

**TOWN OF HOPE MILLS
REGULAR MEETING - CLOSED SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021**

Mayor Warner called the Closed Session to order at 9:00 p.m.

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

Others present were Town Manager Melissa Adams, Interim Town Manager Bill Zell, Town Clerk Jane Starling, Planning and Economic Development Director Chancer McLaughlin, and Town Attorney Dan Hartzog, Jr.

PURPOSE:

- a. Closed Session was called pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11. (a) (5) property acquisition.

Town Manager Adams stated she had been contacted by Mrs. Sharon Reeves who indicated that property next to the Trade Street Museum is available to purchase. Manager Adams subsequently contacted the landowner who indicated it will at least a couple of months before the property is available for purchase.

Planning and Economic Development Director Chancer McLaughlin passed out a memo and map related to 5462 River Rd. It described the 4.54 acres and noted that only 1.4 acres of developable land is included on the site as there are severe topographical issues along the embankment leading down to the creek. The position of the plan review team is that the initial offer of \$50,000 should be reduced. Through several counteroffers, staff receive a final offer of a sales price of \$35,000, the Town to maintain the cemetery that is included and to cover all costs involved with transfer of title including attorney fees, recording fees, etc. Discussion ensued.

Consensus was to withdraw the Town's offer to purchase 5462 River Rd. and instead request an easement to place a Town sign there and to consider an easement at the Dollar General for a Town Sign.

Mayor Warner closed the session at 9:23 p.m.