

Town of Macclesfield
Budget Public Hearing
Regular Session Board Meeting
June 10, 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 Attorney Gabriel DuSablou, and Town Administrator Jennifer Stanley. Guests in attendance were Fire Chief Ethan Strickland and Ms. Pam Hurdle (NCLM).

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

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

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 13 Regular Session and May 31 Special Called meetings. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

With no citizen concerns discussion of old business began.

Mrs. Stanley explained that she had received an email from Ms. Jacobs regarding the food distribution. With an issue regarding the storage of the food, the state would not approve the site and the distribution will not happen at this time.

Mrs. Stanley reported that there are four eligible candidates for the MS &RP Community Advisory Board. After reviewing the applications, Commissioner Lewis made a motion to accept the four applicants for the Advisory Board. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried. Mrs. Stanley will work with Mr. Bruce Naeglan to get the training sessions scheduled.

Mrs. Stanley has been in contact with Mr. Luce with GFL and explained that the town is investigating bringing garbage services in house. He has agreed to renewing the contract on a year-to-year basis until the town decides the path forward. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to accept the one (1) year renewal with GFL. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

Discussion of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 began with Mrs. Stanley going over the budget ordinance, fund summaries, and rate increases. It was reported that the proposed budget will be available for citizen review at the Town Hall until the Special Called meeting on June 24th to pass the budget. With no further discussion, the meeting progressed.

Mrs. Stanley gave the finance report stating that the NCCMT 6998 account balance includes the payment of \$418 from Debt Setoff and the transfer of the Debt Setoff payments (~\$1300) to Central Checking.

The July 3rd event fund has a balance of \$4,625.90 including the ticket sales and donations. There are still 601 raffle tickets and 624 50/50 tickets still out. It was requested that all tickets and money be turned in as

they are sold. There will be a table for the town to sell the tickets on the day of the event and Commissioners are requested to help man the table during the event. The Sheriff's office will have four(4) officers present for the event – Two (2) will be paid for by the town and two (2) will be paid by the Sheriff. It was requested that the town hall close at 3:00 pm on July 3rd to allow staff to focus on getting the vendors to their spots. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to close the office at 3:00 pm on July 3rd. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

The FY 23 audit has not been submitted yet and there has been notice received that there is the possibility of the sales tax revenue being withheld from the town until the late audits are submitted. This is not an automatic withholding – the LGC will have to initiate this action.

Mrs. Stanley has spoken with Mr. Carey (RH Consulting) regarding the FY 22 audit. Mr. Overton has had to make multiple corrections to the work done by Greg Isley's firm, and this has caused a delay in the FY 22 audit. Mr. Carey is expecting to request the final bit of information and have the audit completed this month. He will begin working on the FY 23 audit in mid-July and will be sending the FY 24 contract to the LGC for review.

With the audits still behind, the State Treasurer's office has notified the town that Macclesfield is still on the Unit Assistance List. The town has corrected the internal control issues found in the FY 21 audit so once the audits are caught up, the town SHOULD be able to be removed from the UAL.

Mrs. Stanley reported that the information requested by Senator Smith and Representative Willingham has been forwarded to their offices. Any further information received will be forwarded as well.

The renewal of the Backup ORC contract for the Wastewater Treatment Plant is due. Mrs. Stanley reported that she is requesting an increase from \$100/month to \$150/month for the service. Attorney DuSablou stated that he has reviewed the contract, and everything looks good. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve the increase and renew the contract with Mrs. Stanley. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

Mr. Lassiter stated that he had gotten quotes on the garbage truck and roll out carts and is awaiting quotes on the generators for the town hall and wells. He stated he has also met with someone to quote extending the fence at the park. That person will be sending Mr. Lassiter a quote.

While on vacation, there was a sewer main repair that needed to be done. Chevy and Austin worked tirelessly to get the job done and were able to get the repair completed in house.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to enter into closed session. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion and with none opposed the board entered closed session at 5:43 pm.

Commissioner Braxton made a motion to return to open session. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed the board returned to open session at 5:56 pm.

Commissioner Taylor reported that he attended the Fire Department meeting last month. He reminded the board of the need for a contract with the fire department.

Mayor Speight stated that he had met with Mr. Dave Sharpe (Tarboro Chamber) and Mr. Sharpe stated that the Chamber would like to donate a sign to be placed in the common area for announcements and events

for the town. The town staff would need to change out the lettering each time but it would be at no cost to the town. Mr. Lassiter will check the zoning ordinance on sign regulations as well as checking with DOT since it will be off a state road. Commissioner Taylor made a motion to approve having the sign installed, with proper setbacks, etc. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

When asked about the ATM, Mrs. Stanley stated that she has put out feelers with other ATM companies. Mayor Speight recommended checking with Ms. Nancy Bullard at Southern Bank since the town has their accounts there.

Mayor Speight asked about an update on the CDBG-NR grant progress. He has spoken with one of the landlords in town and they are willing to work with the town to rent homes to the families participating in the grant, but he will need a schedule. Mrs. Stanley will reach out to Ms. Hines tomorrow for an update.

Mayor Speight mentioned moving ahead with the Bingo event. Commissioner Braxton made a motion to purchase the needed Bingo equipment. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried. Mrs. Stanley will order the equipment and will place a notice in the bills regarding the event. Mrs. Etheridge asked about the frequency of the event and it was agreed to start with once a month to see how it goes. We will look at a calendar and decide the best time to hold the event and have volunteers to work the event.

It was reported that the gentleman that was interested in purchasing the store on the corner of Green and South Railroad has backed out due to the amount of liens against the property. There have been several inquiries from people wanting to rent it out.

There was an incident over the weekend with an extremely loud party going on around Cale Town. It was agreed that the noise ordinance needs to be updated so we are able to enforce it.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked about the filling of pot holes and repairing of drainage issues through town as there are some areas on her street that need to be repaired. Mr. Lassiter reported that the state was repairing only those on state roads and her road is not a state road. He will contact Hardy Construction again regarding the repair of the town streets.

Mayor Speight mentioned that he had spoken with Ms. Amy Dixon at the hospital regarding donation of some equipment for the park. Mr. Trey Lewis has agreed to help the town write a letter requesting donation of park equipment. Mrs. Stanley will place the letter on letterhead and it will be sent to the hospital, ECU Health, and Lowe's.

Concern was voiced about the grass beside the shop and on the corner as well as the grass at the late Mr. Knight's home.

Another concern was regarding the update of the board information on the website. Mrs. Etheridge will begin working on that tomorrow.

With nothing further, Commissioner Braxton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion and with none opposed the meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm.

Town of Macclesfield