

**TOWN OF HOPE MILLS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 3, 2021 7:00 P.M.
BILL LUTHER BOARD MEETING ROOM**

Mayor Jackie Warner called the regular meeting of the Hope Mills Board of Commissioners to order on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 6:58 p.m.

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Interim Town Manager Bill Zell, Town Clerk Jane Starling, Finance Director Drew Holland, Parks & Recreation Director Lamarco Morrison, Public Works Director Don Sisko, Planning & Economic Development Director Chancer McLaughlin and Stormwater Administrator Beth Brown. Also present was Town Attorney Dan Hartzog, Jr.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was led by Pastor Michael Mathis, Mission Field Ministries, 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 addition of New Business item e. Discussion of the Fourth of July Fireworks, requested by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray and New Business item f. Consideration of authorizing a contact to hire a new Town Manager.

2. PRESENTATIONS.

- a. Proclamation of National Day of Prayer.

Mayor Warner read the proclamation for National Day of Prayer and reminded the Town will be hosting a National Day of Prayer service at the gazebo at noon on Thursday, led by the local pastor's coalition.

- b. Proclamation of Municipal Clerks Week.

Mayor Warner read the proclamation for Municipal Clerks Week and recognized Town Clerk Jane Starling and Deputy Town Clerk Tiffany Shadik.

- c. Proclamation of National Police Week.

Mayor Warner read the proclamation for National Police Week.

- d. Presentation by Dr. Anthony Wade, Director of the Fayetteville/Cumberland Human Relations Department, related to the Community Forum Being Conducted on June 5th at Mission Field Ministries.

Dr. Anthony Wade and Ms. Yamile Nazar, Human Relations Director were present.

Dr. Wade reviewed the Community Forum training based on the movie “The Hate U Give”. The initiative will be administered by several professional agencies to include Fayetteville/Cumberland Human Relations, Hope Mills Police Department, and Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office.

Ms. Nazar reviewed the schedule for training and how the discussions that take place during that initiative will help to build better relationships between law enforcement and our community. This will be an all-day event.

- e. Presentation of Manager’s recommended proposed FY 2021-2022 Budget.

Interim Town Manager Bill Zell reviewed the proposed fiscal year 2021-2022 balanced budget of \$14.3 million citing our three largest revenue sources: the ad valorem tax and the two state shared revenues – Sales Tax and the Franchise Utility Tax. Interim Manager Zell remarked staff estimates these three will generate approximately 70% of the \$14.3 total revenue. It is estimated that the ad valorem tax will generate approximately \$5.1 million based on a total property valuation of \$1.1 billion, with a 98.94% collection rate. The tax rate is proposed to remain at .46 cents per \$100 of property value and Parks & Recreation tax at .06 cents per \$100. Interim Town Manager Zell further reviewed additional highlights of the proposed budget.

Finance Director Drew Holland reviewed the layout of the budget book.

- Consideration and Possible Action to hold a Budget Workshop(s) in May and/or set a date for Public Hearing on proposed FY 2021-2022 Budget for Monday, June 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Legge, seconded by Commissioner Bellflowers and carried unanimously, to conduct the Budget Workshop on May 17, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS. None.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Consideration of Approval of Draft Minutes from the March 5, 2021 Special Budget Retreat Meeting.

- b. Consideration of Approval of Draft Minutes from the April 19, 2021 Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting.

“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. Consideration and Acceptance of the Petition for Annexation of Deaver Circle Apartments Phase III and Resolution No. R2021-10 Directing the Clerk to Investigate the Sufficiency of the Annexation Petition. This will be annexation number A2021-01 and is a contiguous annexation.

Motion made by Commissioner Bellflowers, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried unanimously, to approve Resolution No. R2021-10 directing the Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of the annexation petition for annexation number A2021-0; a contiguous annexation.

- b. Consideration of Approval to Send a Request for Initial Zoning to Cumberland County. This is related to annexation number A20210-01.

Motion made by Commissioner Bellflowers, seconded by and carried unanimously, to approve the initial zoning request for annexation number A2021-01.

- c. Consideration of Approval of Resolution R2021-11 Fixing a Public Hearing Date of May 17, 2021 for Annexation A2021-01, Deaver Circle Phase III.

Commissioner Bellflowers, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray and carried unanimously, to approve Resolution R2021-11 fixing a Public Hearing Date of May 17, 2021 for Annexation A2021-01 Deaver Circle Phase III.

- d. Discussion and Possible Scheduling of Neighborhood Town Hall Meetings. Requested by Mayor Warner.

Mayor Warner remarked the Town Hall meetings could be held at the elementary schools and allow the community to speak and for the Board to listen to their concerns.

Mayor Warner commented the schools will need to be contacted to determine availability.

Discussion ensued regarding the dissemination of information on Town events as the general public has expressed there is a lack of notice.

Motion made by Commissioner Legge, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray and carried unanimously, to approve scheduling neighborhood Town Hall meetings.

e. Discussion of Fourth of July Fireworks, as requested by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray commented she has heard concerns regarding the governors COVID restrictions being relaxed and the possibility of holding the fireworks display for the fourth.

Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Commissioner Bellflowers, seconded by Commissioner Marley and carried unanimously, to schedule the July Fourth Fireworks to be held on July 3rd, contingent on the Governor's orders.

f. Consideration of authorizing a contract to hire a new Town Manager.

Mayor Warner announced Mr. Scott Meszaros has been offered a contract as our new Town Manager to begin on June 1.

Motion made by Commissioner Bellflowers, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried unanimously, to approve the contract to hire a new Town Manager as written.

6. REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

a. Manager's Report.

Interim Town Manager Bill Zell provided the Town Manager's report included in the agenda packet.

Commissioner Marley inquired if Big T's is operating at the concession stand. Interim Manager Zell responded staff offered Big T's to operate their food truck at that location and they declined.

b. Reminders.

- Thursday May 6, 2021 12:00 Noon, **National Day of Prayer**: outside in front of Town Hall.
- Thursday May 6, 2021 6:00 PM, **Prime Movers Regular Meeting** in the Luther Board Room.
- Friday May 7, 2021 at 7:30 AM **Mayor's Coalition Breakfast Meeting** in the Recreation Center.
- Wednesday May 12, 2021 at 6:00 pm **Historic Preservation Committee Regular Meeting** in the Recreation Center.
- Saturday, May 15, 2021 **Peace Officers Memorial Day**.

- Monday, May 17, 2021 at 7:00 pm, **Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting** in the Luther Board Room.

c. Committee Liaisons update on Committee Activities.

- Commissioner Pat Edwards - Appearance Commission, Mid-Carolina Council of Government

Commissioner Edwards recognized Tina Yossett to provide an update on the Appearance Commission. Ms. Yossett commented the Appearance Commission is working with the Public Works department to refurbish the gazebo between Parks & Recreation and Town Hall; creating Christmas ornaments featuring the 130th logo; and working with downtown businesses to provide a community garden downtown.

- Commissioner Jerry Legge - Historic Preservation Committee, RLUAC (Regional Land Use Advisory Commission)

Commissioner Bellflowers reported on the Historic Preservation Committee meeting on Commissioner Legge's behalf. Commissioner Bellflowers commented the Historic Preservation Committee toured the and discussion the revision of their budget for the period house.

- Commissioner Bryan Marley - Veterans Affairs

Commissioner Marley remarked the recent meeting was brief as a majority of the members were attending the Chamber Banquet.

- Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray - Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, Cumberland County Air Quality Stakeholders Committee, Prime Movers

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray thanked those who attended the Blood Drive hosted by the Prime Movers.

Air Quality Stakeholders Committee is seeking ambassadors for the Air Quality Ambassadors Program.

The Parks & Recreation Committee discussed the digital marquee that should be installed by the start of June, the rain garden, monthly craft kits and disseminating information on Parks & Recreation events to the community.

- Mayor Jackie Warner- Mayor's Youth Leadership Committee, FAMPO TPB (Transportation Policy Board), FCEDC Municipal Advisory Meeting Liaison

Mayor Warner recognized Tristan Southerland, chair of the Mayor's Youth Leadership Committee to provide an update. The Mayor's Youth Leadership Committee discussed

their website, adopt-a-highway program, working with the NC State Youth Council Association to publish their charter, and their involvement in the recent litter sweep and social media engagement.

Mayor Warner commented the Tier 1 committee will meet on May 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Warner and Mayor Pro Tem met with Dr. Robinson in an effort to partner with FTCC to offer trade-skill classes to the community. Mayor Warner would like to partner with workforce develop.

The Mayors Coalition will meet on Friday at 7:30 a.m. at Hope Mills Parks & Recreation.

7. STAFF COMMENTS.

8. OFFICIAL COMMENTS.

Commissioner Bellflowers commented the two structures at the public safety facility are stairwell structures; and expressed his hope that “The Hate U Give” training will be well attended as it is much needed.

Commissioner Legge acknowledged Town Clerk Starling and Deputy Town Clerk Shadik for Municipal Clerks Week and welcomed Mr. Scott Meszaros.

Mayor Pro Tem remarked she too hopes the police-community training will be well attended.

9. ADJOURNMENT.

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

Mayor Warner adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Jackie Warner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jane G. Starling, CMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk