



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
June 19, 2023
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM**

Mayor Huneycutt welcomed everyone and asked the town clerk to call the roll. Commissioner Brett Barbee, Commissioner Joey Carpenter, Commissioner Lanny Hathcock, Mayor Chris Huneycutt, Commissioner Latoya Jackson and Commissioner Bud Smith were all present. Mr. Doug Burgess, Town Administrator, Mr. Josh Almond, Parks and Recreation Director and Mr. Reggie Bowers, Utility Supervisor were also present.

Mayor Huneycutt asked everyone to stand for the pledge of allegiance to the flag and that was followed by devotions from Commissioner Hathcock. He reminded everyone that the 4th of July Celebration was coming up and he would like for everyone to remember the police department in their prayers as well as the fire department. He then read a prayer of Independence Day.

Mayor Huneycutt advised the board of a need for a public hearing. The purpose of this public hearing is to hear citizen comments for, or against, the proposed 2023-2024 budget for the Town of Oakboro. Mayor Huneycutt asked if anyone was there to speak for or against the proposed budget. Mr. David Heath spoke up and wanted clarification on donations to Oakboro Elementary School and Oakboro Youth League. He questioned if the town did not make donations to these two entities. He also wanted to remind the board something he has brought to their attention previously and that is having two police officers 24/7. Mr. Heath stated he knew the town was close to that but we weren't there yet. He stated that he didn't understand why that wasn't already done. He finished with asking what recreational activities entails and he feels like that line item of \$16,000 needs to be doubled if not tripled. He stated that the last event at the park under the leadership of Commissioner Jackson was a huge success for the family movie night. He wanted to see more things like that taking place. He also mentioned mitigating climate change. The public hearing was determined closed.

Mayor Huneycutt called for a decision by the board on the public hearing. Mayor Huneycutt advised everyone that if any changes were to be made to the budget, it would have to be in the form of an amendment. Commissioner Barbee made a motion we adopt the 2023-2024 budget as printed. Commissioner Jackson seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Barbee introduced and read the 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance (attached at the end of the minutes) and made a motion for adoption. Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion. There were no questions or discussion. Voted and carried unanimously.

Mayor Huneycutt called for a motion to amend the agenda to include a contract discussion in closed session. Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to amend the agenda to include a contract discussion in closed session. Commissioner Smith seconded. There was no discussion. Voted and carried unanimously.

Mayor Huneycutt called for a motion to approve the minutes from May 15, 2023. A motion to approve the minutes from May 15, 2023 was made by Commissioner Jackson and a second by Commissioner Barbee. There was no discussion. Voted and carried unanimously.

Mayor Huneycutt asked for a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$577,271.93. Commissioner Barbee made a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$577,271.93. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. There was no discussion. Voted and carried unanimously.

Open Forum

Ms. Lorrie Hatley stated the minutes had not been updated on the website. She asked if the board meeting minutes can be done in a timelier manner. Mayor Huneycutt advised her we would look into that. Ms. Hatley also asked again about the briefing before the meeting. She stated that she had talked to Mayor Huneycutt previously about the briefing. She asked if those minutes could be put on the website as well. She also requested that since it is an open meeting that the board have their briefing in the board room instead of in the small conference room. Mayor Huneycutt thanked her for her comments.

Mr. David Heath spoke and wanted to thank Mr. Doug Burgess and Mr. Mike Efird for their dedication and service to the town. He shared they both put in many hours and will be sorely missed. He also wanted to urge the board to vote in the affirmative for the advisory code enforcement 6c regarding the text amendment change to the UDO. Mayor Huneycutt thanked Mr. Heath for his comments.

Historic District Committee

Mayor Huneycutt updated everyone on the Historic District Committee. We have a number of people willing to serve on the committee. Mayor Huneycutt stated that we will have members, alternates, advisors and a liaison between the board and this committee. Mayor Huneycutt read over the members of the Historic Committee. They are as follows:

1. Mary Jean Freeman – 213 Glenwood Drive, Oakboro
2. Fred Smith – 231 Glenwood Drive, Oakboro
3. Teresa Smith – 430 Crooked Oak Drive, Oakboro
4. Cindy Thompson – 207 W. Ninth Street, Oakboro
5. Ray Eschert – 319 Jaida Lane, Oakboro

The alternates for the Historic District Committee are as follows:

1. Donna Harris – 309 Hamilton Road, Oakboro
2. Meredith Sain – 223 Glenwood Drive, Oakboro
3. Alan Love – 325 W. Tenth Street, Oakboro

The advisors for the Historic District Committee are as follows:

1. Barbara Carpenter – 279 W. Red Cross Road, Oakboro
2. Jane Barnhardt – 8764 Swift Road, Oakboro

The liaison between the Historic District Committee and the Board of Commissioners will be Commissioner Joey Carpenter.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barbee for Commissioner Carpenter to be a liaison between the committee and the board. A second was made by Commissioner Jackson. Voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hathcock thanked those who agreed to serve on the Historic Committee. On behalf of himself and the board he appreciated them volunteering and shared how helpful it is for the town.

Department Updates

Budget and Finance

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Barbee. He gave an update on the budget. Currently, the revenues and expenditures for each fund are as follows:

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| • Water Fund | Revenues: 122% | Expenditures: 101% |
| • Sewer Fund | Revenues: 66% | Expenditures: 60% |
| • General Fund | Revenues: 83% | Expenditures: 85% |

Commissioner Barbee added that we had some previous employees that were on the bank account at Uwharrie Bank. He stated that Mr. Doug Burgess and Mrs. Patti Efird would need to be removed as signees on the bank account. Commissioner Barbee added that someone on the board needed to be added as a signee as our checks require two signatures. This will take affect July 10, 2023 to give time for transition. Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to add Commissioner Barbee as a signee on our checking account. A second was made by Commissioner Carpenter. Voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Barbee also shared that there was a need to replace the 1987 John Deere tractor for the maintenance department. Commissioner Barbee referred to Mr. Burgess regarding this. Mr. Burgess stated that Mr. Bowers received three quotes:

1. Bobcat 45 horsepower
2. John Deere 35 horsepower
3. Kabuto 35 horsepower

All three quotes were around the same \$32,040 price range. Mr. Burgess stated that the Bobcat was a full equipped tractor with a front-end loader and also from a local business. He recommended the board go with this option.

Commissioner Barbee thanked Mr. Bowers for finding the three quotes and thanked Mr. Burgess for finding the funds to make this work. Commissioner Barbee made a motion to purchase the Bobcat from Oakboro Tractor for \$32,040. Commissioner Jackson seconded. Voted and carried unanimously. Mayor Huneycutt advised Mr. Burgess to go and proceed with that purchase.

Commissioner Barbee stated that we need to make amendments to the current years budget (see Budget Amendments at the end of the minutes). Commissioner Barbee read over the amendments and made a motion to make these amendments to the 2022-2023 budget. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Cemetery and Streets

Commissioner Carpenter asked for someone to explain the Road Acceptance Policy. Mr. Efird shared that this document was given to us by our town engineers, AMT. It's a procedure by which we accept roads into the town. It gives the specifications for that. At some point very soon, we will adopt the roads in Forrest Creek Phase 2. The town needs to adopt this as quick as possible so this can be followed when accepting those streets into the town. Commissioner Carpenter made a motion to adopt this policy. Commissioner Smith seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Carpenter also shared that a speed bump will be placed midway in Victoria Place on the main road to prevent speeding. Commissioner Carpenter explained the difference between the speed hump and speed bumps. Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to approve this speed bump. Commissioner Barbee seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

The commissioners discussed the policy about speed bumps going forward. The policy stated that for a subdivision more than half of the homes must agree to have the speed bump. Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to accept this policy. Commissioner Jackson asked what if it's just a street and not a subdivision? Would more than 50% of the homes on the street also be required? Commissioner Hathcock rescinded his motion. He suggested the board revisit the policy on speed bumps.

Commissioner Carpenter referred to Mr. Bowers for an update to the streets department. He shared the department worked on cleaning out ditches on W. Eleventh Street. They cleaned it out and fixed around the storm drains. The department also cut hedges around some of the street signs so vehicles could see better, put in a couple of new street signs, continued placing stone on the dirt roads, and prepared a list of potholes around town that need to be filled.

Mayor Huneycutt stated that he had received a call about the corner of W. Fifth Street and College. Commissioner Carpenter shared there is a concrete structure that looks like it is collapsed. Mr. Bowers stated he knew where they were talking about and it has actually washed out under it. They have fixed it before. Mr. Bowers stated he would look into a better solution for this.

Police Department

Commissioner Hathcock referred to Chief Smith. Chief Smith asked for a round of applause for Mr. Mike Efird and Mr. Doug Burgess. Everyone applauded.

Chief Smith shared the department's stats for this past month:

- 194 calls for service
- 10 arrests
- 888 field contacts
- 134 citations

Chief Smith also stated that Jerry Wallace is going back to the highway patrol and he will be losing him as a part-time officer. He brought Mr. Greg Morris in to replace Mr. Wallace as a part-time patrol officer. Mr. Morris lives in Forrest Creek. He currently works in Albemarle as a zoning official and has joined the fire department here in town. Chief Smith would like to ask for the board to hire him part-time. A

motion was made by Commissioner Hathcock to hire Mr. Greg Morris. A second was made by Commissioner Carpenter. Voted and carried unanimously.

Chief Smith recognized Officer Carey Money who has spent time as Oakboro STEM School's Resource Officer for the 2022-2023 year. Chief Smith shared that Officer Money means a lot to the whole department and always does what he asks. Officer Money immediately responded to Chief Smith's request for a fill-in SRO until one was hired. Chief Smith read over what Secretary Lisa Waits shared with him regarding Officer Money stating that he was a selfless rockstar among many other great qualities. Chief Smith also read a letter thanking Officer Money from a parent who had a kindergartener at the school. Officer Money made a huge impact on her life. Chief Smith presented Officer Money with a plaque and a certificate of appreciation. Officer Money thanked the town for allowing him to work at the school stating it was a true blessing for him to be there.

Parks and Recreation

Commissioner Jackson shared that Mr. Josh Almond was on vacation. She wanted to thank the town, Oakboro Police Department, Alvis James, Annabell Smith, Aquilla Ellerbee, David & Betsy Heath, Oakboro Sweet Spot, Chris with face painting and What-a-Burger. She said a special thank you to Mr. Almond stating he was there and helping with everything. She really enjoyed seeing the kids enjoy themselves.

Commissioner Jackson shared that she is working on food trucks and a band to be in the park. She shared if you knew anyone with a food truck to have them contact the town as they would need a permit, but she would love for them to be a part of this. She's currently looking around the first of August.

Commissioner Hathcock & Mayor Huneycutt thanked Commissioner Jackson for her hard work on this activity.

Public Works

Commissioner Smith referred to Mr. Reggie Bowers. Mr. Bowers shared that the water department installed eight new water meters and replaced four old meters. They also filled the new water tower and performed water testing. Mr. Bowers stated that RDR replaced the 2" water line behind Tammy's Restaurant and repaired three other 2" lines.

Mr. Bowers shared what the department was doing in sewer. They installed one new E-1 pump, worked on four existing E-1 pumps, continued to work on the James Road Pump Station and had two sewer backups. Fortunately, the department got them unstopped before any spillage.

Advisory Board/Code Enforcement

Commissioner Hathcock referred to Mr. Efird. Mr. Efird shared with the board the need to adopt the resolution to close the alley between W. Seventh Street and W. Eighth Street. If that's adopted, then the board can set the public hearing and begin advertising for this alleyway closure. Letters will also have to be sent out to adjoining homeowners and the resolution put in the Stanly News & Press. Commissioner Barbee made a motion to adopt the resolution to abandon the alleyway. Commissioner Smith seconded. Voted and carried unanimously. A motion was made by Commissioner Barbee to set a public hearing for

Monday, July 17, 2023 to consider closing the alleyway between W. Seventh Street and W. Eighth Street. Commissioner Smith seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Regarding the text amendment change to the UDO, Commissioner Smith made a motion to postpone this topic until the July 17, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Mayor Huneycutt recognized Mr. Doug Burgess and Mr. Mike Efirm with a plaque as a token of appreciation of their hard work and everything they have done for the Town of Oakboro over the years. He also presented a plaque to Mr. Efirm for Mrs. Patti Efirm and thanked her for all of her work for the town.

Board Comments:

Commissioner Smith stated that he can't say words that would do justice to Mr. Burgess and Mr. Efirm as far as what they have contributed to the town. He went on to share that Mr. Burgess will never "toot his own horn" and he never asks for any attention. He is the epitome of an employee anyone would want. He stated that Mr. Efirm's expertise would be sorely missed. He couldn't have asked for more professional and caring people. Commissioner Smith commented that everyone is replaceable, but it sure will take a lot to fill their shoes. He always valued their opinion and wishes them the best in retirement or in the next opportunity. It's time for them to serve themselves instead of serving others, he said. Commissioner Smith also wanted to thank Commissioner Jackson for her hard work on the Movie in the Park and also wanted to extend a thank you to Officer Money for his time in the school system as the School Resource Officer. He thanked Mr. Heath and Ms. Hatley for their comments as well.

Commissioner Hathcock wanted to piggyback on what Commissioner Smith shared. He thanked all employees and focused on Officer Money for his dedication to the school. Commissioner Hathcock also thanked everyone who helped with the clean up days. He finished by wishing everyone a safe Fourth of July holiday.

Commissioner Barbee thanked everyone for being present at the meeting. He thanked Commissioner Jackson for her work on the park events and Officer Money for impacting the lives at the school. Commissioner Barbee offered his prayers to Mr. Efirm and thanked him for his service to this town. Commissioner Barbee thanked Mr. Burgess for his work and he shared that when he went into his office Mr. Burgess had a smile on his face indicating a sense of accomplishment. He went on to thank the Oakboro Police Department and Oakboro Fire Department. He shared for the public to be proactive and report anything suspicious. He said to love one another and be thankful for our wonderful town.

Commissioner Jackson thanked Officer Money for all of his hard work at the school. She also welcomed Officer Morris. Commissioner Jackson thanked Mr. Efirm and Mr. Burgess and stated they would both be missed. She continued to thank Leslie and Beverly for all of their work. She again thanked everyone who supported the event Friday. She wanted to remind everyone to continue to support our local businesses. She thanked everyone for coming out.

Commissioner Carpenter thanked Officer Money and shared that the world needs more people like him. He welcomed Officer Morris. Commissioner Carpenter thanked Mr. Burgess and Mr. Efirm and wished

them the best of luck in their next adventures. He also wanted to share with the board that last week he had the chance to ride around with Chief Smith and Mr. Bowers. He encourages all of the board members to take time to do this. He thanked Leslie and Beverly as well.

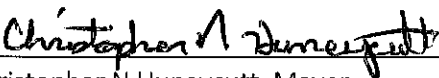
Mayor Huneycutt stated he didn't realize it would be the emotional night it's turned out to be. He thanked Mr. Burgess for all of his roles with the town. He shared Mr. Burgess got the town out of a rough spot several years ago. He shared that Mr. Burgess has been a friend. Mayor Huneycutt thanked Officer Money for making a difference in all of the lives he has touched. He thanked Mr. Eford for helping him in so many ways. He asked Mr. Eford to please extend how we feel to Patti, he realizes she can't be here tonight. Mayor Huneycutt thanked the police department for what they are doing and also encouraged everyone to thank the fire department for the fourth celebration coming up. He thanked Leslie and Beverly for all of their help and always answering his phone calls. He apologized if he missed anyone.

Mayor Huneycutt entertained a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into closed session for personnel and contracts based on G.S. 143-318.11(6). Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to go back into regular session. Commissioner Carpenter seconded.

There was no action taken during closed session.

Commissioner Hathcock made the motion to continue the meeting until Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 7pm. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.



Christopher N Huneycutt, Mayor



Leslie H. Murray, Town Clerk/Finance Officer