

Town of Macclesfield
Regular Session Board Meeting
March 11, 2024 @ 5:00 pm

Mayor Michael Speight called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm. Members present were Mayor Speight, Mayor Pro Tem/Commissioner Jason Taylor, Commissioner Joyce Braxton, Commissioner Paula Lewis, Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, Public Works Director Benjy Lassiter, Town Clerk Gracieann Etheridge and Town Administrator Jennifer Stanley.

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

Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed, the motion carried.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12 regular session meeting. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed, the minutes were approved.

McDavid Associates was not present, so it was reported that Duke's is scheduled to finish cleaning the sewer lines on Wednesday.

Due to a death in the family, Hardy Construction has not been able to complete the repairs of the streets/drains throughout town.

Discussion began concerning the fencing at the well on Railroad Street. Chain Link Fence Company has the lowest bid. When the inspector was asked about a minimum size requirement for the fencing, it was discovered that there is no actual minimum requirement for the fencing perimeter. The board asked Mr. Lassiter to determine the minimum perimeter. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles made a motion to hire Chain Link Fence Company once the perimeter is determined. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed, the motion passed.

Discussion on the NCLM Scope of Work began. It was explained that this would assist the town with finding grant opportunities, applying for the grants and if needed, managing the grant. This is a free service, up to \$30,000. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to approve the NCLM Scope of Work, as long as the cost remains under the cap of \$30,000 and no cost to the town. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

Discussion on the MS & RP Advisory Committee from the last meeting. Commissioner Braxton made a motion to approve the MS & RP Ordinance, bylaws, and application. It was agreed to put the application in the bills and appoint the committee at the next meeting.

Mrs. Stanley explained to the board that she has an appointment with a representative from GovDeals.com to train her on how to list items for sale. It was discussed to possibly open bids for the

lawn mowers that are surplus to allow residents and staff an opportunity to bid on them. Commissioner Braxton made a motion to accept bids for the surplus mowers. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried. Mrs. Stanley will place an ad in the paper requesting sealed bids to be opened at the next meeting.

Mrs. Stanley reported that there are upcoming trainings, the first is on March 18 and it will cover Disaster Recovery Public Assistance Financial Administration. It is recommended that two elected officials, finance officer and public works director attend the training from each town. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles agreed to attend the training with Mrs. Stanley and Mr. Lassiter.

The next training is on March 19 and will be covering insurance renewal and Mrs. Stanley will be attending.

The NCRWA Water Conference is coming up in May and offers the continuing education hours required for the state for all water and wastewater operators. Mrs. Stanley and Mr. Lassiter are requesting to attend conference. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles made a motion to allow Mr. Lassiter and Mrs. Stanley to attend the conference in May. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

Mrs. Stanley reported the interest earned over the past month as well as the account balances. It was mentioned that the CPA, Mr. Overton, recommended that the three savings accounts open at Southern Bank be closed and the funds moved to NCCMT account in order to earn more interest. Commissioner Braxton made a motion to close the savings accounts and move the funds to NCCMT. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried. Mrs. Stanley agreed to call Southern Bank and close the accounts and move the funds to NCCMT.

Mrs. Stanley called the board's attention to Budget Amendment #2, the movement of \$12,500 from the fund balance of NCCMT to the wastewater capital outlay to cover the purchase of 1.61 acres for the WWTP project. Commissioner Taylor made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #2. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

Discussion began on hiring a new attorney. The town staff has received responses from two attorneys – Mr. Brian Pridgen and Mr. Slade Rand. Mr. Pridgen is from Wilson and general representation will be \$185/hour. He will not charge for travel time, only mileage. He has years of experience with municipal law. Mr. Rand is also from Wilson and his rate is \$150/hour but will increase to \$175/hour in the new year. He will charge for mileage. If outside help is needed, he will seek it but we will need to pay both rates. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to hire Mr. Pridgen. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

Mr. Lassiter reported that Public Works staff are continuing the lead and copper inspections. He stated that the smoke testing of the sewer system would begin the week of March 20th. Gracieann will post to the website and facebook page to let the residents know about the smoke testing.

Mr. Lassiter stated that there was a DEQ permit fee of \$500 due and is for the erosion control permit. McDavid will pay the fee and the town will reimburse once the funds are available to the town.

Mr. Lassiter presented a letter to the board for approval to send to the owners of the houses that need to be cleaned up or condemned. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to accept the letter with the omission of "a look through the windows if possible". Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion passed.

Discussion began regarding the Grocery Store bill. With the removal of the multiplier from the electric portion of their bill, the current bill was \$400 – 1/10 of the previous bills and less than cost. After discussion, it was agreed that there would need to be at least half of the previous multiplier added back to the electric portion of the bill. Mrs. Stanley agreed to add the multiplier of 40 back to the account to be effective on the next bill and will include a letter to Mr. Kumar explaining the action.

Discussion began on the brown and white dog (lives at the Parker residence) that has been seen throughout town causing a nuisance. The county has been called several times and the callers are told the dog is not a nuisance. The board was reminded that all animal nuisance calls must go to the county.

Discussion began on starting Bingo. There are 25 citizens that have expressed interest, some with having trivia as well. Would there be food? How much would be charged? Prizes could be 50/50 from the fee to play.

It was asked when the town hall had last been updated. It is in need of updating/painting. Mrs. Stanley offered to paint once the paint was purchased. The men's room toilet also needs to be replaced. Concerning the community building, it was asked about supplying serving spoons and knives. It was explained that it would be hard to keep them from being taken by renters. It was also asked if there could be a microwave installed at the Community Building.

It was mentioned that the free library at the park has not been kept stocked like in the beginning. Mrs. Etheridge and Mrs. Stanley will contact them to make sure it gets stocked.

Discussion on the Facebook page and who has admin rights was discussed. The concern was that the town should have complete control over the page. Right now, a previous employee has main control over it. There are other admins – Commissioner Lewis, Commissioner Braxton and Mrs. Etheridge. How does the town gain complete control over the page? The concern is that something may be posted, seeming to come from the town, and it look bad on the town. Commissioner Lewis excused herself.

Commissioner Braxton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed the meeting was adjourned at 6:02 pm.