

**Stoneville Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2023
7:00 PM - Council Chamber**

Regular Meeting

Present were Mayor Kathy Stanley-Galvan, Councilmen Johnny Farmer, Curtis Bennett, and Chuck Hundley. Councilman Henry Thornton participated remotely. Councilman Jerry Smith was absent without notice. Also present were Town Administrator Perry Webster, Finance Officer Shannon Tucker, Town Clerk Deleia Hutcherson, Fire Chief Joel Freeman, Police Chief Frank Moore, Parks and Recreation Director Dillon Brown, and Town Attorney Eugene Russell.

Welcome: Mayor Galvan welcomed the assembly and called the meeting to order after the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Minutes: Mayor Galvan asked for a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from August 1, 2023. Councilman Hundley made the motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Farmer seconded. Motion carried.

Agenda: Mayor Galvan asked for a motion to approve the September 5, 2023, Agenda with the addition of item 14 – Consideration to accept a donation from a W. Matthews St. resident and to remove Closed Session from the Agenda. Councilman Farmer made the motion to approve the Agenda with changes stated by Mayor Galvan. Councilman Bennett seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

1. **Introduction of 2023-2024 Youth Council** – Sherry Hancock spoke and advised this is the biggest year so far for Youth Council. She introduced each member and stated they would lose half their members next year due to eight seniors on the Council that would be graduating. Mayor Galvan thanked all the members for what they do and also thanked Sherry for working with the Youth Council and leading this program.
2. **Proclamation in recognition of Constitution Week** – Mayor Galvan read the Proclamation. Councilman Farmer made the motion to accept this Proclamation. Councilman Bennett seconded. Motion carried. Copy incorporated into minutes.
3. **Consideration to approve Resolution R-2023-07 for the Water System Improvements Project and Resolution R-2023-08 for the Stoneville Wastewater Asset Inventory and Assessment Project** – Bill Lester spoke and explained each Resolution. He advised both Resolutions were for projects and applications that would be submitted for grants at 100% funding. The Resolutions have been updated to expand on our critical areas that need improvements with regards to water and wastewater and could possibly improve our opportunities for funding moving forward. Councilman Hundley made the motion to adopt Resolution R-2023-07 and R-2023-08. Councilman Farmer seconded. Motion carried. Copies incorporated into minutes.
4. **Consideration to approve dates, times, and entry fees for the Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade** – Town Administrator Webster presented proposed dates and times for the Christmas Tree Lighting and Christmas Parade. The Tree Lighting would be Dec. 1st at 6:15PM and the Christmas Parade would be Dec. 2nd at 6:00PM. The staging and beginning of Parade would be at Stoneville Memorial Park and the route would be Price St, right on Glenn St, left on Business 220, continuing through town on Henry St, and ending at Thomas St. The Parade entry fees would be \$10.00 for golf carts and \$25.00 for floats and vehicles. Councilman Farmer made the motion to approve as presented by staff. Councilman Hundley

seconded. Motion carried.

5. **Consideration for Downtown Christmas decorating and other Christmas festivities** – Jodi Lester spoke on various Christmas activities and events being planned to make the Town of Stoneville a place where people want to come and visit and experience a small downtown Christmas. Various items were discussed such as a Jingle Mingle, decorated areas for photo opportunities, Pancakes and Pajamas with Santa, Letters to Santa, and decorating competitions for merchants and residents. Activities and events are still in the planning stages and further detail will be sent out once finalized. Councilman Farmer asked that something also be planned for Halloween encouraging people to get involved. The ideas were well received by the Council and they thanked Mrs. Lester for all she is doing.
6. **Recognize and award first responders for the structure life save on July 1, 2023** – Fire Chief Joel Freeman and Fire Marshal Melissa Joyce recognized all that assisted with this life save and presented awards. Awards were presented to Brian Slaughter, Craig Roberson, Roy Stewart, Christopher Hall, Brandon Rivera, and Mike Mitchell.
7. **Consideration to repair fence on W. Main Street (Hwy 770)** – Town Administrator Webster provided three quotes to repair the fence on W. Main Street and suggested we move forward with Piedmont Fence that provided the lowest quote of \$3,859.00. Councilman Farmer made the motion to instruct the Town Administrator to have the fence repaired on W. Main Street. Councilman Bennett suggested they consider a wooden painted fence that would be more eye appealing and less expensive. Councilman Farmer discussed the cost involved to maintain a wooden fence versus the type of fencing currently in place. The discussion ended and Mayor Galvan advised there was a motion on the floor by Councilman Farmer. Councilman Hundley seconded. Councilmen Farmer, Hundley, and Thornton were in favor of motion. Councilman Bennett opposed. Motion carried by majority with three yes votes and one no.
8. **Consideration to apply for Purina Grant to develop property behind Town Hall** – Town Administrator Webster advised there was an opportunity to apply for a Grant with Purina that could possibly assist us with developing the property behind Town Hall. Mr. Webster advised there is a possibility they would agree to fund the costs associated with clearing, grading, and seeding the property. There was back and forth discussion amongst the Council on possible stipulations by Purina where the funds have to be used towards pet related items such as fencing, play areas, and water stations. Mayor Galvan stated when they spoke with them that they seemed open to assisting with different phases and seemed open to a grant for grading and clearing the property. There was also discussion on opportunities to acquire funding from other area businesses. Councilman Bennett expressed his discouragement and frustration on the state of the property. He advised we had a drawing that was presented to us approximately six months ago with a plan for the property. He stated we discussed last month about clearing and seeding the property and it still hasn't happened. He stated the Council had asked Mr. Webster to provide new quotes for clearing, grading, and seeding the entire property. Mr. Webster advised he was unable to get revised quotes until Bill Lester completed the grading and landscaping plan. Councilman Bennett questioned how long that took as we had been waiting at least a month or longer to move forward. He brought up that we spent two to three thousand dollars a year or so ago and trees have grown back. He stated he is tired of discussing it and people in town are wondering what we are doing. Councilman Farmer suggested we have Mr. Webster obtain an estimate on what it would cost to clear it down to the dirt and seed it. Mr. Webster stated that we run the risk of creating a drain issue if we don't wait on the plan from our engineer. Councilman Bennett advised they asked him to get this plan last month and Mr.

Webster explained it takes time and Mr. Lester is working on it. Councilman Hundley said he doesn't think there is any issue applying for the grant as we don't have to accept but we want to understand the parameters before applying. Councilman Hundley made the motion to apply for the grant. Councilman Bennett seconded. Councilman Farmer said he didn't have an issue applying but wanted to know what we are applying for as we don't know what we want to do yet. Councilman Hundley said it might be like the McMichael grant where you don't have to specify when you are applying what you plan on doing with the funds. Mayor Galvan stated again that the person they met with was on board with clearing and sowing grass. Councilman Hundley made the motion to apply for the grant with Purina. Councilman Bennett seconded. Motion carried.

9. **Consideration for the use or non-use of the Fidelity Bank Parking Lot** – Town Administrator Webster advised Council of requests received from citizens to use the bank parking lot for yard sales and other events as they used it in the past when it belonged to Fidelity. He asked if the Council would want to allow such events and if so, how would it be monitored. There was much discussion around this topic and a number of suggestions provided by various Council members such as special use permits. It was finally decided that it would be in the best interest of the Town to allow this property to be used for public parking only. Yard sales and other events will not be allowed due to liability issues and all vehicle activity will remain as is. Mayor Galvan did ask that bank parking signs be removed and replaced with new public parking signs.
10. **Consideration to install speed bumps in The Drug Store alleyway and on Clark St.** – Town Administrator Webster advised of complaints from citizens about speeding in the Drug Store alleyway and on Clark St. He advised the alleyway previously had speed bumps but they were removed years ago when they resurfaced the street. Mr. Webster recommended the Town purchase two speed bumps for the alleyway and one for Clark St. Councilman Farmer made the motion to install speed bumps in the Drug Store alleyway and one on Clark St. Councilman Bennett questioned if two speed bumps were necessary in the alleyway. After further discussion, it was decided two were necessary. Mayor Galvan stated motion was on floor by Councilman Farmer. Councilman Bennett seconded. Motion carried.
11. **Consideration to approve monthly rent increase at Main Street storage** – Town Administrator Webster advised the Council of a monthly rate increase of \$50.00 per month to store items and equipment that was previously stored by Public Works in their previous building that was demolished. The total cost per month would now be \$160.00 versus \$110.00. The contract is on a month-to-month basis. Councilman Farmer asked about equipment still being stored in the empty lot where the previous Public Works building was located. He advised we should continue to clean this area and if this equipment belongs to someone other than the town, it needs to be removed. Councilman Farmer made a motion to approve the Main Street storage increase. Councilman Hundley seconded. Motion carried.
12. **Consideration to revise 2024 regular meeting dates for September and October** – Town Administrator Webster advised the County had contacted us and advised the On the Road Commissioners Meeting would be in Stoneville on September 3, 2024, which would be our normal meeting night. Councilman Farmer made a motion to change the September 2024 date but allow the October 2024 date to remain the same. Councilman Thornton seconded. Motion carried.
13. **Budget Amendment for PD Body Camera Grant** – Finance Officer Shannon Tucker presented the Budget Amendment. Councilman Farmer made motion to approve the Budget Amendment accepting the PD Body Camera Grant. Councilman Hundley seconded. Motion Carried. Copy incorporated into minutes.

14. **Consideration to accept a donation from a W. Matthews St. resident** - Administrator Webster advised of a resident that contacted him about donating some excess asphalt he will have left over when he paves his driveway. He would like to donate this asphalt to repair some potholes on W. Matthews St. Councilman Farmer made a motion to accept the donation from a W. Matthews St. citizen as long as it meets all the legal requirements as indicated by the Town Attorney. Councilman Bennett seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

1. **Consideration to allow or not allow smoking in Stoneville Memorial Park** – Administrator Webster advised he had talked with other area towns and cities. Three of them allow smoking in their parks and two do not allow smoking. He suggested we continue to allow smoking in our Stoneville Memorial Park but only in designated areas to keep stands, dugouts, and the ballfield smoke free. Councilman Hundley made the motion to allow smoking in designated areas at Stoneville Memorial Park. Councilman Bennett seconded. Councilman Farmer asked for discussion. He advised he would go along with the majority but didn't agree. He is concerned due to health issues such as cancer and also the health concerns surrounding second hand smoke. He feels we should be setting a healthier example for kids and is opposed. Councilman Hundley commented on how Stoneville is a tobacco town and pointed out the tobacco leaf that appears on our Town Seal in the Council Chamber. He agrees with regulating smoking indoors but disagrees with regulating smoking in outdoor areas. Councilman Bennett agreed with Councilman Hundley and stated he appreciated the presentation on this. Mayor Galvan advised we still had motion on floor by Councilman Hundley to allow smoking in designated areas at Stoneville Memorial Park and a second by Councilman Bennett. All were in favor and motion carried.
2. **Weather Siren** – Town Administrator Webster advised of three companies he had contacted about a new weather siren that would be located at the intersection of NC 770 and 220 By-Pass. He is waiting on quotes and they are also researching maps to determine the coverage area for this location. He will provide further updates as information is received.
3. **Grants to purchase defibrillators** – Town Administrator Webster advised he had contacted UNC Hospital in Eden, NC in reference to grant funds to purchase the defibrillators and waiting on someone to call him back. He has also applied for one grant that would provide defibrillators to Town Hall, Police Dept., and Fire Dept. He will continue to pursue funding.

Public Comments: None

Departmental Reports:

1. **Fire** – Chief Freeman provided update on number of medical and fire calls for August. He advised Squad was back in service and the new extrication tools were now on the squad. The old tools are off the squad and would like to recommend selling or donate them to Stoneyview VFD. Councilman Farmer asked Chief Freeman to present a formal request to be added to the Council Meeting Agenda as it needs to be declared as surplus property. He also revisited the Active 911 alerts and thought it should only be for the fire service and not Town Administration. Councilman Farmer advised we had previously discussed this and determined it was a good idea for Town Hall Administration to have the alerts as it is public information and no names are associated with the alerts. This allows the Administration to handle calls from the public inquiring about sirens for various reasons. After further

discussion, it was decided that the Active 911 alerts would continue to be active for the Town Administrator and Finance Officer.

Councilman Bennet suggested the Council along with Town Administrator Webster meet with Department heads at various times to have open communication and discuss items at least in a twelve-month period. Councilman Farmer stated with regards to meetings and emails, all Council Members should be included so they are all hearing the information at the same time. Mayor Galvan advised that all Town Hall staff currently includes the entire Council on email responses and or requests from any one Council Member to keep everyone in the loop and Councilman Farmer stated that is the way it should be as they all need to be hearing the same thing.

2. **Police** – Chief Moore advised school had started back and school traffic starts around 7:15am and Officer Riveria is sometimes still working traffic around 8:00am where it is backed up on Church St. They are looking to get DOT to reset traffic lights to assist with the traffic flow. New body cameras are in place. They are still having delays with paperwork from the State and other agencies are having the same issue. They continue to work Nuisance Abatement issues along with chicken violations related to permitting and Ordinance violations. The PD generator should be received in December. Councilman Farmer asked if the speed limit sign had been repaired and asked for one to be placed on Lemons St. Chief Moore advised they currently had it on Church St. but would move to Lemons St. next. Chief Moore will also work on getting another one in working order. He also advised they are close to being fully staffed. Councilman Farmer suggested that when the PD is fully staffed, that Chief Moore go back to eight hour days, five days a week as he deserves it. This would allow Chief Moore to make contact with businesses and residents again to improve public relations and have that presence which is good for the Town and community. Councilman Bennett agreed and would like to see Chief Moore return to a weekly eight hour schedule. There was further discussion about backed up school traffic. Officer Rivera is working with DOT to set the traffic signals in a way that improves the traffic flow.
3. **Parks and Recreation** – Director Dillon Brown provided updates. He advised we had enough T-ball sign ups for two teams. He worked with Madison Mayodan to get these teams in the leagues that will play at two other parks along with games at Stoneville Memorial Park. He is working on adult softball leagues and looks like there will be four to five teams. He will be organizing a gym schedule once T-ball games are underway and hoping for two gym nights each week. He got the tennis court at Stoneville Memorial Park marked for pickleball and will offer indoor pickleball at some of the open gym nights. He participated in the Outdoors Master Plan for Rockingham County. Stoneville was briefly mentioned for a future trail being planned from Stoneville Memorial Park to the river but this plan is long term and not in the near future. Councilman Farmer mentioned the net at the Park needed to be tightened and the court sprayed for weeds.
4. **Public Works** – Town Administrator Webster advised we are still dealing with discolored water issues in certain areas due to old galvanized pipes and lines continue to be flushed to clear the water. They bush hogged and cleaned up nuisance areas in town. The part-time employee continues to handle the mowing and edging sidewalks along Henry St., Glenn St., and Main St. Numerous water leaks were checked and taps were reconnecting on N. Glenn.

Town Administrator Report:

1. **Nuisance Abatement** – Town Administrator Webster provided a listing of Nuisance Abatement issues and advised he had met with the Clerk of Court and District Attorney to discuss how to proceed on cases where violation notices are ignored.
2. **Public Works Building** – We are waiting on the drawing needed to work with the engineers involved and then obtain an architectural drawing required due to the total cost of the project. Once this is received, the building process should move fairly quickly.
3. **Downtown Parking** – Signs should be ready for pick-up within a week and Public Works will work to get the posts up and place signs in the parking lot across from Debbie’s and also the parking lot portion to the side of Debbie’s that we lease from Norfolk Southern.
4. **Flooring for Council Chamber** – Waiting on quotes that should be received within two weeks. Councilman Bennett advised he voted against new flooring a few months ago and asked the reason for replacing the floor. Administrator Webster advised the Council voted to proceed with new flooring. Councilman Bennett stated again that he doesn’t see the need for new flooring.

Upcoming September events were announced.

Mayor Galvan thanked everyone for coming out

Motion made by Councilman Farmer to adjourn meeting. Councilman Hundley seconded. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 9:31pm



Mayor, Kathy Stanley-Galvan



Town Clerk, Deleia Hutcherson

