

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

November 1, 2022

Present Mayor George Holleman  
Mayor Pro Tem Kenny Poole  
Councilman Ronnie Robinette  
Councilman Jack Simms  
Councilwoman Kim Brown

The regular meeting was opened for business by Mayor Holleman at 3:30 p.m. The invitation was given by Mayor Holleman by reading Psalm 100. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to approve the addition of the following items and to approve the minutes as presented from October 4, 2022. The motion was passed unanimously.

- 5a. Appointment of acting Town Manager – Aaron Wike
- 6a. Police Dept. – Declare surplus equipment
- 7a. Hometown Christmas
- 10a. Closed Session – discuss personnel & town property

Open Forum:

There were no comments in open forum.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Poole to approve an agreement between The Town and Alexander County for Building & Fire Inspections Services. The county will retain all fees generated with inspections as previously. This put the long-standing agreement in writing. A copy of the contract will be retained in Town Hall. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Simms to appoint Aaron Wike as acting Town Manager until Town Manager David Odom is able to return from medical leave. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Robinette to approve the purchase of the Adventure Canyon playground equipment totaling \$42,614.36. Estimated installation dates are late March to early April 2023. This will replace the damaged Rock playground equipment. The insurance reimbursed the Town a total of \$31,700.00 for the damages to the Rock. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to declare as surplus a Springfield Armory HellCat Pistol Serial # BA220446. The pistol will be traded to a Federal Firearms license dealer & obtain credit to use toward other desired equipment. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to approve calling for a public hearing for December 6, 2022 at 5:30 pm for consideration of text amendments to the Town's Ordinances regarding Solid Waste Regulations. The motion was passed unanimously.

Hometown Christmas will be held at the new county park on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> and will consist of carriage rides, a tree lighting ceremony, caroling and other activities. There will be entertainment each night and food trucks will be available. Big 6 properties will be sponsoring the carriage rides free of charge. A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilman Poole to direct Councilwoman Brown and acting Manager Wike to coordinate all activities and expenses.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to approve a budget amendment receipting in insurance proceeds for property damage \$1,013.90 and \$20,798.27 from Alexander County for lift station damages and \$5,320.00 for damages to a fire hydrant for a grand total of \$27,132.17. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mayor Holleman mentioned he would like to know the amount of expenses incurred for lift station repairs verses what we receive in reimbursements from Alexander County.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Simms to approve the amendment to the audit contract with Martin Starnes & Associated for the preparation of the 2021-2022 financial statements. The bookkeeping firm did not have their information prepared in the timeframe for the audit to be completed as originally scheduled thus causing a delay to 1-31-23. The motion was passed unanimously.

Police Dept. Report: Chief Doug Bowman

Chief Bowman mentioned several break in's recently into vehicles at Lackey's Plumbing and TC Automotive and other store buildings in town. 2 people have been charged – 1 from Catawba County and 1 from Lincoln County. The police department is 1 full time position short and another is reported to be leaving the first of the year. He's been offered much more money in the neighboring county where he lives. Need to hire and retain good qualified people but cannot with the starting salary as low as it is. Councilman Simms thanked the PD for catching the people who broke into his truck. Mayor Holleman stated he wants to consider the pay for the police officers. Councilman Poole stated that the PD did an excellent job on Halloween night. There was good police presence. Acting Manager Wike mentioned that Alexander County has applied for a grant for a school resource officer for Taylorsville Elementary.

Utility Manager Report & Town Manager Report: Aaron Wike presented a vehicle and equipment assessment of all town equipment. Councilman Robinette asked about revenues vs expenses in the water/sewer billing since the rate increase in July. The revenues are at 47% thru October which is over the normal of 33% at this point.

Town Manager David Odom is out on medical leave.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Robinette to enter into closed session to discuss personnel and town property. The motion was passed unanimously.

Discussion was held regarding a personnel issue of using town vehicles and equipment outside of the scope of town work. It was determined that all employees should be reminded of the personnel policy regarding town equipment and their job responsibilities within their job title.

Discussion was held regarding town rental property and whether the Town should have rental properties.

Discussion was held regarding the salaries of the police department and other surrounding agencies and their competitive pay.

Discussion was held regarding personnel close to retirement and the succession plan needed to be ready to fill those vacant positions.

A motion was made by Councilman Poole and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to exit closed session and return to regular session.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilman Poole to get appraisals on 2 houses on Main Ave. Dr. and report back to the council. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Simms to go ahead and advertise for a full-time Accounts Payable/Utility Billing Clerk position in anticipation of retirement. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to give the police dept. a \$1.00 per hour raise and have the results ready for the December meeting and to be effective Monday December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The motion was passed unanimously.

With no other business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:20 pm.

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Mayor

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Councilman

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Councilman

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Councilman

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Councilman

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