

Town of Macclesfield
Regular Session Board Meeting
March 13, 2023 6:00 pm

Members in attendance were Mayor Pro-Tem Paula Lewis, Commissioner Joyce Braxton, Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, Commissioner Charles Lewis, Interim Town Administrator Ralph Clark, Public Works Director Benjy Lassiter, Deputy Clerk Gracie Smith, Town Clerk Jennifer Stanley. Residents in attendance were Cynthia Jalbert and William Moon. Special Guest, Senator Kandie Smith and her God-daughter.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Mayor Pro-Tem Paula Lewis. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles offered the invocation and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked to add Tynesha Lewis Day in Macclesfield to the agenda. After that addition, Mayor Pro-Tem Lewis made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Braxton and with none opposed the motion carried.

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

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked for a correction of the spelling of Mr. Willingham's name on page 4 of January 10th minutes. Mayor Pro-Tem made a motion to approve the January 10th minutes with the correction. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed, the motion carried.

Commissioner C Lewis made a motion to approve the February 13th minutes. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed, the motion carried.

Town resident Ms. Cyndi Jalbert from Nash Street asked when the light behind her home would be repaired as it is extremely dark without it. Public Works Director Mr. Lassiter explained that the bucket truck has been in the shop for repair and they will be picking it up tomorrow and will then be able to begin repairing the many security and street lights through town.

Senator Kandie Smith introduced herself to the board and thanked them for the opportunity to speak. She is on a listening tour and will be in Pinetops tomorrow evening 6:30-7:30 pm and will be attending Town council meetings in her district. She wants to be sure everyone knows that "we are in this together". She left business cards for the board.

Under old Business, Town Clerk, Mrs. Stanley reported that the attorney has gone over the contract from the COG regarding their management of the WWTP improvement project and sees no reason why the contract should not be approved. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles made a motion to approve the contract with the COG. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Braxton and with none opposed, the motion carried.

Mrs. Stanley reported that SECU had come and marked where the ATM would be going. Mr. Lassiter mentioned that the county would need a parcel number on the lot. They will need the Town to deed a 50' X 50' plot from the town to the town then the county will be able to parcel the lot.

Mrs. Stanley reported that Attorney Edwards has reviewed the Town Zoning Ordinance and there is nothing specifically stated in there regarding the camper. Mr. Clark mentioned that the Ordinances have not been updated since 1979 and the zoning ordinance has not been updated since 2004. Benjy will contact the health department regarding Mr. Wall living in the camper. He stated that he and Jennifer may need to have a conference call with the attorney to have an explanation of what we can do, in non-attorney terms.

Under new business, the zoning ordinances need updating. Mr. Joe Durham, NCLM has checked into some pricing to have them updated and he has found that it will be approximately \$120,000 to \$125,000 to have the ordinances re-written. To update the Ordinance will take a great deal of research on updated laws, etc. and update one section at a time.

Mrs. Stanley stated that the Budget calendar would be forthcoming. She and Mr. Clark are currently working on the budget and making changes and will get a draft ready to present to the board for their approval and recommendations.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked if Mayor Turner had sent the letter to the homeowner in town regarding his multiple dilapidated houses in town. Mayor Pro-Tem Lewis stated that she understood that Mayor Turner had spoken with the homeowner.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked about the status of the Meals on Wheels program. Mrs. Stanley reported that Ms. Wheeler had been contacting the residents from the list given to verify eligibility. Commissioner Braxton stated that someone had already received their meals. Mrs. Stanley stated that she would follow up with Ms. Wheeler since it was her understanding that the meals would be dropped off at the town hall for volunteers to deliver to the residents.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles gave an update on the meeting with Mr. David Webb from Senator Don Davis' office. She reported that our desires to grow the town, have an ATM in the town, restore the ABC store, affordable housing, Dollar General, and a restaurant in the town. Mr. Webb was also given the report from Mr. Naeglen, and we let him know of our need for generators at our water wells. Mrs. Stanley received grant information with several subsections and will see which one the generators would fall under.

1st
2yrs

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles mentioned that Commissioner C Lewis' daughter Tynesha Lewis' team are the CIAA Champions and ~~she plays for the WNBA~~. She would like to see a Tynesha Lewis Day in Macclesfield to honor our local youth. She would like to see vendors, a parade, and have the fire department participate. The only date Miss Lewis and her team have available is Saturday, April 8th. The only concern would be that it is Easter Weekend. It was made aware that the town did not have money in the budget for this event but Commissioner Wooten-Jiles stated that it would not be a problem. (Did not know included Public Works Staff)

Commissioner Braxton made a motion to hold "Tynesha Lewis Day" on April 8th. Mayor Pro-Tem Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion passed. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles stated that she would need help for a committee to plan the event and Commissioners Braxton and P Lewis agreed to assist.

Mrs. Stanley sent the financial report to the commissioners in the agenda packets and with no questions moved on to explain Budget Amendment #4. The budget amendment is to move the funds from the insurance reimbursement check to the Community Building Repair line since the bills are coming in for repairs that have been completed. Mayor Pro-Tem Lewis made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #4. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed, the motion carried.

Mrs. Stanley also reported that she received notification that the town would be receiving payment from Debt Set-Off in the amount of \$230.61. This amount comes from a past due bill that was turned over to Debt Set-Off and they collected it from their state tax refund.

The Community Building repairs are at a standstill until some decisions are made by the board. The water heater will be moved out of the ceiling and if it is replaced the board will need to decide if they want a gas tankless water heater or a standard water heater. The tankless will cost ~ \$3700.00 and will require a gas hookup. The standard will cost ~ \$2200.00. After some discussion it was discovered that the old water heater was not damaged. The board agreed that if the old one was not damaged, they want to use it. Benjy made a note to check on the new door that would lock properly as well as getting flooring samples from Roofing Solutions for the board to look at. The board decided to go with the stained cabinets.

Mr. Lassiter had no Public Works report as items had already been discussed.

Mayor Pro-Tem expressed her desire to get the security lights repaired and asked what the status was on the tree trimming. Mr. Lassiter stated that he had finally gotten a call back from the tree service and they are supposed to be in town on Friday, March 17th and the next 4 Fridays as well.

Commissioner C Lewis made a motion to enter into closed session. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed, the board entered closed session at 7:15 pm.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles made a motion to return to open session. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed, the motion carried. The board returned to open session at 7:30 pm.

Commissioner Braxton made a motion to give each a \$500 bonus as in the past. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked that the minutes be checked to confirm what had been done previously. Commissioner C

Lewis seconded the motion and the motion carried with the understanding that Ms. Stanley would research the minutes and report to the board her findings.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lewis made a motion to accept the evaluation form with the addition of a scale to determine percentage of raise. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed, the motion carried.

Commissioner C Lewis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles mentioned that Commissioner C Lewis' daughter Tynesha Lewis' ECSU Women's Lady Vikings basketball team are the CIAA Champions for the first time in the school's 132 year history. She would like to see a Tynesha Lewis Day in Macclesfield to honor our local youth. She would like to see vendors, a parade, and have the fire department participate. The only date Miss Lewis and her team have available is Saturday, April 8th. The only concern would be that it is Easter Weekend. It was made aware that the town did not have money in the budget for this event but Commissioner Wooten-Jiles stated that it would not be a problem. (Mrs. Lewis did not realize that the expenses would include paying the Public Works staff for their time.) Commissioner Braxton made a motion to hold "Tynesha Lewis Day" on April 8th. Mayor Pro-Tem Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion passed. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles stated that she would need help for a committee to plan the event and Commissioners Braxton and P Lewis agreed to assist.

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