



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
November 18, 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. Daniel Smith and Mr. Reggie Bowers were also present.

Commissioner Jackson had the devotion for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Jackson shared from Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lead not into your own understanding, In all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your paths.

Approvals

Mayor Huneycutt entertained a motion to amend the agenda to move Mayor and Commissioner Comments following #13, Eddie Carrick, Auditor. Commissioner Barbee made a motion to approve the amended agenda and Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Mayor Huneycutt entertained a motion to approve the minutes from September 16, 2024 and October 21, 2024. Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to approve the minutes of September 16, 2024 and October 21, 2024. Commissioner Jackson seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Mayor Huneycutt entertained a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$424,611.61. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$424,611.61. Commissioner Barbee seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Oakboro Police Department

Mayor Huneycutt recognized Ms. Harvey. She shared that the town started taking applications for the chief of police late spring, early summer. She assembled a review team of the following: Leslie Bates, Ernie Broadway, Jeff Crisco, Lanny Hathcock and David Heath.

They met on November 6, 2024 to review the applicants that had submitted applications.

The committee chose two applicants to interview and brought one before the board for a recommendation. The board met on November 14, 2024 and met Mr. Neil Preslar. Ms. Harvey was pleased that the committee did choose someone who had 29+ years in law enforcement and is a Stanly County native. Ms. Harvey recognized Mr. David Heath.

Mr. Heath stated he was honored to be on the interview panel. He felt the group was a good diverse group that represented Oakboro. The committee looked at several candidates for the job and made a decision and that one gentleman came to the top of the list and there was no question he was the man for the job.

Mr. Heath formally recommended to the board for Mr. Neil Preslar to be our new Chief of Police for the Town of Oakboro.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to accept the committee's recommendation for Mr. Neil Preslar to be Chief of Police. Commissioner Hathcock seconded. Mr. Smith thanked the committee for their hard work. There was some discussion before the vote.

Commissioner Carpenter recognized Chief Joe Hatley with Mint Hill Police Department. He highly recommended Mr. Preslar. Mr. Carpenter also met with Mr. Preslar and also feels like he's the man for the job.

Commissioner Barbee mentioned that he was impressed with the characteristics of knowledge, handles his self at ease, views his job as a challenge, and humility.

Commissioner Jackson's main focus was treating everyone the same and treat them how you want to be treated. She said that Mr. Preslar assured her the community policing would continue.

Commissioner Hathcock mentioned he was honored to be on the committee as well. He agreed that Mr. Preslar was the man for the job. He mentioned he believes that this police department is going to be better than we have ever had.

Commissioner Jackson added that Mr. TJ Smith did not put in an application and said that he felt Mr. Preslar was the one for the job for Oakboro.

Commissioner Smith realizes sometimes we all get things right and sometimes we get it wrong, but the one thing the board got right was to (momentarily) make Neil Preslar our Chief of Police. He said this is the best decision for the town and Oakboro will be better off because of this. He wanted to congratulate Neil as our new police chief even though it's not official yet.

Mayor Huneycutt thanked the Board of Commissioners for their hard work on this task as well as the committee's hard work on going through the applications for chief. He feels Mr. Preslar will be a wonderful addition to the Oakboro Police Department.

Mayor Huneycutt called for a roll call vote for Mr. Neil Preslar. Commissioner Smith was a yes, Commissioner Hathcock was a yes, Commissioner Barbee was a yes, Commissioner Jackson was a yes, Commissioner Carpenter was a yes. Voted and carried unanimously.

Logan Marker – Girl Scout Projects

Mayor Huneycutt recognized Ms. Logan Marker and she thanked the board and the town for supporting her Girl Scout Gold Project. She has successfully completed that raising over \$7,500 for the new digital sign. She completed her project on September 30, 2024. She thanked Mrs. Leslie Murray for being her advisor and helping her out with the project.

Open Forum

No one signed up for open forum

Administration

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Ms. Harvey for any administrative updates. Ms. Harvey is seeking approval to purchase the property at 805 W 8th Street/204 & 212 N. Main Street. She explained the town has the opportunity to purchase this property for \$295,000. She would like to be able to expand for our services for our community. Commissioner Barbee made a motion to approve the land purchase. Commissioner Jackson seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Department Updates

Budget & Finance

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

	Revenues	Expenditures
General Fund	8%	30%
Water Fund	39%	19%
Sewer Fund	26%	31%

Cemetery & Streets

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Carpenter. Commissioner Carpenter referred to Mr. Reggie Bowers.

Mr. Bowers gave the following report:

- Worked on drain clean out
- Limb Pickup
- Christmas Tree and Christmas lights installed
- Trotters Ridge with the springhead problem fixed thanks to Mr. Mark Cash

Mr. Carpenter asked Mrs. Murray to give an update on the leaf pickup. She apologized for the lack of pickup of the leaves and stated that Waste Management will be in town this week and again December 11 and January 8 for leaf pickup.

Police Department

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Hathcock for police department. He asked Mr. Neil Preslar to introduce himself. He shared that he was looking forward to getting to know everyone. He gave an update of his background sharing that he worked for the Highway Patrol and spent 28 years there. He has learned a lot and seen a lot. He looks forward to working with everyone. His plan is to start November 25 with administrative work while he waits on his certification to come back from North Carolina.

Parks and Recreation

Mayor Huneycutt called upon Commissioner Jackson. Commissioner Jackson mentioned three things:

December 14 – Pictures with Santa, snacks and activities 10am-12pm

December 5 – Christmas Tree Lighting at 6:30pm

December 5 – Christmas Parade at 6:30pm

Public Works

Mayor Huneycutt called upon Commissioner Smith. Commissioner Smith referred to Mr. Bowers. He shared the following report:

Water

- Installed new meters
- Updated old meters
- Replaced old meters with
- General maintenance on water leaks
- Moved water services on Silver Road to the 2" line

While Mr. Bowers was speaking, a citizen asked if he had seen the water leak on Rock Church Road and Highway 205. Mr. Bowers stated they were aware and that it was on their to do list.

Sewer

- Repairs on E-1 Pumps
- Install new E-1 Pumps
- Pump Station at Streamside at Red Cross started up

Advisory Board/Code Enforcement

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Hathcock. He stated that Food Lion has started their renovations. Big Lick Gas Station has closed while they tear down the current building. They are looking at a 6 month time period while they rebuild.

Historic Committee

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

Eddie Carrick – Audit Report

Mr. Carrick shared the audit report with the board. He stated we had an “unqualified” or “clean” report which is what every board wants to hear. The board thanked Mr. Carrick for his work.

Mayor & Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Carpenter thanked the review committee for their hard work. He offered Mr. Preslar his help. He shared that Ms. Logan Marker did a great job. Commissioner Carpenter thanked everyone for coming and asked them to come back next time.

Commissioner Jackson thanked Ms. Logan Marker. She congratulated Mr. Preslar. She also thanked the review committee. She thanked the town citizens for coming out tonight. She also thanked the town workers for their hard work and dedication.

Commissioner Barbee thanked the staff and administration. He thanked Mr. Preslar for being willing to step up and serve. He also thanked David Heath and the review committee. He mentioned it was good to see all the faces.

Commissioner Hathcock thanked David Heath and the entire review committee. He thanked Mr. Preslar and said he was looking forward to seeing him over town. He thanked everyone for coming.

Commissioner Smith said how great it was that the town is beginning to get back in sync with people with our police department. He is thankful the board has worked together in this. He appreciated the review committee and their hard work. He shared he was elated that Mr. Preslar is the police chief.

Mayor Huneycutt agreed with everything that has been mentioned. He thanked Reggie and the town employees and that their work doesn't go unnoticed. He mentioned that we have a couple of ladies working in the office now and they are learning. He recognized Mr. Preslar and stated he knew he would do a good job.

Closed Session – G.S. 143-318.11 (1)(3)

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

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to return to open session. Commissioner Hathcock seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

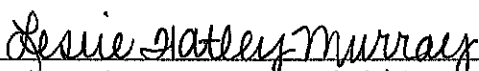
Open Session

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to do a one-time payment for the employees at Christmas. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Adjourn

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

Christopher N Huneycutt, Mayor


Leslie Hatley-Murray, Town Clerk/Finance Officer

