

Town of Macclesfield
Regular Session Board Meeting
December 9, 2024 @5:00 pm

Mayor Michael Speight called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm. Members in attendance were Mayor Speight, Mayor Pro Tem/Commissioner Jason Taylor, Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, Commissioner Joyce Braxton, Commissioner Paula Lewis, Attorney Gabriel DuSablou, Public Works Director Benjamin Lassiter, Town Clerk Gracieann Etheridge, and Town Administrator Jennifer Stanley. The special guest in attendance was Ms. Andrea Radford with Stewart Engineering.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles offered the invocation and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Stanley asked that two items be added to the agenda – under new business the resolution to the personnel policy and under the closed session a utility account to review. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

Mrs. Stanley asked again about the closed session minutes from August 19th – the board voted to approve them at the November meeting, but there were never any signed and sealed copies turned in to be filed. After discussion it was determined that Attorney DuSablou would resend them to Commissioner Taylor who would get the board to sign them and then turn them in to be filed at the January meeting. Commissioner Braxton made a motion to approve the November regular session and closed session minutes. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

There were no citizen concerns at this time.

Commissioner Lewis asked if the town should pass a resolution in support of the proposed housing development just outside of the town limits.

Mrs. Stanley reported that the speed limit signs have been delivered. The boxes must be opened, and all components calibrated to each other before installation. And installation will begin after the first of the year. Mayor Speight asked Mr. Lassiter if that was something that public works staff could install, and he stated yes.

Mr. Lassiter forgot to remind Mr. Rich Moore of the meeting, so he was not in attendance.

It was mentioned that Ms. Parker, whose house is included in the CDBG-NR project, has sold the house. Mrs. Stanley stated that she would contact the COG to see what the next steps need to be as far as choosing a third home to replace.

Ms. Radford gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the community survey results and the land use plan and suggestions. There was a good response to the survey and Ms. Radford expects to have a draft land use plan available before the new year.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles reminded the board that congress and the senate will begin acting on items in January and asked that the town's "wish list" be sent to the representatives again. Mrs. Stanley stated that she would get the list forwarded to the senate and congress.

Mrs. Etheridge reported that the tree lighting went well. There was a good turnout and Webbs Chapel did a phenomenal job pulling things together. Mrs. Stanley stated that Ms. Vonda from Webbs Chapel called and spoke with her and Mrs. Etheridge this morning to set up dates for the Egg Hunt, Fall Festival and Tree Lighting for next year. She is looking forward to partnering with us for the upcoming events. The Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 5th; Fall Festival will be Saturday, October 11th (and will not interfere with the seafood festival); and the Tree Lighting will be Thursday, December 4th. It was asked that town staff send a "Thank you" note to Webbs Chapel for their help. It was also mentioned to make sure that Mr. Dave Sharpe at the Chamber has a list of town events so they can advertise for us on their website.

Attorney DuSablou stated that the resolution presented to the board for adoption was regarding the earlier discussions of the board regarding the Town Administrator and who approves time off for them. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve and adopt the resolution to the personnel policy. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

Mrs. Stanley gave the finance report with interest earned for the month being \$2,682.15, Expenditures for November being \$53,408.28, and income for November being \$88,038.27. She reminded the board that the interest rate for NCCMT accounts is going down as previously reported that it would. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked about the detailed financial report for the quarter and Mrs. Stanley stated that the quarter ends December 31st and the quarterly reports will be available at the January meeting.

Mr. Lassiter had nothing to report at this time for Public Works.

Commissioner Lewis asked to clarify that any dog complaints should go to the county. Any complaints regarding loose/stray dogs should go to the non-emergency Sheriff's Office number and they forward to animal control.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles had concerns about the old tree that is on Mr. Weaver's lot next to hers - part of it has already fallen and with the center being rotten, it's only a matter of time before the rest falls. Mr. Weaver has been asked multiple times to remove the tree because of the hazard. She also asked about any rules regarding appliances in the back yards of residences; any information on ARPA funds being available; and who had been doing underground work as Mr. Dupree had some water issues because of damage resulting from their working. Mr. Lassiter stated that it was a sewer cleanout that had been damaged but had been repaired.

Commissioner Braxton asked at the January meeting if the town could start discussing the July 3rd event.

There was discussion regarding purchasing new event banners for at least the July 3rd and Fall Festival events. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to purchase a total of eight (8) banners, four for each event. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

Mayor Speight mentioned the Christmas decorations looking worn. It was stated that staff have contacted the representative to purchase more bulbs. Commissioner Lewis asked if Greenville might have a surplus that they could provide us with.

DOT has been working on installing handicapped ramps on the town hall side of Railroad Street. It was asked if there could be some installed on the Common side as well. Mr. Lassiter will contact DOT to ask.

Mayor Speight mentioned that Mike is in the tire shop across the street now and is open daily and later in the day as well. Commissioner Braxton asked if anything could be done about all the tires outside the shop.

Brandon will begin cleaning up the old Mill next week.

Mayor Speight mentioned that he attended a mayor's meeting and during the meeting it was asked if the towns could try to gather supplies to send to Western NC to those affected by the hurricane earlier this year. The board decided not to participate in this at this time but would revisit later.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to enter closed session. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the board entered closed session at 6:27

Commissioner Taylor made a motion to return to open session. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the board returned to open session at 7:04 pm.

Commissioner Braxton made a motion to give staff an additional \$100 Christmas bonus (to go with the \$100 longevity bonus already received, to equal \$200). Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

Commissioner Taylor then made a motion to eliminate the longevity bonus going forward and for town staff to receive a Christmas bonus of \$200 each year. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

Mayor Speight asked about the board and the staff eating a meal together before Christmas. It was decided that everyone would be available on Friday, December 20th. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles made a motion to have a meal provided for the board and staff on Friday, December 20th. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried. Mayor Speight stated that he would call Abram's to have them provide the food. The meal will be from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm.

Commissioner Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.