

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
February 12, 2024
MINUTES

The Rural Hall Town Council held their regular council meeting on February 12, 2024, at 7:00 PM in 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; Interim Town Manager Homer Dearmin; Finance Clerk 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 PIO Alston Brown.

A moment of silence was held.

Adoption of Agenda:

Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn made the motion, seconded by Councilman Mark Lane to amend the agenda by adding setting a public forum for the Park and Recreation Master Plan for March 11, 2024 and setting a public hearing for the Park and Recreation Master Plan for April 8, 2024 under new business. Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Minutes

Mayor Pro Tem Lane made the motion, seconded by Councilman Michael Woodcock, to approve the minutes from January 8, Regular Meeting and Closed Session Meeting January 8. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period:

Carol Newsome 8495 Broad St., Rural Hall, NC
Janet Carithers, 7439 Church St. Rural Hall, NC
Janice Davis 7390 Brookvalley Rd, Rural Hall, NC
June Koehn, 430 College St. Rural Hall, NC
Randy Thomas 521 Academy St. Rural Hall, NC

Announcements and Meeting Updates:

Med and Shred along with Community Health Fair Event May 4, 9-12
Rural Hall Garden Club Plant Sale May 4
Town of Rural Hall's 50th Anniversary Celebration May 31- June 2.
A Flag was purchased by the Senior Citizens of Rural Hall in memory of Penny Hamby.

Alston Brown, PIO gave an update regarding the 50th Anniversary Celebration. All bands have been confirmed. Friday we will be having a car show, food truck and the band Chasing Daylight will perform. Saturday The 70's Tribute Band will perform from 3 to 6:00 PM and Catalinas will perform from 7 to 9:00 PM. Alan Bibey & Grasstowne, a well-known bluegrass band, will be performing on Sunday.

Alston Brown, PIO mentioned the 50th Anniversary Committee will be meeting at Town Hall Tuesday March 20 at 9:00 AM. The next phase we will be working on promoting the event. Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn asked if Alston had a chance to check into the ABC licensing required for selling alcoholic beverages at Town Events. Mayor Terry Bennett mentioned there was a "Time Capsule" that will be opened on the Saturday event. Alston will report back to Council on this after the March meeting.

Shannon Denison auditor with Anderson Smith & Wike, PLLC presented the town's audit report for FY 2022-2023. The town received an unmodified opinion, which is the best report the town can receive. Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Anita Ring to accept the FY 22-23 Audit prepared by Shannon Dennison, Anderson Smith & Wike, PLLC.

Unfinished Business

Brian Starkey with Withers and Ravenel gave a presentation of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Councilman Michael Woodcock made the motion seconded by Councilman Mark Lane to accept the Parks and Recreation Master Plan presented by Withers and Ravenel. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Terry Bennett stated a proposed timeline for hiring a Town Manager is as follows: application will be accepted until March 20, interview those selected the week of March 25 and hiring a Town Manager by April 8. Councilman Mark Lane made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Anita Ring to adopt the timeline for hiring a Town Manager. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Terry Bennett proposed the new date for the Budget Workshop and Visioning Meeting be set for March 11, at 2:00 PM with a break for dinner at Town Hall. Regular Council Meeting will follow at 7:00 PM. Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Anita Ring to schedule the Budget Workshop and Visioning meeting for March 11 at 2:00 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business/ Items of Discussion

Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn made the motion, seconded by Councilman Michael Woodcock to adopt a Resolution of Intent to Close an unnamed 10' alley off Broad St. and set the public hearing for April 8, 2024 7:00 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Mark Lane made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn to adopt the date of March 11 for the public forum to discuss the fire department design. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Anita Ring to set the public forum for Parks and Recreation Master Plan for March 11. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn made the motion, seconded by Councilman Mark Lane to set the public hearing on the Park and Recreation Master Plan for April 8 at 7:00 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Michael Woodcock made the motion, seconded by Councilman Mark Lane to adopt the Revised Town Council Meeting Schedule. Motion passed unanimously. The revised meeting schedule will eliminate all agenda briefing meetings. The Council will have one scheduled meeting on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM.

Board Comments/Questions

Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn thanked the staff for their hard work on the FY 22-23 audit. Mayor Terry Bennett thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and stated if anyone has concerns, please reach out a Council member at any time.

Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn made the motion to adjourn at 8:21 pm.

Lynette E. Hendrick
Town Clerk