

Town Of Oakboro

Board of Commissioners

Minutes

Regular Meeting

August 19, 2019

6:30 PM Briefing

7:00 PM Meeting

Mayor Little opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The Town Clerk called the roll with the following present: Commissioner Efird, Commissioner Huneycutt, Commissioner Smith, Mayor Little, Commissioner Watkins, Commissioner Jackson and Town Administrator, Doug Burgess.

The Mayor led everyone in pledging allegiance to the United States Flag.

Commissioner Jackson had devotions.

Commissioner Huneycutt made a motion to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes from July 15, 2019. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

Commissioner Jackson approved the Accounts Payable in the amount of \$85,342.98. Commissioner Huneycutt seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

Eco plexus representative, Phillip Martin, addressed the Board. Eco plexus is a solar company with their offices in Durham, NC. He wanted to address a few questions about the solar farm that they are proposing in Stanly County. He brought with him Forrest Melvin, Nick Kirkland (appraiser) and Tommy Cleveland (engineer). The company owns, develops and constructs utility skilled projects throughout the US and overseas. They currently have 250 mega watts that is built with a 3.5 giga watt pipeline. He reported that in the last few years, NC has become 2nd in the nation in solar installations. Duke Energy has committed to 2660 mega watts in the next 4 years through their competitive bidding process. The proposed project for Stanly County is located in Southwest Stanly County, northeast of the Town of Oakboro, between Hazard Road, Sunrise Lane, St. Martin Road and Frog Pond Road. There's about 450 acres within the fence line. It's a 40-megawatt project with 13.5 megawatt battery storage. The closest residence is within 300 feet and most of property is mature woodlands. There's only about 1 mile of total road frontage with this project. They are currently

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going through the process with Stanly County and the planning commission. Their next step is to hold a community meeting in September, 2019 somewhere in Oakboro and it will be advertised. They hope to be back in front of the County Commissioners in October 2019. They've applied for the Solar Energy Power Generation Overlay District – currently their uses are agriculture, soy beans and some wheat and pasture land. The total proposed land area is only .23% of the county's total land. They've had two community meetings so far. They will have the 3rd one next month. They were here to answer any questions.

Commissioner Efirm asked if this project is completely outside of the Town of Oakboro, they assured him that it was. He reported that in the past, the Board had worked with another company and actually has a solar farm in Oakboro. Mr. Martin stated that as the project is currently constructed, it is not in Oakboro's ETJ.

Lee Snuggs and Scott Miller with Rocky River Rural Planning Organization addressed the Board. Scott Miller is the new DOT representative and Mr. Snuggs wanted to introduce him. They wanted to talk about some of the things going on in Oakboro in respect to roads. They're trying to do things that makes sense – as in big projects are split up in to smaller pieces. If we would have any needed projects to alleviate congestion, lighting, etc. It would be a good time to bring these up for a closer look. At this time, they have “two different buckets of money” to pull from. Sidewalks, crosswalks, intersection accesses, grants for forest greenways, etc. They will entertain all ideas.

Commissioner Efirm stated that he served on the RRPO board for the last 6 years and now, Commissioner Smith will be taking his place and will be attending the meetings. Efirm also asked if it was true that a “roundabout” was coming to the Big Lick Intersection in a couple of years? He also stated that 3 years ago paving of 205 from St. Martin Road to Red Cross was number 18 on the list and was wondering where we stand, now. Mr. Miller said that he would look into that and get back with the Board.

OPEN FORUM

Tim Frick with Oakboro Food Lion: He wanted to share a few things about Oakboro's Food Lion with the Board. He thanked the Oakboro Community for the years of service and patronage. He wanted to thank TJ Smith and

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his officers. They always have an officer when opening and closing the store. They appreciate our Police Department. They have a big program called "Food Lion Feeds". As a company, Food Lion, vowed to supply 500 million meals by the end of 2019 and they accomplished that goal about halfway through the year. Now the goal is 1 billion meals by the end of 2025. The Oakboro Food Lion was second in our region with the most bags sold. That's big for our little town. They also want to be involved in our schools and have taken flowers to the teachers to encourage them as they start a new year. They are having "math" nights at the store as relating to grocery shopping. They've also put up "veteran's parking" signs in the parking lot. Oakboro is the only Food Lion that has that.

Hilda Keeney: She lives in Oak Glen Subdivision. She wants cul-de-sacs finished, potholes filled and paving finished. She's also concerned about the asphalt at the old community building, stating that it's an ankle turner.

Carey Snellings: He lives in Oak Glen Subdivision. He, too, is concerned about the paving in Oak Glen and standing water breeding mosquitos.

Shawn Hatley: He's a business owner in Oakboro. He wanted everyone to know that he manages over 2000 acres of solar farms. He wanted to offer his experiences as the community considers this project.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

Budget and Finance: Doug Burgess, Town Administrator. He reported that our income is rather small because we haven't received our tax money. Our Revenue should be at 5% and we're at 9%. Water Department revenue is at 8% and expenditures are 6%. We have the same situation with Sewer as we have a lot of upfront expenditures as revenues are at 7% and expenditures are 10%.

Cemetery and Streets: Commissioner Watkins had no report.

Police Department: Commissioner Huneycutt referred to Chief Smith. Smith reported that there were 940 business checks, 217 calls to service and 207 citations written. His department has been refurbishing the metal

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benches along main street. His department also collected school supplies for Oakboro Stem School and Aquadale Elementary School and delivered them, today. He introduced our newest office, Brandon McClendon.

The Town Clerk administered the oath of office to new police officer, Brandon R. McClendon. His wife held the Bible for him. Everyone applauded our newest police officer.

Parks and Recreation: Commissioner Smith referred to Josh Almond, Head of Parks and Rec. He reported that Fall soccer started last week with 72 soccer players. The parking lot is completed at the old park. He didn't know about the asphalt problems but would look into it. The park also hosted a benefit Softball game that benefited the Butterfly House.

Water and Sewer: Commissioner Efird. He stated that we continue to work on the I and I, where we get surface water in our sewer lines. He reported that Oakboro had conducted a "smoke test" to hopefully to reveal where leaks are in reference to I and I.

Advisory Board/Code Enforcement: Commissioner Efird. He recognized our zoning enforcement officer, TJ Smith. Smith reported that he was putting together a pamphlet to let certified golf cart owners know exactly where they can be driven and all of the rules and regulations. He also reminded everyone that a minimum housing standard was adopted for Oakboro. There are two specific properties that he wants to work on first. 300 West 8th Street and 1431 Swift Road. He would like permission to start the process. Not necessarily leveling the property but talking with owners about possibly repairing and other options. Commissioner Efird also reported that the Planning and Zoning Board sends the Board of Commissioners a favorable recommendation to ask for a Public Hearing for Doug Burgess' request of changing zoning from R-15 to R-9 on a parcel of land at the corner of E. 10th and Long Street.

Commissioner Huneycutt made a motion to allow our Zoning Enforcement Officer to proceed with the minimum housing standards for the two properties at 300 W. 8th Street and 1431 Swift Road.

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Commissioner Efirm made a motion to set a Public Hearing on September 16, 2019 to hear comments in reference to Doug Burgess having a parcel of land at the corner of East Tenth Street and Long Street be rezoned from R-15 to R-9. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

Town Administrator, Doug Burgess, stated that the Arts Council was asking for a \$500.00 donation for presenting the arts to Stanly County. He proposed that the Board amend the Budget for that amount.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to amend the budget for \$500.00 to the Stanly County Arts Council. Commissioner Efirm seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

Mr. Burgess also needed an amendment to the budget for the upfit of the new police department for approximately \$12,000.00. This will cover asphalt patching, lockers, flagpole, lights, chairs, desks and cameras.

Commissioner Huneycutt made a motion to amend the budget to add the upfit of the new police department for approximately \$12,000.00. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

Mayor Little reported that closed session would not be necessary.

Board Member Comments:

Commissioner Jackson wanted to thank everyone that supports the Town of Oakboro. She also wanted to congratulate our newest officer, Brandon McClendon on his position with the Oakboro Police Department.

Commissioner Watkins had no comment.

Commissioner Smith wanted to thank and welcome Officer McClendon to Oakboro. He thanked Eco Plexus for their information on Solar Farming. He thanked Tim Frick with Oakboro Food Lion for bringing great news about Oakboro's involvement in the community. He wished Myra Hill a great new school year. He thanked Josh Almond for spearheading the benefit for the Butterfly house. He thanked Chief Smith and his officers for their hard work.

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Commissioner Huneycutt appreciated everyone being at the meeting tonight to support Oakboro. He had no idea that Food Lion is as active as they are. He commended them for that. He congratulated officer McClendon on his position.

Commissioner Efird was happy to see a full room attending the meeting. He stated that if we continue to grow like this, we will need a bigger building. He thanked everyone for coming.

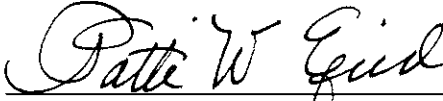
Mayor Little thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She wished everyone safe travels home.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

This the 19th day of August, 2019.



Joyce H. Little, Mayor



Patti W. Efird, Town Clerk