

Town of Macclesfield  
Regular Session Board Meeting  
September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @5:01pm

Mayor Michael Speight called the meeting to order. Members in attendance were Mayor Michael Speight, Mayor Pro-Tem/ Commissioner Jason Taylor, Commissioner Joyce Braxton, Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, Commissioner Paula Lewis, Town Clerk Gracieann Etheridge, Public Works Director Benjamin Lassiter, Town Attorney Gabriel DuSablou, Andrea Radford with Stewart Engineering, John Tayloe with Senator Ted Budd office, and citizen Trey Lewis, and Sunil Kumar with Macclesfield Grocery.

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

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

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes from August 29<sup>th</sup> closed session meeting. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

Special guest John Tayloe begins speaking about how he enjoyed riding around town getting a tour from Commissioner Wooten-Jiles. Also, how the town has so much potential to grow and expand. He was informing us that he was from the Senator Ted Budd office and how many regions of the state that he covers. How he believes in the tourism industry and how it's very important to him. As well as the small businesses population, and growth. Had a few ideas of where new businesses could go in town.

Next was supposed to be Rich Moore with McDavid & Associates, but he didn't show

In citizens' concerns we had one citizen Sunil Kumar with Macclesfield Grocery concerned about the taxes that have been added to the bills. He also brought a stack of his bills to show when the taxes begin being added to his bills. It was explained that the board would review the issues and contact him for it to be explained to him.

Discussions begin on old business with Andrea Radford with Stewart Engineering on the PowerPoint presentation of the plan for the land use maps for the town. She explained where we are on the project schedule and the next stages that will be upcoming soon. The typical response time for the customer survey is a one-month period. To ensure that everyone has ample time to respond to it. We were hoping to send them out in the upcoming bills, but there wasn't an official vote to send them out, so we didn't. She later discussed that there would be paper copies and the possibility of putting a link on the towns' webpage/ Facebook pages. She stated that they will later update the zoning ordinances.

She discussed the population growth and what percentages of each ethnicity was represented here in Macclesfield. She and Benjamin discussed the town not having an extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ). That the counties GIS map shows we have one, but we don't. She reassured us that some of the communities have had great responses from the citizens with the surveys.

Next up on the agenda was the audit update. Mrs. Etheridge informed the board members that Mrs. Stanley has emailed documents repeatedly to the auditors with no definite answers from them at their end. Also, that Mrs. Oma Lockamy had a meeting with some representatives and Mrs. Stanley to address the situation. They all were here in the office for about six hours trying to get answers about the audit. The board wants to make this a priority. Discussion began with the assistance from the league to help with the audit getting complete. There is an issue with trying to find a new auditor, and them not being available to municipalities. There was a motion given by Commissioner Taylor to accept the help from the league with no cost to the town, and a second from Commissioner Lewis; with none opposed the motion carried.

Now on to discussing the fall festival. Trying to get a band /DJ to perform some music. The vendor setup time was discussed. Also, there was discussion of what all happened last year, and what would happen if it was to rain. They thought that maybe the high school band could possibly be able to perform. They agreed to sale 50/50 tickets to continue to raise money for fireworks for July 3<sup>rd</sup> festival.

There were some questions raised about certification classes for staff, and if the town would continue to pay for retaking classes/test. There was discussion of sending Benjamin to retake the class and the test at this time due to the urgency and needs of the town. Commissioner Paula made a motion for him to take the class again. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion, and with none opposed the motion passed. There was a motion from Commissioner Braxton that if the town pays for any class/test the employee must sign a two-year contract that they will not leave the town, or it will have to be repaid back to the town. Then commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion, with none opposed, the motion carried.

Under new business we began discussing if the town would be able to help with water / sewer taps for cale town trailer park new owner. This item will be tabled until the board can receive some more information on the set-up and plans for the future of the trailer park.

Next was supposed to be a presentation from Alex with American Tank Maintenance, but he didn't attend the zoom meeting invitation that was sent to him. They agreed for this to be tabled until the next meeting.

The final item in the new business discussion was about the shop roof on Third Street. An insurance adjuster came by and examined the damage. The insurance company now needs approval on the claim that the town is willing to pay the deductible and accept the check for the damage from the storm. This issue was tabled until the next meeting.

There was some discussion on who would re-rock the cemetery. They presented some quotes from a few different companies. Commissioner Braxton made a motion to accept the offer from Jefferys Construction to complete the job. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion passed.

Under the administrative report Mrs. Etheridge began explaining the amounts of money that was gained on interest this month from the bank accounts. She also informed the board that in the next fiscal year the police services rate would increase to \$50/hour for all workers.

Up next Benjamin gave the public works reports about an official with DOT stated that speed bumps cannot be installed on state right of way. He presented the quotes that he had gathered for back up ORC and wastewater backup, and c-well individuals' rates to compare them for the best

fit for the town. He stated that he would call the City of Rocky Mount and do some inquiring into how they fundraise for their fireworks show every year. He informed the board members that the dodge pickup truck has broken down now, and barely gets used due to the fact of getting the new service/ bucket truck. There was a motion given by commissioner Taylor to put the dodge pick up truck on gov deals. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion; with none opposed the motion passed. Benjamin also brought up that trash collection on Friday is not getting complete due to how much the citizens are putting out. So, the public works department is trying to collect more trash on a different day, when possible, to eliminate all residual items. The board was also notified of the surprise inspection of the safety equipment and testing guidelines and supplies. He insured them all items would be taken care of in a respectful amount of time. Benjamin informed the board that Chevy was going to take the grade 1 test again.

The commissioners began discussing what could be done at the current Macclesfield Mill to clean it up and make it more appealing by law and to not cause any issues with the property owner and tenant. Next up was commissioner Braxton asking for ideas to raise money for the fourth of July event. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles was concerned for overgrown properties in town. Also grant funding to attempt to restore the jail located behind the town hall. Also, the opening on Edgcombe Street that the town owns. She was wondering what it could be turned into, and what the plans were for it.

Commissioner Braxton made a motion to get time clocks ordered to keep track of employees' time records. This was seconded by Commissioner Wooten-Jiles, with none opposed to the motion carried and passed. Mrs. Etheridge will get this order this week. It was said to list the open job positions on the town's webpage and possibly the chamber of commerce webpage. She also asked about the bingo game plans and how they wanted to make it happen.

Mayor Speight began discussing the amount of police coverage the town currently has. He compared it to how many calls they get and response from the citizens. There was a discussion to lower the number of days of coverage. Commissioner Braxton made a motion to lower the police coverage to two days, preferably Fridays and Saturdays. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion passed. This was set to begin October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. There was also discussion of wanting to get some radar speeding signs. Possibly getting some used ones to offset the cost.

Mayor Speight made an announcement of the next board meeting being held on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 5pm.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to go into closed session at 7:24pm. Seconded by Commissioner Wooten-Jiles.

Commissioner Braxton made a motion to go back into open session at 7:50 pm. Seconded by Commissioner Lewis.

There was some discussion of people being in the office for leisure purposes and not conducting business. There was a motion made by Commissioner Braxton to not have unnecessary people in offices/ behind the desk at any times. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Wooten-Jiles, with none opposed the motion passed. There was a motion made by Commissioner Braxton to set office work hours from 8am to 5pm only. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Lewis, with no one opposed the motion passed. This was going into effect immediately.

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion, and it passed with no one opposed. The meeting adjourned.