

October 9, 2023 Regular Meeting- Open Session

Meeting minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Marla Thompson.

2. Roll Call

The roll call was conducted by Mayor Marla Thompson. All members of the Board of Aldermen were present: Alderman Allen Bumgarner, Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Randall Mays, Alderman Phyllis Pennington, Alderman Gary Lingerfelt, and Mayor Marla Thompson.

3. Invocation

The invocation was led by Alderman Allen Bumgarner.

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September 11th, 2023, meeting was approved.

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2023 meeting was made by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt and seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Randall Mays. The vote to approve was unanimous.

5. Items for Discussion

5.1. Surplus of Badge and Service Side Arm for the Retirement of Sgt. Kenneth Liedkie - Police Chief TJ Bates

Police Chief TJ Bates presented the intention to offer retiring Sgt. Kenneth Liedkie his service side arm and badge. Following the North Carolina law, the gun and badge are considered surplus and can be given as a retirement gift. Sgt. Liedkie is set to retire next month after 15 years of service. A resolution recognizing his dedicated service was adopted and would be formally presented at his retirement ceremony.

A motion to surplus the badge and gun for Sgt. Liedkie was made by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Randall Mays, and seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The vote to surplus Sgt. Liedkie's badge and service pistol was approved unanimously.

5.2. Surplus of Pistols - Police Major Justin Reid

Police Chief TJ Bates requested the board's approval to surplus the department's remaining expired handguns. The surplus includes guns that were part of the previously approved budget for weapon replacement.

A motion for the surplus of pistols was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner, and seconded Alderman Gary Lingerfelt. The vote to surplus the pistols was approved unanimously.

5.3. Request for use of the Ballfield at Rec. - Heather Minor Town Clerk on behalf of Cliff James

The Board discussed about the request from Mr. Cliff James of Wheelhouse Sports for the use of the ballfield from practice purposes for his 12U-14U Travel Softball team at the Recreation Center located at 3107 2nd Ave NW, Hickory, NC 28601. Mr. James has agreed to sign a contract drafted by Town Attorney Jimmy Summerlin stating that the town won't be held liable for any injuries or damages to property during his use of the field. It

was clarified that this use is strictly for practice and not for any games, and that no money can be accepted on the government property. Mr. James would be restoring the softball field to playing condition at his expense.

A motion was made to grant Mr. Cliff James the use of the softball field by Alderman Allen Bumgarner, Seconded by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt. The vote was approved unanimously.

5.4. Finance Report - Finance Director Melissa Lalonde

Finance Director Melissa Lalonde presented the finance report stating of September 30th, 2023, the Town has completed 25% of the fiscal year. In the general fund, they've received 24% of projected revenue, and have spent 22% of the expenditure. In the utility fund, 14.5% of projected revenues have been received and 16% have been spent. The utility fund expenses currently exceed revenue, but that will change once the reimbursement for the water sewer mapping grant is received. No action was needed or taken.

5.5. Manager's Report - Town Manager James Cozart

Town Manager James Cozart gave an update about the ATM across the street including informing the Board of the plans that had been given to Town Planner, Charles Mullis. Town Manager Cozart informed the Board the Clearwater Electric Building Reuse Grant had been completed. Town Manager Cozart stated he would be completing the RC2 Rural Center Program the following week which would give the Town a \$50,000 grant. Town Manager Cozart reminded the Board of the Trunk or Treat event at the Rec Center taking place on Tuesday, October 31, 2023. He also made mention that Town Clerk, Heather Minor will graduate from Clerk School and she will receive her certification as a Certified Municipal Clerk in January. Lastly, he informed that Love Longview Revival, organized by Faith Coalition, would be taking place this week through Thursday at Christ United Baptist Church. No action was needed or taken.

5.6. Public Comment

Mayor Marla Thompson called for public comment. Resident Genita Hill of 1317 21st St. SW shared her concern regarding the status of the Town's long standing grocery store, formerly Fresh Air Galaxy, now Piggly Wiggly. Mrs. Hill stated she had personally spoken to Ryan Grindstaff, owner, and he expressed financial needs of the grocery store. Mrs. Hill requested that the Board reach out to Mr. Grindstaff to see if there is anything that can be done to help him preserve the store.

5.7. Dismissal of staff and public

Mayor Marla Thompson informed the staff and public that the Town would be entering into closed session and if they wished to dismiss, they were welcome to. At this time, all remaining staff and public dismissed.

A motion to enter close session was made at 5:59pm by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt and seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The motion to go into closed session was approved unanimously.

5.8. Closed Session in accordance to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 to discuss:

The Board entered into a closed session as per N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 to discuss a Legal Counsel Contract and Retention as well as Town owned Property.

A motion to open closed session was made by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt and seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Randall Mays. The vote to open closed session was unanimous.

A motion to close closed session was made by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt and seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The vote to close closed session was unanimous.

****Closed session minutes are separately sealed.****

6. Adjournment

A motion to re-enter open session was made by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Randall Mays and seconded by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt. The vote to re-enter open session was unanimous.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The vote to adjourn the meeting was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Staff Present: Deputy Fire Chief, Tyler Keener, Fire Chief James Brinkley, Finance Director Melissa Lalonde, Town Manager James Cozart, Town Clerk Heather Minor, Police Chief TJ Bates, Public Works Director Chris Eckard, Town Planner Charles Mullis, Police Captain Dennis Hardin.

Public Present: Genita Hill, Terry Hall, Lisa Valdez