

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023
MINUTES**

The Rural Hall Town Council held their regular council meeting on September 11, 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; Finance Clerk Donna Watson; 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. The Mayor Timothy Flinchum asked that everyone remember the Forsyth County Deputy that was killed in the line of duty Auston Smith Reudelhuber.

Mayor Pro Tem Susan Gordon read a poem about 9/11.

Adoption of Agenda:

Councilman Terry Bennett made the motion, seconded by Councilman Eddie Horn to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Minutes

Councilman Eddie Horn made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Janet Carithers to adopt July 10, August 7 and 14 Regular Minutes and July 10 closed session minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements and Meeting Updates:

- October 28 Rural Hall Flat and Fast 10K/5K (the Interim Town Manager Ron Niland stated he would donate \$1 for every person that beat him in the race and would give \$5 for those older than him that beat him in the race.)
- October 28 Trunk or Treat at Covington Park
- October 16 Candidate Forum at Town Hall

Public Comment Period:

Tina Phelps, 100 Linley Street, signed up to speak about Halloween.

Lyndell Payne, 111 Edwards Road, signed up to speak about the candidate forum planned for October 16.

Unfinished Business

Hall-o-ween was discussed and Interim Town Manager Ron Niland explained that the Town was not canceling Halloween. Public Works Director Jason Hill explained we were not closing Broad St for the safety of the children and neighborhoods. There will be three designated crosswalks staffed by officers and fire employees to ensure the safety of the children. Staff mentioned this was only for this year and we were doing it differently because of the amount of traffic Highway 74 brought through town.

Attorney Hugh Campbell was recognized to give his legal opinion on the Town's existing Peddlers & Solicitors Policy. The Council members have points of concern to be added to the policy. Hugh will review the NCGS, revise the policy, and have it back to the Council in October for their review.

Councilman Terry Bennett made the motion to adopt the amended public comment policy seconded by Councilman Eddie Horn. Motion passed unanimously. The Policy was amended to allow citizens 6 minutes to speak but not allow them to yield time to other speakers.

New Business/ Items of Discussion:

Councilman Eddie Horn made the motion to adopt the recommendation from the NCLM for the settlement agreement with Andy Marshall, seconded by Councilwoman Janet Carithers. Motion passed unanimously.

The Interim Town Manager also mentioned that a ruling in Garner vs Town of Rural Hall was made in favor of the Town.

Councilman Eddie Horn made the motion to adopt Ordinance 858 the Budget Amendment for a Recreation Master Plan, seconded by Councilman Terry Bennett. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Janet Carithers made the motion to accept staff's recommendation of "WithersRavinel" Engineering Firm for the recreation master plan, seconded by Councilman Eddie Horn. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Eddie Horn made the motion to approve the recommendation of the Fire Chief for testing and demo of Stauber Apartments to Double D Construction for \$18,017.40, seconded by Councilwoman Janet Carithers. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Janet Carithers made the motion, to give Interim Town Manager Ron Niland and Town Attorney Hugh Campbell authority to close on the Stauber Apartment Property, seconded by Councilman Terry Bennett. Motion passed unanimously.

The Interim Town Manager recognized all graduates of the Town's first Citizens Academy. Each participant received a goodie bag from the town along with a certificate. The members are as follows: Jim Mabbott, Mark Lane, Anita Ring, Susan Christian, June Koehn, Alison Pavesich, Michael Woodcock, Chon Russell-Gonzalez, Lynne Stewart, Harriet Sizemore, Lisa Lane, Carol Newsome, Susan Gordon, Janet Carithers, Terry Bennett, Timothy Flinchum and Lyndell Payne.

Board Comments/Questions

Councilman Terry Bennett thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He also thanked Ron and staff for a job well done with the Citizens' Academy. Mayor Pro Tem Susan Gordon thanked everyone for participating in the Academy and is looking forward to the next one. Mayor Timothy Flinchum thanked the public comment speakers for their concerns and Lyndelle Payne and Allison Coward for organizing the Candidate Forum. Councilman Eddie Horn thanked staff and Ron for all they do for the town. Councilwoman Janet Carithers had a few events that she would like everyone to know that are coming up: September 12 Southern Charm will be at Coronet Seafood Restaurant, September 14 Rural Hall Moravian will host the Triad Community Band Concert, the cost to attend is a canned food item.

Mayor Pro Tem Susan Gordon made the motion to adjourn at 8:03 pm.

Lynette E. Hendrick
Town Clerk