

Town of Macclesfield  
Regular Session Board Meeting  
August 19, 2024 @ 5:00 pm

Mayor Michael Speight called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Members in attendance were Mayor Speight, Mayor Pro Tem/Commissioner Jason Taylor, Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, Commissioner Joyce Braxton, Commissioner Paula Lewis, Public Works Director Benjy Lassiter, Town Clerk Gracieann Etheridge, Town Administrator Jennifer Stanley, and Attorney Emily Cauley-Schulken.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles offered the invocation, and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked if the audit and the housing committee would be discussed. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the agenda was approved. Commissioner Taylor asked to add a brief closed session to the beginning of the meeting. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to enter into closed session. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the board entered closed session at 5:04 pm.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to return to open session. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion and with none opposed the board returned to open session at 5:08 pm.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles made a motion to approve the minutes from July 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

Commissioner Lewis informed the board that Ms. Pabingwit has asked if there is any way to put a speed bump on the road that goes beside the BBQ House. Mr. Lassiter informed the board that it is a state road and DOT would have to approve it.

Mayor Speight mentioned that the Grocery Store has stated that they have not been paying sales tax. When the account history was pulled, there were only two bills that were not charged sales tax. That could have been a computer glitch. Mrs. Stanley will print out a few of the bills to show him.

Mrs. Stanley stated that she met with Mr. Petrosky and his associate to discuss the progress on the zoning update and land use plan. Stewart has begun the leg work on this project. They have already submitted one invoice. They have not given a time frame for completion of the project.

The MS & RP Advisory Board has had two training meetings so far to give the committee the background rules and regs.

Mrs. Stanley reported that during the virtual meeting on August 6<sup>th</sup>, Macclesfield was not even mentioned. The appeal that was submitted explained that the audits are in progress.

The Bingo supplies are in. Mrs. Etheridge has a list of several interested participants. It was discussed that the prize for each round could be 50/50. Everybody likes cash.

Mrs. Stanley explained that there were two budget amendments for the board to approve. The first was to move funds from the Cash Management account and into the Capital Outlay/Equipment line item to cover

the purchase of the new bucket truck. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #1. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

The second is to move the funds from the Cash Management account and into the Operating Expenses to cover the zoning ordinance project. Commissioner Taylor made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #2. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

Budget Billing was mentioned at the last meeting. Our current software has the capability to allow budget billing. The MAS software from the league is not sure if the capability is there. They are doing some investigation to see if it is possible. It was explained that based on the customer's usage, they may owe more at the end of the year, or they may be due a refund.

It was asked if municipalities could go solar. It was mentioned that if so, it would be taking revenue away from the town. It was mentioned that there are grants available for individual homes to go solar.

Mrs. Stanley reported that the amount of interest earned for the previous month was \$3133.62. It was asked if the names of each account could be added to the report and Mrs. Stanley agreed to add that information to the next report.

It was reported that we are still waiting for the auditor to complete the FY 22 audit. Mrs. Stanley sent another batch of information to them last week. Discussion of the auditing contracts began.

Mr. Lassiter reported that the EPA is now implementing PFAS regulations with compliance required by 2029. We have to start testing to determine a base line. Mr. Lassiter sent one sample off and will call Mr. Mike Houston with NCRWA for explanation of the result.

During Tropical Storm Debby there were two outages, and both were on the Wilson side. There was some minor flooding around town and had to evacuate from one of the homes on Green St. The wastewater plant had extreme flows and had to be put on bypass as there was an intake of 1 million gallons over a three-day period. The plant did lose power, but the generator carried the plant. There are some manholes that will need to have caps put on them to help eliminate some of the flow from those.

Mr. Lassiter contacted Attorney Du Sablon regarding the vulgar sign on S First Street. The customer has been contacted and asked to remove the sign according to town ordinances regarding vulgar signs. We are waiting to hear back from Attorney Du Sablon.

The fence at the town common, on Green Street end, will need to be taken up and moved due to being a traffic hazard and if someone gets in an accident and gets hurt, the town would be liable.

Mr. Rich Moore with McDavid sent an email regarding the CDBG-I grant application. The application scored high enough to be funded but with the audits being behind, we are not eligible. If the FY22 and FY23 audits are completed before September, we can possibly be funded. If not, we can apply for the spring round, if held, but the 24 audit will need to be complete then.

It was discussed to call around to auditing firms to see if we can get someone that can knock out the previous audits. Upper Coastal Plains Council of Government may be able to recommend an auditor.

Commissioner Taylor thanked the staff for their hard work during the storm.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked if 620 N Railroad Street has received grass letter.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles mentioned that the community building has leaked around the AC vents. It was discussed to purchase wet floor signs for when the condensation builds around the vents.

Commissioner Braxton asked Mr. Lassiter if the Fire Chief has gotten a contract for the town yet. Mr. Lassiter stated that Chief Strickland had planned to be in attendance tonight.

Commissioner Taylor also asked about the fire tax as it was not on the current tax bills.

Commissioner Braxton asked about the event tent – does it need to be replaced or does it just need rope. Mr. Lassiter stated that it just needed rope.

Commissioner Braxton asked about Hardy Construction coming to complete the street repairs. Mr. Lassiter stated that Hardy was supposed to be coming this week.

It was brought up that the cemetery still needs to be re-rocked. Jeffrey's has submitted a quote for \$7500. The trees on the lot at the corner of Green and S Railroad has been quoted \$3300 to move them to Mr. John Clayton Harrell's lot behind the store.

Commissioner Braxton asked Mr. Lassiter if he had contacted the gentleman in Rocky Mount. He stated that he has not gotten in touch with Mr. Joel Dunn regarding the sponsorship of their fireworks. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles stated that Edgecombe Community College has a grant that opens March 25<sup>th</sup> that we can apply for to get \$3000 towards our fireworks show.

Commissioner Braxton asked if Meals on Wheels is worth it since there are only two citizens participating. It was reported that Ms. Jan Warren has several citizens that she is trying to get their interviews done and get them approved. Maybe we could post on Facebook for volunteers to help with delivery.

Mayor Speight mentioned that Tyrone Moore Trucking gets food and delivers it to towns for the cost of the fuel - \$500. They bring turkeys or chickens around the holidays. If that is something the town wants to participate in, Mayor Speight has the information. Its possible that the Bingo revenue could be put toward this cost.

Mayor Speight asked if the town cleans up the store at Green and S Railroad could the town put a lien on the property. Can the town legally remove the trees, etc. from the property. Mrs. Etheridge has a "contract" that was signed when Mr. Harrell began renting the building. Attorney Cauley-Schulken stated that there would be an automatic lien placed on the property.

Mayor Speight received a text from Jeremy regarding the quote on rock for the cemetery. His quote was \$8500. With Jeffrey's being the lower quote, Commissioner Lewis made a motion to have Jeffrey's re-rock the cemetery. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

Mayor Speight asked what the poles at the cemetery were made of and Mr. Lassiter stated that they were PVC. They are not meant to stop a vehicle, but more to keep people from running over graves.

Mayor Speight mentioned that the town has budgeted to pay the Sheriff's office \$60,000. He has called Mr. Mike Katagnus to find out how many calls they answer in town. His suggestion is to cut back on the number of days of patrol and use that money to cut back what is paid out of water and sewer for salaries and benefits.

Mr. Lassiter mentioned the signs in Tarboro on Howard Avenue.

Mayor Speight asked Mrs. Stanley to reach out to Pitt & Greene again about supplying the town's electricity. She stated that she would reach out again.

Mrs. Stanley reported that at the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, there needs to be a public hearing for the CDBG-I grant application.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to enter closed session. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the board entered closed session at 6:20 pm.

Commissioner Taylor reported that Attorney Du Sablon recommended that one of the commissioners record the closed session on their phone and send it to him to transcribe.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to return to open session. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and the board returned to open session at 7:32 pm.

The board began discussing the resolution to amend the personnel policy according to 160A-155 the responsibilities of the Town Administrator. Please see attached. This resolution will be effective August 19, 2024. Commissioner Taylor made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the resolution was passed.

Commissioner Taylor reported to Dennis Welch that due to the policy regarding nepotism, he is fired effective immediately.

Commissioner Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm.