

September 9, 2024

Meeting minutes

Call Meeting to Order by Mayor Marla Thompson at 5:30p.m.

Roll Call

A roll call was conducted, and it was confirmed that all Aldermen were present: Alderman Phyllis Pennington, Alderman Tim Hertzel, Alderman Allen Bumgarner, Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt, Alderman Genita Hill, and Mayor Marla Thompson were all present.

Invocation

An invocation was led Alderman Tim Hertzel.

Approval Of Minutes

August 12, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting minutes from August 12, 2024, were also reviewed for approval. A motion to approve was made by Alderman Phyllis Pennington and seconded Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The motion to adopted was unanimous.

August 16, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes

A call was made for approval of the special meeting minutes from August 16, 2024. A motion was made by Alderman Genita Hill and seconded by Alderman Tim Hertzel. The motion to adopted was unanimous.

Items For Discussion

Adoption Of Ordinance No. CO-03-24-25

Storage Of Garbage Receptacles

Town Clerk Heather Minor presented updates on Ordinance No. CO-03-24-25 regarding garbage receptacle storage. Changes were made to enhance enforceability due to complaints about receptacles left at the road for extended periods. The ordinance now includes a section addressing chronic violators. The enforcement by the Western Piedmont Council of Government as a nuisance was discussed.

A motion to adopt the ordinance number CO-03-24-25 was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The motion to adopt the ordinance was unanimous.

Adoption of Amendment to Rec Center Rules/Application

A proposed amendment to the rec center's rules and regulations was discussed, specifically stating no duplication of building keys would be permitted under any circumstance. The rules now include consequences for violations, resulting in suspension from use of the Rec Center. The amendment aimed to curb unauthorized access to the recreation center.

A motion to adopt the amendment as present was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The motion to adopt was unanimous.

Adoption Of Ordinance No. CO-04-24-25

No Parking on Sweetbay Lane

The case for a no-parking ordinance on Sweetbay Lane was presented Police Chief TJ Bates. The roadway has faced recurrent blockages impacting residents, emergency access, and infrastructure. Despite efforts to engage Hickory authorities, local resolutions are deemed necessary.

Discussions highlighted unresolved concerns relating to the blocking of residence driveways and recently installed fire hydrants.

A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Alderman Tim Hertzell and seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The motion was unanimous.

Economic Development Update

Town Planner Charles Mullis provided an update on efforts to establish a partnership with the Catawba County Economic Development Commission, which has been challenging due to lack of communication reciprocated. It was noted that previous issues with the commission are outdated, and revisiting contact strategies such as physical visits were advised.

Several projects around town were reported, including an ongoing development at Carolina Container, where the project is 60% complete. Residential development was active with 10 new homes underway. A potential medical facility on 17th Avenue Circle Southwest was also noted, though specifics were not detailed.

There was inquiry regarding Habitat's involvement in local development, but no new information was available at the time.

Manager Report

The town manager provided updates on several projects: Updates to the removal of trees, gutter work, and drainage issues have been handled with Catawba Valley Family Medicine Long View. Town Manager James Cozart advised that we were just waiting on Duke Energy to connect power to the ATM. Lastly, Town Manager Cozart advised the board that the Town Clerk, Heather Minor had received her NCCMC designation from the North Carolina Association of Municipal Clerks in August. The Mayor presented the Town Clerk with her certificate.

Public Comment

There were no public comments during this meeting.

Closing Remarks

There were none.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Alderman Tim Hertzell. The motion to adjourn was unanimous and the meeting ended at 5:50 p.m.

Staff In Attendance:

Town Attorney Jimmy Summerlin, Town Manager James Cozart, Town Clerk Heather Minor, Finance Director Melissa Lalonde, Police Chief TJ Bates, Police Major Justin Reid, Town Planner Charles Mullis, Public Works Director Chris Eckard, Information Technology Alan Bumgarner, Fire Captain Alex Smith, Deputy Fire Chief Tyler Keener, Police Captain Dennis Hardin.

Public In Attendance:

Danny Huffman