



David Spencer, Mayor
Tammy Kelleles, Town Manager/Clerk

P.O. Box 340
Greensboro, MD 21639
410-482-6222

Town Council Meeting
Town of Greensboro
3.21.24

In attendance were Mayor David Spencer, Commissioner Pete Brelia, Commissioner Bob Harrison, Commissioner Joe Noon, Commissioner Christina Robinson (Zoom), Town Manager Tammy Kelleles, Public Works Supervisor Brandon Cunningham, Community Outreach/Main Street Coordinator Amanda Weaver, Town Attorney Lyndsey Ryan, and Associate Carly.

Residents in attendance were: Chris Mason, Timothy Dalton, Kenny Burke, Terri Christopher, Kevin Reichart, Pastor Jenkins, Karen Ireland, and Renee Swafford.

Meeting called to order at 6 pm by Mayor Spencer

Pledge of Allegiance

No pastor for invocation so Mayor Spencer asked for a volunteer and there was no one so he asked for everyone to take a moment to say thoughts and prayers in your own mind.

Mayor asked for approval of March 7, 2024 minutes.

Commissioner Noon made a motion to approve minutes and seconded by Commissioner Harrison. All in favor. Minutes are approved.

Public Comment

Chris Mason commented on the following:

- He invited Anton Black's lawyer, but they probably won't show up because she is from Baltimore. He said there is an ongoing lawsuit.
 - Commissioner Robinson spoke to Mr. Mason about his comments at the last meeting. Clarification was made that there was a settlement and not a judgement. She also said that to many, Anton is more than just something to incite the town about. (the audio was spotty, and Mr. Mason said he did not understand). Attorney Ryan said that at the last meeting Mr. Mason made a

comment that the town had paid a settlement to Thomas Webster and the town did not. There is no Judgement, but there is a settlement agreement which is not a judgement. After more discussion Mr. Mason said he hopes to bring the attorney to the next meeting. Ms. Swafford advised him that she was Anton's attorney, and he did not contact her, so she doesn't know who he was talking to but she is not a party to that.

- He questioned the water quality report and was advised that it should be sent out electronically to those that received their bill by email.
- He said that we had requested \$10M for the expansion project and Mrs. Kelledes advised him that we will receive \$5M.
- 2024 budget discussion on Police Department and Public Works budget. Mrs. Kelledes asked him to be present during budget hearings.
- He feels that Goldsboro is an Achilles heel and doesn't know why we continue to carry them.
- RFP discussion and Attorney Ryan said they close on April 2, 2024

Mayor Spencer advised Mr. Mason that we are not prepared to answer questions off the cuff and asked him to send us the questions so that we are prepared to answer at the meetings.

- More discussion on PW expenditures and salary. Mrs. Kelledes asked if he has time to come in and sit with her to discuss and answer his questions.
- More discussion on Goldsboro and Attorney Ryan explained that our water treatment plant was failing, and Goldsboro's septic's were failing so to maximize grant dollars, the WWTP was extended to Goldsboro.

Renee Swafford commented on the following:

- There are errors in communicating with the town and citizens of Greensboro.
- Agenda was not listed on web page
- Web page states in upcoming meetings that it is at 7 pm, but when you look further the calendar is at 6.
- Today's notice of e-billing of water bills. The statement is disingenuous at best because she heard we are in conversation to create a new paid position for non-essential personnel to replace a grant that is about to expire to hire one of our own. This action has been repeated before.
- The form for bill preference gives the citizens 2 choices – email and mail. She does not feel that the citizens should have to call if they do not receive their bill.
- She is also upset about the way an employee at Town Hall responded to an inquiry about fencing.

Karen Ireland commented on the following:

- Spoke about her incident with the police and Rolling Meadows

- Discussion on barricades on the road by her property and must go to Wheeler to get to her property. Asked to remove barricades – discussion on why and who owns it. Commissioner Brelia suggested she talk to the neighbors and if they agree to remove the barricades from Wheeler then it could be opened.

Timothy Dalton commented on the following:

- Discussion on Drinking Water Quality report
- Discussion on the violation he received about his untagged car as well as the rules on untagged cars. He feels he is being harassed.
- Said that Mrs. Kelledees does not call back. I (Finance Clerk – Dawn Parks) told him I was the one he had talked to. The council said they will look into his concerns.

Chris Mason – Thanked Vanice for helping with the “sidewalk tax.”

Pastor Marvin Jenkins commented on the following:

- Billing of water bills and questioned about how residents are charged. Mayor Spencer said we are going to discuss it tonight. He has received the bill and wanted to know basically if churches will be exempt. Discussion that at one time they were told it was the law that churches and all nonprofits had to be charged.

Department Reports

Town Manager Tammy Kelledees gave the following report:

- Gave the Council the Information that DBF sent for the new rates. Don’t know that she agrees with all of them and doesn’t think they understand her request. Mayor Spencer said he would like her to call them back and specifically tell them what we want.
- They have been going over the next charter items. Mayor Spencer said there are things that need Attorney Ryans input.

Town Attorney Lyndsey Ryan gave the following report:

- WWTP operator bid due April 2 and we have received 3 requests for the RFP.
- Issued Lead line inventory RFP, where engineering firm must come in and determine where there are lead lines in the infrastructure and do an inventory. This is due to MDE October 16, 2024. Bids for that are due April 25, 2024.
- Scheduling of budget and water/sewer rates
 - April 18, 2024 will be the public hearing
 - May 2, 2024 we will introduce the budget, water/sewer rates, and constant yield rate
 - June 6 will be the hearing for the budget. Constant yield and water/sewer rates can be adopted the same night.
- Ordinance – 2024-02

- Commissioner Robinson asked for clarification on the ordinance because this had been discussed at the last meeting to do the survey first to see if it will be beneficial. Attorney Ryan explained that this ordinance authorizes us to enter into a contract if we want but does not mean we have to. Discussion on the process of obtaining speed cameras.
- Commissioner Noon sponsored Ordinance 2024-02 – (public hearing will be April 18, 2024)
 - **AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF GREENSBORO TO AUTHORIZE THE GREENSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ISSUE AND ENFORCE CITATIONS BASED ON SPEED MONITORING SYSTEMS**

A motion to introduce Ordinance 2024-02 was made by Commissioner Noon and seconded by Commissioner Harrison. All in favor.

Public Works Supervisor Brandon Cunningham gave the following report:

- Discussion on Fidelity and the generator - found out the head needs to be rebuilt and they want to charge an increase of \$5K. Mr. Cunningham would like to reach out to Kelly Generators because he is very unhappy with the customer service at Fidelity. Attorney Ryan was asked if we must put a bid out to change providers. She said that generally for maintenance and service we do not, but it would be best to get several. The council agreed for Mr. Cunningham to shop around for a possible new service company.
 - Commissioner Brelia said that we've already approved to pay \$16 as quoted to fix. If it is not possible tell them not to do it, then Mr. Cunningham needs to come back to council.
- Busy with cleaning up and doing mulch at the parks.
- Brush pick up was five loads –
 - Mayor Spencer asked if we could have another brush pick up in a few weeks due to all the winds we have had.
- Rainy days they are doing inventory.
- Landscaping around and edging sidewalks by free fishing area
- Met with Dave from Underground Construction about the Mobile station (across from the elementary school) who wants to do an addition for a freezer. The County shut down and said he needs to hook to public utility. We had to apply for the permit because of the location. They will tap into the road across the street just before the school parking lot.
- 211 Vaughn was cleaned up by Chesapeake maintenance and the homeowner will get billed.

Community Outreach/Main Street Coordinator Amanda Weaver gave the following report:

- She sent invitations to the Council for the after-school program at school for council night and asked for council to push back meeting for an hour April 4, 2024 to 7 pm.

Motion made by Commissioner Harrison and seconded by Commissioner Breliia to move the meeting of April 4, 2024 to 7 pm so the Council could participate at the event at Greensboro Elementary School. All in favor.

- Mayor Spencer asked Mrs. Weaver to put the new information online for the next meeting change in time.
 - Attorney Ryan wanted it on record that she did get the agenda from the website and was able to print it out.
- The Autism Awareness event is April 6, 2024 at the GVFC Community Hall. There are more people who are interested, which is great because it was a slow start.
 - Commissioner Robinson said that Amanda has been amazing with the event and never let her know that she was stressed. She also hopes that this event is informative for the community and links them with resources needed. She thanked Amanda again for all her help and hard work!
 - Mrs. Weaver also asked for any silent auction baskets/items that anyone would like to donate.
- Cops and Bobbers is May 4, 2024 at Choptank River Park. They are still working on sponsors but have Scales and Tales, Greensboro Police Department, DNR mobile fishing trailer, and it is all free for community.
- 100 % covered with sponsorships for the Car Show
 - Commissioner Noon asked for a Whoville sponsorship letter.
 - Mr. Cunningham asked when the details for the Musicfest/Car Show comes out for everyone to share and that all proceeds go to basketball and playground sensory equipment.

Fire Department – No one to report

Old Business - None

New Business –

School Ordinance but previously addressed.

Town Council discussion and remarks

Mayor Spencer said that the Charter discussion is postponed until they talk to Mrs. Ryan

All

- Commissioner Noon wants the public to know that there are things that happen in the office that the Council doesn't know about and the first time they hear about it is at the meeting.
- He said he appreciates Chris Mason coming to the meetings and that we do care.
 - Mr. Mason said he didn't say we didn't care but that people are upset and that we (Town Hall employees/management and the Council) are not popular because of lack of understanding and lack of knowledge. He also said that people are afraid to ask questions and not get answers. He has 50-60 people messaging him about the town meetings. He looks at all the things –budget, water leaks, etc. and he doesn't

run the town, but he runs big projects and doesn't have time to run the town, and he could but doesn't have time. Commissioner Harrison said a lot of things are a result from many years ago. Mr. Mason said that there is a misconception about rates that people don't understand – some people will be shocked at how much water they really use and 4 months from now will be upset.

- Discussion that Goldsboro rates need to be reassessed.
- Everyone agrees that Mr. Mason has brought the most people in, and everyone appreciates the fact that he cares.
- Mayor Spencer reminds the residents that being on the Council is a part time job. He also said that if there is a problem with employees there is a process and asks people to follow it. There are many accusations tonight that are not factual.
- Mr. Mason brought up the Fire Department donation and there was discussion on why it is given and what it is used for.
- Mayor Spencer said that everyone in the town office cares, and everyone is trying to get better.
- Mr. Mason said that as far as someone (Council) not knowing what is going on, at his job, he would be fired.
- Mayor Spencer encouraged Mr. Mason to have his friends to be respectful.
- Mr. Mason suggested a meet and greet with the community. There was discussion that we have had them, and no one shows up. Jenkins – suggested having a table or booth.
- Pastor Jenkins also suggested a booth or table at local functions so people would know who their council is. The Mayor explained about a quorum and it was a violation of the open meetings act.
- Mrs. Weaver said that she thinks that when Commissioner Noon said he didn't know, he meant that was about if you had a complaint and he is actively involved.
- Commissioner Robinson said she is also glad that Mr. Mason comes to the meetings. She also said that was her a few years ago and now she is on the other side and trying to make a difference and doesn't enjoy being bombarded or blamed for decisions she was not actively involved in that had to be endorsed as a town. She would like him to get to know everyone as a person and not paint all of us under this umbrella and she is happy to share her thoughts anytime.

Mayor Spencer asked the council to review the literature about water/sewer recommendations because they will need to be discussed at the next workshop, and he also would like thoughts on water billing process and grace periods. Mrs. Kelledees explained that the suggestions given to them were narrowed down by a meeting with employees.

Mayor Spencer asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Commissioner Noon and seconded by Commissioner Robert Harrison at 7:26 pm. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Dawn M Parks.