

Town of Macclesfield  
Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Town of Macclesfield Town Hall  
September 12, 2022  
2:00pm

Minutes

**Attendance**

Emily Turner, Mayor

Jean Wooten-Jiles, Commissioner

Charles Lewis, Commissioner

Joyce Braxton, Commissioner

Pam Hurdle, Administrator (via phone conference)

Christie Cobb, Clerk

Benji Lassiter, Public Works

The meeting was called to Order by Mayor Turner 2:00 pm.

The invocation was given by Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Turner.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, second by Commissioner Joyce Braxton to approve the amended agenda to include additions of a board resolution, to sell items, and closed session discussion.

Commissioner C. Lewis            yay

Commissioner Braxton            yay

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles    yay

Motion passed 3-0

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes for August 8, 2022, meeting was made by Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, second Commissioner Charles Lewis. The board will review the closed session minutes in closed session prior to approving them later in the meeting.

Commissioner C. Lewis            yay

Commissioner Braxton            yay

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles    yay

Motion passed 3-0

**CITIZEN CONCERNS**

Malinda Terrell had a concern about the Board Meeting times being at 2:00 pm. She suggested that meetings should be around 6:00-7:00 pm. She stated that the utilities were too expensive, higher than in Texas and that she does not understand why sewer is higher than water. She also expressed concern about the Board members giving themselves raises when utility price concerns should have been handled first. She also discussed that when the water lines were flushed, a load of laundry turned brown. She would like the town to give notice when flushing lines. She suggested that as sections of the town were flushed, that area be notified in advance.

Maureen Serianni explained that her first concern was also Board meeting times, explaining that she had to take off work to attend the meeting. She would like meetings outside of regular working hours so more people can attend. She explained a concern that she was looking to purchase properties to rent to others but understood the Town of Macclesfield did not want rental properties. The Board immediately explained that that was not the case at all. Mayor Turner said renters and rental properties were welcome in Macclesfield. Her third concern was the condition of a couple of homes on Green Street that needed work or tearing down. She wanted to know what the town could do. Mayor Turner explained that homeowners of the properties had been notified as well as the county, but the Town is waiting on inspections and feedback from the county level.

James Bowling Christie Cobb read the concerns of James Bowling, who had accidentally left on a garden hose, amounting to the usage of 16000 gallons of water, versus his usual usage of approximately 3000 gallons monthly. The board asked about Town policy in this matter. Sewer fees are reduced when water usage does not reach the sewer in leaks and such, but Mr. Bowling does not have a town sewer. Christie Cobb will investigate prior meeting minutes to see how this was handled in the past and report back at the next scheduled work session.

Mayor Turner responded to each citizen thanking them for attending and voicing concerns, and that the board would respond within 30 days.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

• Fire Department returned the check that had been budgeted for and sent by the town in the amount of \$2500. Administrator, Pam Hurdle, recommended sending the check back as a donation. Commissioner Charles Lewis made a motion, second by Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, to return the check with a letter. Mrs. Hurdle will write a letter to go with the check to return to the Fire Department as a donation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Charles Lewis, second by Commissioner Joyce Braxton to sell the "New Old Stock" town tags in old inventory for \$20 each. Christie Cobb will inventory and advertise the tags to be sold.

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

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

• The employees have requested that the Town allow staff to participate in supplemental retirement, (401 K for full-time, 457 for part-time). Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles made a motion, second by Commissioner Charles Lewis to adopt the resolution to allow staff to participate in 401K and 457 plans provided for municipalities in North Carolina by Prudential. The town will not be making any matches or contributions to supplemental retirement at this time.

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

- Fall Festival plans were reviewed. Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles volunteered to contact a DJ and a “Bouncy House” vendor, as the staff has not been able to procure entertainment as of today. Mayor Turner cannot attend the event and asked that Commissioner Paula Lewis be contacted to host the event with a welcoming message. Commissioner Charles Lewis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles to extend the time of the event from 10-2 to 10:00 am-6:00.

Commissioner C. Lewis            yay

Commissioner Braxton           yay

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles    yay

Motion passed 3-0

- McDavid and Associates presented the grant information in the previous meeting. There is a resolution needed to accept the amendment to the original resolution, totaling the project to \$5,152,900.

Commissioner Charles Lewis, second by Commissioner Jean-Jiles-Wooten, made a motion to adopt the resolution to accept and use the grant as stated by the Resolution.

Commissioner C. Lewis           yay

Commissioner Braxton           yay

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles    yay

Motion passed 3-0

- Pam Hurdle explained that the Policy Drafts in the Agenda Packet will be discussed in the September 26 work session and presented at the October 10, 2022, Board meeting. Mrs. Hurdle asked the board to contact her with questions or concerns as they read the documents. Christie Cobb will send paper copies to Board members for easier review.

- Pam Hurdle explained that the new FMS software installation and training will occur September 20-22.

Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles made a motion, second by Commissioner Joyce Braxton, to contact the citizens by Town Hall signs, social media, website, and door hanger in order to close the building for operation (use of drop box only) for the three days of training for staff.

Commissioner C. Lewis           yay

Commissioner Braxton           yay

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles    yay

Motion passed 3-0

- The Transformation Grant information was updated. Pam Hurdle and Jean Wooten-Jiles met with Ben Farmer to discuss grant eligibility. The Town needs a written Strategic Plan to qualify for most of the grant options. Mrs. Hurdle will continue to reach out to Mr. Farmer to see how the Town may qualify to apply.

- There is a Town customer whose driveway was spotted with hydraulic fluid by a City of Wilson truck that was making a needed repair for the town. The customer has brought this to our attention and to the attention of the City of Wilson. The City of Wilson has a clause in the contract that excludes them from liability of damages made. Pam Hurdle will meet with the director of electric services to discuss issues including repeated outages and other recent issues. Mrs. Hurdle is also in communication with Electricities to give guidance.

- The Auditors have been asked to give a date for the completion of the 2020-2021 audit.
- Natalie Rountree from LGC will be making a scheduled visit in October to meet with Pam Hurdle, Christie Cobb, a CPA, and two Board members. The focus will be on finances and operational policies.

**COMMISSIONER CONCERNS**

Commissioner Charles Lewis discussed that Wilson Energy made a 6% rate increase outside of town. No rate increases inside town this year, decisions made about in town increase in the spring due to the Fiscal Year. The council will discuss this again in the spring when rate information is sent by Wilson.

Commissioner Joyce Braxton is concerned about fire ants in the picnic area of the park. She also discussed the concern that limbs are hanging near power lines and hurricane season is here. The Town has been actively working to find a contractor to help with tree trimming.

Mayor Turner spoke to the owner of the BBQ House, who told her it was for sale. If anyone inquires about the restaurant, the staff should take contact information and get it to Mrs. Morris. Another concern is about speeding traffic and inappropriate vehicles on Green St. The citizens are encouraged to make reports to the non-emergency number for the Sheriff's Office 252-641-7911. Christie Cobb will speak to Lt. Tinder about parking/patrolling on Green Street when on duty.

**CLOSED SESSION §160-318.11(6)(a) Personnel**

A motion was made by Commissioner Charles Lewis, second by Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles to go into closed session in accordance with GS 143-318-11(6)(a).

Commissioner C. Lewis           yay  
 Commissioner Braxton           yay  
 Commissioner Wooten-Jiles   yay  
 Motion passed 3-0  
 5:00 pm

The Board resumed the meeting back to the open session. 5:12 pm.

Motion to approve closed session minutes from 8/3/22 and 8/10/22 Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, second by Commissioner Joyce Braxton.

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

Motion to change the time of Monthly Regular Session Board meetings to 6:00 pm beginning October 10, 2022, in the Town Hall, 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

The topic of delinquent taxes was tabled by a motion from Commissioner Joyce Braxton, second by Commissioner Charles Lewis. Taxes and fees will be on the agenda for the working session on

**September 26, 2022.**

Commissioner C. Lewis            yay

Commissioner Braxton            yay

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles      yay

**Motion passed 3-0**

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, second by Commissioner Joyce Braxton.

Commissioner C. Lewis            yay

Commissioner Braxton            yay

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles      yay

**Meeting adjourned.**

**5:21 pm.**