

December 09, 2024 Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Meeting minutes

Call Meeting to Order

Mayor Marla Thompson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Alderman Genita Hill, Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt, Alderman Allen Bumgarner, Alderman Tim Hertzel, and Alderman Phyllis Pennington were present. Mayor Marla Thompson was also present.

Invocation

Town Manager James Cozart led the invocation.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 4, 2024 regular meeting were presented for approval.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Alderman Tim Hertzel and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The motion passed unanimously.

Lighting Up Long View Video Recap

Town Manager Cozart provided a recap of the 1st annual Lighting Up Long View event. He reported that it was a great success with a good crowd attendance. He praised the staff's collaborative efforts, from setting up the tree to handling various tasks. Mr. Cozart thanked the board members for their support and participation in activities such as helping with hot chocolate and children's crafts.

He acknowledged contributions from community partners, including: Open Door Bible Church, C.B. Hildabrand Public Library, and Highland Baptist Church.

A video recapping the event, prepared by Clerk Heather Minor, was presented to the board. The board expressed enthusiasm for next year's event.

Items for Discussion

Utility Analysis

Mr. Mike Patton from McGill and Associates presented findings from a utility analysis. Mr. Patton stated that the study showed that the current infrastructure can handle more capacity and that the Habitat of Catawba Valley project would be able to be handled on the current system, however, there is a present storm drainage issue that would fall to the land owner to maintain, as it is not the responsibility of the Town.

Mayor Thompson sought clarification on the storm drainage issue, confirming that it would be the responsibility of the property owners to address before or during construction.

Vacate and Close Ordinance

Kevin Wyatt from WPCOG Code Enforcement presented Vacate and Close Ordinance CO 06 24 25 on a property at 1929 First Avenue Southwest, allowing the owner 10 days to become compliant, or the Town will have the property boarded by, at which time the property owner will have 365 days to fix the property or the property can be served a notice to demolish.

Town Manager James Cozart asked Mayor Thompson if the Board would like to table this ordinance until January so that the Town Attorney and the Board had time to further review the ordinance and the violations. The Town Attorney said that the ordinance looked good to him and Mayor Thompson agreed to proceed.

Motion to vacate and close on this ordinance was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Alderman Tim Hertzelt. The motion passed unanimously.

Anti-Pornography Resolution Adoption

Town Manager Cozart presented a resolution prohibiting the viewing of pornography on town networks and devices, as required by new state law effective October 1st. The resolution outlined policies for employees, elected officials, and appointees, as well as reporting requirements and exceptions.

Town Attorney, Jimmy Summerlin, suggested amending paragraph 1 to include elected officials and appointees, matching the language in paragraph 2.

Motion to adopt the anti-pornography resolution was made by Alderman Genita Hill and seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt. The motion passed unanimously.

Economic Development Report

Mr. Mullis provided an economic development update naming two new businesses in town and several newly constructed or permitted properties for houses.

Adoption of 2025 Regular Meeting Schedules

Town Clerk Heather Minor presented the 2025 meeting schedule, following the pattern of second Monday of the month at 5:30 PM. She also provided an invocations schedule for board members.

Motion to adopt the regular schedule meetings was made by Alderman Tim Hertzelt and seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of 2025/2026 FY Budget Prep Schedules

Town Clerk Heather Minor presented the 2025/2026 FY Budget Prep Schedule to the board. Motion to adopt the 25/26 FY Budget Prep Schedule was made by Alderman Allen Bumgarner and seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt. The motion passed unanimously.

Call for Special Meeting

A special meeting was proposed for December 17, 2024, for board training by Town Clerk Minor. Two sessions were planned: 10 AM to 12 PM and 1 PM to 3 PM. The training session will be held at the Logn View Recreation Center located at 3107 2nd Ave NW.

Motion to call for a special meeting on December 17, 2024 was made by Alderman Tim Hertzelt and seconded by Alderman Phyllis Pennington. The motion passed unanimously.

Call for Public Hearing

Town Manager Cozart requested a public hearing for the next regularly scheduled meeting on January 13, 2025, to discuss a community development block grant application for improvements to the rec center, including ADA compliance upgrades.

Motion to call for a public hearing for January 13, 2025 was made by Alderman Genita Hill and seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore/Alderman Gary Lingerfelt. The motion passed unanimously.

Finance Report

Ms. Lalonde presented the finance report as of November 30th:

Additional utility information was provided, including the number of bills mailed and new service applications.

Manager Report

Mr. Cozart reported on upcoming initiatives, including the PARTF Grant which will kick off in January, the Senior Tech Program that should take place in March, and a reminder of the Employee Christmas Luncheon on Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00p.m. at the Rec Center.

Public Comment

Mayor Thompson called for a time of public comment. Town Clerk Minor advised Mayor Thompson that based upon the sign in sheet, there was no one signed up for Public Comment. Mayor Thompson stated that since there was no Public Comment, we would move on to closing remarks from the Board.

A lady in the audience stated that she wanted to make a statement.

Town Clerk Minor informed the citizen that public comments must be signed up for prior to the meeting beginning at 5:30 p.m. The citizen informed the clerk and the board that she thought by signing in, that would count as signing up for Public Comment. Clerk Minor reiterated that sign ups for public comment must be done prior to the meeting.

Mayor Thompson advised the citizen that she would just read her Public Comment statement and then she could have her public comment.

Carolyn Thornburg of 2203 6th Avenue Northwest, Hickory, expressed dissatisfaction with the town's holiday decorations, requesting more colorful and extensive decorations similar to neighboring towns like Granite Falls, Conover, and Newton.

Mayor Thompson responded that the town is working on improving decorations but noted that they are expensive and take time to implement. She mentioned that they are exploring grants and other options for future improvements.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Tim Hertzell and seconded by Alderman Allen Bumgarner. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Public in Attendance:

Carolyn Thornburg, Kimberly Cozart, Mike Patton-McGill & Associates

Staff in Attendance:

Town Manager James Cozart, Town Attorney Jimmy Summerlin, Town Planner Charles Mullis, Police Major Justin Reid, Police Captain Dennis Hardin, Fire Chief James Brinkley, Deputy Fire Chief Tyler Keener, Fire Captain Alex Smith, Finance Director Melissa Lalonde, Deputy Finance Director Denise Collins, Public Works Director Chris Eckard, WPCOG Code Enforcement Curt Willis, WPCOG Code Enforcement Chad Powell, WPCOG Code Enforcement Kevin Wyatt, Town Clerk Heather Minor