

TOWN BOARD MEETING – REGULAR MEETING

December 1, 2022

Present Mayor George Holleman
Mayor Pro Tem Kenny Poole
Councilman Ronnie Robinette
Councilman Jack Simms
Councilwoman Kim Brown

The regular meeting was opened for business by Mayor Holleman at 3:30 p.m. The invitation was given by Mayor Holleman by reading Psalm 34. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

A motion was made by Councilman Poole and seconded by Councilman Simms to approve the addition of the following items and to approve the minutes as presented from November 1st, 2022. The motion was passed unanimously.

15a. American Rescue Essential Workers Premium Pay Bonus

17a. Superintendent of Alex. Co. Schools – Dr. Jennifer Hefner

Open Forum:

Karen Morrison came before the Town Council expressing her appreciation for the Town Council and the Town of Taylorsville and its citizens. “It’s a great place to live and work and am thankful to have lived here and gotten to know each of you.” She is returning to Florida upon her retirement later in January 2023. There were no other comments in open forum.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to open the first public hearing regarding the requested special use permit for 26 Saunders Lane Taylorsville. The applicant has been using the property long before seeking the special use permit. It has been observed that the opening burning has taken place on the property leading to the discharge of hazardous materials into the air and also onto the ground. The applicant has been asked to construct a fence around the property and has not complied. Staff do not feel that the applicant will comply with regulations regarding a junkyard since they have not complied with any notices or zoning regulations prior. It is staff’s recommendation that the request for the special use permit be denied due to the following:

1. All aspects of the project, and its subsequent improvements, would need to comply with all applicable provisions of the Town’s Zoning Ordinance, and the Building and Fire Codes of the State of North Carolina;
2. Prior to receiving the proper permits for operation the applicant has shown a consistent disregard for the Town’s zoning ordinance;
3. The current violating use appears to be hazardous to the welfare of the surrounding area.

Adjoining property owners David Justice, Bill Davidson and owner of Piedmont Composites, David Himebaugh spoke against the junkyard being located there. Their concerned over the

illegal burning and discharging of hazardous wastes and the potential to leach onto their properties and the noise and hours of operation beyond the normal work days into the late hours of the night. With no further comments, the public hearing was closed by a motion from Councilman Simms, and seconded by Councilwoman Brown.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Poole to deny the request for the special use permit. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment A, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes herein.

A motion was made by Commissioner Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Poole to open the public hearing on the question of rezoning 837 NC Hwy 16 South. The applicant is requesting the property to be rezoned all H-C Highway Commercial. Now it is split zoned H-C Highway Commercial and B-2 General Business. Staff feels that the property is consistent with the Taylorsville Land Development Plan. Neil Cornatzer spoke in favor of the uniform zoning of H-C Highway Commercial. No other comments were made and the hearing was closed with a motion from Councilman Poole and seconded by Councilman Robinette.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to approve the re-zoning request of 837 NC Hwy 16 South to all H-C Highway Commercial. The motion was passed unanimously. See attachment B, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes herein.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to open the public hearing regarding the amendment to Chapter 50 of the Town Ordinance's for the Solid Waste Regulations with the Town's Code of Ordinance's. This will give more enforcement to the ordinance that we have currently. The rules have already been being followed, this will just put them into the ordinance. With no further discussion held, the public hearing was closed by a motion from Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Poole to close the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Robinette to approve the adoption of the new solid waste ordinance Chapter 50: Solid Waste to the Town's Code of Ordinances. The motion was passed unanimously. See the Town of Taylorsville Code of Ordinances Chapter 50 for reference.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilman Poole to appoint the following to the Land Development Plan Committee. The committee will consist of 7 members and 3 alternates serving on the board until the plan is completed approximately 12 to 18 months in length. The members have all agreed to serve and are of all equal position on the board.

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| 1. Phil Wittiker | Alternates: |
| 2. Sharon Roseman | 1. Ron Roseman |
| 3. Gary Elder | 2. Tyler Johnson |
| 4. Kathleen Gwaltney | 3. Bobby White |
| 5. Sharon Mahaffey | |
| 6. Michael Carrigan | |
| 7. Tristan St. Clair | |

The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Simms to approve the contract for engineering services with Withers-Ravenel for the AIA Grant. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Simms to approve the contract for engineering services with West Consultants for the Wastewater System AIA Grant. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Simms to approve the contract for engineering services with Withers-Ravenel for the merger regionalization feasibility study of the water system. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to approve a budget amendment receipting in insurance proceeds for property damage \$4,810.69 from Alexander County for lift station damages. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Poole and seconded by Councilman Simms to approve the budget amendment for \$52,100.00 from the American Rescue Fund to pay for COVID-19 pandemic essential workers premium pay bonus for all full and part time employees who worked consistently during the pandemic until now. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilman Simms to remove the crape myrtle trees along main street. They will be removed 1 block at a time and the concrete/sidewalks will be repaired starting with Cline's Florist up to South Center Street. This will start as soon as the concrete finisher's schedule will allow after Christmas. Town staff will remove the trees and prepare the holes for the concrete. Each hole will cost approximately \$260.00 to refinish and the entire project is expected to cost \$6,000.00 to complete. The tree at Holland's Chiropractic will also be removed. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Robinette and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to approve a \$1.00 per hour for all full and part time police officers effective 12-12-22. The motion was passed unanimously.

Dr. Jennifer Hefner, Superintendent of Alexander County Schools came before the Town Council to talk about a new grant that the school system has received which will place a school resource officer at Taylorsville Elementary for the remainder of this school year and next school year. The grant will pay for up to \$44,000 of salary and benefits of the officer's position. It will not pay for a car, uniforms or equipment. She referred to the already existing agreement between the Town and the school system to provide SRO's at the high school and the alternative school and early college. She noted that all the positions require full time duties when school is in session of all the SRO's at the schools, which is a requirement of the grant that funds those positions. The Town Council and Chief Bowman assured that would happen. Chief Bowman noted that he already had a request from officers to be placed at the Elementary School as SRO.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and second by Councilman Simms to support the funding of the officer for Taylorsville Elementary and to also make sure that all positions are filled at all times when school is in session. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilwoman Brown to approve and accept the NCDEQ Vehicle Replacement grant. The grant consists of replacement of our 2 large former DOT dump trucks. One truck will be replaced with a Dodge Ram 5500 with a 12 ft dump bed which will be the new landfill/brush/limb truck. The second will be a Dodge Ram 5500 with a 11 ft reinforced utility bed which will be upfitted with a crane to lift pump stations. The quoted price is \$164,840.00 and the grant funding will be \$131,000.00 which leave us funding \$33,000.00. With the lead time being slow, it's not expected until next year to be here and in service. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Simms and seconded by Councilman Poole to adopt a Resolution declaring the following as surplus equipment within the public works department:

1. Aries sewer inspection camera – (2008) to be scrapped
2. Onan 3500 watt 1998 generator – sell by auction
3. Homelite 662 gmp 1990's trash pump – sell by auction
4. Generator with Mitsubishi Motor – suggest scrapping
5. Caterpillar propane generator 20 KW – 2007- sell by auction
6. John Deere Gator 2000- runs but needs clutch – sell by auction
7. Leaf Vacuum trailer – 1989 with Ford engine – sell by auction

The motion was passed unanimously.

Police Dept. Report: Chief Doug Bowman

Chief Bowman stated his willingness to place an officer as SRO at Taylorsville Elementary and will work on that immediately. He stated the need for full-time SRO's at all schools. Regarding the Hometown Christmas activities and having extra police presence there would require scheduling and paying officers to be there in addition to the regularly scheduled officers on duty.

Utility Manager Report & Acting Town Manager Report: Aaron Wike noted that this will be our 21st year as a Tree City. There are opportunities to apply for Part F grants for Matheson Park and Town Park. These grants would be a 50/50 matching grant but would be a good opportunity to improve aging playground equipment and do much needed improvements to the parks. More information will follow. The new rock playground equipment is scheduled to ship on March 16th, 2023. There is need to purchase a ATV to use in the Cemetery and along the streets for spraying and can be equipped with a snow plow for pushing snow along the sidewalks plus with the parade & apple festival placing barricades, etc. A 2023 CanAm Defender XT HD9 with street legal kit with a wench & snow plow for \$27,745.45 including tax is available at Schronce Power Sports.

Town Manager David Odom is out on medical leave.

Councilwoman Brown stated that the first night of Hometown Christmas was a big success, with

lots of people in attendance with Santa, carriage rides, music, food and fellowship. The remaining dates are Thursday December 8th, and Thursday December 15th, 2022. She mentioned her appreciation for all the help from the other Town Council members.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Brown and seconded by Councilman Robinette to enter into closed session to discuss personnel and town property. The motion was passed unanimously.

Discussion was held with Dr. Jennifer Hefner regarding the Title 4 grant that funds the SRO's at the schools. The stipulations of the grant requires the SRO's to be there on a full-time basis when school is in session. It has been brought to her attention by the Coordinator of the Student Success Center that the SRO assigned there and the Early College is not there on a full-time basis when school is in session. The Town Council assured her that the matter will be addressed to the Town Manager and Police Chief and action will be taken to ensure that an SRO is there full-time while school is in session.

Discussion was held regarding town rental property and the best options available to place them for sale. Further options will be investigated and reported back to the Council.

By unanimous decision the closed session was exited and returned to regular session.

By unanimous decision, the Town Council directed Town Manager Wike to proceed with the purchase of a ATV for the public works department.

With no other business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Mayor

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman

Councilman

Attest: _____
Yolanda T. Prince, Town Clerk