

**TOWN OF HOPE MILLS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 7, 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, June 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Town Manager Scott Meszaros, Interim Town Manager Bill Zell, Town Clerk Jane Starling, Finance Director Drew Holland, Parks & Recreation Director Lamarco Morrison, Police Chief Joel Acciardo, Deputy Police Chief Bradley Dean, Public Works Director Don Sisko, Deputy Public Works Director Bruce Clark, Police, Fire Chief Chuck Hodges, Deputy Fire Chief Steve Lopez, Stormwater Administrator Beth Brown and Planning & Economic Development Director Chancer McLaughlin. Also present, was Town Attorney Dan Hartzog, Jr.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was led by Pastor Cousins, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Jackie Warner.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS.

Motion made by Commissioner Marley, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried unanimously, to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of New Business item d. Consideration of reviewing filing fees for Mayor and Board of Commissioner.

2. PRESENTATIONS.

- a. Swearing in of New Town Manager, Scott W. Meszaros.

Mayor Warner administered the oath of office for Town Manager Scott W. Meszaros.

- b. Tobacco Epidemic Inside a Pandemic - Presented by Travis Greer, Region 6 Tobacco Control Manager, Department of Public Health.

Mr. Travis Greer, Tobacco Prevention Control Manager provided an overview of the Department of Public Health's initiative to push tobacco-free policies for municipalities.

Commissioner Legge thanked Mr. Greer for his presentation and commented the Town has no smoking signs but the language may need updating to cover all smoking devices, aside from cigarettes.

c. Hurricane Preparedness Tips.

Mayor Warner remarked, what appears to be an active hurricane season, began on June 1. It is important for residents to prepare for the what-ifs as we've been affected by two significant hurricanes; Matthew and Florence.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS.

- a. Annexation Case A2021-01; Deaver Circle Apartments Phase III: The following described tract of land lies on the western side of Deaver Circle and the northern side of Hackberry Drive in the Rockfish Township.

Planning & Economic Development Director Chancer McLaughlin remarked this is the final step in the process for Deaver Circle Apartments Phase III.

Commissioner Legge inquired if the Town will be adopting the streets. Planning & Economic Development Director McLaughlin responded the Town is only adopting the land.

Mayor Warner opened the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

Mayor Warner called for comments for or against Annexation Case A2021-01. There were none.

Motion made by Commissioner Marley to close the public hearing.

Mayor Warner closed the public hearing for Annexation Case A2021-01 at 7:25 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Bellflowers, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray and carried unanimously, to approve Annexation Case A2021-01; Deaver Circle Apartments Phase III.

- b. Consideration of an Amendment to the Fayetteville-Hope Mills 2014 Annexation Agreement Allowing the City of Fayetteville to Annex Property Located West of Bingham Drive, Adjacent to the Arran Lakes West Neighborhood. The amendment is in the form of Ordinance No. NS2021-07.

Planning & Economic Development Director McLaughlin remarked this case is tied to a request from the City of Fayetteville. They cannot consider the annexation petition without the Town agreeing to the requested annexation. Developer proposed 9.96 acres of Town's MIA to develop.

Mayor Warner opened the public hearing at 7:35 p.m.

Mayor Warner called for comments for or against Fayetteville-Hope Mills Annexation Amendment. There were none.

Motion made by Commissioner Marley and carried unanimously, to close the public hearing.

Mayor Warner closed the public hearing at 7:35 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Legge, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried unanimously, to approve Annexation Ordinance No. NS2021-07, an amendment to the Fayetteville-Hope Mills 2014 Annexation Agreement allowing the City of Fayetteville to annex property located west of Bingham Drive, adjacent to the Arran Lakes West neighborhood.

c. Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget Ordinance.

Interim Town Manager Bill Zell commented staff has presented a balanced budget of \$14.3 million with no tax increase.

Mayor Warner opened the public hearing at 7:38 p.m.

Mayor Warner called for comments for or against fiscal year 2021-2022 budget ordinance. There were none.

Motion made by Commissioner Marley to close the public hearing.

Mayor Warner closed the public hearing the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget ordinance at 7:38 p.m.

Commissioner Bellflowers requested the Board consider a full-year cost of living adjustment (COLA) for employees, versus the proposed 6-month, and adding \$19,000 to add fencing and additional security measures around the municipal park basketball court.

- Consideration to adopt the FY2021-2022 FY Budget Ordinance.

Motion made by Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Marley and the motion carried, 4 to 1, with Commissioner Bellflowers voting against, to adopt the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget ordinance.

- Consideration to adopt the proposed FY2021-2022 Fiscal Year Fee Schedule.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried unanimously, to adopt the proposed 2021-2022 fiscal year fee schedule.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS. None.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Consideration of Approval of Draft Minutes from the May 17, 2021 Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting.
- b. Consideration of change order #2 for the public safety building. This is needed to reflect the net change of a credit (savings of) \$247 to the Town. This was described to the Board at the May 17th regular meeting.
- c. Consideration to Allow an Amendment for the Stormwater Inventory Mapping Update 2021. The amount of \$7,645.00 was approved 2/15/2021. Due to increased construction during the year the amount has increased by \$6,350 to \$13,995. Funds are available in this year's budget.
- d. Consideration to Approve Budget Amendment #16 Accepting \$4,570.00 Grant Award from the Arts Council of Fayetteville Cumberland County.

“END OF CONSENT AGENDA”

Motion made by Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Marley and carried unanimously, to approve the consent agenda as read.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Consideration of Ordinance Amendment for the Hope Mills Lake Chapter 62-part b.

Motion made by Commissioner Bellflowers, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried unanimously, to approve the Amendment for the Hope Mills Lake Ordinance, Chapter 62, part b.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Discussion of a Hope Mills Homeless Task Force. Requested by Mayor Pro Tem McCray.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray suggested the following individuals serve on the Hope Mills Homeless Task Force, if the Board approves: Parks & Recreation Director Lamarco Morrison serve as staff liaison, ALMS House volunteer Grilley Mitchell, Pamela Stevenson and County Commissioner Toni Stewart. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray remarked the committee would be tasked with identifying resources to combat homelessness in Hope Mills.

Mayor Warner suggested the Town reach out to Operation Inasmuch.

The consensus of the Board was to appoint the abovementioned individuals to serve on the Hope Mills Homeless Task Force.

b. Discussion and Possible Action on CSX, Johnson Street Sidewalk Project.

Public Works Director Don Sisko remarked the Department of Transportation gave the Town the go-ahead to proceed with the Johnson Street Sidewalk Project. CSX submitted a construction agreement to be completed by the Town which includes an invoice for CSX services. Staff is discussing with FAMPO the possibility of including this charge in the 80/20 split by way of Supplemental Agreement.

Mayor Warner commented she inquired if the funds the Town will be receiving as part of the ARP Program will be eligible for use for the project.

Motion made by Commissioner Bellflowers, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried unanimously, to approve the CSX construction agreement in amount \$121,084.

c. Consideration of Bid Acceptance for Lake Park Additional Parking in the Amount of \$88,500.00.

Public Works Director Don Sisko commented the Board has been provided a copy of the certified bid packets for the Fountain Lane Parking lot.

Commissioner Bellflowers commented after speaking with Public Works Director Sisko, he determined the cost included clearing of all the trees, gates, lighting, sloping, additional crush and run and buffers between the parking and surrounding residential properties.

Motion made by Commissioner Bellflowers, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray, and carried unanimously, to approve the bid acceptance with Diamond Constructors for Lake Park additional Parking in the amount of \$88,500.

d. Consideration of filing fees for Mayor and Commissioners

Discussion ensued regarding surrounding municipalities fees and how the inquiry to change came about.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray suggested the fees be changed to \$15 for Mayor and \$10 for Commissioners.

Motion made by Commissioner Legge, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray and carried unanimously, to request a resolution to change the filing fee for Mayor be changed to \$15 and \$10 for Commissioner.

8. REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

a. Manager's Report.

Interim Town Manager Zell commented the Board was provided a memo from Garner & Brown Architects addressing the incident that occurred at the Public Safety job site over Memorial Day weekend.

b. Reminders.

- Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 6:00 PM Historic Preservation Commission regular meeting in the Hope Mills recreation center.
- Saturday, June 12, 2021 from 10 AM-3 PM Pet Fest and Pop-up Art in the Park.
- Saturday, June 12, 2021 at 11:00 AM Ribbon Cutting for both Friends of the Hope Mills Library Park and the Unveiling of "Dodge the Horse" sculpture @ 3411 Golfview Road.
- Saturday, June 12, 2021 at 1:00 PM Ribbon Cutting for the Hope Theater Mural, 5449 Trade Street.
- Monday, June 21, 2021 at 7:00 PM Board of Commissioners regular board meeting in the Luther Board room in Town Hall at 5770 Rockfish Rd.

Mayor Warner provided a background on the Friends of Hope Mills Library Committee and the park ribbon cutting scheduled for Saturday. Mayor Warner commented the Trade Street Mural Unveiling has been rescheduled for Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

c. Committee Liaisons update on Committee Activities.

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

Commissioner Edwards commented Mid-Carolina Council of Government met on June 1 and discussed the surrounding counties senior centers and the demographics. The Appearance Commission will meet on June 22.

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

Commissioner Bellflowers remarked he would like to attend the Historic Preservation Committee meeting on Commissioner's Legge behalf on Wednesday, June 9, 2021.

- Commissioner Bryan Marley - Veterans Affairs

Commissioner Marley commented the Memorial Day Ceremony went well and was well attended thanks to the Veterans Affairs Committee.

Commissioner Marley recognized Grilley Mitchell to provide the update on the Veterans Affairs Committee. Mr. Mitchell remarked Jim Blevins has submitted his resignation from the Veterans Affairs Committee citing issues with an elected official and miscommunication in information the Clark Family about the renaming of the Veterans Memorial Park during the Memorial Day Ceremony.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray recognized Jerel McGeachy to provide the Prime Movers Committee update.

Mr. McGeachy thanked everyone who participated in the Hate U Give training on Saturday, June 5th. Mr. McGeachy commented the Prime Moves will partner with Operation Inasmuch to host a month-long personal hygiene event and a PTSD event. The Committee is also finishing created a 501c3, hopefully with the help of the Town Attorney.

Mayor Pro Tem McCray commented Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee met on May 24th. The digital marquee at the lake is projected to be installed by mid-June. Parks & Recreation staff are working to have surveillance cameras and signage installed at the municipal park to cover the basketball court, playground and skatepark to help with vandalism. They would also like to include cameras at the lake and golf course in the future. Signage for large, aggressive dogs is also in the works. Fireworks will still occur on July 3rd.

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

Mayor Warner remarked she received confirmation the Mayors Youth Leadership Committee is now recognized as State Youth Council.

Mayor Warner addressed concerns of 18-wheelers using Lakeview Road and reminded the 130th Anniversary Celebration Committee will meet on Thursday at 5:00 p.m. Mayor Warner reminded the Town is still accepting applications for the Arts and Heritage Committee that will work with the Fayetteville Cumberland Arts Council to identify and submit grants, among other things.

9. STAFF COMMENTS.

Interim Town Manager Bill Zell commented he enjoyed his time with the Town.

Town Manager Scott Meszaros thanked the Town for the warm welcome and expressed his optimism for his future with the Town.

Attorney Hartzog thanked outgoing Interim Manager Zell and welcomed Town Manager Meszaros.

10. OFFICIAL COMMENTS.

Commissioner Legge welcomed Town Manager Meszaros and his family to Hope Mills and thanked Mr. Zell for his hard work.

Commissioner Marley thanked Interim Manager Zell and staff for their work on the budget. Commissioner Marley remarked he agreed with Mr. Zell's suggestion in that additions to the agenda should be voted on by the Board versus a Board member contacting Town Clerk Starling directly and having the item added without question and going through the Manager.

Discussion ensued.

The consensus of the Board was for Town Manager Meszaros and Town Clerk Staring research language changes for the Boards policy.

Commissioner Bellflowers welcomed Town Manager Meszaros and thanked Interim Town Manager Zell for the hard work during his time with the Town.

Commissioner Edwards thanked Interim Town Manager Zell and welcomed Town Manager Meszaros and his family to Hope Mills. Commissioner Edwards commented in the ten years she has been with the Town; we are coming into the best staff she has seen in terms of working together

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray thanked Interim Town Manager Zell and welcomed Town Manager Meszaros encouraging him to provide any constructive criticism to the Board, if need be. Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray thanked anyone that participated and helped with the Memorial Day Ceremony, added Pastor Michael Mathis to the Homeless Task Force and thanked Chief Acciardo and the Police Officers that participated in the Hate U Give training on Saturday, June 5th.

Mayor Warner reminded of Saturday's events to include the Pop-Up Art show and PetFest.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

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

Mayor Warner adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Jackie Warner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jane G. Starling CMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk