

MINUTES

The Rural Hall Town Council held their regular meeting on December 13, 2021, at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Council Chambers. The following members were present: Mayor Timothy M. Flinchum - presiding; Councilwoman Susan H. Gordon; Councilman Norman E. Horn; Councilman Terry M. Bennett; Town Manager Misty A. Meadows; and Interim Town Attorney Randolph M. James.

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Finance Director, Wade Gilley.

A moment of silence was held.

Adoption of Agenda: Councilman Terry M. Bennett made a motion to amend the agenda to move Oath of Office up on the agenda to accommodate Judge Eric Morgan doing the swearing in. Councilwoman Susan H. Gordon seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Councilman Terry M. Bennett made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Councilwoman Susie H. Gordon seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Oath of Office:

Judge Eric Morgan, Forsyth County Superior Court, swore in Councilman Terry M. Bennett, assisted by Manager Meadows.

Judge Eric Morgan also swore in Councilman Norman E. Horn, assisted by Manager Meadows.

Judge Morgan congratulated the candidates and stated it was an honor to swear them in.

Approval of Minutes: Councilman Norman E. Horn made a motion to approve the December 1, 2021 special meeting minutes and to approve and seal the December 1, 2021 closed session minutes as written. Councilwoman Susan H. Gordon seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Brenda Plunkett, 902 Falconbridge Road, deferred her three minutes of speaking to her husband Ricky Plunkett.

Ricky Plunkett, 902 Falconbridge Road, expressed concerns about the current council, spending of fire department funds, and his termination from the fire department. Attorney James interrupted Mr. Plunkett due to his violation of the public comment procedures. Mr. Plunkett continued to discuss matters of pending litigation and personnel matters, which the attorney did not permit.

Cynthia Stigall, 611 Runningbrook Lane, deferred her three minutes of speaking to Carol Newsome.

Carol Newsome, 8495 Broad Street, expressed concerns about the amount of time Council has recently spent in closed session, the transparency of the Council, and that she received no response from the Town in October when she applied for the vacant council seat.

Frank James, 7290 Broad Street, congratulated newly elected Councilmen Eddie Horn and Terry Bennett and newly appointed Town Manager Misty Meadows. Frank James stated that closed session meetings are important and appropriate at times. He encouraged the community to unite, move forward, and support the staff and elected officials.

Janet Carithers, 7439 Church Street, agreed with the comments made by Frank James.

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Robert Lee Parks, 8000 Broad Street, submitted a document and photos regarding the house 8001 Broad Street. He expressed concerns about the house being a fire damaged structure and nuisance. He inquired about why it has not been demolished or renovations have not been completed, and the Council's plans moving forward. \

ANNOUNCEMENTS & MEETING UPDATES:

November 2021 Flag Purchase:

In memory of Bill Kiger by Edward and Marian Snyder

Closings:

Town of Rural Hall follows the North Carolina State Employee Holiday Schedule. Town Offices will be closed Thursday, December 23, 2021, Friday, December 24, 2021, and Monday, December 27, 2021, in observance of Christmas, and December 31, 2021, in observance of New Year's Day.

Finance Report by Finance Director Wade Gilley:

Revenues are tracking similar to last year and expenses are way below normal. The Town's savings account includes the Town's \$520,000 ARPA Funds received this fiscal year. None of those funds have been spent or appropriated yet. Finance Director Gilley plans to create binders for the Council, outlining the guidelines of ARPA spending.

Finance Director asked Council to approve moving funds allocated for fire department capital outlay (replacement of Truck 523) to fire department truck maintenance of trucks fund. Interim Fire Chief Mike Simone listed truck repairs needed. Councilman Norman E. Horn made a motion to approve moving fire department funds. Susan H. Gordon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Susan H. Gordon made a motion, seconded by Councilman Norman E. Horn, to enter in to closed session per NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3). Motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Susan H. Gordon made a motion to adjourn the closed session and return to regular session at 9:01 PM. Councilman Norman E. Horn seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

A section was added to the Personnel Policy for reinstating employees: Section 17, Reinstatement, under Article V, Recruitment and Selection. The current Personnel Policy does not address rehires or reinstatement of employees. Mayor Flinchum read the new policy. Councilman Norman E. Horn made a motion to adopt the amendment to the policy. Councilwoman Susan H. Gordon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Councilman Terry N. Bennett commented that there is a reason for all closed session meetings, and that some matters, like personnel matters, must be discussed in closed session due to North Carolina general statutes. He stated that the Council has had to have closed sessions due to the recent resignations. He explained that he is committed to help and resolve the matters at hand.

There being no further business, motion was made by Councilman Norman E. Horn at 9:08 PM.

Misty A. Meadows
Town Manager

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