

TOWN BOARD MEETING - REGULAR MEETING

March 13, 2023

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 5:30 p.m. The invitation was given by Councilman Simms. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilman Poole to add the following item to the agenda.

Item 12a: Budget Amendment American Rescue Funding The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilman Poole to approve the minutes as presented from February 7th, 2023 regular meeting and the special called meeting minutes from February 20th, 2023. The motion was passed unanimously.

Open Forum:

Dale Clary spokc before the Town Board expressing his concerns over the illegal and violent activities and that occur at 17 Grover Bowman MHP Dr. He states that he's relieved that action will be taken to clean up that area before someone is injured or something dangerous happens. Doug Bowman, Chief of Police stated that in the last year over 100 calls have been logged to that address. Shelly Sebastian asked why all could not be condemned. Mr. Rogers explained that it makes it more difficult when legal power is on the structures but he is investigating the steps necessary to address those structures also. No other comments were made in open forum.

A motion was made by Councilman Poole and seconded by Councilman Robinette to open the public hearing to discuss the situation at 17 Grover Bowman MHP Dr. Mr. Bill Rogers w/ Alex. Co. Building Inspections — Chief Code Building Official states that the conditions of the mobile home park have been inspected and found to be in violation of N.C.G.S. 160D-1 121. The buildings or structures are in a condition that constitute a fire hazard, are dangerous to life, health or other property, likely to contribute to blight, disease, vagrancy or a danger to children, and have a tendency to attract person's intent on criminal activity or other activity that would constitute a public nuisance. There are some structures that have power and cannot be addressed at this time, although further actions are underway to address them as well. The following lot's #6, #7, #19, #20, & #30 do not have power even though there are squatters in some of them, those are the lots being addressed at this time. The 1st notice was delivered by certified mail 5-16-22 with no response from property owner & again on 7-6-22 inspected & found no corrective

action taken by property owner; therefore, if the Town Board will call for an order of abatement we can begin the process to clean up the property. The order of abatement of property will be prepared and returned for official signatures of the Town and then a certified notice will be sent to the property owner allowing up to 30 days to comply. No further discussion was had and the public hearing was closed by a motion by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilwoman Brown. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to approve the lawful order of abatement be issued according to NCGS 160D-1121 & NCGS 160D-1122 for the manufactured homes on lots #6, #7, #19, #20, & # 30. The property owners will have 15 days to comply with the order, having been sent the order by certified mail to the owner's address of record. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment A, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Poole to adopt a Resolution accepting the high bid for the real properties located at 610 E. Main Ave. and 614 East Main Ave. for \$80,000.00 each, subject to the upset bid process as set forth by NCGS 160A-269. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment B, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes herein.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Simms to adopt a Resolution to re-advertise the properties located at 36 & 46 N. Center Street. No bids were received at the first bid opening deadline. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment C, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes herein.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilman Poole to approve the adoption of a capital budget ordinance for the Electric Vehicle Charging Station at Matheson Park for a total of \$18,500.00. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment D, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes herein.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Simms to approve all the bids submitted from requests for bids to establish a plan of procedures known as FEMA Debris Management Plan when a state of emergency is declared after a disaster occurs per regulations of FEMA -€- Federal Emergency Management Agency. The motion was passed unanimously. The plan document and all bid results will remain in the office of the Public Utilities Manager's office for reference.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Simms to approve the adoption of the NC State sponsored NC 457 Deferred Compensation savings plan for the Town and all town employees. This will be an additional retirement savings option for full & part-time employees wishing to tax defer income for retirement. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Robinette to approve a budget amendment moving money from the drug task force account into the GF totaling \$10,000.00 to balance expenses where guns and equipment were purchased. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment E, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes herein.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Robinette to approve budget transfers within the general fund totaling \$12,450.00 to balance expenses. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment F, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes herein.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Simms to approve budget transfers within the W&S fund totaling \$117,772.00 to balance expenses. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment G, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes herein.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilman Poole to approve the budget amendment from fund#92 American Rescue Plan to W&S salaries as allowed per the guidelines of the American Rescue Plan funding totaling \$595, 168.00 which includes the prior FY allocation of 344,034.00. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment H, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes herein.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to decline funding awarded from NCDEQ for project SRP-W-OI 94, 2021 Collection System Improvement Project totaling \$400,000 and project SRP-W-OI 95, 2021 Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project totaling \$781,500. These projects were awarded as loan proceeds and at this time the Town Board decided not to increase the debt burden of the Town. Part of these projects will be funded through our state directed funds and we will apply in future grant cycles for grant funding to complete the WWTP project. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Simms to approve the Resolution for 30 years partnership and participation in the Sister City program with the WPCOG & Altenburger Land region in Germany. Traci Tremble and Lori Street, representatives of Sister City were in attendance to accept the Resolution. There will be a yearlong celebration and a time capsule created commemorating events along the way. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment I, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes herein.

Staff Reports:

Police Dept. Report: Chief Doug Bowman

Chief Bowman stated that there have been 103 calls to the Grover Bowman MHP in the last year resulting in many arrests and charges of drug and other illegal activities. 26 Saunders Lane has been condemned after the fire recently. Mayor Holleman stated his appreciation for all the hard work of the police department.

Utility Manager Report: Aaron Wike:

Manager Wike noted some information on a vac truck for the public works department. He continues to look for sources and pricing to fit our needs. The diesel truck program grant will not accept a 2021 model so are getting quotes on 2022 models and are waiting on the dealerships for that information before can proceed. The playground equipment will be installed this week or next at Matheson Park. There have been 3 recent issues of vandalism at the park within the last month. He suggests looking into automatic flushing toilets and sinks which would greatly reduce the ability to be vandalized but they are expensive. He is seeking seasonal part-time mowing help from April thru October.

BOOK:

PACE:

Town Manager Report: David Odom

Town Manager Odom mentioned that the agreement with Alexander County Building Inspections was recently updated. It's the same language just new dates. On March 20th, the first meeting with the Land Development Committee will be held at 6:00 pm.

Councilwoman Brown mentioned the planters on Main Street and that she has talked with JD Sink regarding trees for them and a replacement for the prayer tree and the size planter needed for that tree. It was also mentioned about the trash starting to be picked up in the back alley behind the stores along main street and that will be able to be done per Town Manager Odom.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Poole to enter into closed session per N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a) to discuss personnel and contractual item. The motion was passed unanimously.

The minutes for the closed session are in the closed session minute book.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Simms to exit closed session and return to the regular meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be April 4th, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

With no other business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7: 15 pm.



Mayor



Councilman



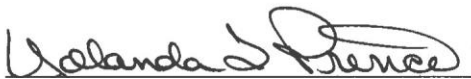
Councilman



Councilman



Councilman

Attest: 
Yo a T. Prince, Town Clerk