

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 9, 2023  
MINUTES**

The Rural Hall Town Council held their regular council meeting on October 9, 2023, at 7:00 PM in Town Hall Council Chambers. The following members and staff 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.

**Adoption of Amended Agenda:**

Councilman Terry Bennett added two items to the agenda. First was an announcement, that there will be a mock Council Meeting for Rural Hall Elementary third graders on November 8, 2023 at 10:00 am. The second addition was placed under New Business for Fire Station comments and updates. Councilman Terry Bennett made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Janet Carithers to adopt the amended agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Councilman Eddie Horn made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Janet Carithers to adopt January 18, September 6 and 11 Regular Minutes and add the January 18 closed session minutes to the closed session to discuss. Motion passed unanimously.

**Announcements and Meeting Updates:**

- October 28 Rural Hall Flat and Fast 10K/5K
- October 28 Trunk or Treat and Movie at Covington Park
- October 16 Candidate Forum at Town Hall
- November 8, 10:00 AM Mock Council Meeting for Rural Hall Elementary 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

A flag plate was purchased by Carole E. Rosenbaum in memory of Jimmy W. Snyder.

**Public Comment Period:**

Carol Newsome, 8495 Broad Street, signed up to speak with her topic being Indigenous People Day and New Town Manager.

Lyndall Payne, Edwards Road, signed up to speak with her topic being the upcoming candidate forum.

Sebastian Jimenez, 672 Angus Street, signed up to speak with his topic being Animal Ordinance. Once Sebastian finished speaking Mayor Timothy Flinchum asked that he give his notes to Clerk Hendrick for a Council review of the Animal Ordinance.

Ashley Corn, 125 Buckhaven Court, signed up to speak with her topic being Manager candidate.

**New Business/ Items of Discussion:**

Councilmember Terry Bennett stated the latest preliminary plans on the fire department have been completed and they are almost ready to be presented to the Council for approval.

The Committee has visited fire stations in the area, allowed staff to provide ideas on the design and received input from Bobbitt Construction. The current Fire Station is 1400 square feet. It has been five years since the study was completed that stated, "we didn't need a new fire station". Since that study full-time staff have been added, including Forsyth County EMS and these are just a few reason that a new fire station is needed.

Councilwoman Janet Carithers stated that the Town was receiving \$3.8 million for the construction of the new fire station and that contrary to online comments, the Interim Town Manager Ron Niland would receive 0% of those funds.

Councilwoman Janet Carithers made the motion seconded by Councilman Terry Bennett to enter into the agreement with NCDOT on TIP U-6005. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Eddie Horn made the motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Susan Gordon to adopt Ordinance # 859 Budget Amendment of \$26,000.00, for the paving of the LPA parking lot and emergency exit. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Board Comments/Questions**

The Council thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, and staff for their hard work. Council members thanked the Committee for their work on the new fire station.

Mayor Pro Tem Susan Gordon made the motion seconded by Councilwoman Janet Carithers to enter a closed session per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6) for the purpose of discussion of personnel matters and NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (1) to prevent the disclosure of confidential or privilege information. Motion passed unanimously at 7:43 pm.

The Council returned to open session at 8:55 pm. There was no further business conducted.

Mayor Pro Tem Susan Gordon made the motion to adjourn at 8:56 pm.

Lynette E. Hendrick  
Town Clerk