



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
August 19, 2024
7:00 PM

Mayor Huneycutt called the meeting to order. He asked Mrs. Leslie Murray, Town Clerk, to call the roll. Commissioner Brett Barbee, Commissioner Joey Carpenter, Commissioner Lanny Hathcock, Commissioner Latoya Jackson, Commissioner Bud Smith and Ms. Georgia Harvey, Town Administrator were present. Mr. Reggie Bowers and Mr. Daniel Smith were also present.

Commissioner Smith had the devotion for tonight's meeting.

Approvals

Mayor Huneycutt entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Barbee seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Mayor Huneycutt entertained a motion to approve the minutes of July 15, 2024 & July 29, 2024. Commissioner Carpenter made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Jackson seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Mayor Huneycutt entertained a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$294,037.19. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the accounts payable. Commissioner Barbee seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Open Forum

No one signed up for open forum.

Administration

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Ms. Harvey for any administrative updates. Ms. Harvey informed everyone that the SRO started today at Oakboro Choice STEM School. The SRO is Jennifer Antonucci with the Stanly County Sheriff's Department. She also informed everyone that the police chief job was posted along with the utility billing specialist position. Those were posted last Wednesday.

Department Updates

Budget & Finance

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Barbee. Mr. Barbee shared the following information:

| | Revenues | Expenditures |
|--------------|----------|--------------|
| General Fund | 1% | 7% |
| Water Fund | 9% | 4% |
| Sewer Fund | 7% | 3% |

Commissioner Barbee made a motion to scale up the minimum pay to \$20/hour for our parks and recreation department and adjust the ones who have been here accordingly. Commissioner Carpenter seconded.

Cemetery & Streets

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Carpenter. Mr. Carpenter called on Mr. Reggie Bowers to share. Mr. Bowers shared after the storm we had, the department had to put stone on the roads again where it has washed away. They also had some debris to remove after the storm. Mr. Bowers told the board the department had been cleaning out ditches as well.

Police Department

Mayor Huneycutt called upon Commissioner Lanny Hathcock. Commissioner Hathcock referred to Interim Chief Jason Eschert. Interim Chief Eschert presented the following information:

- 614 Business Checks
- 430 Preventative Patrols
- 684 Residential Checks
- 357 Traffic/Accident/Other
- 100 Citations Issued
- 2 Felony Drug Arrests

Interim Chief Eschert presented Officer of the Quarter for the 1st Quarter of 2024 to Officer Payton James. Chief Eschert commented on how much Officer James has grown over the time since he started with the police department. He is extremely proud of Officer James. The board thanked Officer James.

Interim Chief Eschert also mentioned that Officer Chad Murph was selected as Officer of the Quarter for the 2nd Quarter of 2024. Chief Eschert mentioned that Officer Murph excelled during FTO and he has been a true blessing and an asset to the Oakboro Police Department.

Interim Chief Eschert shared that at the last meeting there were a lot of emotions and feelings. He mentioned that everyone is entitled to their opinions. He said that he doesn't hold grudges, as he spoke to the board. He shook each commissioner and mayor's hands stating he doesn't have any hard feelings.

Mayor Huneycutt asked for Interim Chief Eschert to make sure Officer Murph also knew how much he was appreciated by the board.

Parks and Recreation

Mayor Huneycutt called upon Commissioner Jackson. Commissioner Jackson referred to Mr. Daniel Smith. Mr. Smith shared that the soccer practices have started. He mentioned that almost all ball fields are busy this time of year with the Oakboro Youth League using the baseball/softball fields as well as the soccer practices going on. There are two events coming up:

On September 7, 2024 at 7:45, the movie in the park will be shown and hopefully the third try is a charm. The other dates have been rained out. There will be popcorn and waters.

On October 5, 2024 from 10am-3pm – Fall Festival – Partnering with the Sunny Day Markets. There will be several vendors and kids’ games.

Update on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan – within the last week, NCDOT has sent the final edits for this. He and Ms. Harvey will go over this in more detail over the next week and hopefully be able to consider this for adoption at the September meeting.

Commissioner Jackson asked if there were any flyers for the movie in the park and Mr. Smith stated there will be soon and that Sunny Day Markets has already created a Facebook event for the Fall Festival at the park.

Public Works

Mayor Huneycutt called upon Commissioner Smith. Commissioner Smith asked Mr. Reggie Bowers for an update. Mr. Bowers shared the following information about the water and sewer departments:

Water

- Installed several new meters
- Repaired 2” water line
- Located water lines for 811
- Jordan Jackson has helped Mr. Bowers with the Wellhead Protection Program and also set up at the last cruise in to show the citizens what this encompassed. The town received the approval letter for the Wellhead Protection Program which will give the town 5 extra points which comes in during the application process for various grants. Brochures are available at town hall regarding the Wellhead Protection Program.

Sewer

- Weekly and monthly checks on the sewer pump stations
- Repairs on many E-1 pumps
- I & I work and found several leaks to correct that.
- Chambers Engineering is proceeding for the McCoys Creek Outfall Line. On September 5 there will be a bid opening for this.
- Located sewer lines for 811

Advisory Board/Code Enforcement

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Hathcock who asked Ms. Harvey for an update. Ms. Harvey had nothing to report from the Planning and Zoning board meeting; however, she wanted to talk to the board about street and alley closures. She is asking the town to put a hold on the street and alleyway closures until we can complete the update to the long-range plan. Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to suspend any applications at the present time regarding the street and alleyway closures. Commissioner Barbee seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Historic Committee

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Carpenter who advised there was no report.

Mayor & Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Jackson thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting. She appreciates the town workers for all their work. She mentioned it's always good to present instead of relying on social media. She congratulated Officer James and Officer Murph for their awards.

Commissioner Carpenter congratulated Officer James and Officer Murph. He mentioned he saw a few new faces out in the audience and encouraged them to come back. Commissioner Carpenter stated that Reggie and Daniel were doing a great job and thanked them.

Commissioner Hathcock thanked everyone in town who came to support the meeting. He thanked all the employees for the town for all of their hard work. He reminded everyone of the Cruise In this coming Friday. The big Cruise In will be next month in September. That will be the two-day event.

Commissioner Smith echoed what the other commissioners said. He thanked everyone for coming. He congratulated Officer James and thanked the police department for all they do. He also congratulated Officer Murph.

Commissioner Barbee thanked the town staff. He stated that he appreciated the board working together last meeting. He said Oakboro is like family and families are going to have disputes. He said to everyone "let's hold our heads high and keep going. He congratulated Officer James and appreciated all he has done. He advised him to keep listening to how he's being trained because he had no doubt that he was being trained by someone who knows exactly what they are doing. He also thanked and congratulated Officer Murph. He shared don't forget we are a family, and we do have our differences, but we will keep moving forward.

Mayor Huneycutt thanked all the employees for everything done. He congratulated Officer James for achieving Officer of the Quarter. He also shared that he went to the graduation for Officer James. Mayor Huneycutt stated, "Jason is a wonderful leader, and he has taught you a great deal." He also congratulated Officer Murph as well. He thanked the board for all of their hard work and all they do together. He thanked Ms. Harvey for all of her hard work and for everyone being present tonight.

Commissioner Barbee made a motion to go into adjourn and Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Christopher N Huneycutt, Mayor

Leslie Hatley-Murray, Town Clerk/Finance Officer