

Town of Macclesfield
Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting
April 8, 2024 @ 5:00 pm

Mayor Michael Speight called the meeting to order at 5:01pm. Members in attendance were Mayor Speight, Mayor, Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, Commissioner Joyce Braxton, Commissioner Paula Lewis, Town Clerk Gracieann Etheridge, Public Works Director Benjy Lassiter, and Town Administrator Jennifer Stanley. Citizens in attendance were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lewis. Special guests in attendance were Mr. Rich Moore of McDavid Associates, Mr. Brian Pridgen and Gabriel Du Sablon of Cauley and Pridgen, and Alex Paschal, Senate candidate from Ayden. Mr. Brad Evanson with TextMyGov was present via Zoom. Mayor Pro Tem/Commissioner Jason Taylor was absent.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles offered the invocation and all in attendance recited the Pledge to the American Flag.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed, the motion passed.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion passed.

The board recognized Mr. Charles Lewis to voice his concerns. Mr. Lewis explained to the board that his concerns were about the weekly debris pickup regarding empty lots and the definition of an empty lot. He also questioned the interpretation of a contractor in regard to someone hired to do yard work for those unable to do it themselves.

Mr. Alex Paschal introduced himself and stated that he was running for State Senate in November and wanted to come out and see what the town's needs are and how the General Assembly may be able to assist.

Mr. Rich Moore explained that there is an opportunity for the town to receive grant money through the CDBG-I Grant. This is a 100% free grant not a loan. It would be a good fit to renovate well #2 on Railroad Street. It could possibly be used to install ride by meters. The town is approximately 53% low to moderate income. The application deadline is April 30. He presented a resolution for allowing the Mayor ProTem to sign giving the Mayor authority to sign the application for the Community Development Block Grant – Infrastructure Program. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve the resolution allowing the Mayor ProTem to sign the resolution. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the resolution was approved.

Mrs. Stanley reported to the board that the bid cycle for the vac truck with Gov Deals has completed. The highest bid was \$1225.00. Commissioner Braxton made a motion to decline the bid. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and the bid was declined. It was explained that the board could relist the vac truck with a reserve or take it to Cox Salvage and sell it there. Commissioner Braxton made a motion to relist the vac truck on GovDeals. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion passed. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to place a \$2000 reserve. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion passed. Mrs. Stanley will have the truck relisted on GovDeals with the \$2000 reserve.

Mayor Speight began opening the bids for the surplus lawnmowers. Austin Wooten offered the high bid of \$300 for the Bunton lawnmower. Commissioner Braxton made a motion to accept the \$150 bid. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles made a motion to accept the \$300 bid. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed Mr. Wooten won the bid. Chevy Taylor offered the high bid of \$300 for the Bobcat mower. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to accept the bid of \$300. Commissioner Wooten Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed Mr. Taylor won the bid. Benjy Lassiter offered the high bid of \$600 for the John Deere zero turn mower. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to accept the \$600 bid. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed Mr. Lassiter won the bid. Benjy Lassiter offered the high bid of \$600 for the John Deere front deck mower. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to accept the \$600 bid. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed Mr. Lassiter won the bid.

Mrs. Stanley reported that the fencing at the Railroad Street well could be deleted from the agenda since that would be included in the CDBG-I grant project.

Mrs. Stanley reported that she received an email from RH CPAs and they are in the final stages of the 2022 audit and it should be completed in the coming weeks.

Attorneys Brian Pridgen and Gabriel Du Sablon were recognized to speak. Mr. Pridgen has another meeting to attend and will be leaving but wanted to introduce himself. Cauley Pridgen is a municipal attorney by trade and has submitted a proposal for approval by the board. They stated that someone would be available to attend the monthly board meetings. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to accept the proposal presented by Mr. Pridgen. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the proposal from Mr. Pridgen was approved. Mr. Du Sablon will remain in case there are any questions.

Mrs. Stanley introduced Brad Evanson, in attendance via Zoom and he began to explain TextMyGov. This is a system that will allow citizens, staff, etc. to report leaks, outages, emergency situations via text. The proposal presented will cost \$1500/year with an additional setup fee of \$750. This would be for a two-year term. The town would receive 10,000 text messages per year. Any unused minutes will carry over to the next year. Town staff will send a letter in bills to check for interest. The board agreed to table this until the next meeting.

Discussion began on the trash collection policy. There have been some instances that someone has been seen placing brush items from empty lots to citizen location. It has been stated that when a contractor does the work they must remove the debris. There has been furniture picked up that it was believed that someone was hired to remove from the residence. There was a question as to the definition of a contractor. It was explained that in this instance a contractor is "anyone that is hired to do work". Commissioner Braxton made a motion to change the policy. Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion. Mr. Du Sablon stated that the problem arises with the definition of a contractor and the wording of the policy. The item was tabled until the attorney can assist with the wording of the policy. Mayor Speight will also contact Ms. Brenda with Pinetops as to the wording of their policy.

It was explained that there were three applications submitted for the MS & RP Advisory Board. It was suggested that we extend the application period for another month. This item is tabled until next month.

Mrs. Stanley offered the finance report. She stated that the three savings accounts at Southern Bank have been closed and the funds moved to NCCMT accounts. The Quarter 1 totals were also given.

Mrs. Stanley reported that the Easter Egg Hunt was a success with a large attendance. There were plenty of prize baskets donated for the event. The town profited \$290.37 which will go toward the July 3rd event.

Mrs. Stanley reported that Mayor Speight has gotten donations for raffle items for the July 3rd event: There are 2 - \$25 Ribeyes gift cards, a Hedge Trimmer, a camp stove, 2 oil changes from Doug Henry in Tarboro, 2 - \$50 gas cards from Kwik Stop, a Yeti cooler, and \$200 from Macclesfield Grocery to go toward the fireworks. He would like to take the cash donations and purchase two guns and a \$250 Walmart card to include in the raffle. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles was against including guns with the state of society today. All other board members were in agreement. Mrs. Stanley reported that the winner will receive a certificate to go to Thompson Arms to pick up the gun – that way they have to go through the proper steps to legally register the gun. Mrs. Stanley will have the tickets completed next week.

Mrs. Stanley reported that she has received the funding approval packet for the CDBG-NR Grant. To give the board time to go over the paperwork, the item will be tabled until next month.

Mayor Speight also stated that he is able to purchase half chickens at a discount – could we do a BBQ chicken plate sale – for a donation of \$10/plate to help raise money for the fireworks. This will be discussed at next month's meeting.

Mr. Lassiter reported that the sewer inspecting, and smoke testing is completed. There were five (5) spots that were damaged when the fiber was installed – the pipe was completely compromised when the company was boring underground. The results from the smoke testing will be sent to try to get them included with the grant. Grass notices have been sent out as well as notices to remove junk. Mr. Weaver is looking for something to do with the property on Wilson Street. He is looking for Clayton Homes to place a new mobile home on the lot.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles mentioned that Ms. Knight asked about the grass growing around the Knight's graves. Mr. Lassiter spoke with Mr. Hobgood to have him cut a couple extra rows past the last graves.

Commissioner Braxton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed the meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.