

Regular Session Board Meeting  
January 8, 2024 @ 5:00 pm

Mayor Michael Speight called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Members in attendance were Mayor Speight, Mayor ProTem/Commissioner Jason Taylor, Commissioner Joyce Braxton, Commissioner Paula Lewis, Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, Town Administrator Jennifer Stanley, Town Clerk Gracieann Etheridge, and Public Works Director Benjy Lassiter. Guests in attendance were Pastor Stephen Duncan, and Mr. Rich Moore with McDavid Associates.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion and with none opposed, the motion carried.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles requested a correction of the minutes on page 2 regarding the fire tax. Where stated that Commissioner Wooten-Jiles understood the concerns... She wanted it clarified that she stated the board had already voted on the fire tax. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion with the correction stated and with none opposed, the minutes were approved.

Webbs Chapel Pastor, Stephen Duncan approached the board to introduce himself to the new board members and to reiterate his commitment to Macclesfield. The board expressed their appreciation to the church for their support.

The board recognized Mr. Rich Moore with McDavid Associates for an update on the AIA projects. These grants were applied for when the town was placed on the Distressed Community List. Work will start in

approximately three (3) weeks. He stated that McDavid is also working with Mr. Tirence Horne (UCPCOG) on some stormwater grant possibilities.

Hardy Construction is working with the town on the needed street repairs. Weather permitting, they will start work next week.

Benjy is still obtaining quotes for the fence around the well on N Railroad Street.

Mrs. Stanley included a quote for the mats and additional chair rack for the community building in the packets. Commissioner Braxton made a motion to purchase the items in the quote. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion and with none opposed, the motion passed. Mrs. Stanley will order the items in the coming week.

Mrs. Stanley advised the board that Attorney Chris Edwards will be raising his hourly rates. Commissioner Taylor stated that he would get a list of attorneys he knows together for the board to consider.

Mrs. Stanley gave the finance report - \$3,139.86 interest earned the past month. The expenditures for December as well as the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter revenues and expenditures were included in the packets and Mrs. Stanley is available any time to answer questions. She included the revenues for 2023 for the community building.

Mrs. Stanley informed the board that the CDBG-NR is supposed to announce the grant awards this Friday.

The trucks mentioned at the last meeting for Public Works, once ordered will take 1.5 to 2 years to receive. It can also be budgeted for in two fiscal years. The board agreed to sell the old equipment mentioned previously.

Mrs. Stanley called the boards' attention to the letter regarding updating the state mandated roads to ADA compliant. Mrs. Stanley added an entrance to the walking trail as well for ADA access to the event area. Commissioner Braxton made a motion to approve the letter. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the letter was approved.

Mrs. Stanley reported that she spoke with Mr. Joe Durham regarding Commissioner Wooten-Jiles' concerns regarding the use of capital funds. If at the end of the fiscal year, there are any surplus funds they can be amended and moved to purchase items such as electronic speed limit signs.

Mrs. Stanley asked the board to consider Budget Amendment #1. This amendment is to move \$15,000 from the NCCMT savings to the Central Checking. This will allow the remaining street repairs to be completed. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles made a motion to approve the budget amendment.

Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed the budget amendment was approved.

It was mentioned that in the "Elected Officials Guide" that in December, the board voted on the Mayor Pro Tem. In the past, of the two elected commissioners, whoever received the most votes was Mayor Pro Tem. The board discussed and Commissioner Lewis made a motion to have the one with the most votes be the Mayor Pro Tem. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and the motion passed. Mrs. Stanley will update the guide.

Mrs. Stanley asked the board to look over proposed budget workshop calendar. After discussion, it was decided to have the workshop on the same day as the board meeting an hour before.

Mr. Lassiter reported that Public Works staff has started the lead and copper inspections. The list of security lights needing to be repaired has been 70% completed. It was asked to make Mr. Harrell's light an immediate priority. Mr. Lassiter also reported that with the five (5) inches of rain received, there was a sewer overflow due to the plant being overloaded. He has contacted the state by phone and in writing. Over a four-day period, the plant had a flow of 350,000 gallons. The chlorine pump at the plant went down the same week. The SCADA system alarm was working but it was not calling the on-call person as it should.

Commissioner Lewis stated that Mr. Don Webb is concerned about ruts in the lot across from his that were left after Xylem completed their tree trimming. Mr. Lassiter will go by to inspect.

Commissioner Taylor brought up the clean up of limbs across from the fire department. Mr. Lassiter stated that the work was completed by Spain's Landscaping.

Mayor Speight has an interest in starting a monthly Bingo at the community building to bring the community together. A letter will be included in the monthly bills to inquire about the citizens' interest in this activity.

The Easter Egg Hunt was mentioned, and it was agreed to partner with Webbs Chapel again this year. Discussion began on the Christmas decorations – could the bulbs and sockets be replaced? It was stated that the sockets can be replaced, and we have been replacing the bulbs.

It was asked if there was anything in the ordinances regarding renters and the accumulation of trash. The ordinances are extremely outdated and are in dire need of updates. The board agreed to begin workshops to begin the process of updating. Mayor Speight will check with Pinetops for a copy of their ordinances as a sample.

It was discussed that some houses in town need to be condemned – the county will have to condemn them.

The Macclesfield Mill was mentioned that the area around the building needs to be cleaned up. Mr. Lassiter stated that he will speak with Mr. Harrell.

Mrs. Stanley stated that Chevy Taylor started WWTP Operator certification classes this week. He will attend class twice per week for 13 weeks.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 pm.