

## CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

The Board of Councilmen of the Town of Rural Hall went into closed session on November 13, 2017 at 8:08 PM in the Town Hall Conference Room per NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3). The following members were present: Mayor Larry T. Williams; Mayor Pro Tem John N. McDermon; Councilman Jerry H. Canady; Councilman C. Thomas Griggs; Councilman Ricky S. Plunkett; Town Attorney D. Barrett Burge; Town Manager Megan M. Garner; and, Town Clerk Dora K. Moore.

Attorney Burge shared he has been made aware of the Council's concern about a blight in the community. Per Manager Garner's request, Attorney Burge researched the issue in terms of abating the nuisance and what happens to the property if the nuisance is not abated. If title were to be taken of the property, the property goes to the school system. *(Attorney Burge's report is attached.)*

He cautioned Council that abating a nuisance is very difficult, noting that in the last 30 years, Winston-Salem has pursued the process five times. The process will need to be quantified with reports and the severity of the issues.

The first step would be for the Town to address the nuisance via letter from the Town Attorney. If no resolution results from the letter, a lawsuit can be filed.

Manager Garner noted the discussion began when Forsyth County Sheriff's Office met with Manager Garner requesting the Town consider a nuisance abatement. She also noted she has met with the owners on two occasions when they have offered to sell the property to the Town. Their current asking price is nearly \$2.7 million, approximately \$600,000 above tax value.

Council expressed concern about the increasing violence at the property and noted citizens are scared as well.

Staff was directed to pursue collecting information to determine if there is sufficient grounds to pursue, requesting City-County Planning to inspect the property and determine the occupancy rate.

There being no further business, Councilman Ricky S. Plunkett made a motion to adjourn the closed session at 9:07 PM.

Dora K. Moore  
Town Clerk