

**Stoneville Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2023
7:00 PM - Council Chamber**

Regular Meeting

Present were Mayor Kathy Stanley-Galvan, Councilmen Johnny Farmer, Curtis Bennett, Henry Thornton, and Chuck Hundley. Councilman Jerry Smith was absent. Also present were Town Administrator Perry Webster, Town Clerk Deleia Hutcherson, Fire Chief Joel Freeman, Police Chief Frank Moore, Parks and Recreation Director Dillon Brown 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. 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 (4) Economic Development with no action taken.

Minutes: Mayor Galvan asked for a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from October 3, 2023. Councilman Hundley made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Thornton seconded. Motion carried.

Agenda: Mayor Galvan asked for a motion to approve the November 14, 2023, Agenda. Councilman Thornton made a motion to approve the Agenda. Councilman Farmer seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

1. **Consideration to use PEG Video Programming Funds to film Christmas Tree Lighting and Christmas Parade** – Town Administrator Webster advised we are not allowed to use the PEG Grant funds to advertise businesses in town but it can be used to cover town events such as the Tree Lighting and Christmas Parade. The quote for Star News to video the Parade is \$500.00 and \$250.00 to video the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Councilman Farmer made the motion to approve the use of the PEG Video Programming funds to film the Christmas Tree Lighting and the Christmas Parade. Councilman Hundley seconded. Motion carried.
2. **Consideration to approve Christmas Bonuses** – Town Administrator Webster asked the Council to consider the employee Christmas bonuses based on the listing that was provided. He stated the calculations were based on last year's bonuses with full-time employees receiving \$500.00 and part-time \$250.00. The total cost will be \$7,350.00 if approved. He also advised that Councilman Smith sent an email requesting consideration to increase Fire Chief Freeman's bonus from \$250.00 to \$500.00 since he is the Fire Chief. Councilman Farmer stated he didn't have a problem with increasing the Fire Chief's bonus to \$500.00. He also mentioned there is usually a time frame requirement to be eligible for a bonus, such as one year of service. Councilman Farmer made a motion that we approve the amounts listed by the Town Administrator and remove the employees that do not have at least one year of service and increase the Fire Chief's bonus from \$250.00 to \$500.00. Councilman Thornton seconded. Councilman Bennett asked for further discussion. He questioned why Chief Freeman and Parks and Recreation Director Dillon Brown would be considered as part-time employees. Town Administrator Webster explained the determination between full-time and part-time. Councilman Bennett said both should receive the full-time bonus due to their positions. Councilman Farmer agreed with Councilman Bennett and amended his motion to include the bonus increases for the Fire Chief's position and the Parks and Recreation Director's position from \$250.00 to \$500.00. He also requested that going

forward, these positions appear with the same bonus amount as full-time employees. Councilman Thornton seconded with amended changes. Motion carried. Copy incorporated into minutes.

3. **Proclamation in recognition of National American Indian Heritage Month** – Mayor Galvan read the Proclamation
4. **Consideration to appoint Jerry Spencer to the Planning Board/Board of Adjustments as an Outside Member** – Town Administrator Webster gave some background information on Mr. Spencer and his desire to serve on the Planning Board/Board of Adjustments. Councilman Hundley made a motion to appoint Jerry Spencer as an outside member to the Planning Board and Board of Adjustments. Councilman Thornton seconded. Motion carried. Copy incorporated into minutes.
5. **Budget Amendments for McMichael Grants to Core Group, Fire Department, and Police Department** – Town Administrator Webster presented the three Budget Amendments for the McMichael Grants. Councilman Farmer made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments as presented by the Town Administrator. Councilman Hundley seconded. Motion carried. Copies incorporated into minutes.

Old Business:

1. **Consideration to purchase laptop computers for Police Department** – Town Administrator Webster advised Chief Moore is still waiting on final quotes and asked that this item be tabled until the quotes are received.

Public Comments - Two people signed up for public comments as follows:

1. Todd Dorbock of 308 N. Henry Street spoke on the inadequate asphalt patch in front of his house. He stated it is already unraveling and causing unnecessary noise that disrupts his sleep. This was done by DOT and Town Administrator Webster will have them inspect the patch and advise Mr. Dorbock of the outcome.
2. Ray Wiggins of 114 S. Glenn St. – He advised he was a member of the Core Group and they have not had a meeting in two years. He stated they continue to get funding but nothing is being done. He stated the bathrooms have been discussed for two years but no action taken. He asked that someone find out what is going on with the Core Group and if not moving forward, just disband it and allow the Town to maintain the park.

Councilman Bennett mentioned an increase in speeding in the Town and questioned where the electronic speed signs were located. Chief Moore advised one was on Church Street and one was out of service. There was discussion on moving them to different locations and also the cost to purchase another sign or repair the broken one.

Departmental Reports:

1. **Fire** – Chief Freeman advised pump and hose testing was complete in addition to testing for fire extinguishers. He advised the Department lost one member due to personnel issues but gained one junior member.
2. **Police** – Chief Moore advised they are still trying to fill positions. They need two more full-time positions. Councilman Bennett commented on the good fit with the new school resource officer, Caleb Shelton.
3. **Parks and Recreation** – Director Dillon Brown advised the tennis court net was replaced. He presented a quote he had received for refinishing the tennis court. He stated open gyms are ongoing and basketball registrations are open. He provided information on an Atlanta

Braves Youth Baseball league that he has been looking into for our community. Councilman Farmer suggested Dillon reach out to the Director at the Boys and Girls Club and the Eden YMCA to see if we can participate in their basketball league to have interlocking games since Madison-Mayodan will not allow us to play against teams in their league. He also suggested the tennis court be pressure washed and the lines repainted to avoid the expense of resurfacing. Councilman Bennett suggested Dillon should also meet with Pastor Moore to discuss the possibility of some programs using the Sharon Baptist Community Center Gym. Councilman Farmer advised he was okay with where we are with Hope gym at this time but would encourage working with Pastor Moore on the possible use of their gym for some games since it has an actual basketball playing surface. He also brought up that it is closer in proximity to our town. Councilman Bennett stated we need to get back to using the Stoneville Elementary Gym as it is in Town and within walking distance for many of our citizens.

4. **Public Works** – Town Administrator Webster advised they repaired a major water leak on S. Henry St., fixed water valve in front of Town Hall, installed speed bumps in alleyway, started clearing the area behind Town Hall, and graveled the parking lot in the old SignCo location.

Town Administrator Report:

1. **Public Works building** – Plans are complete and copies provided to the Building Inspectors Office. The inspectors require Architectural/Engineering services to provide the foundation, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical drawings for the project. The Request for Quotes has been written and approved by Town Attorney Eugene Russell. The notice for services has been published.
2. **Parking area at 102 & 104 E. Main St.** - Public Works is continuing to work on the property at 102/104 Main Street to make it safe for parking. They will be placing railroad ties around the lot to prevent motorists from driving off the back and sides of the parking area. Compliments have been received from numerous citizens.
3. **Property behind Town Hall** – This area is being worked on by the Public Works Department. Our Town Engineer Bill Lester commented on the great job they have done clearing the area. Numerous citizens have also expressed positive comments. Mr. Lester provided ideas for erosion control but will stop working on a grading and landscaping plan until the Town decides what they want to do with this area moving forward.
4. **Flooring in Council Chamber** – The floors will be installed around the second week of December.
5. **Pressure tanks on N. Glenn St., Kellam St., and Highland Ave.** – Town has applied for a grant to install an On-Demand Pump to eliminate the pressure problems on N. Glenn, Highland, Kellam, and Dalton Street. If a grant is awarded, it would take at least eighteen to twenty-four months before the project would begin. A number of residents would like to go ahead and have the pressure tanks installed as previously discussed due to the timely process of waiting for a grant. Our Town Attorney will provide a document for the residents to sign stating the Town will purchase and install the tanks and they will become the property of the homeowners that choose to move forward with this and the Town will be relieved from any further liability related to these instruments. Councilman Bennett expressed his concerns and Mr. Webster addressed all his questions. Quotes to be provided at next meeting.
6. **Christmas snowflake lights** – Town Administrator Webster advised he has been working with Duke Energy, Bright Speed, and NCDOT in reference to getting electricity to our Christmas snowflake lights. He recently found out that a new employee at Duke Energy quoted some services they are unable to provide. They are unable to install the receptacles on poles

they don't own. Duke Energy's quote was reduced from \$11,022.37 to \$6,200.08 but he had to get quotes from other electricians to install the remaining receptacles. B-Mac provided the most reasonable quote at approximately \$4,100.00 and he suggested we move forward with allowing them to order and install the receptacles. The Council had already approved \$11,022.37 for Duke Energy to complete the project at the last meeting and we would now be paying \$10,321.00 if B-Mac handles the remaining poles. B-Mac advised it could take 15-20 days to receive the receptacles and Duke Energy will come out and light all the poles, including theirs when the receptacles are installed. Councilman Hundley made the motion to allow B-Mac to order and install the receptacles on the Christmas snowflake pole lights. Councilman Thornton seconded. Motion carried.

- 7. **Leaf Collection** – Contractor had equipment issues the first day of pick-up but made sure all leaves were picked up within the week. Leaf pick-up is now back on schedule and will continue until December 11th.
- 8. **Downtown Trick or Treat** – This was a huge success and Mr. Webster thanked our downtown merchants for their participation in making this event so successful.

Mayor Galvan reminded the Town Administrator to get Public Works to get the Christmas banners on the poles. Councilman Farmer also asked if we could possibly look at getting wreaths for the lamp posts.

Upcoming November events were announced. Town Administrator Webster advised that Ed Matthews of WFMY Channel 2 will be our Grand Marshal for the Christmas Parade.

Mayor Galvan thanked everyone for coming out and advised we will be going back into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a) (6) Personnel.

Mayor Galvan asked for a motion to go into recess. Councilman Thornton made the motion. Councilman Bennett seconded. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilman Thornton to come out of recess and to go into closed session. Councilman Farmer seconded. Motion carried.

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

Motion made by Councilman Thornton to adjourn meeting. Councilman Hundley seconded. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 8:23pm

Kathy Stanley Galvan
 Mayor, Kathy Stanley-Galvan

Deleia Hutcherson
 Town Clerk, Deleia Hutcherson

