

**Stoneville Town Council**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**February 6, 2024**  
**7:00 PM - Council Chambers**

**Regular Meeting**

Present were Mayor Kathy Stanley-Galvan, Councilmen Johnny Farmer, Curtis Bennett, Henry Thornton, and Lee Shelton. 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, Public Works Director Byron Curry, and Town Attorney Eugene Russell.

**Welcome:** Mayor Galvan welcomed the assembly and called the meeting to order after the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation at 7:00pm. She advised the Council met at 6:00pm for Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S 143-318.11(a) (3) to consult with the Town Attorney and (6) Personnel with no action taken.

**Minutes:** Mayor Galvan asked for a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from January 16, 2024. Councilman Farmer made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Thornton seconded. Motion carried.

**Agenda:** Mayor Galvan asked for a motion to approve the February 6, 2024, Agenda with the following item added under new business: Item #6 Consideration to purchase a heating system for Town Hall. Councilman Thornton made a motion to approve the Agenda. Councilman Shelton seconded. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

1. **2024 Rockingham County Revaluation/Reappraisal** – Rockingham County Tax Administrator, Todd Hurst introduced himself and presented a PowerPoint detailing the revaluation and reappraisal process for real property. Property values will vary depending on the type of property, the physical condition, and location. He advised the new assessed values will become effective as of January 1, 2024, and property owners will be notified of the new property values by mail in late March, 2024. He mentioned some programs available for senior citizens and veterans that might lower the amount they owe. He advised he would be attending Senior Bingo on March 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Vera Holland Center to discuss the programs in further detail. A copy of the PowerPoint can be received by emailing [taxadm@co.rockingham.nc.us](mailto:taxadm@co.rockingham.nc.us). Copy incorporated into minutes.
2. **Abandoned Properties** – Paul Ewing introduced himself and advised he and his wife are the property owners of the apartments at 107 Bryan Street. He is concerned with the abandoned property at 105 Bryan Street that adjoins his property. He stated he has researched this property and the taxes have not been paid since 2016. The condition of the property has a negative effect on surrounding property values. He presented pictures of the property and house to the Council. He presented the details on taxes owing and asked the Tax Administrator attending the meeting to explain the process of foreclosure. Mr. Todd Hurst explained the process and explained it was a lengthy process. Mr. Hurst advised he would research this further along with other foreclosed properties and provide an update on unpaid taxes for the Town of Stoneville. Mr. Ewing provided his contact information and will be contacted as updates received from the Rockingham County tax office. The tax collection rate by the County is approximately 98% and Mr. Hurst will provide an annual listing of uncollected taxes for our town to see if we can possibly assist on the remaining 2%.

3. **Consideration to Amend Section (32.032) Probationary Period of Employment in the Personnel Policy from ninety days to six months** – Town Administrator Webster explained you usually need at least six months to assess a new employee’s performance on the job and it allows the employee time to learn the job without feeling pressured to do this in ninety days . He advised the State requires six months for law enforcement and this will be in line with their requirements. After some discussion by the Council, Councilman Farmer made a motion to amend Section (32.032) probationary period of employment in the Personnel Policy from ninety days to six months as recommended by the Town Administrator. Councilman Shelton seconded. Motion Carried. Copy incorporated into minutes.
4. **Consideration to Amend the current Sports Registration Form** – Town Administrator Webster advised the amended Sports Registration form had been updated to include a Release and Waiver of Liability that clearly addresses items such as insurance, medical release, parents code of ethics, etc. He stated this form is now in line with the forms used by other towns in the area. Councilman Farmer suggested a form also be prepared specifically for parental or spectator conduct that is signed at the sporting event by attendees. The Parks and Recreation Director advised he was working on signage to post at events to enforce the conduct policy. Councilman Farmer made a motion to amend the Sports Registration Form as presented by staff and the Town Administrator. Councilman Shelton seconded. Motion carried. Copy incorporated into minutes.
5. **Introduction of new Public Works Director, Byron Curry** – Town Administrator Webster introduced Mr. Curry and stated he has all his certifications and will also serve as our ORC. He is also certified by the State as an instructor for various programs. The Council welcomed him and Mr. Curry stated he was happy to be here.
6. **Consideration to purchase a new heating system for Town Hall (added Agenda Item)** – Town Administrator Webster advised Town Hall has been without heat for approximately four days due to a compressor issue. It is a twenty-year-old unit and the repairman advised it was in our best interest to move forward with a new unit versus replacing the compressor. Three quotes were received: Shelton’s Air Worx \$16,995.00, Twin Rivers Heating and Air Conditioning \$18,917.73, and Berico \$25,095. Town Administrator Webster recommended we move forward with Shelton’s Air Worx. Due to the amount, the cost would need to be covered with ARP funds. There was a back-and-forth discussion between the Council and the Town Administrator. It was brought up about the compressor being replaced within the last five years and it should still be under warranty. Mayor Galvan and Councilman Farmer advised Mr. Webster to reach out to Carter Bank to see if they could locate the warranty. Councilman Farmer made a motion for the Town Administrator to research and if the compressor is not under warranty to move forward with the quote from Shelton’s Air Worx in the amount of \$16,995.00 and purchase with ARP funds. Councilman Thornton seconded. Motion carried. Copies incorporated into minutes.

**Old Business:** None

**Public Comments** – Two people signed up for public comments as follows:

1. Malcolm Allen, Highway 770, Eden, NC – Mr. Malcolm introduced himself. He stated he was President of the area NAACP for approximately twenty years. He stated they are working with the communities to address minority issues. He stated one of the areas of concern in this area is the water system and water pressure. He wants to make sure these areas are not overlooked and that service to all is fair and just. Town Administrator Webster advised these areas are being addressed and all areas are considered important and steps have already been

2. taken to improve pressure. He also talked about the recent State funds received to move forward with improving water infrastructure in all areas of town.
3. Steve Evans, 103 Glendale Street, Stoneville, NC - Mr. Evans stated he was here to speak on the weather siren. He advised he was here to speak on the same issue last month. He wants to make sure we are still moving forward with purchasing a weather siren. He spoke again on the location of the siren and stated it needs to be in the current position at the emergency services building and not closer to Highway 220. He stated he would speak at every meeting until the weather siren was purchased. Town Administrator Webster advised this was discussed at the last staff meeting and the siren will be purchased once we know the amount leftover from the grant for the Town Hall generator and the difference would be covered by ARP funds. The timing of this project was questioned by Mr. Evans. There was much discussion by the Council on this topic. Councilman Farmer advised it was time to move forward with purchasing the siren as it has been a topic of discussion for at least two to three years now and we don't need to wait on leftover funds from the generator grant. Councilman Farmer made a motion that the siren is purchased and installed as soon as possible using ARP funds. He stated if we have a tornado and the siren goes off like it should, it is worth spending \$30,000 to save a life. Councilman Bennett asked Mr. Evans and Chief Moore if this is a public safety issue and both agreed it is. He also asked if the Fire Department and Police Department had any funds for this to come out of emergency services. The Finance Officer advised there were no funds budgeted unless they had grants to cover. Councilman Farmer stated the heating system wasn't budgeted but sometimes you need to spend the money as necessary out of other funds. Councilman Farmer reminded everyone he had a motion on the floor to purchase the siren with ARP funds. Councilman Shelton seconded. Motion carried.

#### **Departmental Reports:**

1. **Fire** – Chief Freeman provided an update on the number of medical and fire calls for January. He mentioned the Rockingham County food drive and stated they had a box in the Fire Department for any donations to this cause. He also advised the Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held March 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm. The rain date will be March 31<sup>st</sup> at 1:30pm. Councilman Farmer asked Chief Moore and Chief Freeman if they thought the existing location was the best place for the weather siren and they both agreed it was. Councilman Farmer made a motion that the new weather siren is placed at the emergency services building or wherever the installation company recommends it be placed in the area. There was also discussion about notifying customers via CodeRed, Facebook, and the Website on the testing schedule when the siren is installed and in working order. She reminded everyone of Councilman Farmer's motion on the floor to place the siren at the existing location area. Councilman Thornton seconded. Motion carried.
2. **Police** – Chief Moore provided update on part-time staff and training. He also advised there was a part-time officer that wanted to work for Stoneville full-time. He stated they were still working on finalizing quotes for their computers and infrastructure. He said they still had their McMichael grant and would be using this for the project.
3. **Parks and Recreation** – Director Dillon Brown advised basketball playoffs are ending this week and registration is now open for baseball and softball until March 1st.
4. **Public Works** – Director Byron Curry advised he started work a week ago and was in the process of assessing the water and sewer system along with the needs of the Town. He said they had a lot of issues to address and manpower was lacking. He asked for patience as they start working on the issues and he will have more to report at the next meeting.

**Town Administrator Report:**

1. **Public Works building** – Town Administrator Webster advised Champion should be visiting the site soon. A General Contractor is not needed and the plumbing, electrical, and inside framing will be sub-contracted. Councilman Bennett and Councilman Farmer questioned the site conditions and were told by Mr. Webster that conditions were suitable and didn't require any further filler. Councilman Bennett asked if we had a final price yet. Mr. Webster advised he was still receiving quotes for electrical, plumbing, and inside framing but it shouldn't exceed the \$250,000 grant received for the project.

Upcoming February events were announced along with the next Council Meeting. Chief Moore advised Stoneville Elementary School would be having their grand opening for the handicap playground on February 24<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00am.

Mayor Galvan advised a motion would be made to go into recess until February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Councilman Thornton made the motion. Councilman Shelton seconded. Motion carried.

Mayor Galvan announced we are now in recess.

**Recessed at 8:35pm**

Meeting reconvened February 7, 2024 at 6:00pm.

Present were Mayor Kathy Stanley-Galvan, Councilmen Johnny Farmer, Henry Thornton, and Lee Shelton.

Motion made by Councilman Farmer to come out of recess. Councilman Thornton seconded. Motion carried.

Motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a) Personnel was made by Councilman Farmer. Councilman Thornton seconded. Motion carried.

Motion to go out of Closed Session was made by Councilman Thornton. Councilman Farmer seconded. Motion carried.

Councilman Shelton made a motion to go into recess until February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Councilman Farmer seconded. Motion carried.

**Recessed at 7:45pm**

Meeting reconvened February 8, 2024 at 6:00pm.

Present were Mayor Kathy Stanley-Galvan, Councilman Johnny Farmer, Henry Thornton, Curtis Bennett and Lee Shelton.

Motion made by Councilman Thornton to come out of recess. Councilman Farmer seconded. Motion carried.

Motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a) Personnel was made by Councilman Thornton. Councilman Bennett seconded. Motion carried.

Motion to go out of Closed Session was made by Councilman Thornton. Councilman Farmer seconded. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Thornton. Councilman Farmer seconded. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 8:20pm.

  
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Mayor, Kathy Stanley-Galvan

  
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Town Clerk, Deleia Hutcherson

