

Town of Macclesfield
Regular Session Board minutes
November 12th, 2024 @5:00 pm

Mayor Michael Speight called the meeting to order. Members in attendance were Mayor Michael Speight, Mayor Pro-Tem Jason Taylor, Commissioner Paula Lewis, Commissioner Joyce Braxton, Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, Town Administrator Jennifer Stanley, Town Clerk Gracieann Etheridge, Public Works Director Benjamin Lassiter, Attorney Gabriel DuSablon, citizen Hunter Bourne, Rich Moore with McDavid & Associates, Bruce Naegelen from NC Department of Commerce, John Maclaga and Crystal Hill from Wilson Energy.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles offered the invocation. All in attendance recited the pledge of allegiance to the American flag. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles made a motion to accept the agenda and commissioner Braxton seconded the motion. It carried with none opposed. Commissioner Braxton made a motion for the approval of the minutes. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

There were no citizens' concerns at the time, so we proceeded to the next item on the agenda. Old business we had Bruce Naegelen and Hunter Bourne approach the podium to represent MS&RP the Macclesfield Community Development Advisory Board to update the governing board of the actions that are taking place at the meetings. Also to ask if they could get one of the board members to set in with the Advisory Board at the meetings to see if there are any other things that could be done differently to improve the store front aspect of the town's downtown area. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles volunteered.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to appoint her to be on the Macclesfield Community Development Advisory Board. It was seconded by Jason and with none opposed the motion passed. Hunter informed the governing board of the officers for the advisory board and how long each term they would be serving. They have completed a walking tour of the downtown area to point out some design and economic vitality points of the area. They've been working on a two-year work plan to get approved by the board.

Next was Rich Moore with McDavid & Associates with an update of the Wastewater Treatment Plant project for the board members of the progress / findings from the cameras/cleaning that were ran in the sewer collection pipes to see what shape they were in since the installation of the system. Hoping to have the permits to be able to advertise the project by December. Items that could be repaired and how detrimental it would be fixing certain items. They found out that some of the gaskets need to be replaced. He reiterated that they believe the system is actually in good shape, but the main issues would be concerning the age and the rising demand for the system with growing community.

There would've been some issues with other utility services coming through and digging holes through the pipes. He stated that DEQ should extend the due date because the date range that they have set forth now would be very hard to meet at this very moment. They might do the groundbreaking around spring next year and the due dates are supposed to be around December 2026. He reassured the board members that it wouldn't be a problem for DEQ to extend the dates like they have for everything else throughout this process. He will come back next month with the drafts of AIA Repots to get them approved.

Then there was a PowerPoint presentation from the representatives from the City of Wilson Energy consultants John and Crystal. They began discussion of the current power contract between Wilson and the Town. They wanted to demonstrate that they could save the citizens some money by acquiring the power grid, but ultimately it will put the Town in the negative as far as generating money. NCEMPA is a power agency that powers everything. They explained the difference between some of the types of contracts they could offer.

Benjamin began discussions of the shop roof updates and it needs something to be fixed when they come back from working on another jobs site.

Under new business Jennifer began talking about the speed limit radar signs, and how much we could afford to get out of the police services line item. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles made a motion that we go ahead and purchase the signs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Braxton. And with none opposed the motion passed. Therefore, the signs will be purchased this upcoming week. The board was asked if anyone would like to be a participant in the Rocky Mount Christmas parade this year from the Town of Macclesfield, and none agreed to it; so, there will not be any representation. Jennifer spoke about Natelie Roundtree requiring everyone to get trained if they must handle money in the office by January 31st, 2025. She also requests that because we are on the Unit Assistance List (UAL) we must turn in monthly/ quarterly reports. We also must meet some of the goals that she has set for us as a Town, she will revisit some goals to be adjusted as time goes by. We must make some contract amendments with RH for the 22 FY audit. The motion was made by Commissioner Wooten-Jiles to obtain an amended audit contract from RH. This was seconded by Commissioner Braxton. With none opposed the motion was passed. It was stated that we need to confirm with RH if they are going to be who we use for the FY 22-23; FY 23-24 audits.

Under the administrative reports there was discussion of the safety grant and equipment that could be ordered through that if we get approved. The finance reports were given by Jennifer Stanley informing the board members of the interest that was gained on the savings accounts this month. The capital management representatives told us in the recent meeting that the interest rates will be going down in the future.

Public works reports were given by Benjamin Lassiter about wanting to take over the collection of trash from GFL and back into the Town. The price for the initial setup and startup cost would be a lot for the Town all at once if we tried to get a new truck, but it wouldn't be so detrimental if we were able to acquire a used trash truck from surrounding cities/towns. Commissioner Lewis said that we should ask Greenville if they'd give us an old used trash truck because of how as they replace theirs every so often. Benjamin stated that we may not need one of theirs because they are so big. All the Commissioners want to see the paperwork and price breakdowns to be able to compare it. Somebody said something about the clean up on Wilson Street. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles wanted to know how much sewer/ sewer taps would cost for our guys to do brand new ones in the old cale town area. They have started leaf clean up, pine straw too - there was some discussion about possibly getting a leaf vacuum.

Next on the agenda was commissioners' concerns. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles wanted to make sure the minute pages have numbers on them. Also, double checking that we have spent all of our ARPA funds. Administrator Stanley informed everyone that the funds were all spent, and that we don't have any more. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles had an idea if some towns haven't spent theirs if it could be appropriated to a different town?

Commissioner Braxton was asking about the community building rentals and if the rentals were worth the time and effort put into cleaning and maintaining it. Also, if it was rented regularly. We let them know it was busy every weekend basically. Commissioners Lewis and Braxton were wondering about a light being installed on east Nash Street in the gap of darkness between the street lights. Commissioner Taylor was inquiring about the hole in the road down the street by post office. It's been patched and it needs to be fixed. Mayor Speight was asking about the Dollar General and was informed that they want 1.5 acres to be able to put a location in town/ inside the city on a prominent corner.

Commissioner Braxton and Lewis asked when can the guys get the Christmas light/decorations be put up here in town so they can be enjoyed by all citizens. Something was said about the tree lighting and a Santa. Mayor Speight wants Attorney DuSablon to draw up a contract to get the lot cleaned up at Macclesfield Mill. Commissioner Taylor made a motion to agree to pay quote of \$1800 (from Brandon - Rebecca's husband) for it to be cleaned up. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Braxton. With none opposed the motion passed. Commissioner Taylor was discussing the Wilson Energy proposition and how it will put the town in a big deficit if they assume the power grid. That might have to be made up in property taxes. Which in turn would probably raise property taxes.

Mayor Speight was asking will there be a set date for bingo. Supplies have already arrived a few months ago. Jenneifer asked if it was okay to close early the day before Thanksgiving,

so we could enjoy our families. The motion to allow this was made by Commissioner Taylor, and it was seconded by Commissioner Lewis. With none opposed the motion passed.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles made a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed, the board entered closed session @ 7:10 pm.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to return to open session. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed, the board returned to open session at 7:40 pm.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.