

Stoneville Town Council
Special Meeting Minutes – Work Session
April 10, 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, Police Chief Rebecca Dixon, Fire Chief Joel Freeman, and Public Works Director Byron Curry.

Welcome: Mayor Galvan welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Councilman Thornton made a motion to approve the April 10, 2025 agenda. Councilman Bennett seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. 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. **Code Enforcement and Ordinances** - Dennis Pennington with Municipal Services, Inc. (State Code Enforcement) presented an overview of his firm's code enforcement and municipal services:
 - Their firm emphasizes cooperative enforcement and citizen respect when dealing with code enforcement
 - Provided a no-cost rewrite of the nuisance ordinance, with a public hearing and proposed ordinance amendment at the May 6th meeting.
 - Services offered: code enforcement, ordinance hosting, IT/security services, nuisance abatement.
 - Ordinance hosting ensures state compliance, faster updates (within 14 days), and affordable pricing (starting at \$600/year).
 - Proposal to update the general ordinance at a cost not to exceed \$24,000; He highlighted out-of-date provisions on the town's current hosting platform. He also mentioned one neighboring town using their services to host their ordinances and update their general ordinances.

It was the consensus of the Council to discuss some of these services at an upcoming budget meeting.

2. **Fire Inspection Services Proposal** – Neil Chaney, Joe Powell, and Kenny Loftis spoke on this topic. All three presenters are certified inspectors and employees of the town. They are part-time firefighters and are proposing to perform fire inspections in place of the county, which will begin charging for these services effective July 1st. The proposal includes paying inspectors an additional flat hourly rate (suggested: \$20/hour), or possibly \$23/hour depending on the 2025/2026 hourly rate for part-time volunteers. They explained the process in detail and the Council expressed interest but raised some concerns. It was the consensus of the Council to continue discussions on this topic during the upcoming budget work session.

- 3. Utility Rate Study Update** - Discussion was led by Finance Officer, Shannon Tucker. She explained that there were three different options on the table at the last work session for utility rate increases but the third option has been removed. The original third option from the consultant was unclear and would have significantly increased costs for minimal water usage (~\$90/month for 1,000 gallons). This item has been removed from consideration.

Two Options Presented:

- **Option 1 (Recommended):** Keep 1,500-gallon base; increase base rate to \$75.07 (from \$55.83), representing a \$19.24 increase.
- **Option 2:** Reduce base to 1,000 gallons and adjust pricing, resulting in higher effective costs per gallon.

Council Discussion:

- Confusion around consultant's original data.
- Agreement that gradual increases are better than one steep increase.
- Importance of aligning rates with actual costs and capital needs.
- LGC requires a five-year financial plan for enterprise funds.
- Consideration for affordability and public understanding of rate increases.

It was the consensus of the Council to consider Option 1 for its simplicity and fairness, pending formal approval at a future meeting.

- 4. On-Street Accessibility (Handicap) Parking Space** – There was open discussion about the lack of handicap-accessible parking spots near downtown businesses. NCDOT assessed the situation and provided guidance on installing signage and street marking for an additional space. There was a favorable consensus by the Council to add this item to the May 6th consent agenda.
- 5. Regulation of Ducks** – The Town Administrator informed the Council that the request had been made to revisit the town's ordinance on allowing ducks, which is currently prohibited. Concerns were raised by the Council regarding noise, public nuisance, and the need for a water source such as ponds. The Council discussed and a consensus was reached to maintain the current ordinance and announce under old business at the May 6th meeting.
- 6. Gravel Parking Lot (102/104 E. Main St)** – Originally a temporary lot, now being evaluated for long-term use. Discussion Points included:
- Consideration to asphalt the lot and ensure proper drainage.
 - Concerns about subsurface integrity and compaction requirements.
 - Potential to fund improvements with grants.
 - Also discussed use for community and public events.

The Council directed staff to gather quotes and assess feasibility, including asphalt, grading, and drainage needs.

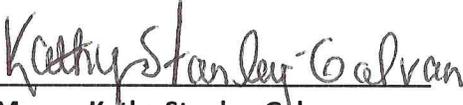
- 7. **Annual Maintenance of Generators** – Public Works Director, Byron Curry spoke on this topic and suggested an annual preventative maintenance contract for town generators. He obtained multiple quotes and would recommend the quote from Nixon in the amount of \$5,590.00. The quote will cover the generators at Town Hall, Public Services Building, and all lift stations.

The Council directed staff to include this item in the 2025/2026 proposed budget that will be presented for approval at the June 3rd meeting.

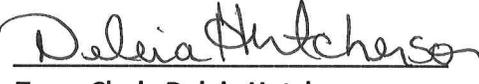
Mayor Galvan thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Councilman Thornton. Councilman Bennett seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.



Mayor, Kathy Stanley-Galvan



Town Clerk, Deleia Hutcherson

