

Town of Macclesfield
Regular Session Board Meeting
March 10, 2025

Mayor Michael Speight called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm. Members in attendance were Mayor Speight, Mayor Pro Tem/Commissioner Jason Taylor, Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, Commissioner Joyce Braxton, Commissioner Paula Lewis, Town Attorney Gabriel DuSablou, and Town Administrator Jennifer Stanley. Special guests in attendance were Rich Moore with McDavid Associates, Ron Townley with UCP COG, and Lieutenant Robert Tinder with Edgecombe County Sheriff's Office.

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

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes from February 10th and February 12th. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

There were no citizens present but Mayor Speight stated that several had been calling him to complain about the homeless man that has been going door to door at all hours knocking on doors and windows trying to get money. He has also been seen stopping cars in the middle of the road as well as approaching people walking. Attorney DuSablou stated that soliciting funds (unless done aggressively) falls under the 1st Amendment rights. Lieutenant Tinder also stated that unless there is a posted "No Trespassing" sign at a location, the officers cannot enforce it. The board agreed to have staff put a post on the town website and Facebook page to inform the citizens that if they have a "No Trespassing" sign posted on their property, when people come around at unreasonable hours soliciting for money, they can call the Sheriff's Office and the officers can then remove the individual. It was also recommended by Attorney DuSablou that the property owners present a "Ban Letter" when someone is trespassing on their property. Mrs. Stanley agreed to work with Attorney DuSablou to get the statements and ban letter written.

The board recognized Mr. Rich Moore with McDavid Associates to speak. Mr. Moore gave an update on the WWTP project. A Pre-bid meeting was held last week and there were three contractors to show up – T.A. Loving, English Construction, and State Utilities. The bid opening will be held next Tuesday, March 18th at 2:00 pm. Mr. Moore stated that if three bids are not received, then the bid process will have to start over. He asked to be placed on the agenda for the April meeting in hopes to announce a contract award.

Mr. Ron Townley with UCP COG was then recognized to speak. He briefly went over the grant application for the electric vehicle chargers. The grant amount is approximately \$35,000 with a match amount of approximately \$8500 for the town to pay out of pocket (which can include any work done on the project by town staff). Mr. Townley feels the application is a competitive

application but is going to add a little more description on the project itself to help boost the strength of the application. He did remind the board that applying for the grant does not commit the town to following through with the project. If awarded, the town has the right to refuse the grant if they want. There was a question if hypothetically a vehicle was somehow damaged while charging at the town's charger, would the town be liable to pay for the repair/replacement of the vehicle. Attorney DuSablou and Mr. Townley stated that they would do some research on the topic. It was also discussed that the town would have to pay for everything up front and then be reimbursed with the grant funding. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles made a motion to apply for the grant. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion. Commissioners Braxton and Taylor were opposed at this time. Mayor Speight broke the tie, and the motion to apply for the grant passed 3-2.

The contract with the City of Wilson was discussed. The rates in the contract are subject to change, the town can exit the contract with 12 month written notice. The contract is for 5 years and will automatically renew for an additional 5 years. In 2035, the town has the option to renew for an additional 10 years. Commissioner Taylor made a motion to approve the contract with the City of Wilson. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

The draft Land Use Plan was included in the commissioners' packets. This will be posted to the website and the link posted on facebook and included on the utility bills. There will need to be a public hearing during the regular board meeting on April 14th to adopt the Land Use Plan. Once adopted, work can begin on the zoning ordinance updates.

Mrs. Stanley reported that the NCLM has cancelled the Municipal Insurance Trust as of June 30, 2025. This means that the town must find providers for the health benefits for the staff. NCLM has partnered with the Hilb group to assist municipalities with the search and transition. Mrs. Stanley has attended two virtual workshops and is waiting to hear back from Mr. Huff with the Hilb Group with a quote. Commissioner Taylor stated that he would contact a couple of his acquaintances that may be able to assist as well.

Mrs. Stanley gave the finance report. Interest earned for the past month was \$2,382.79. Expenditures were \$92,337.92 and Revenues were \$119,405.79.

- The public works department's on call back pay was taken care of and the total paid was \$2,979.77.
- "Remote PC" is a program that the town pays for that allows remote access to FMS as well as the ability to answer the office phone. Mrs. Stanley wanted to confirm that staff is no longer allowed to work remotely and will cancel the service.
- The unclaimed property (utility deposits and vendor payments) was turned over to the Department of the State Treasurer. The total amount paid was \$11,514.47. If someone has unclaimed property, they can go to the NC Cash website and request it there.

Mrs. Stanley informed the board of the NOV received for high nitrogen at the WWTP. This violation occurred when the tertiary filters were down but have since been repaired and levels are back to normal.

Public Works Director Benjy Lassiter is working with Brightspeed regarding pole attachments. There was a draft "Pole Attachment Agreement" sent to Attorney DuSablon for review. He stated that he would work with town staff to prepare a more in depth agreement.

Mayor Speight asked about the straps needed to install the last speed limit sign as well as questioning if there were some driveways the town was supposed to be constructing. Mrs. Stanley stated that she would discuss these items with Mr. Lassiter.

Commissioner Braxton asked if a letter could be sent or something done about the mess at the "blue house" on S Third Street. It was mentioned that the vehicles at Mr. Tim Cole's store were also an eyesore.

Mayor Speight stated that when he was at Ace Hardware, they asked if the town was taking donations again this year for the July 3rd Celebration. They donated a drill and Holden Temporaries has donated \$300 in memory of Monteena Harrington. Mr. Michael Bridgers has promised to donate \$1500. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to allow Mayor Speight to take the cash donated and purchase prizes for the raffle. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried. Mrs. Stanley will get the sponsor letters ready for Mayor Speight to have on hand to give to any potential sponsors.

It was asked if the town's "wish lists" had been sent to the representatives for consideration of assistance. Mrs. Stanley stated that she had sent the lists to Senator Wellingham, Senator Smith and Senator Tillis in January. The board requested that the lists be sent again.

It was asked if the Easter Egg Hunt was going to be held in town. It was discussed that the town is working with Webbs Chapel to put on the event. It was asked for the event to be advertised on the town website and facebook pages.

Mayor Speight reported that Mr. Chris Weaver has several tenants that are stating they will have to move because of the high utility bills. Mrs. Stanley stated that the majority of the bills that were high this month was because of the high amount of kW used by the residents. Mayor Speight asked for a profit and loss report on the electric account to be available at the next meeting. Mrs. Stanley agreed to have that prepared.

Discussion began again about budget billing and a type of smart meter was mentioned that some places have available for their customers. It is a "pay as you go" prepaid sort of system that lets the customer know how much is left on their account and when to add money.

Mayor Speight mentioned that he had been at the community building and it is very outdated. There are several things that need repair or updating such as the exit signs, driveway needs some rock, some doors need repair, the walls need to be painted, the fire extinguishers need to be checked, etc. It was also mentioned that the town may want to consider having internet access available at the community building as well. Mayor Speight stated that he would do a "walk through" with Mr. Lassiter and compose a list of repairs.

With nothing further to discuss, Commissioner Braxton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed the meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.