

MINUTES

The Rural Hall Town Council held an agenda briefing on February 7, 2022 at 3:00 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 Manager Meadows.

A moment of silence was held.

Adoption of Agenda:

Councilman Norman E. Horn made a motion to amend the agenda and add an item under item B, under Items of Discussion (B1) to discuss fire department equipment needs, and adopt it as amended. Councilwoman Susan H. Gordon seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilman Terry Bennett made a motion to approve the January 3, 2022 Agenda Briefing and Action Meeting Minutes, January 10, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, and January 27, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes, and to approve and seal the January 3, 2022 and January 27, 2022 Closed Session Minutes. Councilwoman Norman Horn seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

January Flag Purchase:

In memory of Richard "Kelly" Johnson by Frank and Nancy Harris

February Flag Purchases:

In memory of Marianne Fay, Sue Denny, and Brenda Flynt by the Rural Hall Historical Society

New Business Items:

- Councilman Horn voted to adopt Resolution #832 (attachment #2) to include the Town of Rural Hall in the Forsyth County Fire Service District for prevention and suppression services. Councilwoman Susan H. Gordon seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Manager Meadows discussed changing non-exempt fulltime firefighters to earning overtime pay at time and a half for hours worked over their normal 212 hours in a 28-day cycle and no longer earn compensatory time, as comp time is often not able to be used, is banked, and will have to be paid out at the end of the fiscal year. Council supported this change and gave unanimous consent to move forward as soon as possible.
- Chief Simone discussed the fire department's needs, including needs of air packs and bottles and RIT packs and bottles. Their current packs and bottles are outdated, and the RIT packs will expire in August 2022; The fire station building has issues, particularly with leaks and a leaking roof. Chief Simone is looking into the most cost-effective ways to complete repairs and creating schedules to replace needed equipment.
- 620 Bethania-Rural Hall Road has been purchased and the new owner is considering petitioning for rezoning for "limited business" to operate a retail nursery business. The Town will be in touch with the county for updates.

- Manager Meadows suggested having a Council Retreat/Orientation and the date of Monday, March 28 was designated.
- The Town continues to be short-staffed. Staffing needs were discussed and the Town will be moving forward with hiring for various needed positions.
- Final rule for ARPA was announced and this increases flexibility in spending ARPA funds, although spending still must be carefully reported and tracked. Wade Gilley, Finance Director, suggested the Town may want to look at entering into an agreement with other local municipalities to share an analyst. Manager Meadows shared the NCLM will be offering free ARPA assistance through grant funds.
- Forsyth County Sheriff's Office contract for upcoming fiscal year was briefly discussed. Manager Meadows said she would be discussing some details of the contract with the sheriff's office. Council expressed interest in seeing the Community Watch Program reestablished.
- Councilman Horn gave an update about the North Forsyth Little League. The Little League's partnership with the school system is not working out and the Little League does not have the funds to stay up and running, The school system owns the fields. The Little League wants to look at other options in town limits.

Councilwoman Susan H. Gordon made a motion, seconded by Councilman Norman E. Horn, to enter into closed session per NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3), NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5), and NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) at 5:21 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Susan H. Gordon made a motion to return to regular session at 7:54 PM. Councilman Bennett seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Councilman Horn made a motion to adjourn at 7:57 PM.

Misty A. Meadows
Town Manager

Purchase of Flags

January 2022

In memory of Richard “Kelly” Johnson by Frank and Nancy Harris

February 2022

In memory of Marianne Fay by the Rural Hall Historical Society

In memory of Sue Denny by the Rural Hall Historical Society

In memory of Brenda Flynt by the Rural Hall Historical Society

**RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO THE INCLUSION OF THE TOWN OF
RURAL HALL IN THE FORSYTH COUNTY COUNTYWIDE FIRE
SERVICE DISTRICT TO PROVIDE FIRE PREVENTION AND
SUPPLEMENTAL FIRE SUPPRESSION SERVICES**

WHEREAS the Town of Rural Hall does not provide fire prevention services to its citizens, but relies upon Forsyth County for this service;

WHEREAS N.C.G.S. 153A-303 authorized Board of Commissioners to extend a service district in order to finance, provide, or maintain for the district fire prevention and supplemental fire protection services;

WHEREAS Forsyth County proposes to extend a Countywide Fire Service District to provide supplemental fire protection services that could quickly reach all parts of the Countywide District, including the Town of Rural Hall, to assist volunteer fire departments and help meet the County goal of having 10 firefighters at each fire within 10 minutes;

WHEREAS a Countywide Fire Service District could provide such services at a lower tax rate than if each fire tax district were to pay for such resources individually;

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 153A-303, Forsyth County has proposed that the Town of Rural Hall be included in the Countywide Service District;


WHEREAS the Town of Rural Hall has not been receiving such services during the current fiscal year, such prevention and supplemental services will be received once the Town becomes part of the Countywide Fire Service District; and

WHEREAS the Town Council finds it would be more practical and economical to provide and add such services through the Countywide Fire Service District;

NOW, **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Rural Hall Council hereby agrees that the Town of Rural Hall shall be included in the Countywide Fire Service District, if (i) such is extended by the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners no later than July 1, 2022, and (ii) as long as the tax rate shall not exceed three cents for such district. The Council of the Town of Rural Hall may withdraw from the Countywide Fire Service District at any time upon passage of a resolution by the Town authorizing such withdrawal.

Adopted this the 17th day of February, 2022.


Timothy M. Flinchum
Mayor


Misty A. Meadows
Town Manager

