

November 13, 2023 Regular Meeting- Open Session

Meeting minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Marla Thompson at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The Roll Call was conducted by Mayor Marla Thompson and all members were present: Alderman Allen Bumgarner, Alderman Randall Mays, Alderman Phyllis Pennington, Alderman Gary Lingerfelt, and Mayor Marla Thompson.

3. Invocation

Alderman Gary Lingerfelt led the Invocation.

4. Approval of Minutes

October 9, 2023 Regular Meeting Open Session- A motion to approve the Oct. 9, 2023 open session minutes was made by Alderman Phyllis Pennington and seconded by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt. The vote to approve was unanimous.

October 9, 2023 Regular Meeting Closed Session- A motion to approve the Oct 9, 2023 closed session minutes was made by Mayor Pro Tempore/ Alderman Randall Mays and seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The vote to approve was unanimous.

October 13, 2023 Special Meeting- A motion to approve the Oct. 13, 2023 Special Meeting minutes was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The vote to approve was unanimous.

5. Items for Discussion:

A. Minimum Housing Ordinance No. 11-23 - Town Planner Charles Mullis

Town Planner Charles Mullis addressed the Board regarding housing case for the property located at 191 23rd Street Northwest, owned by Deborah Brown. The property has been deemed unfit for human habitation due to fire damage. Owner is still living in the property and has not acquired the necessary permits for repairs. Board was requested to adopt Ordinance Number 11-23 to proceed with legalities to ensure the owner vacates the property until necessary repairs can be made. The motion to adopt Ordinance No. 11-23 was made by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Randall Mays and seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The vote to adopt Ordinance No. 11-23 was approved unanimously.

B. Sweet Bay Lane Update - Public Works Director Chirs Eckard

Public Works Director Chris Eckard informed the Board that the paperwork for the state is completed and ground breaking should occur within the next month. The firm that won the bid has 240 days to complete the project from the start date. No action was taken or needed.

C. OneH2 Lease Extension Request - Town Manager James Cozart

OneH2 requested a lease extension to December 31st due to some concrete work needing to cure. City of Hickory, who's purchasing the property, has expressed no issues with the extension. The town has been asked to

approve the extension. The motion to extend the lease was made by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Randall Mays and seconded by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt

D. Approval of 2024 Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting Schedule- Town Clerk Heather Minor

Town Clerk Heather Minor presented the 2024 Board of Aldermen meeting schedule to the Board for the 2nd Monday of the month for the 2024 year, with the exception of November, which would be held on the first Monday in November as the 2nd Monday falls on Veteran's Day, which the office observes as a holiday and will be closed. Alderman Allen Bumgarner made a motion to accept the proposed meeting schedule for 2024 and was seconded by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt. The motion to adopt the proposed regular meeting schedule was unanimous.

E. Finance Report - Finance Director Melissa Lalonde

Finance Director Melissa Lalonde reported the standings of the Town's financials to the Board of Aldermen. She also presented three budget amendments for approval.

The first Budget Amendment pertained to the re-appropriation of \$32,488 capital outlay from the previous fiscal year for police vehicles. A motion to approve this budget amendment was made by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt and seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner.

The second Budget Amendment was for re-allocation of \$386 from the previous year's donations to the current year. A motion to approve the second budget amendment was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The motion was unanimous.

Finally, the third Budget Amendment was for replacing an AC unit in the recreation center, costing \$6,182. A motion to approve the third budget amendment was made by Alderman Phyllis Pennington and seconded by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt. The motion was unanimous.

F. Manager Report - Town Manager James Cozart

Town Manager James Cozart brought to the board's attention an inquiry from Century Furniture regarding the potential purchase of land adjacent to the rec center. The board explained the history of this property and determined that due to the topography and existing easements the property was not of value to the town.

Town Manager Cozart also mentioned his graduation from the Rural Community capacity program, qualifying the town to apply for a \$49,999 grant.

Town Manager Cozart commended Clerk Heather Minor for successfully graduating clerk school and receiving her certification.

Mayor Marla Thompson called for Public Comment, and there was none.

Mayor Thompson informed everyone that the board would be going into closed session and they could dismiss if they would like. The public and unnecessary staff went ahead and left. (5:50 PM)

G. Closed Session to discuss a potential legal matter in pursuant to NC GS § 143-318.11 (3)

A motion was passed for the board to go into closed session to discuss a potential legal matter as per NC GS § 143-318.11 (3) at 5:51pm.

The motion to enter into closed session was made by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Randall Mays and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The motion to enter into closed session was unanimous.

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

After the discussion in closed session was completed, a motion to close closed session was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt. The motion to close closed session was unanimous at 6:00pm.

A motion to re-enter open session was made by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Randall Mays and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The motion to re-enter into open session was unanimous at 6:02pm.

6. Adjournment

No additional comments were made.

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Gary Lingerfelt and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The motion to adjourn was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 6:03pm.

Staff in attendance: Town Manager James Cozart, Public Works Director Chris Eckard, Town Planner Charles Mullis, Town Attorney Jimmy Summerlin, Finance Director Melissa Lalonde, Deputy Finance Director Denise Collins, Fire Chief James Brinkley, Deputy Fire Chief Tyler Keener, Police Chief TJ Bates, Police Captain Dennis Hardin, Lt. Davey Anderson, Major Justin Reid, Town Clerk Heather Minor

Public in attendance: Genita Hill, Millie Drum, Ruth Owens