

TOWN BOARD MEETING – REGULAR MEETING

November 7, 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 invocation was given by Mayor Holleman.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilman Robinette to approve the minutes as presented from October 3rd, 2023 regular meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

Open Forum:

There were no comments in open forum.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Robinette to adopt a Resolution approving a Municipal Accounting Services, Cybersecurity and Technical Assistance Memorandum of Agreement with the NC League of Municipalities for grant funds provided to the State of North Carolina by the U.S. Treasury pursuant to the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds of H.R. 1319, American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP). The League will be able to provide “financial software and assistance programs for units of local government for expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic” which is referred to as the Municipal Accounting Services and Cybersecurity Grant. The second award agreement enables the League to “provide guidance and technical assistance to units of local government in the administration of funds from the Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, as established in Section 2.6 of S.L. 2021-25, and in the administration of projects funded through the State Fiscal Recovery Fund, as established in Section 2.2 of S.L. 2021-25,” which is referred to as the Guidance and Technical Assistance Grant. These League Grants are provided to local governments at no cost. The Town can benefit greatly as a beneficiary of these grant opportunities. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment A, 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 adopting a Resolution declaring certain property as surplus. The list was approved in October 2023. 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 Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to approve a budget amendment for receipting in the revenue from the sale of the surplus property approved in October 2023.

\$8,478.40 for the general fund

\$6,346.14 for the W&S fund

Total \$14,824.54

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 Robinette and seconded by Councilman Simms to re-appoint Councilwoman Brown to the Catawba County ABC Board. The appointment should have been done back in 2021 but was never placed on the agenda for Town Board approval by oversight. This will officially re-appoint Councilwoman Brown in order to complete the remaining term until October 26, 2024. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Simms to approve appointing Town Manager Aaron Wike as the Town's representative on the Energy United Water Corporation Board of Director's. The term will run until September 2025. The motion was passed unanimously.

Staff Reports: Police Chief, Mike Millsaps

Chief Millsaps stated that there were 63 incidents and 31 arrests in October 2023. The department is aggressively seeking new officers to fill the open positions. We are waiting on the final paperwork to get completed. He states that Halloween went well with no incidents and also noted that preparations are being made for the Christmas parade.

Town Manager/Public Utilities Manager: Aaron Wike

Aaron Wike stated that the Apple festival went well with no incidents. The Public works staff stayed over and cleaned up. Now preparations are being made for the Christmas parade. He and staff assessed the condition of the culvert at Matheson Park and he will seek bids for the needed repairs and report back on progress. We contracted with Energy United to install replacement radio-read water meters that are worn out. There were over 200 that would no longer read properly. The cost was \$50.00 per meter to be replaced.

Town Attorney – Monroe Panel

No business to address for this meeting.

Councilman Simms mentioned that Representative Elmore helped get the Town 1.5 million in funding to be used for streets and sidewalk repairs. He is hopeful that some of that money can be used to fix the culvert in Northwood Park. We applied originally for the BRIC grant but were not funded in the first round but we will re-apply again.

Councilwoman Brown noted that tractor supply donated 8 whisky barrels for planters along Main Street and Lisa of Country Road Greenhouse donated the plants and planted them in the barrels.

A motion was made by Commissioner Poole and seconded by Commissioner Simms to set the next regular scheduled meeting for Tuesday December 5, 2023 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

The Town recognized long time Councilmen Ronnie Robinette for his 24 years of service to the Town and Councilman Kenny Poole for his 22 years of service by presenting them with plaques of appreciation from the Town and staff. Councilwoman Brown expressed her appreciation for

their years of service and their support of her being new to the Board and learning the ropes. Mayor Holleman officially thanked them for their years of dedication to the Town. Councilman Simms stated that it is bittersweet that they decided to retire from service to the Town. Attorney Pannell expressed his appreciation to them both. Councilman Robinette stated that the reason he served so long was that the citizens put him here and he appreciated everyone and served with a great group of people. Councilman Poole thanked his wife, Linda, daughter Whitney and grandson Curtis for their support. He states that he enjoyed his time on the Town Board and tried to do his best with the spending of the Town's money wisely. A reception in their honor was held once the meeting was adjourned.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Mayor

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman

Attest: _____
Yolanda T. Prince, Town Clerk