



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
November 20, 2023
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM**

Mayor Huneycutt welcomed everyone to the regular meeting 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. Ms. Georgia Osborne-Harvey, Town Administrator, was also present along with Chief TJ Smith, Lieutenant Jason Eschert, Mr. Reggie Bowers and Mr. Josh Almond.

Mayor Huneycutt asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag. This was followed by a devotion from Commissioner Barbee. He spoke on the season of Thanksgiving and how we have so many things to be thankful for in this world. He especially mentioned our relationship with God. He referred to Psalm 100 and John 15:4-7

Mayor Huneycutt called for a motion to approve the agenda as printed. Commissioner Barbee made a motion and Commissioner Jackson seconded.

Mayor Huneycutt called for a motion to approve the minutes from October 10, 2023, October 16, 2023 and October 17, 2023. Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to approve the minutes listed above. Commissioner Barbee seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Mayor Huneycutt called for a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$388,920.69. Commissioner Barbee made a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount listed above. Commissioner Jackson seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

NCDOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Grant – VHB Presentation

Mr. Josh Almond shared that we are moving into the final review stages of the grant. The next step will be for the board to approve the grant. Ms. Llyuba Zuyeva shared some information about the grant including how they took surveys online and at the Fourth of July. She went over the surveys with the board. Working with the steering committee along with the feedback from the public, Ms. Zuyeva shared that a list of improvement recommendations will be taken into consideration. She highlighted the top five projects - these included improvements to Main Street, a sidewalk project along Claymon and Hamilton Road among others.

Open Forum

No one signed up for Open Forum.

Department Updates:

Budget and Finance

Mayor Huneycutt called on Commissioner Barbee for an update on budget and finance. Commissioner Barbee shared the following:

	Revenues	Expenses
General Fund	57%	34%
Water Fund	59%	22%
Sewer Fund	42%	34%

Cemetery and Streets

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Carpenter for an update. Commissioner Carpenter called on Ms. Harvey. She stated that in the board's packets they have information about traffic speed bump control and also a draft on the speed bump policy. She shared that she was not looking for approval tonight, but wanted the board to give her some feedback regarding the speed bump policy over the next two to three weeks. She shared that a public hearing will be needed to implement the new policy and she would like to have this completed by the end of January at the latest.

In addition to the speed bump policy, she wanted to emphasize that it is a plan for maintenance and herself to look at a five-year plan for speed bumps needed throughout town.

Commissioner Carpenter then referred to Mr. Reggie Bowers for an update in the streets department. He shared that potholes will be filled soon and also repatching will be completed. This will be completed in the first or second week of December in addition to some speed bumps that were already approved.

In the last month, the department has been cleaning out ditches, cleaning out storm drains, and installing some pipes. They have also been cutting the brush out of the ditches to make sure the water runs smoothly. Mr. Bowers stated he had to purchase new bristles for the broom tractor to be able to sweep the streets with. They will be doing the street sweeping again before and after the Christmas parade. All of the Christmas lights, center piece and Christmas tree were put up by the maintenance department and the parks department.

Police Department

Mayor Huneycutt recognized Chief Smith and the Diaz family. One of Amelia's sons spoke on behalf of the family and thanked Sergeant Eschert for what he did at the disturbance call in September. Amelia, with tears from her and Mr. Diaz, thanked Sergeant Eschert for what he did. Amelia's other son, David, who was also a victim in this incident wanted to thank Sergeant Eschert for his service and for everything he has done for their family. He said they are just taking it day by day and that it isn't easy, but they must keep on. Sergeant Eschert, also with tears, told the family that there wasn't a day that goes by that he doesn't think of them. He appreciated them taking the time to come to the meeting. The family presented Sergeant Eschert with a beautiful glass plaque.

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Hathcock following this small ceremony. He asked Chief Smith to share information on the police department.

Chief Smith shared that Sergeant Daigle received the "Third Quarter Officer of the Year" award. The "Fourth Quarter Officer of the Year" goes to Officer Shane Allen. Both officers have been exemplary in their jobs.

The statistics are as follows:

Arrests:	19
Traffic Stops:	263 – 126 cited/137 were given warnings.
Checkpoints:	4
Business Openings/Closings:	238
Business Checks:	323
Residence Checks:	659
Preventative Patrols:	121

Chief Smith then referred to Sergeant Eschert. He shared that the first book has already sold over 2,000 copies and our profit for the K9 Fund will be a little over \$6,000 currently. Sergeant Eschert came before board to request permission for another K9 children's book to be published by the same publisher and illustrator. In addition to the \$750 (same cost as the first children's book), he is also requesting an additional \$250 which would allow an activity book to be created and available for children to do on their tablets if they wished. It would be a total of \$1,000.

Mayor Huneycutt called for a motion. Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to allow a second children's book and an activity book to be created. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Parks and Recreation

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Ms. Jackson who turned it over to Mr. Josh Almond. He updated the board that youth basketball started tonight and Oakboro had 78 children register which is about a 10% increase over last year.

Public Works

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Smith. He asked Mr. Reggie Bowers to give an update to the board.

Water

Mr. Bowers shared that he has been in contact with someone to inspect the water tower and also fix the lights on the water tower. The department has been flushing water, repaired four water meters, installed three new water meters. There were about 30 calls from 811 to locate lines. He shared that there is a leak on East Fifth Street they are still searching for. He has also worked on the chlorine pump at the well.

Sewer:

Mr. Bowers had a sewer inspection last Wednesday. He said this was a new experience for him and that the gentleman that came was very good and went over a lot of information that will help Mr. Bowers going forward. He was well pleased with what Mr. Bowers had done and all that he had kept organized. The inspector emphasized documenting on everything.

The department worked on three different pump stations. He explained what was going on at each pump station. One he had fixed; another pump was sent off to be fixed. He also had to work with Union Power and Clear Water on too much power coming into the pump station on Buster Road.

There were two force-main leaks this month, one at Heather Oak and one at Faith Street.

He worked on the meter at the EQ basin. The department worked on five E-1 pumps, located 32 811 call ins. They have also been working on E-1 pumps at the shop and cleaned the pump stations.

Advisory Board/Code Enforcement

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Hathcock. Commissioner Hathcock stated that there are two resolutions that need to be adopted.

Commissioner Hathcock read the Resolution for Closing Lighthouse Road. Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to adopt this resolution and give the NCDOT permission to close this portion of the road and allow Charlotte Pipe to take it over. Commissioner Jackson seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hathcock read a second resolutions entitled, "Resolution Considering Closing and Abandoning a Portion of Fulton Street between East Second and East Third Streets in the Town of Oakboro, NC." Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to have a public hearing at the December 18, 2023 meeting. A second was made by Commissioner Barbee. Voted and carried unanimously.

Historic Committee

There are no updated this month.

Mayor and Commissioner Comments

Mayor Huneycutt took a minute to remind everyone about the Christmas Tree Lighting at 6:30pm and the Parade at 7:00pm on Thursday, November 30, 2023. He hoped everyone would make a point to be there.

Commissioner Jackson shared she was thankful for everyone in attendance. She especially wanted to thank the Diaz family for attending and that her heart goes out to the whole family, but she is so blessed to see them all present. Commissioner Jackson also thanked Sergeant Eschert for his quick response. Commissioner Jackson shared that she was at the end of the road when this happened and remembers seeing the mother and son running away from the abuser. She shared that her heart really goes out to them. She wishes them all a wonderful thanksgiving and a grateful time to spend with their family.

She also wishes everyone in the audience a happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Jackson thanked the town employees for all the hard work.

Commissioner Smith spoke next and shared with the Diaz family how honored we were to have them with us at this meeting. He thanked them for their kind words. He said it was very good to see each of them and couldn't imagine what they went through.

He shared that Sergeant reminds us why a dog is man's best friend.

He shared that Thanksgiving is Thursday and he shared a story about a time he was at a drive through and a lady who was in front of him got her food but proceeded to get back in line and wait about 30 more minutes just to tell the employees of the fast-food restaurant thank you. No matter how small it may be, always tell someone thank you.

Commissioner Carpenter thanked everyone for being in attendance at the meeting. He thanked the Diaz family and told them the town was honored to have them at the meeting. He also made the comment that if there were more people in this world like Sergeant Eschert everything would be much better. He wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Barbee continued with thanking everyone who was present and emphasized Commissioner Smith's point to tell people thank you and that you love them, especially at this time of the year. You can never say that enough. He told the Diaz family that the town was honored to have them at the meeting and praised them for how strong they were. He shared he would be praying for each of them. He thanked Sergeant Eschert and all of the officers for what they do. He thanked them for their courage. He wanted them to know that love is shared for them. Commissioner Barbee thanked the staff and Board of Commissioners for all their hard work.

Commissioner Hathcock thanked the Diaz family for their kind words for Sergeant Eschert. He also thanked all of the staff for the job each one does. He's thankful for each one. He has enjoyed his time on the board. He thanked each one for coming and asked them to enjoy their time with family.

Mayor Huneycutt thanked the Diaz family for sharing with us and recognizing Sergeant Eschert. He shared the town was very thankful that they were at the meeting. He stated he is praying for the Diaz family and law enforcement. Each day is a gift from God. He went on to share that he believes that our staff is like a family and we have the best family.

Mayor Huneycutt is very appreciative of each person in attendance. He ended with a reminder of the Christmas Parade and the Christmas Tree Lighting. He said we need to remember one thing, and that is be kind.

Closed Session

Mayor Huneycutt asked for a motion to go into closed session for personnel and attorney client privilege (G.S. 143-318.11 (6) & G.S. 143-318.11(3)). Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Barbee seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Open Session

Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

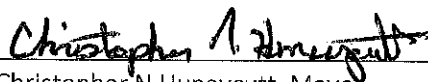
During closed session the following took place:

- A one-time payout for each employee was discussed. The board decided upon \$300 per full time employee and \$100 for part time employees. A motion was made by Commissioner Hathcock to approve this one-time payout. It was seconded by Commissioner Barbee. Voted and carried unanimously.
- A motion to raise Mr. Anthony Gasparini's pay from \$18.55/hour to \$20.00/hour was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Carpenter. Voted and carried unanimously.
- A motion was made to give Mr. David Daigle a 2.5% raise, because he is now a Corporal, by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Carpenter. Voted and carried unanimously.

- A motion to give a 5% raise to Jennifer Antonucci due to completing her SRO certification and having her bachelor's degree was made by Commissioner Smith. It was seconded by Commissioner Carpenter. Voted and carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Barbee seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.



Christopher N. Huneycutt, Mayor



Leslie H. Murray, Town Clerk/Finance Officer