

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE TOWN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF WILLIAMSTON, NC

December 4, 2017

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Williamston met in regular session on Monday, December 4, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room at Town Hall.

PRESENT Mayor: Joyce Whichard-Brown
Commissioners: Mayor Pro Tem Al Chesson, Ronell Rodgers, Jerry Knox, William Coffield and Junious J. Horton
Town Administrator: David Jaynes
Town Clerk: Christina Craft
Finance Officer: Linda Harrison
Public Works Director: Kerry Spivey
Recreation Director: Allen Overby
Director of Planning and Development: Brent Kanipe
Town Attorney: Daniel Manning
Police Chief: Travis Cowan
Assistant Fire Chief: Michael Peaks
Human Resources Administrator: Martha-Brown Lilley

ABSENT None

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

The Mayor called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Commissioner Chesson led the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner Coffield offered the invocation.

WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed Martin County Commissioner Dempsy Bonds who was in attendance at the meeting.

AGENDA APPROVED

The Mayor asked if there were any adjustments to the Regular Agenda or if the Board wished any items to be removed or added to the Regular Agenda. The Town Administrator requested the addition of Consideration of Speed Bump as item VII under New Business. *It was moved by Commissioner Horton, seconded by Commissioner Chesson and unanimously passed to approve the regular agenda as amended.*

The Mayor asked if there were any adjustments to the Consent Agenda or if the Board wished any items to be removed or added to the Consent Agenda. *It was moved by Commissioner Coffield, seconded by Commissioner Knox and unanimously passed to approve the consent agenda as presented.*

Items approved in the Consent Agenda are as follows:

- (1) Approval of the Minutes of the November 6, 2017 meeting.
- (2) Approval of Budget Amendment – RRT Transfer
General Fund
Vehicle Transfer \$6,000

The purpose of this amendment is to transfer funds within the RRT department for the purchase of 2018 Ford Expedition EL, so that all funds are in capital line or vehicle reserve for fixed asset purchases.

- (3) Approval of Budget Amendment – Loan Payment
Powell Bill Fund
Loan Principal \$ 36,750

The purpose of this amendment is to transfer loan payment budgeted funds to new line item for the loan; to better identify the principal for the loan. In the original budget, loan and interest payment are combined.

- (4) Approval of Budget Amendment – Capital Projects Fund

Capital Projects Fund

Contractor – Liquidated Damages	\$197,658.87
Tr From Powell Bill Fund – Annex A	<\$77,658.87>

The purpose of this amendment is to budget revenue from contractor, Central Builders, for liquidated damages in the Annexation A Capital Project. The delay in completing the project resulted in increased expenditures from Rivers & Associates which accounts for a high percentage of the reimbursement from Central Builders.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Director of Planning and Development reported that the subject of the public hearing, as recommended by the Planning Board, is to review the proposed Martin County Transportation Plan. All Martin County communities have been diligently working towards completion of this plan for the last 18 months. The plan includes all aspects of transportation and how each can be combined. NCDOT adopted a "complete street" program in 2009 which will look to see if the items can be worked into their planned street improvements. This is a 25-30 year plan. The north side of Highway 125 has a proposed bike lane. There are improvements proposed to Prison Camp Road. Mr. Kanipe recommends not adopting the plan at this time as Jamesville does not approve of the Jamesville Bypass. The NCDOT planners are to discuss the Jamesville Bypass further and it is unknown as to whether it will be in the final plan. As there were no further comments, the public hearing was closed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Mayor asked for public comment. Gerald McDaniel, from Roanoke Rapids NC, spoke about coal ash spill in rivers. He reported that there is illegally dumping coal ash in the creeks Roanoke Rapids and Halifax County. He also reported that Cogentrix Company has poisoned Arthur's Creek. He stated that he has reported to a State Representative and the DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) but hasn't received any response. He submitted no documentation other than to state that he had personally dumped coal ash in the river in the late 1960s – early 1980s when working with a local trucking company in Roanoke Rapids.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Chronic Diseases and Illnesses Plaguing our Community

Frank Debrah, Pharm-D at the Agape Community Health in Williamston, reported a partnership with East Carolina University to offer Chronic Disease Self-Management Program. This is a Federal Gold Standard program. The small-group, highly interactive workshops are six weeks long, meeting once a week for 2 hours and are free.

Resolution 2017-155 Relating to Speed Limits on Garrett Road

The Director of Planning and Development reported that the speed limit on Garrett road within the corporate limits of the Town of Williamston, beginning at the intersection of US 17 Business to approximately 200 feet west of the Cedar Hill Subdivision entrance, as established by the North Carolina Department of Transportation is now 55. The area along Garrett Road is heavily populated residential development and bordered by Riverside High School. This resolution proposes requesting that the NCDOT revise its speed limit to no more than 35 miles per hour. *It was moved by Commissioner Knox, seconded by Commissioner Chesson and unanimously passed to approve the Resolution 2017-155 Relating to Speed Limits on Garrett Road as presented. Resolution 2017-155 is hereby attached with the minutes of this meeting and incorporated in the Town's Resolution Book for future reference.*

Consideration of Speed Bump on Skewarkee Avenue

The Town Administrator reported that the Skewarkee Avenue, located beside the Shamrock Restaurant, is a possible safety concern due to the increase in traffic related to Riverside High School during the 15 minutes before and after school hours. The street cannot dead-end per the Fire Chief. A suggestion is to install a speed bump on the road to slow the traffic. To keep the cost down, Public Works may be able to install if the asphalt is available. *It was moved by Commissioner Knox, seconded by Commissioner Chesson and unanimously passed to approve the installation of a speed bump on Skewarkee Avenue as presented.*

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Planning

The Planning and Development reported:

- The bidding process has begun related to the Urban Redevelopment Funds.
- There was a citizen meeting held downtown and one of the requests is to demolish some structures on Main Street. The department is actively researching for funding methods to demolish certain buildings in the downtown area. One of the buildings would cost approximately \$500,000 to destroy. The grass roots meetings are great but the public needs to understand the limitations of the Town as these are privately owned buildings.

Parks & Recreation

The Parks & Recreation director reported the following:

- Volleyball tournament held on November 18th was a success with a huge crowd and approximately 25 teams. There were approximately 2,500 people in attendance.
- Basketball registration is open and practice should begin in the next week.
- There was a high school student that wishes to do a memorial in the park for first responders for his Eagle Scout project.
- The Christmas Parade is will be held December 7th.

Police

The Police Chief reported:

- Taser certification and recertification of officers was held this month which involves a 5 second shock.
- There were two community unity meetings, career day at South Creek Middle School and a luncheon at the Cedar Hill Church with the exceptional children through Martin County Schools.
- They participated in the Oak City Christmas Parade and preparing for Williamston's parade.
- They have increased foot patrol.

Public Works

The Public Works Director reported:

- The department has been very busy decorating the Town for Christmas.
- 40 tons of new asphalt was purchased for repairs to include 29 street repairs.
- There was a meeting with the contractor regarding the schedule of the street repair project.
- Sanitation totaled at 180 tons for the month.
- There were 77 utility line location requests and 4 compliant grease trap inspections.

Fire/Rescue

The Assistant Fire Chief provided the following report:

- There were 186 emergency responses in the month of November.
- The department attended the Roses Regrand Opening.
- The MDA Boot Drive was very well received by the community.
- Michael Pierce was promoted to Lieutenant today and a new hire, Jason Rochelle, to fill Pierce's position will begin tomorrow.
- There was an intensive hazmat training exercise held at PCS Phosphate.
- Chief Peele spoke at the Hazmat Symposium.
- The RRT responded to the chemical tank explosion in Nash County.
- The Board was invited to a pinning ceremony for Assistant Chief and Lt. Michael Pierce December 10, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

Administration

The Town Administrator provided the following report:

- He is still researching for funds to improve the park. While he is still looking into grants, a meeting was held with the Park and Recreation Advisory board to discuss the possibility of creating a 501(c)3 Friends of the Park to raise money for the renovations.

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CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Commissioner Knox, seconded by Commissioner Chesson and passed to go out of regular session into closed session to address a attorney client-privilege per N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3).

It was moved by Commissioner Coffield to go out of closed session and into regular session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Horton and unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Submitted By:

Approved By:

Town Clerk

Mayor