He said he's been with Republic Services for over five years and became Municipal Services Manager in May, 2017. It's been a privilege serving Stokesdale for almost 20 years now, and they take that very seriously. Customer service is a brand promise for Republic Services to make it easy and accessible. With the help of some Council members and Town staff, he was able to identify what exactly the issues were that Stokesdale customers were experiencing. They have developed a plan of action. There was a technology upgrade in customer service and some glitches are still being worked out. They have addressed the issues brought to them from the Town.

Frank Bruno said there are a lot of issues with late and missed pick-ups. He'd like them to address that.

Dennis Moriarity, Business Unit General Manager, Republic Services, said it seems like it's been the "perfect storm" the past two (2) months. They currently run about 16 or 17 residential routes from their location. Their fleet of trucks are all approximately the same age, and they've struggled with many mechanical issues related to break-downs. Their maintenance budget went over-budget in order to get the fleet back up and running. Also, due to some growth they are experiencing, they are hiring four (4) more truck drivers to make sure they are properly staffed. They are also looking for additional trucks as a cushion and going through a re-route process in order to have a better flow. He knows the sting of poor service lasts quite a while. They do apologize, because they know it has been frustrating. It's embarrassing to Republic Services, because they expect to provide first class service.

Tim Jones wanted to know their protocol after receiving a complaint. Mr. Moriarity explained that the customer's information is accessed and they make contact by email or telephone to discuss the complaint. Usually the complaint is resolved within 24 hours. All the information is noted on their account.

Tracey Nestor, Senior Municipal Manager, Republic Services, said that they've had some growing pains. Their company's brand promise is that "We'll handle it from here", but they haven't done that. They're here tonight to let Town Council know how much it means to them, and hope to be allowed to work out their strategy in order to correct the issues the Town has been experiencing. Again, it was a "perfect storm" with an aging fleet and those issues. They are doing everything they can to fix these issues. They'll be glad to come back and look at this again in two (2) months to make sure they're living up to their brand promise.

Mayor Braswell understands that there are lots of houses and developments being built, so there will be growth. He also understands the machinery and truck concerns.

Frank Bruno felt that there seemed like a lack of communication, because he started to field a lot of calls. He appreciates Tony Krasienko coming out a week or so ago and talking with him and taking responsibility with what's been going on. The goal is to communicate and get the problems fixed.

Tracy Nester appreciates the opportunity to serve the Town and doesn't take this lightly. Republic Services is the largest provider of municipal contracts in the country. They have over 2,700 contracts nationwide and the longevity of those contracts are around 27 years. In most cases people stay with Republic Services, because they are determined to give good service. She apologized that the Town has not experienced that. They can provide Town Council with a written plan of what their strategy is. Kim Hemric and Council have a relationship with Tony Krasienko to escalate anything moving forward. She hopes this solution is satisfactory to Town Council and the community.

Joyce Greene, 7765 NC Highway 68, Stokesdale, wanted to say that generally the pickup is good. However, they have a situation where her cans and her daughter's cans are put out at the same place, but one is picked up and the other one is not. She's called the call center and has been told it would be picked up the next day, but it's not. Or, they promise to issue a credit, but it's not issued.

Tracy Nester noticed that the Town has some community events coming up in late October, and thinks it would be a good idea for Republic Services to be there to provide information.

Alisa Houk advised that when a citizen calls into Town Hall with a complaint, they provide the telephone number to Republic Services and ask them to call Republic Services first. If the problem is not resolved, staff will then try to assist with getting it resolved.

**Consider Hiring Water Technician:** Mayor Braswell made a motion to hire Gary Matchunis for the Stokesdale Water Technician position at a pay rate of \$17.00 per hour working part-time at an average of 20 hours per week, which is the budgeted amount in the Water Enterprise Fund. He will perform general water duties working 100 percent out of the Water Enterprise Fund. (There is job duties punch list that he referred to)

Tim Jones made a friendly amendment to the motion to have Gary Matchunis provide feedback to Town Council either at the Regular Town Council meetings, or by providing a monthly report of his general activities consisting of one to two paragraphs, as a direct way to communicate to Council and citizens.

Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion.

Discussion took place about putting a cap on the hours in order to prevent going over budget and amending the budget, if the hours increased.

Mayor Braswell amended the motion to include an average of 20 hours per week not to exceed 80 hours per month with any additional time approved by Council. Bill Jones seconded the amended motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried with a 5 to 0 vote.

**Consider Meritech Proposal:** Mayor Braswell made a motion to continue this agenda item until the next Wednesday Town Council Business Meeting. Bill Jones seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried with a 5 to 0 vote.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Stokesdale Water System:**

**Citizens' Comment Period on the Stokesdale Water System:** No comments on the Stokesdale Water System were made by the citizens.

**Continued – Emergency Access Water Usage Policy:** Mayor Braswell made a motion to continue this agenda item until next week. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried with a 5 to 0 vote.

**Continued – Scope of Study/Feasibility Study for Proposed Regional Water Authority:** This agenda item will be continued.

**Continued – Brad's Bobcat Proposal:** Mayor Braswell made a motion to remove this agenda item. Vicki White-Lawrence seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried with a 5 to 0 vote. (This item will be referred to the Property Committee for handling)

**Continued – Town Park Benches:** Vicki White-Lawrence advised that the benches will cost around \$400.00 each. The \$500.00 donated by Woodman Life will be used to purchase the benches.

Bill Jones made a motion to purchase two benches not to exceed \$1,000.00, and discard the old ones. Mayor Braswell seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye and the motion carried with a 5 to 0 vote.

## **COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS:**

**Property Committee:** Bill Jones said there have been no changes.

**Departmental and Administrative Report – Town Administrator:** Alisa Houk gave the report in Kim Hemric's absence. Four new water meters were sold, since the last Regular Town Council Meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup>. 545 water bills were mailed out on Wednesday. The Town's water usage for this month is based on a 32-day cycle. 544,330 cubic feet of water was used, which converts to 4,071,588 gallons. The average daily usage cost of that is \$723.51. The number of customers using the drop box and online payment option has been increasing every month.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR AND/OR COMMENTS ABOUT THE PROPOSED WATER AUTHORITY:** John Flynt, 8133 Belews Creek Road, Stokesdale, is concerned that the last Planning Board Meeting was cancelled due to a lack of attendance. He hopes that the Planning Board members and alternates take that seriously. The development process is expensive and time is critical. There are currently six (6) out of seven (7) Planning Board members and three (3) alternates. He thinks the number of alternates should be increased significantly. If that's not a possibility and the lack of a quorum is going to be a persistent problem, they should consider allowing Oliver Bass (the Town Planner contracted through the Guilford County Planning Department) make his recommendations and allow Town Council to vote, if the Planning Board is not able to accommodate a meeting every month. The citizens deserve better than having to wait 60 days or more to have their case heard.

Mayor Braswell totally agrees. He thinks the Stokesdale Planning Board is tired and they need to get the word out that the Town needs new Planning Board members and alternates. He is trying to get a quorum of the Planning Board to meet next week on September 21<sup>st</sup>. He hopes that the experienced Planning Board members will mentor someone who is apprehensive about serving on the Planning Board. Some of the decisions for Minor Subdivisions have been shifted to Oliver Bass, but not for Major Subdivisions. If the Planning Board can't be built up significantly with new members, they may have to start delegating more responsibility to (Planning) Staff.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mayor Braswell read the announcements listed on the agenda.

**COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL:** Tim Jones asked Chief Todd Gauldin to thank everyone associated with the Fire Department and tell them they are appreciated. He doesn't think anybody really realizes what a big service the Fire Department provides until they're the ones that have to call 911. He wanted to thank the nine (9) people that were still there for sitting through the meeting. As always, he favors small government for Stokesdale and is opposed to a property tax. Stokesdale is a unique place and he's thankful for the opportunity to serve on Town Council.

Frank Bruno wanted to thank everyone for coming out to the 9/11 Ceremony this past Monday. He was glad to see the Fire Department there. One of the reasons they do the 9/11 Ceremony is to pay respects to them and what they do for the community, so he appreciates them coming out and supporting that. He also wanted to mention that there will be a library book sale on Community Day, so if anyone wants to donate books, bring them to Town Hall. The money raised selling books is put back into the library.

Bill Jones wanted to thank Frank Bruno for putting together the 9/11 Ceremony. It was really moving. The Fire Department was there, and he appreciates their service to the community. He will miss next month's meeting due to having surgery, so he won't have a chance to encourage citizens to vote before the election. He hopes everyone comes out to vote. It's one of the most important things that a citizen can do.

Vicki White-Lawrence agrees that everyone needs to come out to vote. She will remind everyone at the meeting next month. They need to do all they can to encourage citizens to get involved and volunteer on the Planning Board, committees, or in other ways around Town.

Mayor Braswell has two (2) more official meetings before he is out as the Mayor. He's learned a lot and he hates to leave, but his folks need him and it's time for him to move on. He wishes he could have been at the Fire Department when they received their rating from the State Fire Marshall. He wants to know if

there is another local fire department with the same rating. Chief Gauldin said Summerfield Fire Department just received their rating, which also went to a three (3) rating. Nationwide, there were only 3,200 fire departments in the United States that were a class three (3). As of October, there were 163 in the state of North Carolina with a three (3) rating. The ratings for each Fire Department can be found on the website. The Fire Department was very excited when they received their three (3) rating. He knew they would do well, but he had no idea that they would do that well. Mayor Braswell knows it's a 24 hour a day, seven (7) days a week job, and you don't have the option not to show up. It's been sixty (60) years of hard work to get to this point. Chief Gauldin felt like they hit a home run, because they received a federal grant from FEMA to hire three (3) additional employees, which pays for a percentage of their payroll and benefits for three (3) years, so it's not an extra burden on the taxpayers right away. The timing was good because it came at a time when they were evaluating their future needs. Mayor Braswell thanked the Fire Department, the Planning Board, the Ordinance Review Committee, and the Town staff for all their hard work.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Tim Jones made a motion to adjourn. Frank Bruno seconded the motion. All Council members voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

---

Diana Marcus, Deputy Clerk

Approved:

---

D. Randall Braswell, Mayor