

Town of Macclesfield  
Board of Commissioners  
Regular Session Meeting @ 5:01 pm  
Monday, September 11, 2023

Mayor Emily Turner called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Members in attendance were Mayor Turner, Mayor Pro Tem Paula Lewis, Commissioner Charles Lewis, Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, Commissioner Joyce Braxton, Town Clerk Gracieann Etheridge, Public Works Director Benjy Lassiter, and Citizen Michael Speight. Town Administrator Jennifer Stanley was present via phone.

Commissioner Braxton made a motion to resume the meeting from 4:30 pm. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the meeting continued.

Commissioner P Lewis made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner C Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed the agenda was approved.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked for an amendment to the minutes stating that on the last page she would like it corrected to say she was making the commissioners aware of the article she read about the Town of Farmville and their housing committee.

Mrs. Etheridge gave an update on the CDBG-NR Grant. She stated that Mr. Tirence Horne and Ms. Tyra Hines have received the names from the housing committee and will be working with town staff to set up appointments for the building inspector to visit each home and evaluate each home for the grant. There were six (6) names submitted as two (2) applicants withdrew.

The Fall Festival was discussed. Mrs. Stanley spoke with Mr. Bobby Steinbeck with Nashcombe Band, and he stated that the band will play from 7:00 – 10:00 pm and the cost will be \$800. They will set up under the gazebo. So far there have been ten (10) vendors signed up and the town still has 50/50 raffle tickets to sell. It was asked if Abrams will be setting up rides. It was agreed that they could come on their own, but the town will not pay them. Mayor Turner will contact Mr. Abrams. It was discussed that the town doesn't make any money from the rides, but the zoo does not need to come. It was discussed that with the event being from 10:00 am – 10:00 pm was an extremely long day for the staff. It was mentioned that maybe the staff could work out a staggered schedule. It was also asked if there was a table for the 50/50 tickets, would the commissioners be able to help with that table.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked if there was any update on the cemetery land that is owned by a citizen. The attorney will need to be present. Mayor Turner stated that the citizens need to be contacted and brought into the next board meeting in closed session as well as the attorney.

Discussion began on the FY 2023 audit contract. Mayor Turner asked what they were voting on regarding the audit contract. Mrs. Stanley explained that the contract was to allow the auditors to fulfil the contract. Mayor Turner stated that the contract will need to be tabled until Mrs. Stanley returns from vacation. Commissioner Braxton made a motion to table the audit contract. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the contract was tabled.

Mrs. Etheridge reported that the interest earned for the past month was \$3025.10 for the NCCMT accounts.

Mr. Lassiter gave a report on the recent outages, sewer back-ups, water concerns, etc. The causes of the outages were blown lightening arrestors and limbs falling onto lines. The outage over the weekend was the worst-case scenario for the town. The storm severely impacted Wilson and there were no crews available to come to town. Mr. Lassiter called around and was able to have someone come out

to repair the damage. Mr. Speight asked if there was a contract with Wilson. It was discussed that we have a contract with them that Mr. Keel signed during his time as Mayor, and it expires in 2025. It was explained that Wilson does not want to do any more maintenance work. Mr. Speight asked about the Public Works guys getting trained on the maintenance of the electrical system. The board explained that they were uncomfortable having the public works guys working that close to the "hot line". Mr. Lassiter informed the board that the bucket truck is in operation. He also explained that all the outages are not caused by the overgrowth of vegetation. Mr. Lassiter informed the board that there was a contract for Asplundh in their packet that would need to be accepted and signed before he could send the contract back and get a crew here to work. Ms. Turner asked if anyone had read the contract. She stated that everyone needed to read the contract and write down any questions they may have and for Mr. Lassiter to find out how soon they would be in town to work after the signing of the contract. It was decided to table the contract until Mrs. Stanley returns and the emergency meeting is held. Ms. Turner asked that the attorney be present at the next meeting and questioned regarding his response time. Everyone agreed that Monday would be convenient for the emergency meeting. It was agreed to have the meeting at 2:00 pm if the attorney is available. Commissioner P Lewis made a motion to table the tree trimming contract until Monday. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

Mrs. Etheridge began to discuss the letter for the Cycle NC event to be included in the bills asking the citizens for donations. Ms. Turner explained that she had some corrections and would discuss the letter.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles mentioned that there were chairs missing from the community building when they used the building. Commissioner Braxton mentioned having the chairs counted after each use. Mrs. Etheridge stated that there was a count completed in April and staff would compare the count to what is there. It was asked what the maximum compacity was for the building. Mayor Turner asked if the truck with the table and chairs for the tent revival could park inside the fence at the shop each night.

Commissioner C Lewis asked about the tile at the community building. He stated that the glue seems to be seeping between the tiles. Is it caused from moisture? Mr. Lassiter stated that he spoke with Jeniss and he is sending one of his floor guys out to check on it. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked for the countertop edge to be glued back down.

Commissioner C Lewis asked Mr. Lassiter about a quote for the BBQ Shelter for the Community Building. Mr. Lassiter stated that he wasn't sure what size the board wanted but he did get a few prices. He will get pricing for a 16X16 shelter. Mayor Turner recommended letting the citizens know so if they wanted to make donations toward the shelter in memory of loved ones. Maybe they could have an engraved brick as a part of the shelter for their donation.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked for clarification on the picking up of the key when rented. The renter is able to pick up the key after 3:00 pm and can only enter the day before if the building is not rented.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked to discuss the Upper Coastal Plain Meetings. The meeting is held monthly. She was told that she would need to be appointed by the board to be able to attend. Currently Commissioner C Lewis is the back up. Commissioner P Lewis made a motion to appoint Commissioner Wooten-Jiles as the representative to Upper Coastal Plains. Commissioner C Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion passed.

Commissioner Braxton asked about the status of the repair of the wall at the cemetery that was damaged by a fire truck during a cemetery. Mr. Lassiter explained that he is waiting for the insurance company to respond.

Commissioner Braxton mentioned the Little Free Library only has a few books in it. Mrs. Etheridge explained that the library is checked weekly and restocked. She also asked about the curbing throughout town.

Mayor Turner asked that the grass letter be updated. It was explained that the ordinance states 24 inches. Commissioner P Lewis made a motion to revise the ordinance to state 12 inches and change the compliance time period to five (5) days before fine is imposed. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion passed. The update will apply to commercial and residential. There can be an insert into the bills.

Mayor Turner stated that she hoped Mrs. Etheridge learned her lesson from the incident with Mr. Collier. Mayor Turner explained that Mrs. Etheridge was joking with Mr. Collier regarding his light bill and his wife was offended and posted on facebook about it. Mrs. Etheridge stated that she was approached by him on a Saturday trying to discuss changes that have been made in the town. Mrs. Etheridge meant no harm and didn't speak any differently to him that she would with other citizens.

Commissioner C Lewis asked about the tree in Commissioner Wooten-Jiles' yard that is dead. Mr. Weaver has stated several times that he will cut it but it has not been cut.

Mrs. Etheridge reported that Mrs. Stanley was awarded a full scholarship for the class in Chapel Hill. The class is three (3) days a month for eight (8) months.

Mayor Turner began discussing the Cycle NC event with the county. Mr. Dave Sharpe has contacted the town to partner with for the event. There will be approximately 1200 cyclists coming through town from Tarboro. They should be coming through Macclesfield from 8:00 am – 11:00 am. She discussed they would like to see the streets lined with citizens holding signs and flags to cheer on the cyclists. Mr. Sharpe stated that the town would be an emergency water stop and requested that the town set up at the BBQ House and have two (2) port a johns there as well. There would need to be 200 bottles of water on ice. Mayor Turner stated that Mr. Sharpe would make the donation from the Chamber for the Fall Festival \$2000 instead of \$1000. It was asked if we needed permission to use the parking lot at the BBQ House. Mayor Turner stated that she would obtain permission. Commissioner Braxton asked if maybe the port a johns could be donated. Mr. Lassiter mentioned that maybe the town could waive the dump fee for the month in exchange for the port a johns. Commissioner Braxton made a motion to accept the letter to send out in the bills. Commissioner C Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

Mayor Turner asked Mr. Speight if he wanted to take over the town facebook page once elected and he declined.

Mrs. Etheridge explained that Mrs. Stanley found the paper discussing the mobile homes and mobile trailers in the ordinance book but there is no date of adoption. It was agreed to table until everyone has read and made notes on any changes. Mr. Lassiter stated that to create an ordinance specifically for the situation, the town could be held liable.

Mr. Speight asked about the upgrades to the wastewater and the water meters. Mr. Lassiter explained that both projects are in process and the water meters would be in Phase Two. It depends on the type of meters as to how meter reading will change. Mr. Lassiter stated that the water lines were replaced in 1980's-1990's.

Mayor Turner thanked Mr. Speight for attending and let him know that if elected he will be sworn in the second Tuesday of December and will take office immediately.

Commissioner P Lewis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioners Braxton and C Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.