

Stoneville Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 5, 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.

Minutes: Mayor Galvan asked for a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from February 6, 2024. Councilman Bennett made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Farmer seconded. Motion carried.

Agenda: Mayor Galvan asked for a motion to approve the March 5, 2024, Agenda. Councilman Thornton made a motion to approve the Agenda. Councilman Shelton seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

1. **Storm Drain at 305 N Glenn Street** – Mr. Don Neely, property owner at 305 N Glenn Street spoke about a storm drain issue that dumps excessive debris in his yard after heavy rain and storms. He explained this has been an issue since a wire screen was removed from the ditch by previous Public Works employees. He was told they would monitor and clean out the ditch when necessary. Our new Public Works Director assessed the situation and determined the water was flowing naturally through the ditch line but a fence installed by the adjoining property owner was allowing water to pass through but catching debris that backed up in Mr. Neely's yard. There was much discussion between Mr. Neely, our Public Works Director, and the Council regarding the issue. Mr. Neely reiterated the issue started when previous Public Works employees removed the wire screen from the pipe that stopped debris from entering his yard. Councilman Thornton advised he remembered the wire screen being on the other side of the train tracks that stopped debris from entering the pipe but allowed the water to flow through. After further discussion, Councilman Farmer made a motion instructing the Town Administrator to place a wire in the same location as stated by Councilman Thornton. Councilman Thornton seconded. Motion carried. Mr. Neely asked if the Town would be able to get up the debris currently in his yard. Councilman Farmer said they are unable to have employees on private property but if it was okay with the Town Administrator,

they could place the backhoe at the side of the road but he would be responsible for getting the leaves to the road. Mr. Neely said if he could get some bags, he would get the leaves raked up and at the road for pick-up. The Public Works Director advised he would drop bags off the next day. Mr. Neely thanked everyone for addressing the issue.

2. **Consideration of quotes for baseball scoreboard** - Parks and Recreation Director, Dillon Brown advised the baseball scoreboard at the ballfield has been in disrepair for a while. The plugs are rusted as well as the scoreboard. He stated the baseball and softball program continues to grow and a new scoreboard would enhance the appearance of the park as well as the functionality of the baseball field. He reviewed the quotes provided and made a recommendation to purchase a scoreboard from Varsity Scoreboards in the amount of \$4,615.00. Everyone agreed a commercial electrician would need to wire the scoreboard and our Public Works Dept. could possibly mount the scoreboard. There was discussion on the other quotes and scoreboards but Mr. Brown explained the recommended scoreboard would better serve our needs and also less expensive than some of the other ones. He stated it would also work for soccer games as well as baseball and possibly other sports. Councilman Farmer questioned if this was in the budget and Mr. Brown advised it would come out of park maintenance. Councilman Bennett verified the amount remaining in the Parks and Recreation budget and determined there was sufficient funding to cover this purchase. Councilman Bennett made a motion to approve the purchase of the scoreboard in the amount of \$4,615.00 as recommend by the Parks and Recreation Director. Councilman Farmer seconded. Motion carried. Copies incorporated into minutes.
3. **Consideration of quotes for weather siren** – Fire Chief, Joel Freeman stated he was instructed to get four quotes for the weather siren. He advised this was done and quotes submitted to the Council via e-mail. Councilman Farmer asked for his recommendation and he stated Federal Siren with a quote of \$35,313. Councilman Farmer asked what the differences were between the quote from Sirens for Cities Inc. in the amount of \$24,915.47 and the quote from Federal Signal for \$35,313. Chief Freeman said he wasn't sure and would have to research further. Councilman Farmer said he didn't want to hold up the process but would like to know the differences between the sirens to determine if the \$24,909 siren would provide the same coverage as the \$35,000 siren since there is a \$10,000 difference. Chief Freeman advised it would probably be best for representatives from each company to come in and assess the needs and location as this has not been done. Councilman Thornton questioned if these were turn-key quotes and Chief Freeman said he would need to verify. After further review of the quotes, it was determined that electrical was not included and wiring would be an additional charge. The Council recommended that Fire Chief, Joel Freeman bring in Federal Signal and Sirens for Cities to assess the location, make sure both sirens will meet our needs, and get turn-key quotes. Councilman Farmer agreed with Chief Freeman that we should look at new sirens and not refurbished. Councilman Shelton suggested we consider refurbished and asked Chief Freeman to also contact Carolina Siren to see how the

refurbished siren compares to the other two being considered. Once completed, Chief Freeman will make a final recommendation to the Council. Copies incorporated into minutes.

4. **Consideration to amend a motion made at February 6, 2024, Town Council Meeting** – Town Administrator Webster advised there is \$22,744.26 remaining from the grant for the Town Hall generator. The State has confirmed this leftover balance can be used towards the purchase of the weather siren. He stated the funds have to be used by June 30, 2024. The motion was made in February to use ARP funds to purchase the siren. Town Administrator Webster asked the Council to amend this motion and use the \$22,744.26 towards the purchase and allow the remaining balance to be paid out of ARP funds. Councilman Farmer made a motion to amend the motion made at the February 6, 2024, meeting as stated by Town Administrator Webster. Councilman Thornton seconded. Motion carried.
5. **Consideration of quotes for infrastructure and laptop purchases for Police Department** – Chief Moore and Officer Rivera reviewed the quotes with the Council for upgrading the infrastructure and laptops at the Police Department. Chief Moore made the recommendation to move forward with VC3. Officer Rivera explained the IT and technical coverage that VC3 would provide. This would be a three-year contract and they provide 24/7 IT coverage for all town departments. The contract would be approximately \$180,000 for a three-year contract. The Police Department has grant money for the first year but the Town will need to budget \$60,000 per year for the remaining two years and each department will need to budget for their portion. As this will be a continued expense, Councilman Farmer suggested that we start looking at grants that can assist with IT infrastructure. He advised of a newsletter that goes out from Kathy Manning's office with available grants and we should be looking at those. Councilman Farmer stated he hates to spend this much money but understands this is required for our infrastructure to be compliant with the County. After much discussion on the various quotes and what each would cover, Councilman Farmer made a motion that we approve VC3 as recommended by the Police Chief and Staff to go with their computer system that will serve, the Police Department, Fire Department, Town Hall, and potentially Public Works and any other area that we have and will also include maintenance contract and any other type of service we need from them. This is contingent on references being checked along with contacting other municipalities that use VC3. The Town Administrator has the authority to sign the contract once references are checked and approved. Councilman Thornton seconded. Motion carried. Copies incorporated into minutes.
6. **Consideration of Town Council applicants** – Mayor Galvan advised the Council will be meeting with all the applicants. She also advised a selection will be made after they meet with the applicants.

Old Business: None

Public Comments – One person signed up for public comments as follows:

1. Jonathan Hamilton of 6404 Reata Drive, Summerfield, NC – Mr. Hamilton introduced himself. He spoke on the annexation situation in Summerfield and how this should be a concern for all small towns. He stated the concern over municipalities losing control in these situations and the State getting involved. He asked that Stoneville consider contacting representatives and pass Resolutions in support for Summerfield to not have House Bill 5 pushed through the Legislature. He encouraged everyone to look at the map of Summerfield and the proposed deannexation of approximately one thousand acres through the middle of Summerfield. He provided his phone number if anyone would like to discuss further. He also advised he was on the Town Council for Summerfield.

Departmental Reports:

1. **Fire** – Chief Freeman provided an update on the number of medical and fire calls. He reminded everyone of the Easter Egg Hunt on March 30th at 1:30pm. Chief Freeman advised the Council that the Fire Department is in a dire situation with regards to the number of volunteer firefighters. He stated they are aging out and will eventually run out of firefighters. He would like to work with Keith Bost of Management Solutions that does recruiting retention and writes grants for fire departments. There is no contract. It is a year-to-year plan. The first year is \$6,500 and \$3,500 each year after. You are allowed to cancel at any time. Chief Freeman is looking at a three-year plan to possibly see improvement. This would be paid out of a supplemental fire department grant that has \$10,678.44 remaining. He would like to use \$6,500 of the remaining funds and ask Mr. Bost to come in and help. Councilman Thornton also suggested he reach out to NCLM (North Carolina League of Municipalities) for assistance also. Councilman Farmer asked if other fire departments in the area were having the same issues and if they were doing anything different to recruit volunteers. Chief Freeman mentioned increased pay at some departments. Councilman Farmer mentioned recruitment has been an ongoing issue for numerous years and other local departments are having the same issue. Councilman Bennett asked if the \$6,500 could be used to increase pay but Chief Freeman said that would be a temporary fix and he is looking at long term. Councilman Bennett would like to look at increasing pay as \$15.00 an hour for calls is not enough to entice volunteers and might want to review as we are approaching a new budget year. Chief Freeman advised Keith Bost would assist with this as he has incentive programs to boost salaries as the goal is increased recruitment and retention. Councilman Thornton made the motion to allow Chief Freeman to take \$6,500 from the Fire Department supplemental grant balance and move forward with Keith Bost of Management Solutions. Councilman Farmer seconded. Motion carried.
2. **Police** – Chief Moore advised they are working on their budget requests and still trying to recruit officers.
3. **Parks and Recreation** – Director Dillon Brown advised T-Ball and Coach Pitch registrations went better than expected and we have three to four teams. He advised we have been allowed back in the local baseball and softball leagues.

Practices will start within the next couple of weeks. He is working with the Public Works Director on some drainage issues at the park. He advised he is involved in the Western Rockingham CORE (Community Outdoor Recreation Economies) group. They explore recreation opportunities using our local assets in the western part of the county to boost the local economy. There is a rural downtown economic development grant available where we could possibly receive up to \$850,000 per grant for projects. The grant has to be in by April 1st and he is proposing we apply for the grant and allow it to go towards the proposed park plans for the area around Town Hall. These are the plans that Bill Lester prepared a while back. There are a couple of small changes that would need to be made to meet the economic requirements of the grant. The economic portion of the grant is job recruitment and job retention. An option would be to offer an attractive area for local businesses where employees can go to enjoy their lunch or time outdoors. Also, in the lower corner behind Town Hall would be a good area for a nice timbered structure that could be used for a Farmer's Market and stage area for performances. There could also be a few hook-ups for food truck parking. These changes would work with the grant and be useful to the local economy and citizens. There is a five percent matching grant from the Town. Councilman Farmer said he doesn't have a problem with submitting the grant because you always have the option of not accepting. Councilman Bennett said he thinks it is a great idea. He did ask if the CORE group would be writing the grant. Dillon explained the group is new and they plan and brainstorm but try to focus on their own areas and make changes that mesh with the other towns. Dillon will be working on the grant with the Town Administrator, NCLM, and Lindsay Pegg. Councilman Bennett also suggested later on to get other members of the community involved. Councilman Farmer made a motion to allow the Parks and Recreation Director to apply for the grant. Councilman Thornton seconded. Motion carried. Dillon advised of a meeting he had with the County Comprehensive Transportation Plan with the local rural planning. This is a long-term plan to look at transportation issues that are traditional and non-traditional. Non-traditional would be trails, bikeways, greenways, and blueways. Traditional includes roads, bridges, and overpasses. They will also be involving local Police Departments, Sheriff's Department, and Fire Departments for input on problem areas related to accidents and other issues. There is a survey that will eventually be coming out for ideas. One idea would be a sidewalk on Price Street connecting to the park and downtown. All citizens are welcome to offer input and suggestions. Dillon advised the slide at the park playground is broken and he received a quote of \$7,800 from the manufacturer to replace it. This quote does not include installation. Councilman Farmer stated you would want the manufacturer to install so they assume liability and not the Town if someone gets hurt. Dillon will request a turn-key quote that includes installation and present at an upcoming meeting.

4. **Public Works** – Director Byron Curry said he has been here five weeks and continues to assess the Town as a whole. He has been evaluating the water and sewer systems, storm drains, and roadside line ditches. Projects are being planned in order of severity. He has prepared a comprehensive list of road patching and paving projects

and they will start these repairs in the next few weeks. They have repaired three water leaks on Smith Street, S. Henry Street, and Duncan Street. They also installed sewer cleanouts on Oaklawn, Glendale, and East Main as well as repairing the corresponding manhole connections. Outfall and high priority line inspections are being conducted and repair projects being planned for these areas. He instituted a work order system so they can better track inventory, personnel hours, and equipment uses on projects. He is also conducting a full inventory of Public Works equipment and assigning numbers to the equipment so they can track usage. He is working on systematic cleaning schedules for camera inspections, sewer line cleaning, and jetting. He also advised they are moving dirt and debris from the new Public Works site so it will be ready when it is time to pour the concrete flooring. The dirt and debris are being used to fill in the area behind the Town Hall. They have also been able to get free dirt from the Shiloh Airport worksite to use for filling in behind the Town Hall. Town Administrator Webster thanked Steve Hill for letting them know about the free dirt at the airport.

Town Administrator Report:

1. **Public Works building** – Town Administrator Webster advised he had all his quotes together for plumbing, electrical, framing, etc. We are now waiting for contamination testing to be completed by NC DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) before moving forward. The contact at NC DEQ advised the process should move quickly since a well is not located on this property. Town Administrator Webster advised he would provide updates as received.
2. **Nuisance Abatements** – Town Administrator Webster advised of four open cases: 102 Simpson Street, 106 Simpson Street, 108 Simpson Street, and 605 N. Glenn Street. Pictures have been taken and letters sent to the property owners. All the ones contacted are working on cleaning up their properties with the exception of 108 Simpson Street. Contact is still trying to be made with this resident as they did not claim their certified letter.

Upcoming March events were announced along with the next Council Meeting scheduled for April 2, 2024, at 7:00pm and the Budget Retreat scheduled for March 9, 2024, at 9:00am.

Mayor Galvan advised the Council would be going back into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S 143-318.11(a) (3) to consult with the Town Attorney and (6) Personnel. Councilman Thornton made the motion to go back into closed session. Councilman Shelton seconded. Motion carried.

Motion to come out of closed session made by Councilman Thornton. Councilman Shelton seconded. Motion carried.

Mayor Galvan stated we are now in open session.

Motion made by Councilman Thornton to recess meeting until March 6, 2024 at 6:00pm. Councilman Bennett seconded. Motion carried.

Mayor Galvan stated we are now in recess. Recessed at 9:45pm

Meeting reconvened on March 6, 2024 at 6:00pm.

Present were Mayor Kathy Stanley-Galvan, Councilmen Johnny Farmer, Henry Thornton, Curt Bennett, and Lee Shelton. Also present were the applicants for the vacant Town Council seat: Brent Epling, Daisy Smith, Darrin Brown, Patrick Smith, and Samantha Land.

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

Mayor Galvan stated we are now out of recess and in open session.

Mayor Galvan welcomed the applicants and each one was given the opportunity to introduce themselves, provide background information, and share their reasons for wanting to serve on the Town Council. There was back and forth discussion between the applicants and Town Council and everyone had the opportunity to ask and answer questions.

Closing remarks were made by Mayor Galvan and the Council members.

Motion made by Councilman Thorton to recess meeting until March 11, 2024, at 5:45pm. Councilman Bennett seconded. Motion carried.

Mayor Galvan stated we are now in recess. Recessed at 9:45pm.

Meeting reconvened on March 11, 2024, at 5:45pm.

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

Motion to come out of recess was made by Councilman Farmer. Seconded by Councilman Shelton. Motion carried.

Mayor Galvan stated we are now in open session.

Motion to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (6) Personnel was made by Councilman Farmer. Seconded by Councilman Bennett. Motion carried.

Motion to go out of closed session was made by Councilman Thornton. Seconded by Councilman Shelton. Motion carried.

Mayor Galvan stated we are now in open session.

Motion to recess meeting until March 16, 2024, at 9:00am was made by Councilman Bennett. Seconded by Councilman Shelton. Motion carried.

Mayor Galvan stated we are now in recess. Recessed at 8:45pm.

Meeting reconvened on March 16, 2024, at 9:00am.

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

Motion to come out of recess made by Councilman Thornton. Seconded by Councilman Shelton. Motion carried.

Motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a) (6) Personnel was made by Councilman Thornton. Councilman Shelton seconded. Motion carried.

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

Mayor Galvan stated we are now in open session.

Councilman Farmer made a motion to appoint Daisy Smith to the Town Council vacant seat. Councilman Bennett seconded. Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Galvan gave her closing remarks and thanked all that applied for the open seat on the Town Council.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Shelton. Councilman Bennett seconded. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 10:50am.



Mayor, Kathy Stanley-Galvan



Town Clerk, Deleia Hutcherson

