

Town of Macclesfield  
Regular Session Board Meeting  
February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
5:00 pm

Mayor pro temp Jason Taylor called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm. Members in attendance were Mayor Pro Temp/Commissioner Jason Taylor, Commissioner Joyce Braxton, Commissioner Paula Lewis, Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, Town Clerk Gracieann Etheridge, Public Works Director Benjamin Lassiter, Town Attorney Gabriel DuSablou, citizen Deborah Lewis, NC Dept. of Commerce Community Economic Development Planner Bruce Naegelen, Upper Coastal Plain Council of Government: Planning & Development Services representative Ron Townley.

Followed by the invocation from Commissioner Wooten-Jiles. All in attendance recited the pledged of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. The motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Lewis, and seconded by Commissioner Wooten-Jiles. With none opposed the motion passed.

The motion for the approval of the minutes was given by Commissioner Wooten-Jiles. The second was given by Commissioner Lewis with a few corrections the board agreed that needed to be added. Once the corrections were noted the motion was passed with none opposed.

#### Citizen concerns

1. There were no citizen concerns at this time.

#### Old business

1. Rich Moore with McDavid – didn't show up to this meeting.
2. Andrea Radford with Stewart Engineering was with us on the phone to state that she would be emailing the completed document of the Land Use Plan & Zoning assessment to the staff for a good look over to see if there needed to be any changes made before she was to present it to the board members at the next board meeting for adoption. Also, about the public hearing requirements.
3. CDBG-NR Elisabeth Raskopf – they didn't show up to this meeting.
4. Macclesfield Facebook Page- the commissioners want it down but don't think it's convenient to take down seeing how as the community will give lots of backlash. But they do agree that something needs to be done about it because it's more like a community page opposed to an update page about the TOWN. Attorney DuSablou gave input to say that they never voted to remove it.
5. MS & RP (want to be referred to the "Macclesfield Community Development Advisory Board") in the future. Bruce Naegelen got up to the podium and explained that the current president of the board would be stepping down for personal reasons,

and the VP Deborah Lewis would be filling in for the time being. He explained some of the projects and workplan that they do have in motion and ideas to improve the town. Like cleaning up the empty lot on Edgcombe Street where the old post office burned down. Possibly have some historical workshops here in town. Try to encourage the building owners to improve the appearance and maintenance of those buildings. Enhance the signage and landscaping of the town entrances. Commissioner Lewis made the motion to accept a 2-year work plan. It was followed by a second by Commissioner Wooten-Jiles. With none opposed the motion passed. There was a motion to adopt the calendar of events by Commissioner Wooten-Jiles. This was second by Commissioner Lewis. Motion passed with none opposed.

#### New business

1. AskAshleigh – this service was explained to be a type of assistance with a virtual care giver that would be available 24/7 by text chat / photos with questions or concerns for health issues. It was stated to be very confidential. This is an active AI tool. This could possibly assist in helping elderly people around town.
2. Electric charging stations grant – this is where Mr. Ron Townley with UCP COG began to inform the board members of the grant opportunities that were available for electric charge stations to help smaller towns become more involved with renewable clean energy. They want lower vehicle emissions. With this presentation he was very adamant about this being the information sessions to basically get all the questions that they could possibly have. That he will be returning to the next monthly meeting to discuss the decision process with the board members. Also, the next stages of the project; looking at numbers cost and analysis. He talked about the upfront cost to the town, and they would be reimbursed by the state on a quarterly basis. Restating that would be to create clean energy and to reduce the emissions in the air from gasoline vehicles. If the town was granted an award that is not enough; the town will have to cover the cost out of their budget. Any towns/ cities participating would have to cover a minimum of 20%–24% of the cost anyway. There could be a 2/4 station setup for cars depending upon the amount of traffic they assume it will bring. There would need to be handicapped accessibility. The board members would ultimately have to decide by the next board meeting because the deadline for application is March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025. It was said that he estimates it would cost roughly fifty to seventy thousand dollars, and there would be some type of maintenance cost and yearly reports.

#### Administrative reports

1. Finance – Mrs. Etheridge reported that there was a gain of \$2,642.41 in interest from the trust accounts for the month. Also explained the account standings as of today how much of each fund was spent on the budget.

2. Public Works – Mr. Lassiter reported that the speed limit signs were finally going up and they had to work out the fine tuning on them and get more materials to hang the third sign up. He had his first WWTP inspection last week since becoming the ORC and stated that he would be getting a report in his email of how it went, and things that would need to be handled. There was a 24-hour boil water advisory that was sent out due to water pressure loss in the system. There was nothing wrong with the water, but we sent out the advisory to be safe. Mr. Moore told him that the water infrastructure advertising bids go out on Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and the pre bid conference will be held March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, then they would have to receive the bid packages back by March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to be considered for the job. It was reported to the board members that the NCDOT came back and filled the sidewalks and curbing with dirt/ gravel to finish up the work they did on the handicapped accessible ramps in town.

#### Commissioner concerns

1. Mr. Taylor was giving praise to the staff/employees for the neat and timely manners things were being requested and handled. Mrs. Wooten-Jiles stated that she was also pleased with the way the statements were presented to her to review upon request.
2. Mrs. Wooten- Jiles was discussing getting off the list in Edgecombe County. And the county is encouraging the community to get involved to work in any of the four focus groups to get more information to improve situations. AI Academy - UCP COG - hosting classes to help learn about how to use it and how it can affect the municipalities. They are encouraging attendance, and this can help stay informed. Also, the very bad looking tree to be cleaned up on a property near Brick Mill Road power lines.

#### Announcements

1. Next board meeting will be held March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 5:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm. The motion was made by Commissioner Lewis and seconded by Commissioner Braxton; with none opposed the motion passed.