

Town of Macclesfield
Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Town of Macclesfield Town Hall
October 10, 2022
6:00pm

Minutes

Attendance

Paula Lewis, Mayor Pro Tem
Jean Wooten-Jiles, Commissioner
Charles Lewis, Commissioner
Joyce Braxton, Commissioner
Pam Hurdle, Administrator
Christie Cobb, Clerk
Benji Lassiter, Public Works

The meeting was called to Order by Mayor Pro Tem, Paula Lewis at 6:01
The invocation was given by Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pro Tem, Paula Lewis.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Charles Lewis, second by Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles to approve the agenda.

Commissioner C. Lewis yay
Commissioner Braxton yay
Commissioner Wooten-Jiles yay
Motion passed 3-0

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes for September 12 and September 26 meetings was made by Commissioner Charles Lewis, second by Jean Wooten-Jiles.

Commissioner C. Lewis yay
Commissioner Braxton yay
Commissioner Wooten-Jiles yay
Motion passed 3-0

SCHEDULED BUSINESS

Ben Farmer, UCP-COG discussed opportunities for Macclesfield homeowners with an upcoming Community Development Block Grant from the NC Dept of Commerce. The North Carolina Department of Commerce awards grants from a program, the Community Development Block Grant - Neighborhood Revitalization. The next round of funding opportunities opens between July and October of 2023. The grant provides low to moderate income homeowners to have homes repaired or replaced. The grant may award up to \$950,000. The program is designed for small towns and is in effect for ten small towns currently, including Speed, Enfield, and Saratoga. To prepare the town must set up a housing selection committee to review information and applications in a public meeting in which Ben Farmer and Tirence Horne will attend.

A motion was made by Commissioner Joyce Braxton, second by Commissioner Charles Lewis to approve the creation of a Selection Committee for the Community Development Block Grant-Neighborhood Revitalization.

Commissioner C. Lewis yay

Commissioner Braxton yay

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles yay

Motion passed 3-0

Housing Grant Committee Selected- Charles Lewis, Paula Lewis, Deborah Jenkins, Jasmine McLedden.

The next steps are to begin advertising and collect addresses and income levels of interested citizens. Once the program begins, homeowners will have two months to apply. The Selection Committee will advertise public hearings at least 10 days, but not more than 25 days, for the selection process to occur. Mr. Farmer will send income limits for Edgecombe County, which depend on family size.

Jennifer Fields, Edgecombe County Physical Activity and Nutrition Coordinator spoke to the board about mini grants benefit Macclesfield. The town submitted and received a mini grant for bicycle racks placed in the community. Ms. Fields would like to setup community engagement sessions for the citizens to discuss their needs to benefit nutrition and physical activity. The engagement sessions could lead to a Walk Audit of the town in Spring 2023, which could be used in Strategic Planning to meet the needs of the citizens. Ms. Fields would like to schedule at least one community engagement setting before the holidays.

CITIZEN CONCERNS

Michael Speight discussed concerns about the number of staff members hired by the town. He is concerned about the increase in his property taxes, water-sewer rate increases, and electric taxes. He is concerned about the pay raises of town employees. He is concerned for the other citizens in the town as he sees houses up for sale. He wants to know if the policing services provided by the Sheriff's Department are needed. He was told that our town has one of the highest utility rates in the state. He would like to know what changes can be made to help the citizens.

Kevin Webb is concerned that the rate changes are more than the shortfall. He was told that the rate increase was a state law requirement and would like documentation that states that. Questions: Why did the town increase 65%? Is it law? Is it a state legislation?

Deborah Jenkins is concerned that she does not see growth in Macclesfield. Homes has junk on the porch, grass is too high. She would like something done to beautify the town to draw people here. She would like to know what the town can do. Can fines be imposed on citizens?

OLD BUSINESS

Sale of the dodge 2011 truck on Govdeals website for \$2600.

The fall festival went well. Sold \$220 of town merchandise. Possibly look at the placement of the SWE band, and the times of the festival for next year. Positive comments from the community.

NEW BUSINESS

Flex hours discussion tabled until the October 24 working session.

The town is a Toys For Tots drop off location. Anyone can bring a new unwrapped to between now and December 15. Toys will be given to eligible children from Edgecombe County.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Finance Reports

- Copies of reports were provided in the packet. All expenditures, revenues, and bank balances were included. No questions. The board requested that packets be given in paper form using as little paper as possible.

Public Works Reports

- Benjy Lassiter discussed the increase in chemical prices. Chlorine has tripled in cost. The chemicals are over estimated budget limits but are required to adequately maintain water/sewer utility services.
- Mr. Lassiter updated the Counsel on the search for a truck for public works. The search continues. State Contract trucks are possibly delayed until 2024. There is a possibility of a new truck purchase from Farmville Chevrolet, a 2022 Chevrolet Silverado for \$45,000.

Administrative Reports

- LGC visit will be next week.
- 2021 Audit should be completed and presented at the November Board meeting.
- New policies to be implemented were discussed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, second by Commissioner Charles Lewis to approve the Travel and Social Media policies and to table the Bereavement Policy.

Commissioner C. Lewis yay
Commissioner Braxton yay
Commissioner Wooten-Jiles yay
Motion passed 3-0

COMMISSIONER CONCERNS

Commissioner Charles Lewis wanted to know the status of the open position in public works. There are two applications submitted. No interviews have been completed. The position is full time with benefits.

Commissioner Charles Lewis asked Public Works to be careful when picking up yard debris to prevent divots in yards.

Commissioner Charles Lewis asked about the status of completing pavement repairs. Benji Lassiter will contact Pinetops for assistance.

Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles asked about the cost of renting a street sweeper to clean the streets. Benji Lassiter explained that the town rented a broom tractor earlier in the year.

Commissioner Joyce Braxton asked about the status of removing limbs off of power lines. Benji Lassiter is waiting on return phone call from a potential contractor. Wilson Utilities will not complete this work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Working Session October 24, 2022 at 2:00 pm

Next Board Meeting November 7, 2022 at 6:00 pm

Meeting adjourned 7:02 pm.

Town of Macclesfield
Board of Commissioners
Work Session Meeting
Town of Macclesfield Town Hall
October 24, 2022
2:00pm

Minutes

Attendance

Emily Turner, Mayor
Jean Wooten-Jiles, Commissioner
Charles Lewis, Commissioner
Joyce Braxton, Commissioner
Pam Hurdle, Administrator
Christie Cobb, Clerk

The meeting was called to Order by Mayor Emily Turner at 2:00pm.
The invocation was given by Commissioner Charles Lewis.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Emily Turner.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Charles Lewis, second by Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles to approve the agenda.

Commissioner C. Lewis yay
Commissioner Braxton yay
Commissioner Wooten-Jiles yay
Motion passed 3-0

OLD BUSINESS

Delinquent Taxes: A special meeting to discuss delinquent taxes will be held on 11.7.22 at 2:00 will be held to go over the list and purge.

NC Municipal Trust Fund (moving accounts): Motion made by Commissioner Joyce Braxton, second By Commissioner Charles Lewis to move CDs to the NCMT fund upon maturity.

Commissioner C. Lewis yay
Commissioner Braxton yay
Commissioner Wooten-Jiles yay
Motion passed 3-0

Flex Hours for Administrative Staff: Motion made by Commissioner Charles Lewis, second by Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles to pass rotating flexible hours for office staff.

Commissioner C. Lewis yay
Commissioner Braxton yay
Commissioner Wooten-Jiles yay
Motion passed 3-0

Bereavement Policy: Motion made by Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, second by Commissioner Joyce Braxton to approve the Bereavement Policy.

Commissioner C. Lewis yay
Commissioner Braxton yay
Commissioner Wooten-Jiles yay
Motion passed 3-0

Beautification Committee and Housing section committee lists were reviewed. Administrator Pam Hurdle will email any updates regarding the committees. A November meeting is planned with the Beautification Committee.

Audit Update: The auditor plans to present the findings of the 2020-2021 audit at the 11.7.22 board meeting.

LGC Visit: Administrator Pam Hurdle briefed the council on the visit by LGC staff Natalie Rountree and Tiffany Anderson. They went through the financials and asked follow up questions. They have asked the council to revise the language in the rates policy. We are making progress towards audit requirements and financial needs.

Budget Amendment #3: Budget amendment #3 (2021-2022) was not put in place and needs to be disregarded. Motion was made by Commissioner Joyce Braxton, second by Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles to delete budget amendment #3.

Commissioner C. Lewis yay
Commissioner Braxton yay
Commissioner Wooten-Jiles yay
Motion passed 3-0

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Amendment #1 for 2022-2023 fiscal year. Due to unforeseen expenses in the enterprise fund, money needs to be moved from salary items to materials & supplies line items to cover costs. Some chemical costs have tripled. Motion made by Commissioner Charles Lewis, second by Commissioner Joyce Braxton to approve Budget Amendment #1.

Commissioner C. Lewis yay
Commissioner Braxton yay
Commissioner Wooten-Jiles yay
Motion passed 3-0

Tree Lighting Ceremony: Discussion held. Final decisions for the tree lighting ceremony will be made at 11.7.22 board meeting.

COMMISSIONER CONCERNS

Commissioner Charles Lewis wanted to know the status of the open position in public works. Interviews are scheduled for 10.25.22. He inquired about the last date water lines were flushed. Water lines were flushed last week. Citizens have been concerned about a bulldog living on Green Street. Christie Cobb will reach out to animal control to see if they have been notified. Administrator Pam Hurdle will look into animal policies for the town.

Commissioner Joyce Braxton would like the staff to communicate with J. Coley about his final bill as he has moved. She also asked about the possibility of the ABC store reopening in town. Contacts need to be made to the ABC board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trunk or Treat- October 31, 2022, 4:00pm-7:00pm
Board Working Session November 7, 2022 at 2:00 pm
Next Board Meeting November 7, 2022 at 6:00 pm
Veteran's Day Holiday November 11, 2022 (Office Closed)
Thanksgiving Holiday November 24-25, 2022 (Office Closed)

Meeting adjourned 3:23 pm. Motion Made by Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, second by Commissioner Joyce Braxton.

Commissioner C. Lewis yay
Commissioner Braxton yay
Commissioner Wooten-Jiles yay
Motion passed 3-0