

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 9, 2024
MINUTES**

The Rural Hall Town Council held their regular council meeting on September 9, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Council Chambers. The following members were present: Mayor Terry M. Bennett - presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn; Councilman Mark Lane; Councilman Michael Woodcock; Councilwoman Anita Ring; Town Attorney Hugh Campbell; Town Manager Homer Dearmin; Town Clerk Lynette Hendrick; Finance Administrator Donna Watson; LPA Supervisor Dawn Tysor; PIO Alston Brown; Public Works Director Jason Hill; and Fire Chief Mike Simone.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Town Clerk Lynette E. Henrick.

A moment of silence was held.

Mayor Terry Bennett read the announcements as listed on the agenda:

- 2024 Flat and Fast Rural Hall 5K/10K Race October 26
- Trunk or Treat Covington Park October 26, 6-9 pm
- Hall-o-ween (Halloween in Rural Hall on Broad Street) October 31
- Veterans Day November 11 offices closed
- Thanksgiving Holidays Observance November 28, 29 offices closed
- Christmas Tree Lighting December 5, 6:00 PM
- Christmas Parade December 8, 2:30 PM
- Christmas Holiday Observance December 25-27 offices closed
- Flag Purchases by Rural Hall Senior Citizens Club in memory of Judy Revels and Loraine Butcher; and a flag purchased by Chris Southern and Terri Carroll in memory of Shirley Nance Poplin, their mother.

Mayor Terry Bennett recommended that we add the Ronald McDonald House presentation discussion to the agenda under New Business. Councilman Mark Lane made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Anita Ring. Motion passed unanimously.

Introduction of New Employees

Fire Chief Mike Simone introduced Harold (HD) Dillman as the newest firefighter. LPA Supervisor Dawn Tysor introduced her newest employee, Mauricio Jimenez.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Terry Bennett welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mayor Terry Bennett introduced the Representatives from the Ronald McDonald House to give a presentation on the luminary program. Michelle Bennett, Hospitality Service Coordinator, explained what the nonprofit does by providing meals and a home away from home for those who have children requiring medical treatment. Jeannie Jones, Development Manager, introduced the luminary program and discussed how it works. Jeannie mentioned that if the Town of Rural Hall were to get involved with this event, they would be the first town to do so.

Proclamation Declaring Constitution Day

Mayor Terry Bennett read the proclamation and declared September 9th as Constitution Day.

Public Comment Period

Gray Wilson, 1000 Lissa Anne Ln. Winston-Salem the newest Forsyth County Commissioner came to introduce himself and looks forward to working with Rural Hall in the future.

June Koehn, 430 College St. Rural Hall signed up speak about the Town Seal and the Garden Spot Newsletter.

Tina Phelps, 100 Lindley St. Rural Hall signed up to speak about Halloween 2024 in Rural Hall.

Sebastian Jimenez, 672 Angus St. Rural Hall signed up to speak about Solar Panels for Town buildings.

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Consent Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn made the motion, seconded by Councilman Mark Lane to adopt the consent agenda (Minutes August 12, 2024 Council Meeting and Resolution # 872 Financing Agreement for the RH Fire Station). Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Mayor Terry Bennett entertained discussion regarding the Town of Rural Hall taking on the task of selling luminary kits (6 candles) for the purpose of lighting up Broad Street from Main Street Lawn and Garden to the Post Office. Councilwoman Anita Ring made the motion, seconded by Councilman Michael Woodcock to move forward with promoting this event and the selling of the luminary kits. Motion passed unanimously.

PIO Alston Brown mentioned in November 2023, the Town of Rural Hall held the first of two Community Meetings for the development of the town's Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Rural Hall Town Council adopted this Master Plan in February 2024 following input from the community and our Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. With the help of our partners at WithersRavenel we submitted a PARTF Grant application on May 1st for Phase 1 funding and were notified on August 23 that Rural Hall's project was recommended for funding, Rural Hall has been awarded the maximum grant amount of \$500,000 and has committed a match of \$775,000. More information forthcoming from the Parks and Recreation Authority and Recreational Resource Services, including a grant agreement that will require Council approval.

PIO Alston Brown stated the Town was made aware of a funding opportunity in early August through the Piedmont Triad Regional Council (PTRC) for a joint application to the USDOT's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Community Grant Program. The Grant requires each funded charging location to support at least four designated EV charging parking spots, one of which must be ADA compliant. Therefore, at each charging location we must install at least two charging posts that can be either Level 2 or Level 3 chargers. Considering the difference in cost for Level 2 chargers vs Level 3 chargers, Alston recommends the Town aim to install Level 2 chargers. The cost for these will likely vary between communities and locations within those communities, but for the grant application the PTRC plans to uniformly estimate that a Level 2 charging post (which supports two plugs) would be \$20,000, requiring a 20% Match per post, or \$4,000. As the grant requires at least 2 charging posts at each location, the minimum cost estimation for a charging location would be \$40,000, with a 20% required match of \$8,000. Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn made the motion, seconded by Councilman Mark Lane to approve and move forward with the funding opportunity for the Town of Rural Hall, with proposed charging locations at Town Hall and Covington Memorial Park which would require a match of \$16,000, if awarded. Motion passed with a 3-1 vote. (Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn, Councilman Mark Lane and Councilwoman Anita Ring voted in favor and Councilman Michael Woodcock opposed).

Town Manager Homer Dearmin presented a budget amendment for the match by the Town for the PARTF Grant and for the USDOT Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Community Grant Program. Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn made the motion, seconded by Councilman Mark Lane to adopt the Budget Amendment Ordinance # 873. Motion passed with a 3-1 vote. (Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn, Councilman Mark Lane and Councilwoman Anita Ring voted in favor and Councilman Michael Woodcock opposed).

Corporal Michael Collins, Rural Hall Community Policing Supervisor with FCSO gave an update regarding Woodbriar Apartment Complex. He stated the owner continues to work with the FCSO to make things better at the complex. They have seen lower call volume in the past month.

Department Reports

Town Manager Homer Dearmin stated the department reports are included in the agenda for Council to review. He wanted to point out that the License Plate Agency has doubled their work intake over the past few years. If they continue to grow, they will be required to move into another tier with DMV. LPA Supervisor Dawn Tysor and her team are doing a great job, especially with the staffing shortage over the past month.

Alston Brown mentioned on October 12 there will be a car show and entertainment at Town Hall.

In response to Tina Phelps' comments about October 31, Halloween in Rural Hall, Alston Brown clarified there will not be food trucks included in this event.

Council Members Comments

Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn stated that Brian McGlamery asked him to thank everyone for the flowers sent by the Town for his father's passing.

Councilman Michael Woodcock made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Anita Ring to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Lynette E. Hendrick
Town Clerk

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