

Town of Macclesfield
Regular Scheduled Board Meeting
July 10, 2023
5:00 pm

Mayor Emily Turner called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm. Members in attendance were Mayor Turner, Mayor Pro Tem/Commissioner Paula Lewis, Commissioner Joyce Braxton, Commissioner Charles Lewis, Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, Town Clerk Gracie Etheridge, Public Works Director Benjy Lassiter, Town Administrator Jennifer Stanley. Guests in attendance were Ms. Mary Hogan and Ms. Tracy Chestnut, both with NCLM.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles offered the invocation and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioner P Lewis and Commissioner Wooten Jiles made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner C Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed the agenda was approved.

Commissioner P Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes from the June meetings. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

There were no citizens present and the board moved on to old business.

Mrs. Stanley reported that the Technical Service Agreements were included in the previous agenda packet. Commissioner P Lewis made a motion to accept the Technical Service Agreements with McDavid and Associates. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

Discussion began regarding the Independence Day Celebration. The event was a huge success. There were a few complaints about the fireworks show and Mrs. Stanley stated that she would reach out to Zambelli to see if they can give us a better deal. Mrs. Stanley agreed to check with the Chamber on a grant for the fireworks for next year. Mr. Lassiter mentioned that Ms. Tina Waters was seen picking up trash after the event – the town will send her a thank you for her help.

Mrs. Etheridge reported that the Prostate Cancer Bike Ride was a success with many bikers participating. Mayor Turner mentioned that she wants to host the event each year from the fire department since there is more room there. Mrs. Stanley asked Mr. Lassiter who would the town need to contact to get permission. Mr. Lassiter stated that he would mention it at the upcoming fire department meeting.

Mr. Lassiter reported that he had reached out to some tree trimming contractors but none of them are signing new contracts at this time but would reach out when they were ready to take on new customers.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked about the status of the Dollar General project. Mrs. Stanley reported that she had spoken with them and given them the addresses again and was waiting for a response.

Mrs. Stanley reported that the final CD has been closed out and deposited into the central checking account and will be transferred to NCCMT this week.

The ATM project is still waiting for a deed for the lot before it can move forward.

It was asked if the food truck has been doing any business since it has been coming to town. The staff reported that it seems to be steady when they are in town but are not very reliable. They don't seem to have any sort of set schedule.

Mrs. Stanley reported that the question regarding the Mayor's term of office being extended to four (4) years has been presented to Senator Kandie Smith's office and it will take time but her office is working on it for us.

Ms. Mary Hogan introduced herself and her colleague, Tracy Honeycutt, from the NCLM. Mrs. Hogan began to explain about the MAS program. It will be of no cost to the town until year four (4). It was developed by the NCLM to provide a more uniform software for all municipalities – making it easier for municipalities to report to the state, etc.

Mrs. Etheridge asked the board to find the cut-off list that was included in their packets. She then proceeded to explain how the current deposit of \$350 doesn't even cover the amount of the bills when someone skips town without paying their bill. Mayor Turner asked for a copy of the debt setoff accounts at the next meeting. Mrs. Etheridge suggested that the town raise the deposit amount to \$500. Commissioner P Lewis made a motion to raise the deposit amount to \$500 (\$400 electric and \$100 water) effective on July 11th. Commissioner C Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed, the motion carried. Staff will make sure any new customers pay the new deposit rate.

Next, Mrs. Etheridge asked the board to look at page 2 of the event policy. The policy states that any vendor will pay the vendor fee. She stated that it is unfair to the other vendors for certain ones to not have to pay any fees or for any electricity used. Mayor Turner stated that it had been discussed before and the two food vendors and Abrams Amusements have not been required to pay for anything "because they bring such a big following". It was stated that the town has the vendor fees in place to help raise a little money for the town and cover any electricity used for the events. How is the town going to make any money when we don't charge everyone equally. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles suggested the item be tabled until the August meeting and all agreed.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles inquired as to the safety equipment needed by the public works staff. Mrs. Stanley stated that Benjy and Chevy had already received new safety vests, Chevy had received "Hot Gloves" and there has been an order placed for another safety vest (for Austin), three pair of safety glasses, and Austin has a replacement pair of "hot gloves" on order.

Mr. Lassiter reported that at Alton Webb's funeral last Friday, one of the fire trucks had hit one of the entrance pillars at the cemetery. Pictures were included with the board information. The fire department has turned the incident in on their insurance.

Mr. Lassiter also stated that there were two (2) outages last month – both caused by lightening arrestors. Wilson Energy repaired both times. Mr. Lassiter and Mrs. Stanley will work together to find another contractor to work on our electric system. Mr. Lassiter has spoken with one company – C Phase and has gotten pricing for their services. He has learned however, if the town is in an emergency situation and calls for help, as members of Electricities, someone HAS to come.

There are four (4) transformers going tomorrow to be repaired. We have no quote on this at this time but when they open them up and get a look at what is wrong we will have one then.

Mr. Lassiter reported that he had sent out nine (9) grass letters in May and all had complied. He also stated that the backhoe is back from repair but a couple of the hydraulic hoses have begun leaking and those were repaired today by public works staff.

Mr. Lassiter passed around two forms he has developed – a Utility outage report and a customer complaint form which will be used to keep better records of outages and complaints.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked about Ms. Quinn's big dog that has been getting out. Mr. Lassiter stated that all animal complaints must go through the county. She also asked if the town was interested in the basketball goal that has been offered as a donation. With the rim being broken, it is of no use to the town.

Mr. Lassiter finished his presentation from last month on the NCRWA Conference he attended in May.

Commissioner Braxton asked if there had been any more research on benches for the Town Common area. Mr. Lassiter mentioned that he thought he still had a picture on his phone and would send it to Mrs. Stanley and she would research the project. Commissioner Braxton also asked about the 50/50 raffle for the Fall Festival. Mrs. Stanley stated that she would work with Commissioner Braxton to get those made up. Mayor Turner mentioned having a gun donated to raffle off like we did for July 2022. It was also asked for Mrs. Stanley to contact the Chamber regarding a grant to help pay for next year's fireworks and Mrs. Stanley agreed.

Mrs. Etheridge mentioned that she mailed out several donation letters for the Independence Day Celebration and that was where most of the donations came from. She stated that she would be willing to do so again for the Fall Festival.

Commissioner P Lewis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm.