

**TOWN OF HOPE MILLS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY APRIL 29, 2019, 6:30 P.M.
BILL LUTHER BOARD MEETING ROOM**

Mayor Jackie Warner called the Special meeting of the Hope Mills Board of Commissioners to order on Monday, April 29, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Jackie Warner, Mayor Pro Tem Mike Mitchell, Commissioners: Jessie Bellflowers, Pat Edwards and Meg Larson.

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner Jerry Legge.

STAFF PRESENT

Town Manager Melissa Adams, Town Clerk Jane Starling, Police Chief Joel Acciardo, Public Works Director Don Sisko, Stormwater Administrator Beth Brown, and Finance Director Drew Holland. Also present was Town Attorney Dan Hartzog, Jr.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was led by Mayor Pro Tem Mike Mitchell, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Jackie Warner.

Mayor Warner explained this meeting is strictly to receive public comment and unlike the regular meeting comment time, the public may direct questions to individual Board members and comments will not be timed.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Carla Welsh, 3626 Lake Forest Rd. Hope Mills, NC 28348, spoke regarding the historic preservation of the Episcopal Parish House. Ms. Welsh commented that the Parish House was given to the Town to use as a museum together with the church and it should be preserved, not be destroyed. Ms. Welsh commented that a contractor should be consulted not an engineer.

Ms. Joanne Scarola, 5429 Archer Rd. Hope Mills, NC 28348, spoke regarding the overall operations of the Town which she feels are good. Ms. Scarola inquired what the Board members current or previous occupations are. Ms. Scarola commented that the citizens are blue collar, not white collar, and suggested the Board not strive to be like Fayetteville. Ms. Scarola further commented the Board should ignore the current bad press and not give it a second thought.

Mr. Grilley Mitchell, 4056 William Bill Luther Dr. Hope Mills, NC 28348, spoke about the amazing Town staff in Hope Mills and stated he believes Town Manager Melissa Adams is the best Manager the Town has had. Mr. Mitchell encouraged the Board to create a priority list and stick with it relating to how they prioritize the budget. Mr. Mitchell commented the Board should

utilize the subject matter experts on staff to seek grants and take advantage of free dollars. Mr. Mitchell also commented that the Festival Committee needs funding to provide events.

Mr. Bill McQueen, 5903 Hunting Ridge Rd. Hope Mills, NC 28348, spoke about originally moving to Hope Mills specifically because he felt it was a good place to raise his children and grandchildren. Mr. McQueen stated he came to the meeting for one reason; to challenge the Board to undo their vote of no confidence and let it be in the past. Mr. McQueen stated he has worked with small towns across the nation and offered his service as a teambuilder.

Mr. Rod Mclean, 5435 Fountain Ln. Hope Mills, NC 28348, commented he has lived in Hope Mills for 20 years and has been active in the Board of Commissioners activities for the last five- or six-years. Mr. MacLean commented of the 16,000 people in Hope Mills, only 1,200 show up to vote. Mr. Mclean further commented that Hope Mills is a bedroom community and we need to bring in some type of industry or educational development. Mr. McLean feels we allow developers to push us around and build houses, but none of these developers has built a school.

2. ADJOURNMENT.

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

Mayor Warner adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.