

## **TOWN BOARD MEETING – REGULAR MEETING**

May 4, 2021

Present: Mayor George Holleman  
Mayor Pro-Tem Kenny Poole  
Councilman Ronnie Robinette  
Councilwoman Kimberly Brown  
Councilman Jack Simms

The regular meeting was opened for business by Mayor Holleman at 5:30 p.m. The invocation was given by Mayor Holleman. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to approve the April 6, 2021 regular meeting minutes as presented. The motion was passed unanimously.

### Open Forum:

Mayor Holleman mentioned that the National Day of Prayer will be Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Alexander Railroad Co. donated an engine to Newton and it will be on display Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Taylorsville was named a Tree City USA recently. A citizen wrote a letter to the Mayor and Council regarding excessive noise and speeding on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. The letter was given to the Police Chief. There were no other comments in open forum.

Johnny Wear, WPCOG Assistant Community & Regional Planning Director and Seth Harris, Alexander County Planning Director presented information on Zoning Ordinance changes required by 160D Legislative updates to the Zoning and Sub-division Ordinance. The new Chapter 160D of the North Carolina General Statutes consolidates current city- and county-enabling statutes for development regulations (previously Chapters 153A and 160A) into a single, unified chapter. Chapter 160D places these statutes into a more logical, coherent organization. While the new law does not make major policy changes or shifts in the scope of authority granted to Alexander County, it does provide many clarifying amendments and consensus reforms that were required to be incorporated into the town's development regulations. As such, Chapter 160D requires that the town's zoning, subdivision, and other development regulations be updated to conform to the new law. Additionally as a result of Chapter 160D, cities and counties that have zoning ordinances must have an up-to-date comprehensive plan or land use plan by July 1, 2022. This is not something that is written in the ordinance, but a procedure that the town will need to follow to support development decisions. Chapter 160D is effective now, but the state granted local governments to have until July 1, 2021 for the development, consideration, and adoption of necessary amendments to conform local ordinances to this new law. Alexander County contracted with Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) to update the town's current zoning and subdivision development regulations to conform with the requirements of Chapter 160D. A complete list of proposed changes can be found at Town Hall. This will be on the agenda for June for consideration.

Town Manager, David Odom gave an overview of the proposed budget for FY 2021-2022. He stated that each year the City of Newton raises our price to purchase bulk water by the CPI, which usually equals to 1.7%. In the general fund, sales tax and ABC revenues greatly increased during the pandemic. We should be receiving funding through the American Rescue Funding of approximately 650,000.00 which is close to our annual amount of property tax revenue collection. There will be no tax increase and there is a 5% COLA proposed for all full-time employees. The only general fund debt is for police cars. As employees retire, we have dispersed duties among existing personnel thus not filling vacant positions. He noted that fees for the park shelters should be evaluated. Mr. Odom noted that due to excessive weather events, the water & sewer system incurred significant expenses and repairs to the operational infrastructure. Extensive repairs were needed on sewer lift stations, collection system, force mains and the waste water treatment plant. He noted that a rate structure will need to be considered that will bring the water & sewer fund back into a positive cash flow. The W&S fund cannot continue to operate spending more dollars than it generates without the general fund subsidizing its existence. There is a heavy debt load for the W&S fund; however, it is mostly 0% interest loans. Councilwoman Brown and Mayor Holleman are in favor of a capital improvement line item to set aside funds for potential failures or severe storms or issues to the system.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Simms to approve setting 2 public hearings for the reading of the proposed FY 2021-2022 budget. The public hearings will be on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:30 in the council chambers.

Doug Bowman, Police Chief, noted that the drug officer has been very busy. Recently 350 lbs. of pot was seized along with THC gummies and also \$241,000.00 cash right outside of town limits. There are new coloring books for children, at no expense to the Taylorsville PD or Town. 5 new bullet proof vests had to be ordered, the others were out of date because they expire after 5 years. Mayor Holleman stated he received a complaint letter from a citizen regarding excessive noise and speeding along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. He passed the letter on to Chief Bowman who stated that he was aware of the complaint and had already spoken to the citizen several times. It is an ongoing complaint. A speed bump has been ordered but has not come in yet. The radio grant has been awarded but the funding has not been dispersed yet.

David Odom, Town Manager stated that spring is here and the mowing season has begun. Mulch has been put out around town and the park. We are waiting on word of receiving the inmate labor again soon. We will put new paint on the curbs and fire hydrants. The cemetery looks good due to the 2 new mowers purchased. All the part-time workers are doing a great job trying to keep up without the inmate labor to help. The yearly maintenance was performed on the water tanks. Both have been drained, cleaned & re-filled and look good.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor

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Councilman

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Councilman

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Councilwoman

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Councilman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Yolanda T. Prince, Town Clerk