

**TOWN OF PINEBLUFF
REGULAR MEETING
September 21, 2023**

The Mayor and the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Pinebluff held their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Present were Mayor Ronald McDonald, Commissioners, Jerry Williams, Rachel Byrd, Mike Thomas, and Guy McGraw. Commissioner Robbie Conley was absent. A Quorum was present.

Also present were Town Administrator, Melissa Adams, Police Chief, Pike Nordgren, Fire Chief, Jonathan Richardson, Firefighters Logan Deberry and Justin McCloud, Town Clerk, Betty McDuffie, Finance Officer, Rachel Dysart, Public Works Manager, Andy Dick. Zoning Administrator, David Francis was absent.

Citizens present were Mark McDuffie, Jennifer Deberry, Patrick Neligan, James VanBoskerck, Angelia Cherry, Raquel Swenson, Richard and Mary Wentland, and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Richards.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Ronald McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT TO THE AGENDA:

Commissioner Rachel Byrd presented the adjustments to the agenda: Police Department: Add "b" – Closed Session per G.S.143-318.11 for Personnel. Fire Department: Add "f" – Personnel; Add "g" – Budget Amendment. Administration: Add #2 – Citizen of the Year for 2022 and 2023; Add #3 – Employee of the Year for 2022 and 2023; Add #4 – Sandhills Area MPO – voting member number weighted votes. New Business: Add "A" – Use of Community Center for afterschool care.

Commissioner Rachel Byrd made a motion to accept the adjustments to the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Jerry Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of items A through G.

Commissioner Rachel Byrd made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Jerry Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC ADDRESS TO THE BOARD:

Citizens' Time:

Mr. James VanBoskerck informed the Board that he would like to commend the Street Department on the great job they did on US Hwy #1 cutting the grass and trimming the trees back on the turning lane on US Hwy #1 going into North Carrant Street. He also wanted to know why his taxes increased by 70%.

Commissioner Guy McGraw informed Mr. VanBoskerck that the taxes increased due to the reevaluation done by Moore County Tax Department. Our tax rate stayed the same.

Mayor Ronald McDonald informed Mr. VanBoskerck that we did not change our rate because we did not get the final information from the County until we had set our budget.

Mr. Richard Wentland informed the Board that he was there to question his tax increase also.

Mr. VanBoskerck asked where was all this extra money going to be spent.

Town Administrator, Melissa Adams informed Mr. VanBoskerck that we now have a CIP Plan and for this year we have purchased new vehicles, equipment and will be adding an extra police officer and an extra firefighter.

Ms. Angelia Cherry informed the Board that her water bill was high and she was the only one living there, she also wanted to know what benefits she receive from the Town, and she was also having trouble with her HOA. She informed the Board that she lived at 234D Persimmon Drive.

Mayor Ronald McDonald informed Ms. Cherry that we would send someone to check her meter out tomorrow.

Commissioner Rachel Byrd informed Ms. Cherry that she did not live within the Town limits, but she did get water and sewer service and fire protection from the Town. The Sheriff's Department would handle any other emergencies. As far as the HOA the Town have no control.

Ms. Raquel Swenson informed the Board that she was there about her water bill she was the one with \$9,937.89 water bill and she wanted to ask the Board to please give her an adjustment.

Commissioner Guy McGraw stated that we would talk about it when we got to the Water Department report.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Zoning/Planning:

Town Clerk, Betty McDuffie presented the Board the information from the Planning Board and from the Committee formed to research the proposed R-7 Zoning District.

The Board discussed the pros and cons presented from the Committee and the and the recommendation from the Planning Board to not add a R-7 Zoning District at this time.

After further discussion, Commissioner Guy McGraw made a motion send the proposed ordinance back to the attorney to add Old Town lots only and to set a Public Hearing for next month's meeting. Commissioner Mike Thomas seconded. 2 ayes (Commissioners McGraw and Thomas). 2 nays (Commissioners Jerry Williams and Rachel Byrd). Mayor Ronald McDonald broke the tie and voted aye. Motion carried.

Police Department:

Police Chief, Pike Nordgren presented the Police Department's monthly report for August. He also informed the Board that the K-9 Police Dog and his handler have completed their training through K-Solutions.

Commissioner Rachel Byrd made a motion to accept the Police Department's report. Commissioner Jerry Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Williams made a motion go into Closed Session per G.S.143-318.11 for Personnel at 7:20 p.m. Commissioner Byrd seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to come back into the regular meeting at 7:26 p.m. Commissioner Byrd seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to follow the Fair Labor Standards Act relating to the K-9 Police Officer. Commissioner Byrd seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Fire Department:

Fire Chief, Jonathan Richardson presented the Fire Department's monthly report for August.

Commissioner Guy McGraw made a motion to accept the Fire Department's report. Commissioner Jerry Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Richardson informed the Board that he was respectfully requesting the approval of a donation of two (2) pallets of bottle water from Moore County Public Safety and two (2) pallets from the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina.

Commissioner McGraw made a motion to accept the donation of four (4) pallets of bottle water. Commissioner Rachel Byrd seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Richardson informed the Board that he had two (2) personnel that would like to become members of the Department: Jennifer DeBerry – Volunteer FF – Non-certified; Samantha Snider – Part-time FF/EMT certified.

Commissioner McGraw made a motion to accept both applicants. Commissioner Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Richardson presented the 2023 Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement and a memo explaining that the mutual aid agreement is one of the main tools used in North Carolina to share resources between county and municipal agencies statewide.

Commissioner McGraw made a motion to accept the agreement and authorize the Mayor to sign the 2023 Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement. Commissioner Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Richardson presented the Board the update on the new Squad 71. The new Squad 71 was approved in the CIP for this year. If a vendor built the unit the cost would be approximately \$200,000.00 or greater. With us doing the work of obtaining pricing, scheduling the upfitting and getting the parts to make this unit the cost will be approximately \$155,500.00. We have the \$20,000.00 from selling firetruck 712 and \$24,196.80 from the County as a down payment, leaving the finance amount \$111,303.20. After checking with three (3) lenders the best interest rate will be First Bank. We can finance if for six (6) or (7) years.

After discussion, Commissioner McGraw made a motion to go with First Bank for a six (6) year loan at 4.511% interest rate and to proceed with the necessary requirements to fulfill the noted purchases for the new Squad 71. Commissioner Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Richardson informed the Board that he had advertised for a new full time Fire Lieutenant and a new full time Firefighter/EMT. His recommendation is to promote Kenneth Christopher from part-time firefighter to full time Fire Lieutenant, hiring of James Johnson as full time Firefighter/EMT, and hiring of Zyon Chavis as a volunteer Firefighter.

Commissioner McGraw made a motion to promote Kenneth Christopher as full time Fire Lieutenant, hiring James Johnson as full time Firefighter/EMT, and hiring Zyon Chavis as a volunteer Firefighter. Commissioner Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Richardson informed the Board that the funds to purchase PPE (boots and helmets) was done in July but there was not a Budget Amendment done to move the monies to the correct line item.

Commissioner McGraw made a motion for the Finance Officer to do a Budget Amendment to move \$9,999.99 from the sale of Engine 712 to the correct line item so the PPE items can be ordered. Commissioner Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Streets:

In the absence of Commissioner Robbie Conley, Commissioner Guy McGraw presented the Street Department's monthly report for August.

Commissioner McGraw made a motion to accept the Street Department's report. Commissioner Jerry Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner McGraw informed the Board the cement mixer was purchased by getting three (3) votes from the Commissioners by phone calls, but we need to make it official by voting in a regular meeting.

Commissioner McGraw made a motion to accept the purchase of the cement mixer. Commissioner Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner McGraw presented the Board a recommendation for a riding blower for street cleanup. There is money left over from the ARP money because we did not spend the full \$120,000.00 for the mini excavator and trailer.

After discussion, Commissioner McGraw made a motion to purchase the Riding Blower and use ARP money. Commissioner Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Water-Sewer:

In the absence of Commissioner Robbie Conley, Commissioner Guy McGraw presented the Water-Sewer Department's monthly report for August.

Commissioner McGraw made a motion to accept the Water-Sewer Department's report. Commissioner Jerry Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner McGraw informed the Board that the water leak for Chon Bryan even with the adjustment will still leave the bill over \$4,000.00. Maybe we can cap the amount to \$2,500.00 that the customer will have to pay.

After discussion, Commissioner McGraw made a motion to table the water leak adjustment for Mr. Chon and to check with the Town's attorney to see if we can put a

\$2,500.00 cap on the amount the customer would have to pay. Commissioner Mike Thomas seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner McGraw made a motion to approve the water leak adjustment for Dave Zwiebel in the amount of \$126.90 for a water leak in his hot water heater; water leak adjustment for Deloris Corrado in the amount of \$48.82 for a leak in the front yard. Commissioner Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner McGraw made a motion to move the Closed Session until the end of the agenda. Commissioner Thomas seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Town Clerk, Betty McDuffie informed the Board that Mr. Zach Martin would like the Town to extend the water line to his property at 185 Berry Street outside the town limits. The water line stops at West Philadelphia Avenue, Commissioner Robbie Conley measured it and he said it is approximately 368 feet from where the water line stops.

After discussion, Commissioner McGraw made a motion to extend the water line if Mr. Martin pays to run the 368 feet of line. Commission Rachel Byrd seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Town Administrator, Melissa Adams informed the Board that the North Carolina General Assembly has voted to allocate funds through out the State for water and wastewater infrastructure. They have voted to allocate \$5,200,000 to the Town of Pinebluff. In February of this year, I sent a request for funding to our State Senators and Representatives asking for funding for Public Safety, Parks and Recreation, and the Water Department. I asked for \$5,211,400.00 to replace approximately 9.87 miles – 52,114 feet of water line at \$100.00 per foot.

Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery:

Commissioner Mike Thomas informed the Board that the Public Works guys had run the water line to the Cunningham Park and sowed some grass seeds. We would like to have a ribbon cutting to commensurate the re-opening of Cunningham Park. The Cemetery and other Parks look good.

After discussion the Board decided to have the ribbon cutting Wednesday, October 18th at 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Thomas made a motion to accept the Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery Report as presented. Commissioner Jerry Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Building Inspection:

Commissioner Rachel Byrd presented the Building Inspection's monthly report for August.

Commissioner Guy McGraw made a motion to accept the Building Inspection Report. Commissioner Jerry Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Administration:

Commissioner Rachel Byrd presented the monthly tax reports for August.

Commissioner Guy McGraw made a motion to accept the monthly tax reports. Commissioner Jerry Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Town Administrator, Melissa Adams informed the Board that in 2022 we did not elect a Citizen of the Year or Employee of the Year. We also need to be thinking about someone for this year.

Commissioner McGraw made a motion to elect Commissioner Rachel Byrd for Citizen of the Year and Fire Chief, Jonathan Richardson as Employee of the Year for 2022. Commissioner Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Town Administrator Adams informed the Board that at the last Sandhill Area MPO meeting they discussed voting member number weighted votes. The larger areas will have more votes according to their size. We need to vote to accept this procedure.

After discussion, Commissioner McGraw made a motion to accept the MPO voting procedures. Commissioner Mike Thomas seconded. 3 ayes. 1 nay (Jerry Williams voted no). Motion carried.

Commissioner Byrd read Finance Officer, Beth Cowan's resignation letter.

Commissioner McGraw made a motion to accept Ms. Cowan's resignation. Commissioner Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Town Administrator, Melissa Adams informed the Board that we have purchased the Software for the OnSolve Code RED Community Alert System and we have created a Policy for approved Department Messaging and authorized Personnel. The users are: Town Clerk, Betty McDuffie, Finance Officer, Rachel Dysart, and Fire Chief, Jonathan Richardson. Before we can go live, they will have to have 10+ hours of required online training.

Town Clerk, Betty McDuffie presented the Board the proposed Ordinance amending Town Code of Ordinances establishing regulations for the Operation of Golf Carts on Town Public Streets. She also presented the Board a proposed application form, the stickers for the golf carts, and a map of Pinebluff with a list of the streets that the golf carts will be allowed.

Commissioner Guy McGraw made a motion to accept the golf cart ordinance. Commissioner Mike Thomas seconded. 3 ayes. 1 nay (Jerry Williams voted no). Motion carried.

The Board decided to go with Whistle Stop for stickers to go on the front and back of the golf cart.

Commissioner McGraw made a motion to take the Village of Pinehurst application and revamp it for the Town of Pinebluff and the fee for the stickers will be an annual fee of \$25.00 for two stickers, one for the front and one for the rear of the golf cart. Commissioner Jerry Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

New Business:

Town Clerk, Betty McDuffie informed the Board that a lady from Rockingham called and asked if she could use the Community Center for an after-school care center, Monday through Friday.

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After discussion, Commissioner Rachel Byrd made a motion to vote no for the use of the Community Center every day for an after-school care. Commissioner Jerry Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Guy McGraw made a motion to go into Closed Session per G.S.143-318.11(a)(1) and (3) for Attorney-Client Privilege at 8:50 p.m. Commissioner Jerry Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to come back into the Regular Board meeting at 9:12 p.m. Commissioner Byrd seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioner Byrd stated that during Closed Session no decisions were made.

Other Business:

None

Announcements:

None

Adjournment:

Commissioner Guy McGraw made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jerry Williams seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Sincerely,



Betty O. McDuffie, CMC
Town Clerk