

**TOWN OF HOPE MILLS  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.  
BILL LUTHER BOARD MEETING ROOM**

Prior to calling the regular meeting to order Mayor Warner requested a moment of silence for Mrs. Jean Clark who passed away on February 14, 2020.

Mayor Jackie Warner called the regular meeting of the Hope Mills Board of Commissioners to order on Monday, February 17, 2020 at 7:04 p.m.

**GOVERNING BODY PRESENT**

Mayor Jackie Warner, Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Kenjuana McCray, Commissioners Jessie Bellflowers, Pat Edwards, Jerry Legge and Bryan Marley.

**STAFF PRESENT**

Town Manager Melissa Adams, Town Clerk Jane Starling, Finance Director Drew Holland, Parks & Recreation Director Lamarco Morrison, Chief Building Inspector David Ray Reeves, Public Works Director Don Sisko, Deputy Public Works Director Bruce Clark, Police Chief Joel Acciardo, Fire Chief Chuck Hodges, Deputy Fire Chief Steve Lopez, Human Resource Director Laticia Daniels-Black, Planning & Economic Development Director Chancer McLaughlin, Stormwater Administrator Beth Brown, and Stormwater Technician Tyler Riddle. Also present was Town Attorney Dan Hartzog, Jr.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The invocation was led by Pastor Wesley Holmes, Hope Mills Church of God, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Jackie Warner.

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS.**

*Motion made by Commissioner Legge, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried unanimously, to approve the agenda as presented with the removal of New Business item f; Discussion and Update Regarding A Private Citizen's Letter Requesting Action Related to The Town of Hope Mills Nominating Committee for Appointments Meeting and The Recommended Member Appointments on The Town of Hope Mills Historical Preservation Commission, as requested by Commissioner Bellflowers and the removal of New Business item g; Discussion Regarding the Professional Conduct of Town Commission and Committee Members, as requested by Commissioner Bellflowers.*

**2. PRESENTATIONS.**

- a. Volunteer of the Month Certificate, to Pastor Wesley Holmes.

Mayor Warner presented Pastor Wesley Holmes with the Volunteer of the Month Certificate.

- b. Recognition of Jerel McGeachy Jr. and Recitation of a Portion of a Dr. King Speech by Mr. McGeachy Jr.

Mayor Warner presented Jerel McGeachy Jr. with a Certificate of Recognition for his recitation of a portion of a Dr. Martin Luther King speech during the Annual MLK Breakfast in Fayetteville.

Mr. McGeachy Jr. recited a portion of the “I have a Dream” speech.

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

Mr. Ron Maury, 4753 Legion Road Hope Mills, NC. Mr. Maury commended the newly elect Board for doing a great job and commented the atmosphere during Board meetings has been much more pleasant since they took office.

### **4. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. Consideration of Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for February 3, 2020.
- b. Consideration of Approval of Green Growth Toolbox Resolution R2020-05.
- c. Consideration of an Agreement with CGI Communications to Produce a Video Tour of the Town of Hope Mills.
- d. Acceptance of the January 2020 Financial Report.

### **“END OF CONSENT AGENDA”**

*Motion made by Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray and carried unanimously, to approve the consent agenda as read.*

### **5. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Case No. 20-017. Consideration of the Liberty Point; M1(P) Site Plan Review; Hope Mills Zoning Ordinance; Zoned: M1(P); Acreage: 30.14 ac. +/-; Located at 5300, 5360 & 5430 Corporation Drive (SR 2333); submitted by Windsor Commercial (Developer) and 4D Site Solutions (Engineer). (Hope Mills).

Planning & Economic Development Director Chancer McLaughlin presented this item. Mr. McLaughlin commented the project in question is tied to an overall 77.30-acre tract that was rezoned from C3 Heavy Commercial and C(P) Planned Commercial to M1(P) Planned Light Industrial by the Board of Commissioners on June 3, 2019. The developer is proposing industrial flex office space and plans to build the project in phases as reflected on the submitted site plan. The portion of the site proposed for development is 30.14 acres with 135 parking spaces proposed for building #1.

Discussion ensued regarding the landscaping requirements.

*Motion made by Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray and carried unanimously, to approve Case No. 20-017; Consideration of the Liberty Point; M1(P) Site Plan Review; Hope Mills Zoning Ordinance; Zoned: M1(P); Acreage: 30.14 ac. +/-; Located at 5300, 5360 & 5430 Corporation Drive (SR 2333); submitted by Windsor Commercial (Developer) and 4D Site Solutions (Engineer). (Hope Mills).*

- b. Consideration of Execution of an Agreement with NCDOT Tied to A Matching Grant Program for The Creation of a Pedestrian Plan and Approval of the Associated Budget Ordinance Amendment BA #2020-12. The Board approved the grant submission on July 15, 2019. A Budget Amendment for \$12,000 (20% matching funds) to cover the Town's portion of the project is attached. The Pedestrian Planning Grant for \$48,000 will cover the remaining cost from the total project of \$60,000.

Planning & Economic Development Director McLaughlin presented this item. Mr. McLaughlin commented the Board approved submission in 2019. The overall project consists of the production and planning of a Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan with NCDOT selecting the consulting firm to conduct it. The role of the Town of Hope Mills will be to develop a Steering Committee and to provide data and logistical support for public meetings.

*Motion made by Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commission Legge and carried unanimously, to approve the execution of an Agreement with NCDOT Tied to A Matching Grant Program for The Creation of a Pedestrian Plan and Approval of the Associated Budget Ordinance Amendment BA #2020-12. The Board approved the grant submission on July 15, 2019. A Budget Amendment for \$12,000 (20% matching funds) to cover the Town's portion of the project is attached. The Pedestrian Planning Grant for \$48,000 will cover the remaining cost from the total project of \$60,000.*

- c. Consideration of Passing Resolution R2020-03 Fixing a Public Hearing Date of March 2, 2020 for Annexation 2020-01, Caliber Collision.

*Motion made by Commissioner Legge, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried unanimously, to approve passing Resolution R2020-03, fixing a public hearing date of March 2, 2020 for Annexation 2020-01, Caliber Collision.*

- d. Consideration of Passing Resolution R2020-04 in Support of a Grant Application to The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund to Construct Phase I of Heritage Park. There is no additional cost for submitting the grant application, but the Town can apply design expenditures in the amount of \$49,190 for the master plan towards its dollar-for-dollar match of requested grant funding.

Parks & Recreation Director Lamarco Morrison presented this item. Mr. Morrison reviewed the projected timeline for the Heritage Park PARTF Grant as the application process is comprised of several elements.

*Motion made by Commissioner Bellflowers, seconded by Commissioner Legge and carried unanimously, to approve passing Resolution R2020-04 in Support of a Grant Application to The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund to Construct Phase I of Heritage Park.*

- e. Discussion Regarding Social Media Pages Belonging to: Hope Mills Mayor Jackie Warner, Hope Mills Mayor Pro Tem Kenjuana McCray, and Hope Mills Commissioner Bryan Marley. (As requested by Commissioner Bellflowers).

Commissioner Bellflowers commented he requested this item be added to the agenda after he received a complaint letter from a citizen; since then, he believes the issue has been resolved. Commissioner Bellflowers requested everyone be respectful on social media.

Mayor Warner commented her Mayor's Facebook page was created in 2014 to promote the happenings around Town. Mayor Warner and her family have endured a great deal of ridicule on social media within the last year. Since the Town now has an active website and social media presence, she will no longer be running her Mayor's Facebook page.

Mayor Pro Tem McCray commented she recently took her official page down as well due to the derogatory comments that were being posted. Dr. McCray is involved with several organizations and is a parent; first and foremost, and did not want her family exposed to the negativity on that page.

Commissioner Legge inquired of Town Attorney Hartzog whether the Town has any issues to be aware of. Attorney Hartzog responded so long as an official page does not allow for comments then begin blocking or deleting them, which is viewpoint discrimination, there should not be any issues.

f. Removed.

g. Removed.

## **6. REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS:**

- a. Manager's Report.

Town Manager Adams provided the following report:

Rockfish Road Sidewalk Project: Currently the estimated start date of the project is May 25th.

Johnson Street Sidewalk Project: NCDOT is currently working on the Right of Way Certification.

The Fountain Lane property: Survey has been completed; still awaiting on the mapping to be finalized.

Paving Survey: Kercher will be attending the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting on March 2nd to present their report on the paving conditions and recommendations. This is something that we will most likely need to include discussions in during our Budget Workshop on Friday, March 6th.

Golfview Greenway Driveway: Plan Review Committee has reviewed the drawings. After a few minor tweaks with the contractor, the plan for the temporary driveway and parking lot will be ready to be put out for bids.

Former Episcopal Parish House vacant lot: Due to possible safety issues, Public Works has been obtaining quotes for fencing along Dr. Raynor's parking lot side and the back of the vacant lot. Three quotes have been received and we will be making a decision this week after evaluation of all quotes, and the fencing will be installed as soon as possible.

Thomas Campbell Oakman Memorial Chapel: Weather permitting, the steeple repair will be completed within the next couple of weeks. Public Works staff is in the process of compiling a punch list for the Chapel for inclusion at the March 6th Budget Retreat.  
Timeline on Trade Street Museum: Public Works Staff is in the process of compiling a punch list for inclusion in the March 6th Budget Retreat.

Public Works has completed the inspections for the Street (Streets, Sidewalks, & Stormwater) acceptance for Blackbridge Subdivision Phase I. A punch list will be sent to the developer; and must be completed before formal acceptance may occur.

Stormwater: T2 Contracting has completed cleaning storm drains on Antilles Circle using the new root cutting head.

Repairs to the Veterans Monument: Public Works has contacted a company in Goldsboro to provide a quote for repair to the monument. Public Works is trying to coordinate with the company in order to provide this information to the elected at the March 6th Budget Retreat, for inclusion in the 2020-2021 FY Budget; as this could be a very costly repair.

East Patterson Street Embankment: The gabion barriers are failing and the rip rap has begun to slide off the embankment. Public Works had previously contacted an engineering firm; they came and conducted an initial site visit but have not returned. Public Works is in the process of contacting another engineering firm to create a solution for the stabilization of the embankment.

Update on Temporary Police Station: The walls have been built, the ventilation system is in and ceiling added where needed. Construction should be completed within two to three weeks.

Once completed the Police Department will begin the moving process from the current building to what will be called the “Main Street Police Station” instead of “Temporary Police Station.” The moving process should be completed by the end of March.

Code Enforcement: Since the last two weeks, 89 code violation notices for junk vehicles, public nuisance, weeded lot, zoning violations, abandoned structure, Building Code and minimum housing standards were given out in the following neighborhoods; Rockfish Woods, Eaglewood Forest, Crest Hill, Village Green, Fox Meadow, Bonaire Place, Timberlake, Bullard Street area, Meadowbrook behind Lowes, Fountain Lane area, Steeplechase, Ellison Street area, Golf Acres, Pinewood Lakes, Friendship, Camelot, South Main Street area, Brightmoor, Millstone, and Fairway Forest. Sign sweeps are being conducted weekly by Code Enforcement.

Parks & Recreation Online Registration (excluding youth sports & athletic registration at this time) went live on Thursday, February 13th. For instruction the public may go to <HTTPS://SECURE.REC1.COM/NC/HOPE-MILLS-NC> The flyer containing this information is posted on the Town website, as well as, the Parks & Recreation and Town Administration Facebook pages.

Special Events and Programs: The Special Events and Programs Division of Parks and Recreation facilitated CPR training. The entire full-time staff at Parks and Recreation is now certified in CPR.

Athletics and Building Maintenance: As part of the goal of adding new athletic programming, the Athletics staff has decided to add girls’ volleyball, ages 9-17 to the catalogue of fall athletics for 2020. Staff is currently coordinating with Fayetteville-Cumberland Parks and Recreation, and Freedom Christian Academy to be scheduled to play with their leagues. Registration will begin in June 2020.

Reminder: I have received notification from the Department of the Army, Special Warfare 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne), that they will be conducting a training exercise in our area from March 2 – March 27, 2020, June 1 – June 26, 2020, and August 10 – September 4, 2020. The Army personnel will wear civilian clothing and will display proper military ID. The training is meant to be nondescript so that they will not be noticed.

In honor of Black History Month 5 pieces of art have been displayed between the front of rear lobby of the Town Hall that are part of the Black History Cultural Art Exhibit. These one of a kind pieces were created by Yolanda Burse, her biography is as follows: Ms. Burse’s award-winning works have been featured throughout Cumberland County for more than nine years, exhibiting her first art piece in the 2008 Food Show Art Exhibit. She was the first artist to exhibit with the Veterans Affairs Art Gallery. She has been awarded first

and second place in various art categories with the Cumberland County Fair. Ms. Burse took second place in the 2016 Dickens Holiday Photography Contest. This out of the box thinker and self-taught visual artist has established her own lane on the Cumberland County art scene. She predominantly works in the art media of glass engraving, wood burning, and carving, as well as photography. She does not hesitate to try other art media for the fun of it. Her 2020 exhibit features mixed medium pieces, as well as oil pastels, charcoal, pointillism, and acrylic creations. Ms. Burse's art has also been featured in several local churches, elementary and high schools, the 2018 African-American Economic Experience, and the 1st Annual African-American Heritage Celebration Festival. Ms. Burse recently donated original pieces for the Second and Third Annual Art Auction, "Home Is Where the HeArt Is" event hosted by Connection of Cumberland, this event was held to raise funds to help homeless children succeed. Also, she had the honor of donating new pieces of art for the 112th Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Founders Gala Silent Auction on December 1, 2018. Ms. Burse is honored to have several pieces of her art residing in various locations in Fayetteville but her biggest honor came over the summer when student Minister Troy Muhammed select her Dr. Martin Luther King piece which now hangs in the NOI Mosque in Detroit, Michigan. As Yolanda Burse continues to perfect her craft, she hopes her art and vision will bring a fresh perspective to art and inspire others to take an interest in some form of art. Ms. Burse's children are also flourishing artists. In 2016, her youngest child secured the title of the youngest artist ever to enter the Arts Council PWC Call for Art Exhibit and was their featured Artist of the Week. Ms. Burse aspires to ignite passion, in people of all ages, "to create things that will highlight their own vision and philosophy". The Black History Cultural Art Experience will be an event to remember.

The Parks & Recreation Center is hosting the One-Stop Voting which began on February 13, 2020 and will conclude on February 29, 2020. The times are 8:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and additional times including weekends are listed on the flyer posted to the Cumberland County Board of Elections website and the Town Administration Facebook page.

Commissioner Marley inquired the type of fencing that will be installed at the vacant lot of the former Parish House. Town Manger Adams responded six-foot chain-link fencing will be installed. Commissioner Marley commented he would like to see something more aesthetically pleasing if the fencing will be permanent. Town Manager Adams responded it will be more of a temporary solution. Mayor Warner suggested Public Works look into more decorative fencing for a temporary fix as it can be incorporated into a future permanent plan.

In regard to repairs to the Veterans Memorial, Commissioner Marley suggested the Town inquire of; whichever company we contract to perform the repairs, possible routine/preventative maintenance the Town may perform to avoid the monument returning to the current state it is in.

b. Reminders.

- February 19, 2020 @ 5:00 PM **Historic Preservation Commission** Special Meeting in the Parks and Recreation Building
- February 24, 2020 @ 6:30 PM **Parks & Recreation Committee** Meeting in the Parks and Recreation Building
- February 25, 2020 @ 6:30 PM **Appearance Commission** Meeting in the Parks and Recreation Building
- February 27, 2020 @ 6:00 PM **Veterans Affairs Committee** Meeting in the Parks and Recreation Building
- March 2, 2020 @ 5:30 PM **TRADE STREET TAX CREDIT** Public Engagement Meeting in the Luther Board Room
- March 2, 2020 @ 7:00 PM **Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting** in the Luther Board Room
- March 6, 2020 @ 8:30 AM -3:30 PM (breakfast beginning at 8:00) **Board of Commissioners Budget Retreat** at Rockfish Camp & Retreat Center.
- March 9, 2020 @ 12:30 PM **Chamber Luncheon** in the Parks and Recreation Building
- March 11, 2020 @ 5:00 PM **Historic Preservation Commission** Regular Meeting in the Parks and Recreation Building

Town Manager Adams commented Mr. Adolphsen of the State Historic Preservation office cannot attend the Special Historic Tax Credit Meeting on March 2, 2020 but he is available on March 4, 2020 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. to provide a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation. Town Manager Adams requested the Board’s consideration to change the Special Meeting date from March 2, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. to March 4, 2020 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

*Motion made by Commissioner Legge, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried unanimously, to reschedule the Special Meeting regarding Historic Tax credits for Trade Street Businesses and property owners for Wednesday, March 4, 2020 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.*

c. Reports from Departments.

- Fire Department; December, 2019 and January, 2020
- Police Department; December, 2019 and January, 2020
- Inspections Department; December, 2019 and January, 2020
- Parks & Recreation; December, 2019 and January, 2020
- Stormwater Department; December, 2019 and January, 2020
- Public Works Department; December, 2019 and January, 2020
  - (1) Sanitation
  - (2) Service Garage
  - (3) Buildings & Grounds
  - (4) Street



## **7. STAFF COMMENTS.**

Town Clerk Starling commented the North Carolina League of Municipalities City Vision 2020 Conference will be held in Wilmington, NC from May 5 –7, 2020.

## **8. OFFICIAL COMMENTS.**

Commissioner Legge commented Ms. Jean Clark will be greatly missed and acknowledged her commitment to this Town.

Commissioner Bellflowers acknowledged Jim & Jean Clark's commitment to the Town, the Veterans Affairs Commission and the VFW noting the Veterans Monument was greatly due to them.

Commissioner Edwards commented Jean Clark touched the lives of many people including Town staff and will be missed.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray expressed her condolences to the family of Jean Clark and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mayor Warner commented Jim & Jean Clark were a part of her life since she was a school principle as they have always been involved in the community. Mayor Warner commented she will be missed as she impacted so many in a special way.

Commissioner Bellflowers requested another round of applause for Jerel McGeachy Jr.'s speech.

## **9. CLOSED SESSION:**

- a. Closed Session called pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6) to discuss a personnel matter.

*Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Kenjuana McCray, seconded by Commissioner Legge and carried unanimously to conduct a closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(6) to discuss a personnel matter.*

Mayor Warner instructed the Board to assemble in the front conference room at 7:59 p.m.

At 8:45 p.m. Mayor Warner called the regular meeting back to order.

*Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried unanimously, to seal the minutes of the closed session until such time as the release of the information would no longer frustrate the purpose of the closed session and further no action was taken.*

*Motion made by Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Legge and carried unanimously, to approve the renewal of a one-year employment contract for Town Manager Adams.*

**10. ADJOURNMENT.**

*Motion made by Commissioner Legge seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried unanimously, to adjourn the meeting.*

Mayor Warner adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

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Jackie Warner, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Jane G. Starling, CMC, NCCMC  
Town Clerk