



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
October 16, 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. Chief TJ Smith, Mr. Reggie Bowers, Utility Supervisor, and Ms. Georgia Osborne-Harvey were also present.

Mayor Huneycutt asked everyone to stand for the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Following the pledge, Commissioner Hathcock led in a short devotion with an "Autumn Prayer."

Mayor Huneycutt called for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Barbee made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Jackson seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Mayor Huneycutt called for a motion to approve the minutes from September 18, 2023. A motion to approve these minutes was made by Commissioner Jackson and a second by Commissioner Carpenter. There was no discussion. Voted and carried unanimously.

Mayor Huneycutt entertained a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$464,417.98. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$464,417.98. Commissioner Barbee seconded. There was no discussion. Voted and carried unanimously.

Ms. Mollie Fowler – Kanter Woods Subdivision Speed Bumps

She came to the board meeting with Ms. Lindsey Long. The two ladies walked around to each house in the Kanter Woods Subdivision and obtained signatures of 35 homes in favor of speed bumps. She mentioned they would like to have six speed bumps in the neighborhood. The copy of the signatures and the location of the proposed speed bumps were included in the commissioners' packet for the meeting. She asked the board to take this into consideration. Mayor Huneycutt shared with her that the board is in the process of reviewing a policy that will be adopted throughout the subdivisions. He requested Ms. Fowler follow up with Ms. Harvey for updates.

Mrs. Lisa Cratty – Citizen Concern regarding West Second Street, West Third Street & Pine Street

Mrs. Cratty brought three concerns before the board. The first item was regarding the closure of West Second Street and she requested some clarity on that. She stated she was told it was up to the town whether to remove the blockagé or leave it. She said she was also told that the blockage was temporary until GPS rerouted the traffic to the stop light; however, that has been over a year now. She was wondering if the town had adopted a resolution regarding the closure of West Second Street and if there had been a public hearing regarding that situation. If there was, she was questioning when that took place. She feels like it's very inconvenient when traveling north of town from the south side of town. Mrs. Cratty shared that this is important for emergency vehicles also since some houses are still addressed off of West Second, but it appears West Second Street is closed.

Commissioner Barbee made a motion to add Ms. Georgia Harvey onto the accounts at Uwharrie Bank and remove Mr. Doug Burgess. Commissioner Smith seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Cemetery and Streets

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Carpenter. Commissioner Carpenter referred to Mr. Reggie Bowers. The department has been sweeping the streets and working on the decorative street lighting. They have also replaced road signs and stop signs that needed replacing.

Police Department

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Hathcock who, in turn, referred to Chief Smith.

Chief Smith shared the statistics from last month

- 22 incident reports
- 18 arrests
- 87 preventative patrols
- 102 traffic stops (36 citations; 8 arrests from traffic stops, 58 warnings)
- 557 business checks
- 447 residence checks

Chief Smith mentioned that he had a lady, Jzanese Weekes, who was interested in working for the Oakboro Police Department. Chief Smith would like to hire her part time until a full-time position comes open. He asked the board for permission to continue with the paperwork that must be done to hire someone in the police department. He mentioned there were currently four part-time police officers.

Mayor Huneycutt called for a motion to hire Ms. Weekes on a part-time basis and continue with paperwork required. Commissioner Barbee made a motion to continue with hiring the part time officer with all the necessary paperwork. Commissioner Hathcock seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Chief Smith shared the reason everyone was wearing the purple ribbons was because it was domestic violence month. With that being said, Chief Smith took some time then to recognize Sergeant Jason Eschert and Officer Shane Allen for their quick response to a domestic disturbance on September 4, 2023. Sergeant Eschert was awarded the Medal of Valor from the Oakboro Police Department by Chief Smith. Officer Allen was awarded the Meritorious Award of Conduct. Both gentlemen were presented with certificates and Sergeant Eschert was presented with a crystal award for saving multiple lives during this call.

Parks and Recreation

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Jackson. Commissioner Jackson stated that there was no report this month.

Public Works

Mayor Huneycutt called on Commissioner Smith for the update on Public Works. Commissioner Smith referred to Mr. Bowers. In the water department, Mr. Bowers stated that the department replaced five

old meters, put in five new meters and fixed four water leaks with one being a 2" water leak on Third Street. Currently, they are working on getting ready for the state inspection next month and they are spending time cleaning. He shared that RDR installed a water and sewer tap on South Oak Ridge Road.

Regarding the sewer department, the department continued working on E-1 pumps. They pulled out several E-1 pumps from homes and worked on them to correct a problem. They also cleaned the pump stations, installed a new pump at Oaks at St. Martin and started the new sewer job at Forrest Creek Phase 5. Regarding the 811 locates, Mr. Bowers shared that he had 80 calls of locates.

Advisory Board/Code Enforcement

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Hathcock. Commissioner Hathcock referred to Interim Zoning Officer, Chief Smith and Ms. Georgia Harvey. Chief Smith shared updates about the changes requested at the Big Lick Store. He also shared they did a final walk through on Dorsett Street Townhomes.

Historic Committee

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Carpenter. Commissioner Carpenter referred to Chief Smith. Chief Smith shared about a common area across from Los Jacubes that was in the planning stages. He stated this would be basically free to the town except for maintenance and liability insurance. Mayor Huneycutt asked if this would go from the Historic Committee to the Planning and Zoning Board. Chief Smith said he would ask for a favorable recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Board and then it would come to the Board of Commissioners.

Mayor & Board Comments:

Commissioner Jackson thanked everyone for coming out tonight. She also thanked the workers and that all the work never goes unnoticed. She wanted to give special recognition to Officer Allen and Sergeant Eschert for their response to the domestic disturbance. She thanked God that both gentlemen were still with us, because you never know how some of those situations will turn out. Commissioner Jackson also thanked Mrs. Cratty for speaking about her situation with domestic abuse.

Commissioner Carpenter thanked everyone for coming. He just simply said "wow" to Sergeant Eschert and Officer Allen. He commended Chief Smith for having a great group.

Commissioner Barbee thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He asked if anyone from the Stanly News and Press was present tonight. They were not. He shared that he wasn't happy that no one was at our meeting because they were covering the drag discussion in Albemarle. He felt it was a shame that was what got their attention instead of the men and women who put themselves in danger everyday they come into work. He was very disappointed because the Stanly News & Press chose Albemarle over this story.

Commissioner Hathcock thanked everyone for being at the meeting tonight and for expressing their concerns. He also thanked all of our officers for protecting each of us every day. He gave a warm welcome to Ms. Georgia Harvey.

Commissioner Smith thanked every human being in the room – we really don't know what all is going on in each person's life. He stated he didn't know how the police do it with not knowing if they will come home that night after work. Commissioner Smith said to live each day like it is your last and asked everyone to just love each other.

Mayor Huneycutt felt that the board has said everything he could possibly say. He thanked everyone for being at the meeting tonight and showing their support. He thanked Mrs. Cratty for sharing her personal story. He thanked Officer Allen and Sergeant Eschert for their response to the domestic disturbance. He thanked Ms. Harvey for being a part of the town and her leadership.

Ms. Harvey said that everyone that works for the town has been extremely welcoming and helpful. She said that no one truly understands what it takes to run this town except for the people who work here. She has seen the tough job it is and appreciates everything the town employees do and she said she was excited to be here.

Closed Session

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Barbee seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

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

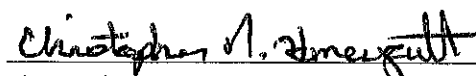
Open Session

Commissioner Barbee made a motion to approve the contract for Ms. Georgia Harvey at an annual salary of \$92,000. Commissioner Jackson seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

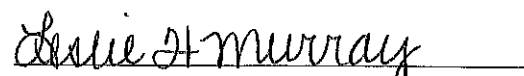
Discussion about the Christmas Party took place and it was decided that Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 6pm at the Oakboro District Park would be our Town Christmas Party.

Adjournment/Continuation

Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to continue the meeting until October 17, 2023 at 7:30pm. Commissioner Jackson seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.



Christopher N Huneycutt, Mayor



Leslie H. Murray, Town Clerk/Finance Officer