

August 14, 2023 Regular Meeting

Meeting minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was opened and called to order Mayor Marla Thompson at 5:30pm.

2. Roll Call

The roll call was taken. Aldermen Allen Bumgarner, Mayor Pro Tempore/ Alderman Randall Mays, Alderman Phyllis Pennington, Alderman Gary Lingerfelt, as well as Mayor Marla Thompson, were all present.

3. Invocation

The invocation was delivered by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt.

4. Approval of Minutes - July 10, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the July 10th, 2023 regular meeting were presented for approval.

Motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Randall Mays and seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner.

5. Items for Discussion

5.1. ARP Water & Sewer Tentative Award - McGill & Associates

The meeting moved into a discussion of the ARP Water & Sewer Tentative Award facilitated by Mike Patton and Tia Register from McGill & Associates. They recommended a contract award to Classic City Mechanical for a total base amount of \$1,348,822. The award was dependent on the approval of bid documentation according to the NCDEQ Division of Water Infrastructure. Concerns over Classic City Mechanical's low bid and possible subsequent change orders were raised by Alderman Mays. Mr. Patton and Ms. Register assured attendees that they had done due diligence, and the company had a good track record. A recommendation was made that the town should establish a construction contingency of \$67,400, approximate to 5% of the contract price.

No decision was made based upon the absence of Town Manager James Cozart. A special meeting will be scheduled at a later date to award the services.

5.2. Recognition of Lt. Davey Anderson - Police Chief TJ Bates

Lt. Davey Anderson was acknowledged by Police Chief TJ Bates for his completion of the Criminal Investigation Certificate Program through the North Carolina Justice Academy.

5.3. Recognition of Sgt. Hope Creed - Police Chief TJ Bates

Police Chief Bates acknowledged Sgt. Hope Creed. She was honored as the first female sergeant in 116 years of the town's existence.

5.4. Surplus of 2005 Ford Crown Victoria - Police Chief TJ Bates

Police Chief TJ Bates proposed the idea of surplus a 2005 Ford Crown Victoria. The vehicle had approximately 125,000 miles on it and could no longer meet the standards required to pass a North Carolina inspection. Chief Bates mentioned the need to use the car for parts due to the difficulty in acquiring parts for the remaining Crown Victoria vehicles in the fleet. A motion to surplus the vehicle made by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington.

5.5. Surplus of Police K9 Lucca - Police Chief TJ Bates

Police Chief TJ Bates discussed the retirement at surplus of K-9 Lucca. With age, Lucca was no longer able to perform his duties adequately, and it was time for him to retire. Police Chief Bates found an organization willing to take custody of Lucca and was working on preparing liability documents. A motion to surplus Lucca was made by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Randal Mays and seconded by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt.

5.6. Request for funding regarding Public Safety Training Facility - Police Major Justin Reid

Police Major Justin Reid requested funding for the next phase of the Public Safety Training Facility. The funding would be used for things like seeding the grass and other necessary items to have an operational firing range. The expenses had been thoroughly researched and quoted by different companies to ensure the town received the best price. A motion to approve the funding request made by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Randall Mays and seconded by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt.

5.7. Planning Board Appointment - Town Planner Charles Mullis

Town Planner Charles Mullis presented Gerald Bentley as a volunteer willing to serve a three-year term on the Planning Board. A motion to appoint Bentley to the board Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington.

5.8. Budget Ordinance No. 02-23-24 - Town Manager James Cozart

The ordinances for the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds for both water and sewer infrastructure were passed. The water and sewer mapping grants each received \$150,000 in funding. The budget ordinance amendment to adjust the utility fund to account for the expenses of the grants, which were reimbursable, was passed. The total amendment was for \$300,000.

A motion was made to accept Budget Ordinance 02-23-24 for water by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Randall Mays and seconded by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt.

A motion was made to accept Budget Ordinance 02-23-2024 for sewer by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington.

A motion to approve Budget Amendment #1 was made by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Randall Mays and Seconded by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt.

6. Public Comment

A member of the public, identified as Gary Crump of 33rd St. SW, asked for an explanation regarding the new tax rates in Long View. He questioned why Long View's tax rates were higher than both Catawba County's and City of Hickory's. The board members explained that due to being a small town, the town doesn't have the same revenue-generating resources that the county or city do. Despite lowering the rates, they still needed to ensure they could operate the town effectively.

7. Closing Remarks

In closing remarks, the board expressed prayers and concerns for Town Manager James Cozart and his family during a difficult time.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Alderman Phyllis Pennington and seconded by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.