

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
July 10, 2023
MINUTES

The Rural Hall Town Council held their regular council meeting on July 10, 2023, at 7:00 PM in Town Hall Council Chambers. The following members were present: Mayor Timothy M. Flinchum - presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Susan H. Gordon; Councilman Terry M. Bennett; Councilman Eddie Horn; Councilwoman Janet M. Carithers; Interim Town Manager Ron Niland; Town Clerk Lynette E. Hendrick; Public Works Director Jason Hill and Fire Chief Mike Simone.

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

A moment of silence was held.

Adoption of Amended Agenda:

Agenda was amended to change the closed session to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) Attorney Client Privilege. Mayor Pro Tem Susan Gordon made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Janet Carithers to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilman Terry Bennett made the motion, seconded by Councilman Eddie Horn to adopt June 5 and 12 regular meeting minutes, and June 5 closed session minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements and Meeting Updates:

July yard of the Month – Gerardo and Chon Russell-Gonzalez
National Night Out August 1, 6-8:00 PM
Flag purchase by Rural Hall Senior Citizens Club in memory of Ronnie Grantham.

Introduction of Town Attorney:

Interim Town Manager Ron Niland introduced Attorney Hugh Campbell, III as the Town's new attorney.

Public Comment Period:

Jim Flynt, 5445 Murray Rd. Winston-Salem NC 27106 yielded his three minutes to Carol Newsome.

Carol Newsome, 8495 Broad Street RH, signed up to speak.

June Koehn, 430 College St. RH, signed up to speak.

Eva Mile, 796 Sommerdale Ct. RH signed up to speak.

Unfinished Business

Interim Town Manager Ron Niland stated the code enforcement spreadsheet was in the Council's package, to make them aware of the properties getting violation letters each month.

Interim Town Manager Ron Niland stated that the reason for the Rural Hall Citizens' Academy is to familiarize citizens with the way government entities operate. The dates for the classes are as follows: August 9, 16, 23, 30 and graduation September 11. The classes will start at 6:30 PM and end at 8:00 PM the graduation will be at the September regular council meeting at 7:00 PM.

Councilwoman Janet Carithers discussed traffic safety concerns in Rural Hall. The traffic at Broad St. and Bethania Rural Hall Road is very heavy and sometimes backs up for ½ mile, which causes people to cut through the side road to get around the traffic. This is a hazard because they run through stop signs and pass cars in the turning lane. Lt. Little from FCSO stated one of the reasons for the heavy flow of traffic is because Highway 74 has not opened the complete route. Once that is completed in November the traffic concerns should get better. In the meantime, he recommends the Council consider a “traffic hustle” the cost is \$55.00 an hour with a minimum of 4 hours.

Councilman Terry Bennett made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Janet Carithers to give staff the authority to work with FCSO to draft up a contract for 60 total hours for an officer to sit on or around Main St. to monitor traffic. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Janet Carithers expressed her concerns for the speed limit on Academy St. Public Works Director Jason Hill stated he will start the process for NCDOT to do a speed study and consider changing the speed limit on Academy St. to 25 MPH.

Councilwoman Janet Carithers made the motion, seconded by Councilman Terry Bennett to allow Public Works Director Jason Hill to work with NCDOT to have the speed limit changed on Academy St. to 25 MPH.

Interim Town Manager Ron Niland recommended the Fire Station update and Legislative Update be combined. Interim Manager Ron Niland explained the new law that he and the Interim Finance Director Homer Dearmin learned at the North Carolina City/County Managers’ Seminar.

New Business/ Items of Discussion:

Interim Finance Director Homer Dearmin made the recommendation to the Council to authorize the transfer of approximately \$2,120,506.50 from CD and money market accounts to the NCCMTF.

Councilwoman Janet Carithers made the motion, seconded by Councilman Eddie Horn to allow staff to transfer the funds from CD and money market accounts to the NCCMTF (North Carolina Capital Management Trust Fund). Motion passed unanimously.

Town Attorney Hugh Campbell, III drafted an Option to Purchase Agreement to be used to purchase 8045 Broad Street. Interim Town Manager Ron Niland has moved forward to get the signatures needed for the Town to purchase the property. The property will be purchased at \$200,000.00.

Mayor Pro Tem Susan Gordon made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Carithers to authorize Mayor Timothy Flinchum to sign the agreement to enter the option to purchase of 8045 Broad Street Rural Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Interim Town Manager Ron Niland gave an overview of the FY 2022-2023 budget review. He stated all money due to the Town has not yet been received. The final review will come with the FY 2022-2023 Audit.

Board Comments/Questions

Councilwoman Janet Carithers asked if we had received the breakdown of Attorney Randolph James bills, Interim Town Manager Ron Niland stated we have not. Councilwoman Janet Carithers wanted to know if that would be something the Town’s new Attorney Hugh Campbell, III could help get from Attorney Randolph James.

Councilwoman Janet Carithers requested an update on the digital sign. Public Works Director Jason Hill stated the construction should start in two months.

Councilmembers Janet Carithers, Eddie Horn, Terry Bennett, Mayor Pro Tem Susan Gordon and Mayor Timothy Flinchum thanked the staff for a great fireworks show. They also thanked FCSO for coming to the meeting and always being willing to help.

Councilman Terry Bennett wanted to thank the other Council members for voting to move forward on the items approved tonight.

Lt. Butch Moore from Forsyth County Sheriff Office gave an update on National Night Out scheduled for August 1, from 6-8 pm at Covington Park.

Interim Town Manager Ron Niland stated we will be having a meet and great refreshment time for everyone to meet the Town Attorney Hugh Campbell after the closed session.

Mayor Pro Tem Susan Gordon made the motion at 8:14 pm, seconded by Councilwoman Janet Carithers to move into closed session in pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) Attorney Client privileges.

Mayor Timothy Flinchum called the meeting back to order at 8:53 pm.

Mayor Timothy Flinchum gave the floor to the Town Attorney Hugh Campbell. Town Attorney Hugh Campbell stated he reviewed the lease from the Rural Hall Historical Society and the Town of Rural Hall does not wish to continue the lease with the RHHS. The RHHS will be given the opportunity to retrieve their items. The Council requested the Town Attorney Hugh Campbell send a legal notice to the registered name of the RHHS Corporation which is Miranda Griffin that the lease has been terminated and request the personal property be removed within 90 days.

Councilman Eddie Horn made the motion seconded by Councilman Terry Bennett to authorize the attorney to send the letter to the RHHS/Miranda Griffin. Councilmember Janet Carithers and Mayor Pro Tem Susan Gordon wanted to let everyone know they were no longer members of the RHHS therefore they were able to vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Eddie Horn made the motion to adjourn at 8:59 pm.

Lynette E. Hendrick
Town Clerk