



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
February 19, 2024
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM**

Mayor Huneycutt welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked the town clerk to call the roll. Following that, Mayor Huneycutt asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Hathcock opened in prayer. Commissioner Carpenter, Commissioner Hathcock, Mayor Huneycutt, Commissioner Jackson and Commissioner Smith were present. Ms. Georgia Osborne-Harvey, Town Administrator, Mr. Daniel Smith, Parks and Recreation Director, Chief TJ Smith, Lieutenant Jason Eschert, Officer Payton James, and Officer Shane Allen were also present. Commissioner Brett Barbee was absent.

Public Hearing

The purpose of this public hearing is to hear comments for or against changing the mayor's term from two years to four years. The vote will be held at the next meeting to change the ordinance.

Regular Meeting

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

Mayor Huneycutt entertained a motion to approve the minutes from January 16, 2024 and January 27, 2024. Commissioner Carpenter made a motion to approve the minutes from January 16, 2024 and January 27, 2024. Commissioner Smith seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Mayor Huneycutt entertained a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$187,613.51. Commissioner Carpenter made a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$187,613.51. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Voted and carried unanimously.

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Mr. Billy Mills. Mr. Billy Mills shared some information on why he is running for county commissioner. He gave each board member his card.

Next, Mayor Huneycutt referred to Ms. Meghan Almond. She is running for the school board at large. Ms. Almond shared some information on her plans for school board.

Toys for Toys – Tim & Debbie Pressley

The Pressley's with Toys for Tots presented plaques to the Oakboro Police Department for raising money this season. With the Cop on the Top Program, Chief Smith helped to bring in \$4,885.71 and the police department collected 89 toys.

Mrs. Pressley also shared about K-9 Joker and all of his success raising money online and locally for Toys for Tots. The total amount brought into Toys for Tots was \$13,171.27.

She thanked the police department for taking the time to raise this money for the children in Stanly County.

Open Forum

Ms. Wendy Grocock with the Stanly County Health Department. She is a health educator and wanted to talk about the community assessment. She is asking for cooperation to get the word out a survey available. She said Atrium and Stanly County Health Department have teamed up and are looking to make plans for the next few years with the help of the surveys and other data that the state provides. Some areas they have focused on in the past is substance abuse, physical activity and tobacco use. The entire project is to be what Stanly County needs. She's making sure all municipalities know about this. The survey begins March 1 and goes through March 29, 2024.

Department Updates

Budget and Finance

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Ms. Harvey. Ms. Harvey updated the board on budget and finance. First, she reminded the board of the town's response to our audit. The responses have been completed and board approval is needed on those. A motion was made by Commissioner Hathcock to approve the audit responses and seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Voted and carried unanimously.

Secondly, Ms. Harvey shared that we needed to approve a budget amendment to our Charlotte Pipe fund for last fiscal year. A motion was made by Commissioner Jackson to approve the budget amendment to the Charlotte Pipe fund. It was seconded by Commissioner Hathcock. Voted and carried unanimously.

Finally, Ms. Harvey shared the updates for the various departments with revenue and expenditures:

	Revenue	Expenditures
General Fund	80%	71%
Water Fund	91%	48%
Sewer Fund	63%	53%

Cemetery and Streets

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Carpenter. Commissioner Carpenter asked Mr. Bowers to share information from this past month. He stated that in streets they had been working on cleaning out some storm drains and keeping the ditches clean. They also put stone on the gravel roads, installed new stop signs.

Commissioner Carpenter also reminded everyone of the cemetery price increase effective March 1, 2024.

Police Department

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Hathcock. He asked Chief Smith to share the police department updates.

First, Chief Smith introduced Officer Jzanese Weekes and she was sworn in by the town clerk. Chief Smith welcomed her to Oakboro.

Mayor Huneycutt asked for Lieutenant Eschert to come into the board room with K-9 Bane. Mayor Huneycutt read a proclamation for both K-9 Bane and K-9 Joker that recognized and congratulated all three for their hard work. Chief Smith also presented a Meritorious Conduct Award to both K-9 Bane and K-9 Joker.

Chief Smith mentioned that he had calendars to deliver. He had received phone calls about the calendars and wanted everyone to know he would get them delivered. He also said he appreciated the photographer, Leigh Walter, who came out and made the pictures at no charge.

Chief Smith finished with sharing the stats for the month:

Traffic Stops	285
Citations	123
Warnings	162
Arrests from Traffic Stops	7
Preventative Patrols	115
Radar Patrols	53
Checkpoints	1
Business Openings/Closings	252
Business Checks	401
Resident Checks	601

Parks and Recreation

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Jackson. Commissioner Jackson welcomed Daniel Smith on board with the town and wished him a happy belated birthday.

Mr. Smith thanked Commissioner Jackson and stated it was his first day back on the job and he was privileged to be back in this role after serving about a decade ago. He's very thankful to be back home and is looking forward to continue to offer some great events in our parks and recreation department. He thanks everyone for the help in transitioning since Mr. Almond left. Mr. Smith shared that he was very organized and left him in good shape and would make the transition easy. He appreciates his great work over the years he has been Parks and Recreation Director. He looks forward to working with everyone more closely. He thanked Travis Little for watching over the basketball games during the transition.

Public Works

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Smith. Commissioner Smith thanked Mr. Reggie Bowers and his department for always being out there and doing a great job. He then asked Mr. Bowers for any updates.

Water

- Installed four water meters at new residences
- Replaced three water meters at current residences
- Working with QCC – a company out of South Carolina that inspects and cleans water towers. They came last week and inspected the water tower and looked at the lights on the water tower. They came back today and replaced the lights on the water tower.
- No breaks on any water lines this month

Sewer

- Worked on seven E-1 Pumps
- Buster Road Pump Station has had some issues and Mr. Bowers is working with Clearwater to get that straightened out. He shared that this pump station is getting too much electricity
- Hamilton Pump Station had to be replaced
- Oaks at St. Martin had a wiring issue and the department fixed that
- Generator tests at each pump station were done this month – that is required twice a year by the state
- Power Outage last week and because Mr. Bowers was not notified the department had to get generators out to the pump stations
- Working with Stanly County on our EQ Basin - they are wanting to start using it more.

Advisory Board and Code Enforcement

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Hathcock. Commissioner Hathcock asked Ms. Harvey to share updates. Ms. Harvey shared that we have a request from Charlotte Pipe to close a section of Shinn Road which is on their property and not used by anyone on the road. She asked that we set a public hearing for our next meeting on March 18, 2024. Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to set a public hearing at 7pm on March 18, 2024 to hear comments for or against closing a portion of Shinn Road. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Ms. Harvey also shared that Stanly County DOT advised we needed to change our resolution on the Lighthouse Road closure. The previous resolution was corrected to the resolution that Ms. Harvey presented to the board. A motion was made by Commissioner Jackson with a second by Commissioner Hathcock. Voted and carried unanimously.

Historic Committee

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Carpenter. He asked Chief Smith if he had anything to share. Chief Smith shared the Historic Committee will be meeting about Oakboro Methodist Church and replacing the ramp.

Mayor and Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Jackson thanked Mr. Billy Mills and Ms. Meghan Almond for coming out. She thanked Chief Smith along with Lieutenant Eschert and K-9 Bane and K-9 Joker. She thanked everyone for coming out tonight to the meeting.

Commissioner Smith thanked Mr. Mills and Ms. Almond and wished them the best of luck. He welcome Officer Weekes and mentioned it was really good to have Mr. Daniel Smith back working with the town. He shared that Mr. Josh Almond did an outstanding job and he feels like Mr. Smith will continue to do great things. He stated there's a reason that dog is man's best friend and that we can learn a lot from them. He thanked Lieutenant Eschert.

Commissioner Carpenter stated he was glad everyone was present and encouraged them to come back. He thanked and welcomed Officer Weekes. He also thanked Mr. and Mrs. Pressley with Toys for Tots as well as Mr. Mills and Ms. Almond. He finished by thanking all of the town's employees.

Commissioner Hathcock thanked Mr. Mills Ms. Almond and wished them the best of luck. He thanked Mr. and Mrs. Tim Pressley with Toys for Tots and stating it was a very good cause. He thanked Officer Weekes and stated he was glad she was on board. He thanked Mr. Daniel Smith for coming back and that Mr. Josh Almond had done a great job. He thanked everyone for coming and encouraged everyone to come back.

Mayor Huneycutt finished up with thanking everyone for being here at the meeting to support Officer Weekes. He thanked Mr. and Mrs. Pressley with Toys for Tots. He also wished Mr. Mills and Ms. Almond the best and thanked them for coming. Mayor Huneycutt stated he was here when Daniel was here years ago and he knows he is going to do a great job.

Mayor Huneycutt stated there was a need for a closed session for G.S. 143-318.11 (6) and G.S. 143-318.11 (3). Commissioner Jackson made a motion to enter into closed session. It was seconded by Commissioner Carpenter. Voted and carried unanimously.

Closed Session


A motion was made by Commissioner Jackson to go out of closed session. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Voted and carried unanimously.

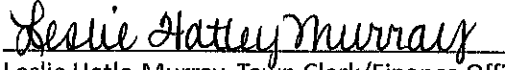
Open Session

Commissioner Smith made a motion to not purchase any police vehicles yet until we can sell the ones we do not use. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Continue Meeting

Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to continue the meeting til Saturday, March 16, 2024 at 9am.
Commissioner Jackson seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.


Christopher N Huneycutt, Mayor


Leslie Hatle-Murray, Town Clerk/Finance Officer