

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2023
MINUTES**

The Rural Hall Town Council held their agenda briefing and workshop meeting on January 9, 2023, at 7:00 PM in Town Hall Council Chambers. The following members were present: Mayor Timothy M. Flinchum - presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Susan H. Gordon; Councilman Terry M. Bennett; Councilman Eddie Horn; Councilwoman Janet M. Carithers; Town Manager Misty A. Meadows; Town Clerk Lynette E. Hendrick; and Interim Attorney Randolph James

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Town Clerk Lynette E. Hendrick.

A moment of silence was held.

Councilman Bennett added the following items to the New Business section of the agenda:

- Lighting at Town Hall
- Paving Parking Lot at LPA

Mayor Flinchum also added a closed session for the council to review the Town of Rural Hall's response to the State Auditor's confidential draft report with interim Town Attorney Randolph M James pursuant to G.S. §143-318.11 (a) (3) and pursuant to G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel matters.

Adoption of Amended Agenda:

Mayor Pro Tem Gordon made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Carithers to adopt the amended agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilwoman Carithers made a motion, seconded by Councilman Bennett to approve December 5, 2022 agenda briefing minutes and December 12, 2022 regular council minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Gordon made the motion, seconded by Councilman Horn to table the December 12 closed session minutes to the February meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Horn made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Carithers to approve November 2, 2022 closed session minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements and Meeting Updates:

All Town offices closed January 16, 2023 for MLK Day

Public Comment Period:

Carol Newsome, 8495 Broad St., signed up to speak with her topic being improper closed session topics.

June Koehn, 430 College St., signed up to speak with her topic being council issues.

Tori Miller, 8031 Church St., signed up to speak about good things happening in the Town of Rural Hall, commended staff for all the events and smiles they put on the Rural Hall Elementary children at the Christmas Tree lighting. The Christmas tree was absolutely beautiful.

New Business/ Items of Discussion:

Councilman Horn stated we need to instruct staff to start the process for selecting a Municipal Attorney for the Town. Interim Attorney James can still be the Attorney for the litigation. Mayor Flinchum stated the process would be to post an RFQ. Mayor Flinchum stated it was up to the Council to instruct staff whenever they are ready for this to be posted.

Interim Attorney James stated he turns 70 this month and was not interested in continuing many more years. He also stated the Town of Clemmons just hired an attorney and staff could look at their RFQ they used to guide us on one. Councilwoman Carithers ask if we could instruct staff to get the RFQ ready to post? Mayor Flinchum said he was not ready to post it, but staff could do research on it.

Councilman Bennett made a motion, seconded by Councilman Horn for staff to move forward with requesting bids to brighten the parking lot at Town Hall and paving the parking lot at the License Plate Agency. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Comments/Questions:

Councilman Bennett thanked everyone for coming to the meeting tonight, letting them know that he will listen to their concerns.

Mayor Pro Tem Gordon thanked everyone for coming and stated it is wonderful to see people out there that are interested in their town.

Mayor Flinchum thanked everyone for coming to the meeting tonight.

Councilman Horn thanked everyone for coming to the meeting tonight.

Councilwoman Carithers thanked everyone for coming to the meeting tonight. She also stated it was good to have Kyle Hall at the Fire Station last week. He listened to our needs for a new Fire Station and hopefully we will have some quotes for a new Fire Station soon.

Mayor Pro Tem Gordon made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Carithers to move into closed session for the council to review the Town of Rural Hall's response to the State Auditor's confidential draft report with interim Town Attorney Randolph M James pursuant to G.S. §143-318.11 (a) (3) and pursuant to G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel matters.

Mayor Flinchum called the meeting back to order at 9:15 PM

Councilman Bennett made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Carithers to appoint Susan Gordon to the position of Deputy Finance Officer for the Town and have her name added to the Town's banking signature cards. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Horn made a motion to adjourn at 9:20 PM.

Lynette E. Hendrick
Town Clerk

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