

Stoneville Town Council
Special Meeting Minutes – Work Session
March 18, 2025
6:00 PM – Council Chambers

Special Meeting – Work Session

Present were Mayor Kathy Stanley-Galvan, Council members Curt Bennett, Henry Thornton, Johnny Farmer, Lee Shelton, and Daisy Smith. Also present were Town Administrator Michael Sands, Finance Officer Shannon Tucker, Town Clerk Deleia Hutcherson, Public Works Director Byron Curry, Fire Chief Joel Freeman, Town Attorney Eugene Russell, and former Interim Town Administrator Scott Buffkin.

Welcome: Mayor Galvan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She announced the Council would go into closed session immediately following the regular meeting, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a) (3) to Consult with the Town Attorney, and (6) Personnel.

Councilman Thornton made a motion to approve the March 18, 2025 agenda. Councilwoman Smith seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Town Administrator Michael Sands provided introductory remarks, emphasizing that the session was for discussion only, with no formal actions to be taken. He explained the meeting's purpose was to receive briefings, ask questions, and engage in discussion.

Topics for Discussion:

1. **Lawnmower for Public Works** – Public Works Director, Byron Curry informed the Council of a 20-year-old lawnmower that requires extensive repairs. He recommended replacing the mower rather than repairing due to its age and declining performance. Three quotes were obtained ranging from \$7,700 to \$10,000 for a commercial grade 60-inch mower. Mr. Curry recommended the quote from Y & W Farm Center Inc. in the amount of \$7,756.43. It was the consensus of the Council to add this item to the April meeting agenda for approval.
2. **Utility Rate Study** - Finance Officer, Shannon Tucker discussed the utility rate increase options for the upcoming fiscal year 2025/2026. She stated the increase is necessary to address an ongoing deficit in the enterprise (water/sewer) fund. NC Rural Water performed the rate study and provided three options. The options were reviewed with the Council and after a period of deliberation, the Council asked staff to thoroughly research the options and provide a recommendation at the next work session or budget meeting.
3. **Compensatory Time for FLSA Exempt (Salaried) Employees** – Town Administrator, Michael Sands informed the Council that this item was previously discussed at the February 18th work session and presented for approval at the March 8th meeting. The item was pulled from the consent agenda by Councilman Bennett for further discussion. The proposal reads as follows: Exempt employee compensatory bonus time-off may be approved by the Council on a case-by-case basis for up to an additional ninety (90) hours for a total accumulation not to exceed one hundred fifty (150) hours. After a period of deliberation, it was the consensus of the Council to amend the policy as presented by Staff and formally consider this item for approval at the April 1st Council meeting.

4. **Interlocal Agreement for Fire Inspection Services by Rockingham County** – Town Clerk, Deleia Hutcherson informed the Council that the Rockingham County Fire Marshal was asking if any decision had been made regarding the Interlocal Agreement with the County in the amount of \$10,000 for annual fire inspection services. The Council discussed this option as well as exploring the option of contracting with a local certified inspector, Neal Chaney. Mr. Chaney volunteers for Stoneville and Eden and performs fire inspections for the City of Eden. It was the consensus of the Council to have Mr. Chaney attend the next work session for further discussion on this topic.
5. **Pay Scale Review** – The former Interim Town Administrator, Mr. Scott Buffkin was in attendance and provided his findings on the pay scale review he was asked to perform by the Council. He provided the following: (1) Town's pay grades slightly below peer municipalities, (2) Recommended COLA (cost-of-living adjustments) be applied to full scale, not just employee salaries, (3) Identified specific employees who may need to move within current pay grades, (4) Official titles and job descriptions need to be revisited

Town Clerk, Deleia Hutcherson provided the following update on Code Enforcement and ordinance updates: (1) State Code Enforcement identified 39 violations on their first visit, (2) the nuisance ordinance is outdated and needs to be amended and/or rewritten, (3) a representative from State Code Enforcement will present findings and ordinance review suggestions at the next work session scheduled for April 10th. The Council requested further information on the types of violations recorded.

There was also discussion surrounding the poultry ordinance with regards to ducks. There has been a citizen request to review the policy and consider the allowance of ducks. The Council requested input from the Police Chief before further discussion at an upcoming work session.

Mayor Galvan thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and asked for a motion to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a) (3) to Consult with the Town Attorney, and (6) Personnel. Motion made by Councilman Thornton. Seconded by Councilman Farmer. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Councilman Thornton. Councilwoman Smith seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.


Mayor, Kathy Stanley-Galvan


Town Clerk, Deleia Hutcherson

