

10/07/2021

Town Council Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Full council board, Town Clerk Tammy Kelledes, Chief of Police Billy Biddle, WWTP Foreman Bill Lesmerises, Planning & Zoning and Codes Enforcement Jaime Fowler, Public Works Allan Anthony, officer Christine Lamonica, and Deputy Chief Glenn Ray.

Public: Cheryl Jones, David and Cathy Spencer, Barbara Mutolo, Joe Noon, Judy Reveal, Kim Carlson, Sean Masten, Ryan Masten, Nevin Crouse, Family of Billy Biddle, and Family of Christine Lamonica.

Call to order

Mayor Reichart called the meeting to order @ 6 P.M. Pledge of allegiance was done. Commissioner Mackey made motion to approve the minutes from September 16, 2021. Commissioner Brandon Cunningham seconded it.

Swearing In

Mayor Reichart swore in William Biddle as Chief of Police and Christine Lamonica for police officer.

Selena Bunker

Did not attend meeting.

Kim Carlson

Lives on 411 W Sunset. Wanted to thank everyone for all their hard work before she expressed some of her concerns. She thinks the council needs to work on their communication and transparency. Last week she had learned that we had lost a police chief. She called town hall and was told positions were posted. She told someone else it was posted but they could not find the posting. She then called back and couldn't get a whole lot of answers. She felt like there may be a lack of communication between the council and staff. She thought it seemed weird that on Wednesday there was no chief then by Friday we had one. It gives a level of discomfort on how things are being managed. Next, she discussed the Greensboro K-9, Ranger. After reading the minutes on the website she found that he had been retired within days of being paid benefits for the rest of his life, based on the Town Managers pushing the decision to the council. She doesn't think people realize the cost of medical treatment it can cost the dog's handler. What is \$2,500 a year compared to our budget? She thinks our K-9 deserves better from us and would like for it to be revisited.

Commissioner Cunningham asked to address these issues and spoke about the Police Chief position first. He said the staff did not know that the commissioners have held multiple closed session meetings about it. He also mentioned Eric Lee (a past Chief) and how he decided to leave. Commissioner Mackey also spoke and said we asked Billy and he thought about the position for a little time before taking it. Commissioner Cunningham stated they had multiple meetings about it and everyone is happy with the decision. Kim said it puts the staff in an awkward position not knowing; perhaps keep them in the loop. Commissioner Cunningham agreed and said there is always room for improvement.

Commissioner Cunningham addressed the situation with Ranger next saying he would like to look into it more. They had talked to Stew about it multiple times and he agreed his time was near up for Ranger as he was getting older. Mayor Reichart said the conversation on that issue had been discussed for a while

before any decision was made. It wasn't abrupt. David Spencer suggested we look at the law to clarify and Commissioner Mackey said they would look into it.

Committee and Department Reports:

GVFC

Discussed that there would be a movie this weekend. And also, on the 30th.

Administration Report

Town Clerk Kelledees stated that Lyndsey is looking into options for 609 Main and that we cut the grass at that location. We posted for an Admin Clerk and Public Works, both full time positions. October 21, 2021 will be the *Meet and Greet* for the candidates for election.

We have begun planning Whoville; volunteers are needed. It will be held at a new location. It will be three weekends in December starting December 3. Mrs. Kelledees stated that her and Bill Lesmerises have meetings with the Town Planner and Baldwin for Kinnamon Meadows.

Ober Park plans are moving forward.

Added all of our emails to the website so residents can click and email directly to us.

We are considering extending Town Halls hours on Thursdays to 5:30 p.m. with different employee shifts. Commissioner Mackey asked if we got any money yet from Academy for the demo? Response was no. David Spencer asked if there would be an end-time for the meet and greet and asked who will facilitate it? Tammy responded that she would. Everyone agreed on a 7–9-timeframe for it and a 90-second limit for answers to questions from residents. Mayor Reichard asked Judy her opinion she also agreed.

Public Works

Alan Anthony spoke and said he's been cutting lots of grass lately. Commissioner Mackey thanked him for cutting 609 Main. Mrs. Spencer said that Ober Park is very clean and thanked him.

WWTP

Bill Lesmerises spoke on the Waste Water Treatment Plant; said it is been going pretty well. He had a long discussion with Pro Start about their hourly rates because their contract is only for one year. It is \$60 an hour. He also discussed the new vac truck and stated that I & I is full speed ahead. Commissioner Cunningham wanted to make mention that the new truck did not cost any tax payers anything. It was purchased due to a grant we had to use. For the I & I, Bill is getting them two and half years of data to work on improving the streets and roads. November 1, 2021 will be the camera of the streets underneath and it will be done in two phases. He also wanted to ask for permission for the electric panels to be re-done on the Mill St. station. Council approved.

Moving on to the conversion upgrades on antennas, they are getting ready to start that. He is working on getting a rep from Suez here for a meeting to answer questions. Goldsboro had a grinder pump quit working at someone's home.

Quick update on the North County progress he is waiting on engineer comments.

Ober Park is going to be awesome with lots of upgrades. Commissioner Harrison stated that Ober Park is also being done with grant funding.

Commissioner Cunningham asked if we have ever gone and randomly pulled any grinder pumps to inspect them? Bill said no we haven't but that isn't a bad idea. Commissioner Cunningham suggested maybe we should check one or two a month to see if there are more issues.

Old Business

Properties on Lincoln Street for sale, no one seems to be interested, maybe need to lower the price. Commissioner Cunningham suggested we create Welcome Packets for new business owners and home owners to the town.

There has been discussion on fixing this building for quite some time. Commissioners reviewed all quotes that were issued. Commissioner Cunningham stated that Kevin Parks quote seemed incomplete and that Sundance's was very well done. Commissioner Mackey made motion to accept Sundance's quote. Commissioner Knight seconded it. Commissioner Cunningham suggested we ask Sundance for an updated quote with less windows listed since we don't need 27 windows done. Mayor Reichart said all in favor "I".

New Business

Nevin Crouse spoke on the school street apartments. He stated that they are not rented; they are all individually owned. They all pay individual property taxes. He doesn't see why they don't get the same benefits as the rest of the residents in town who get bulk pick up & brush pick up. The Commissioners all agreed that they should reap the same benefits. Asked for Town Hall to send notification to each owner there letting them know that they can start using this free option. Discussed that the bulk should be placed out front in the corner of the lot where the Public Works men can get to it easily. There are 24-units in this building.

Bills

No questions or concerns.

Town Council Remarks

Commissioner Knight wanted to remind everyone that he is leading a food pantry in our town along with Pastor Doug and Cheryl. It will be one day a week delivery at Greater Impact.

Commissioner Cunningham asked if they should make a statement about the Town Manager position. Mayor Reichart said yes, the Town Manager resigned but we are not replacing her position right now.

Mayor Reichart brought up Halloween and said that the decision was made to keep it on Sunday October 31, 2021. It will be held from 6-8 P.M.

Adjourn

Commissioner Harrison made motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Cunningham seconded it. Mayor Reichart closed the meeting at 7:22 P.M.

Respectfully prepared by, Jaime Fowler.