

Stoneville Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2024
7:00 PM – Vera Holland Center

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 7:05pm.

Mayor Galvan announced that immediately following the Regular Meeting, the Council would be going into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to Consult with Town Attorney, (4) Economic Development, and (6) Personnel.

Minutes: Mayor Galvan asked for a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from March 5, 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 April 2, 2024, Agenda with the following item added under new business: Item 5 – Consideration of amendment to audit contract. Councilman Thornton made a motion to approve the Agenda. Councilman Shelton seconded. Motion carried.

Mayor Galvan announced that Daisy Smith was the newly appointed Councilwoman and her Oath of Office would be administered by the Rockingham County Clerk of Superior Court, Abner Bullins. Mr. Bullins introduced himself and proceeded to administer the Oath of Office for Councilwoman, Daisy Smith. Mrs. Smith was congratulated by Mr. Bullins and took her seat with the other Council members.

New Business:

- 1. Property Located at 506 E. Main Street** – Mr. Greg Beasley introduced himself and his wife. He advised they own H&B Hardware in Eden, NC and they are currently remodeling a store in Danville, VA. He said their third store will be located at 506 E. Main Street in Stoneville, NC as they recently purchased the property. It will be operated as a national brand hardware store. They are still considering their options for the brand name but will probably operate as Ace Hardware. He said they would focus on the Stoneville location once they complete renovations at the Danville, VA store. They have been in the hardware business since 1996. Mr. Beasley acknowledged all the support they have received from Stoneville and the staff at Town Hall. He said it is obvious that the people here care about where they live and what is happening in the area. They plan on having a small lumber yard at this location and will be similar to their Eden, NC store. He stated they hope to be open by the end of September, 2023, or at the latest January, 2024. There will probably be seven to ten people on staff at this location. Their hours will be Monday through Friday from 8:00am – 5:00pm and Saturdays 8:00am – 1:00pm. They will not be open on Sundays. He stated they are considerate of their neighbors and aware of homes in and around the area and will not use bright lights at night. They will use motion lights

similar to what they use at the Eden store. Councilman Farmer thanked them for choosing Stoneville and said he looks forward to them having a successful business here. Mr. Beasley said they look forward to working with the Town and this community.

2. **LOT 2540** - Mr. Marty Roberts, Executive Director for LOT 2540 introduced himself and provided some background information on LOT 2540 and how the non-profit, community-based program got started. They have been operating a hunger relief ministry in Rockingham County for the past twelve years. He said they were approaching the end of a ten-year lease at their existing location and the board decided it was time to start looking for a more permanent location since they had relocated twice in the last twelve years. He said they looked at multiple locations in Rockingham County and 103 Stone Street was the best option for their ministry. They came to an agreement with the current owners and the contract was signed April 2, 2024. He said Phase One would be to reset the food pantry which requires some remodeling inside the new facility. Phase Two will be the daily lunch program that operates Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00am – 2:00pm. This phase also offers various classes. They will continue their mobile food markets in other areas of Rockingham County but all the trucks should return to the facility no later than 7:00pm. He said they collaborate with many partners in the county including various churches. Their largest supplier of food is Second Harvest of Northwest NC. He stated their goal is to bring people into healthier lives spiritually, emotionally, and physically. He said they pride themselves on being good neighbors and site traffic in and around the property will be reduced, when compared to their current model. He also said that appointment-based pantries hosted at the new site will be active during daytime hours only. The Mayor and Council expressed their appreciation for what the organization does for the local communities and welcomed them to Stoneville. Mr. Roberts thanked everyone for their support.
3. **Art Program Funding** – Mayor Galvan announced that Jenny Edwards, Executive Director for the Rockingham County Arts Council was unable to attend the meeting and Town Administrator Webster would present the information. Mr. Webster provided details of the grant being offered to the Town of Stoneville by the Rockingham County Arts Council. The Town is being offered \$2,750 in funding that is designed to support art programs or performances that feature artists of color. All funds must be spent by June 30, 2024 and the required match is achievable through in-kind contributions such as staff support and venue use. Councilman Farmer made a motion that we accept the grant from the Rockingham County Arts Council. Councilman Thornton seconded. Motion carried.
4. **Consideration to Approve Town Administrator Contract** – Councilman Thornton made a motion to approve the Town Administrator Contract. Councilman Farmer seconded. Councilman Bennett opposed. Council Members Thornton, Farmer, Shelton, and Smith voted yes and Councilman Bennett voted no. The motion carried with a 4 to 1 majority vote. Councilman Bennett asked to speak. He stated his no vote was only a reflection of his desire to be consistent with his no vote on the selection process of Ms. Hollerand. He advised the Council has been under a strenuous schedule for weeks if not months to move forward with a replacement for the vacant Council seat as well as selecting a new Town Administrator. He said he sometimes feels they are moving at a warp speed when some of his colleagues feel like they are dragging their feet. He stated our Town is on the edge of great progress and like his fellow board members, they all just want what is best for our Town and our citizens. He said even with his vote being a no, it should not denote any lack of unity on the part of our Council and this process moving forward. He said he will continue to work for the best of our citizens and move forward with supporting our new Town Administrator along with our Council. He stated we are only as good as all of us working together to see a better tomorrow for our families to work, play, and live in the Town of Stoneville. He asked everyone to join him in stopping by the Town

Hall and introducing yourself to the new Town Administrator, Ms. Hollerand. Mayor Galvan announced the start date of April 15th for the new Town Administrator, Barbara Hollerand.

5. **Consideration to Amend Audit Contract** – Finance Officer, Shannon Tucker advised that our Audit Firm had opted to extend our contract with the LGC because they have been bombarded with completing audits and tax filings since the passing of Mr. Rex Rouse. The contract would be extended to June 30, 2024 to allow them time to complete the audit. Councilman Farmer made a motion that we amend the contract for our auditing accounts with Rouse, Rouse, Rouse and Gardner. Councilman Thorton seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business: None

Public Comments: None

Department Reports:

1. **Fire** – Chief Freeman provided updates on their fire and medical calls last month. He advised the siren was on a two-week delivery and an additional one-week installation.
2. **Police** - Chief Moore said they are still in the process of trying to hire officers and moving forward with their new laptops and infrastructure updates.
3. **Parks & Recreation** - Director Dillon Brown provided updates on the baseball and T-ball programs. He said practices had started and the new scoreboard was ordered.
4. **Public Works** – Director Byron Curry advised initial inspections of the Town’s outfalls and high priority lines have been completed and repair and rehab projects are being planned according to budget and weather restrictions. Cemetery marker stones were relocated into the designated locations. Road patching was completed in five locations along Glenn and Smith Streets.

Town Administrator Report:

1. **Public Works Building** – Mr. Webster advised they are waiting for DEQ to complete their inspection which is expected by the end of April. Once approval is received from DEQ, quotes for concrete pouring, electrical, plumbing, etc. will be submitted to the Council for approval.
2. **Nuisance Violation at 300 Lee Street** - Mr. Webster said this location is an ongoing issue and has gotten worse over the last few weeks. He has involved the County Code Enforcement Officers to assist with this location.

Mr. Webster advised this would be his final meeting as the Town Administrator and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve the Town for the last three years. Mr. Webster received a standing ovation from the entire assembly.

Upcoming April events were announced including the next Council Meeting scheduled for May 7, 2024, at 7:00pm and the Budget Work Session scheduled for April 16, 2024, at 6:00pm.

Mayor Galvan thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and advised the Council would be going into Closed Session as stated at the beginning of the meeting.

Mayor Galvan asked for a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to Consult with Town Attorney, (4) Economic Development, and (6) Personnel.

Councilman Thornton made a motion to go into Closed Session. Councilman Shelton seconded. Motion carried.

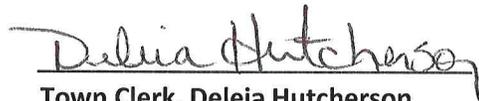
Councilman Thornton made a motion to go out of Closed Session. Councilman Shelton seconded. Motion carried.

Mayor Galvan announced the return to Open Session.

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

Adjourned at 9:20pm.


Mayor, Kathy Stanley Galvan


Town Clerk, Deleia Hutcherson

