

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

The Rural Hall Town Council held their regular council meeting on December 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.

Adoption of Agenda:

Councilman Eddie Horn made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Janet Carithers to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Minutes

Councilwoman Janet Carithers made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Susan Gordon to adopt November 6 and 13, 2023 regular meeting minutes.

Councilman Terry Bennett made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Susan Gordon to adopt and seal November 13 closed session minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period:

Carol Newsome, 8495 Broad Street, RH

Announcements and Meeting Updates:

- December 25-27 Christmas Holiday Town Offices Closed
- January 1, 2024 New Years Day Town Offices Closed
- Fire Chief Mike Simone recognized Rookie Firefighter of the Year Marcus Johnson, and Firefighter of the Year Ryan Key.
- The Town Clerk mentioned the Fire Officer of the Year as Mike Simone.

Unfinished Business

Councilwoman Janet Carithers made the motion, seconded by Councilman Eddie Horn to adopt a Declaration of Dedication of Public Use for 525 Perth Rd, Rural Hall. Motion passed unanimously.

Interim Town Manager Ron Niland recognized outgoing Elected Officials: Mayor Timothy Flinchum, Mayor Pro Tem Susan Gordon and Councilwoman Janet Carithers.

Oath of Office

Judge Eric Morgan, Forsyth County Superior Court, swore in Mayor Terry M. Bennett assisted by his daughter Abbie Bennett.

Judge Eric Morgan, Forsyth County Superior Court, swore in Councilman Mark Lane assisted by his wife Lisa Lane.

Judge Eric Morgan, Forsyth County Superior Court, swore in Councilman Michael Woodcock assisted by his wife Jenna Woodcock.

New Business/ Items of Discussion

Councilman Mark Lane made the motion, seconded by Councilman Michael Woodcock, to nominate Councilman Eddie Horn Mayor Pro Tem. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Terry Bennett stated he would be the board delegate to the Piedmont Triad Regional Council.

Councilman Mark Lane stated he would be the board delegate to the Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee.

Mayor Terry Bennett stated in reviewing the Rural Hall Council Meeting Schedule for 2024 he would like to make a few recommendations by removing January 3, September 4 and December 2 meetings. Councilman Michael Woodcock made the motion, seconded by Councilman Mark Lane, to adopt the 2024 Rural Hall Council Meeting Schedule. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn made the motion, seconded by Councilman Michael Woodcock, to adopt the Town's revised fee schedule. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Mark Lane made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn, to accept the amended audit contract with the new names added. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Mark Lane made the motion, seconded by Councilman Michael Woodcock, to designate the Town's bank signatories as Terry Bennett, Donna Watson, Homer Dearmin, Lynette Hendrick, and Eddie Horn; and removing Susan Gordon. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Terry Bennett opened the public hearing for the Town's Peddlers and Solicitors Policy. There were no speakers on this subject therefore Mayor Terry Bennett closed the public hearing. Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn made the motion, seconded by Councilman Mark Lane to adopt the Towns Peddlers and Solicitors Policy. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Terry Bennett opened the public hearing for the Revised Animal Ordinance # 294 Section 7 Keeping of Fowl. Carol Newsome 8497 Broad Street, spoke regarding the recommendations sent to the Town by Sebastian Jimenez Barreras to change the footage of a chicken house from the property line of the adjoining lot or parcels of land, and the number of chickens you can have on a lot containing less than one acre. Mayor Terry Bennett closed the public hearing. Councilman Michael Woodcock made the motion, seconded by Councilman Mark Lane, to table the vote on the Revised Animal Ordinance #294. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Comments/Questions

Mayor Terry Bennett and the Council members thanked their supporters and the outgoing Council members. They are looking forward to accomplishing good things here in Rural Hall.

Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn made the motion to adjourn at 8:02 pm.

Lynette E. Hendrick
Town Clerk