



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
July 17, 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, and Mayor Chris Huneycutt were all present. Commissioners Latoya Jackson & Bud Smith were absent. Chief TJ Smith was also present.

Mayor Huneycutt asked everyone to stand for the pledge of allegiance to the flag led by our Girl Scouts, Troop 2160. Following the pledge, Commissioner Barbee led in a short devotion centered around Psalm 46:1. He appreciated that we are a town that takes the time to do these devotions before the meeting. Commissioner Barbee led in prayer.

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 closing and abandoning of the alleyway between West Seventh Street and West Eighth Street owned by Tim Kerr pursuant to the provisions of North Carolina General Statutes, 160A-299. Mr. Brooks Barnhardt spoke against the closing of the alleyway. He wanted to warn the board about closing the alleyway because this is a part of the town and once you do this, you can't get that land back. He stated this was land that could be used for walking trails. He wanted the board to be aware of what they were doing. He encourages the board not to take this lightly. No one else spoke for or against closing the alleyway. The public hearing was determined closed.

Mayor Huneycutt called for a decision by the board on the public hearing. Commissioner Barbee commented that with this particular spot you would not even be able to tell there was an alleyway there. Commissioner Barbee made a motion to close the alleyway. Commissioner Hathcock shared with Mr. Barnhardt that this was an alleyway that doesn't go from one end of town to the other and he does understand his concern. Mr. Barnhardt asked the board to speak again. He asked the board to really think hard on this. The fire department uses these alleyways when needed. He emphasized when you start giving away stuff you can't get it back. Commissioner Hathcock seconded. Voted and carried unanimously by those commissioners present.

Mayor Huneycutt called for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Barbee made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously by those commissioners present.

Mayor Huneycutt called for a motion to approve the minutes from June 19, 2023, June 21, 2023 and July 11, 2023. A motion to approve these minutes was made by Commissioner Barbee and a second by Commissioner Carpenter. There was no discussion. Voted and carried unanimously by those commissioners present.

Mayor Huneycutt asked for a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$353,389.98. Commissioner Carpenter made a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$353,389.98. Commissioner Barbee seconded. There was no discussion. Voted and carried unanimously by the commissioners present.

Girl Scouts

Mayor Huneycutt recognized Ms. Lisa Marker with Girl Scout Troop 2160.

Ms. Marker shared that this troop is based out of Oakboro and has 15 members from first grade to seniors in high school. Jennifer Higgins and Kelly Mullen are also co-leaders with Ms. Marker. She shared that the girls are eligible to receive bronze, silver and gold awards. Many hours are put into obtaining these awards. The girl scouts have to work with the community, not for the community. Ms. Parker gave an example of how that is different. She then introduced three girls that wanted to share ideas for their projects.

1. Logan Marker, a rising senior at Carolina Christian School, is working on obtaining her gold award. She is an ambassador in Girl Scouts, which is the highest level to obtain. For her bronze award, she partnered with Albemarle Community Table and for her silver award, she partnered with Stanly County Christian Ministries and for her gold award, she is hoping to partner with the Town of Oakboro. Her focus is on replacing the sign at the Oakboro Memorial Park in order to get communication out to those who don't have social media. She also wanted to beautify the area around the sign. In order to do this, she wanted to sell brick pavers to fundraise. Her deadline is September of 2024. The purpose of her gold award is to create a team and do this together instead of her doing this all alone. She will be partnering with several groups.

Mayor Huneycutt suggested she meet with the Historic Committee on Monday, July 31, 2023 to go forward with her project since this area falls in the Historic District.

2. Riley Higgins is working on her silver award project. She mentioned that she wanted to do something with medical supplies. She realized how expensive medical supplies can be because of her mom's recent situation with her leg. She would like to have a collection date here in Oakboro for unopened medical supplies. She wants to partner with a local business in the community to distribute the items. She's asking if we can have a medical supplies drop.

Mayor Huneycutt asked if she had discussed this with Oakboro Medical to see if there were things that were needed more than others. Commissioner Barbee suggested the town website as a way of advertising this medical supply drop. Chief Smith asked Riley to get with him and he would help her.

3. Scarlet Robertson is working on her bronze award. She has noticed a lot of road kill on Highway 742 by Sandbar Road. She feels like this is because a lot of people aren't paying attention as they are driving. She stated maybe they need a reminder as they are driving to be aware of animals crossing.

Mayor Huneycutt told her she had some good ideas. Chief Smith suggested looking into a sign such as deer crossing. Ms. Marker asked if Chief Smith would set up a meeting with the gentleman from NCDOT and Scarlet. Chief Smith said he would do that.

Kaylyn Butler was unable to be at the meeting tonight, but Ms. Marker wanted to share the community service project the Girl Scouts wanted to do. She was hoping to have a Flag Retirement Box along with a

Flag Retirement Ceremony. The Girl Scouts would like to collect flags that need to be disposed of. Ms. Marker was hoping to place the box in front of Town Hall. Commissioners Barbee and Hathcock suggested the box be placed at the Police Department.

Mayor Huneycutt shared that he had the opportunity to meet with these girls at their meeting and he complimented the group on how well spoken they are and how intelligent they are. He thanked them for coming.

Open Forum

No one signed up for open forum.

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: 75% | Expenditures: 65% |
| • Sewer Fund | Revenues: 93% | Expenditures: 91% |
| • General Fund | Revenues: 112% | Expenditures: 97% |

Cemetery and Streets

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Carpenter. Commissioner Carpenter shared there was no report this month

Police Department

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Hathcock who, in turn, referred to Chief Smith. Chief Smith recognized the agencies who backed them during the 4th of July Celebration. Overall, it was a good week. There was one wreck during the heavy rain and one fight, but other than that, all went well. Chief Smith shared he was happy to see Highway Patrol at the 4th assisting them along with Probation. Chief Smith is very grateful for all the men and women who helped make this the most secure event in a long time.

Officer Payton James will soon be on his own. In about two weeks, Officer James will go on night shift. We are finally to the point where we will have two officers on night shift for one rotation. As soon as Billie Jo Field comes off of light duty, she will go back onto nights thus filling the second position for night shift on the other rotation.

Regarding the radar sign on N Main Street, 9600 vehicles came through town on July 4, 2023. If you multiply that by 2.5, that makes 24,000 people just coming south down Highway 205/N. Main Street traveling south. There also could have been 4 people per car making it around 38,000 people coming into town. That's only taking into account one direction, there are four other directions people could come into our town, Highway 742, Highway 205 South, St. Martin Road and Highway 138.

Chief Smith shared that the fire department is planning to come to the next meeting to share their thoughts on the radar sign.

Chief Smith shared that they are looking at Hyatt Gun Range for the department to be members of and be able to shoot and qualify there at the range. In the past, they have used a place in Stanfield. Hyatt Gun Range is offering the police department to use this facility for \$2500/year which includes liability insurance. Chief Smith is asking the board to allow the officers to be members of the gun range. Each can go individually and practice should they need extra help. This would cover all officers. Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to allow the police department to join Hyatt Gun Range. This contract will cover July 1, 2023 until June 30, 2024. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously by the commissioners who were present.

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

- 48 calls for service
- 11 arrests
- 483 residence checks
- 299 business checks
- 111 citations
- 2 case supplements

Parks and Recreation

There is no report at this time.

Public Works

There is no report at this time.

Advisory Board/Code Enforcement

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Hathcock. Commissioner Hathcock shared that Mr. Efirid has resigned and since July 1, 2023, the planning and zoning board have taken care of the permits as they have come into town hall. Chief TJ Smith was appointed as interim zoning officer at an earlier meeting and will also help with any zoning issues.

Board Comments:

Commissioner Hathcock thanked everyone for being present at the meeting. He hoped they were shocked to hear the numbers during the 4th of July. Commissioner Hathcock believes another radar sign is needed and he will support that. He asked everyone present to please come back.

Commissioner Barbee wanted to thank everyone for being present at the meeting tonight and he also thanked the staff for stepping up to fill needs that had come up. He thanked everyone for looking after each other during the 4th of July. He thanked the girl scouts for being here tonight and everything they are working towards.

Commissioner Carpenter thanked everyone for being present at the meeting. He continued with thanking the girl scouts and offered his service should they need anything. Commissioner Carpenter

thanked the police stating they can't be any better than they already are. He thanked Beverly Parr and Leslie Hatley-Murray for continuing to do a good job in the office.


Mayor Huneycutt thanked the girl scouts and suggested they also visit a planning board meeting. He thanked the police department for their hard work during the 4th of July. He shared the town is very fortunate because we have great employees that work for the town. He appreciated Leslie Hatley-Murray and Beverly Parr for stepping up. If anything is being missed, he encouraged those in attendance to contact him and we would make sure it was taken care of.

Mayor Huneycutt entertained a motion to go into closed session for personnel. Commissioner Barbee made a motion to go into closed session for personnel and Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

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

Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to select Ms. Georgia Harvey as the new town administrator/zoning enforcement officer. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously by the commissioners present.

Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Barbee seconded. Voted and carried unanimously by the commissioners present.



Christopher N Huneycutt, Mayor



Leslie H. Murray, Town Clerk/Finance Officer