

**AGENDA BRIEFING AND WORK SESSION MEETING  
MARCH 6, 2023  
MINUTES**

The Rural Hall Town Council held their agenda briefing and workshop meeting on March 6, 2023, at 3:00 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; Interim Town Manager Ron Niland; Interim Finance Director Homer Dearmin; Public Works Director Jason Hill; Fire Chief Mike Simone; LPA Supervisor Dawn Tysor; and Town Clerk Lynette E. Hendrick.

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

A moment of silence was held.

**Adoption of Amended Agenda:**

Councilman Terry Bennett made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Susan Gordon to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**Announcements and Meeting Updates:**

April 7, Helicopter Easter Egg Drop 11:00 AM – Covington Park  
Town Mulch Program April 10-21, 2023, Sign up by April 7  
April 29, Med & Shred Event 9 AM – 1 PM Town Hall  
May 6, Concert at the Hall, Kids in America 80's Band 5:30 -9:00 PM Town Hall  
Budget Workshop April 10, 2023, 3:00-7:00 PM

**Digital Sign Demonstration**

Robbie Spurlin with Spurlin Sign gave the council a demonstration for a digital sign. The Town will change the sign in front of Town Hall to a digital display.

**Unfinished Business**

Outside lighting at Town Hall update – Public Works Director Jason Hill stated he hoped the new LED lights will be installed by next Monday, March 10.

Interim Town Manager Ron Niland requested the Council give staff the go ahead to advertise for a municipal attorney.

Interim Manager Ron Niland just received the AIA document from Bobbitt Construction. Bobbitt Construction has given the Town a projected cost for the design project. This contract and capital project ordinance will be on the agenda for the March 10 meeting.

**New Business/ Items of Discussion:**

Mayor Tim Flinchum spoke about changing the election schedule for the Town of Rural Hall officials to be conducted in even-numbered years. The benefit of this change is to receive more participation at the polls, and it would save the Town money because it costs the town to have odd-year voting. Councilman Eddie Horn made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Susan Gordon to request that the legislative change Rural Hall's voting schedule to even years.

Interim Finance Director Homer Dearmin presented the Council with three quotes from Hale Artificier, Inc. for the Town's 2023 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks show. The staff recommended the \$12,500.00 program which includes a total of 662 aerial shells. Hale Artificier is the largest local fireworks vendor that we have close by.

Interim Finance Director Homer Dearmin explained the Town would like to participate in the NCLM Debt Setoff Program to collect outstanding fees owed to the Town.

Interim Town Manager Ron Niland discussed the preliminary schedule for advertising the Town Manager position. He thought this should take place after the election in November.

Interim Finance Director Homer Dearmin stated someone approached him regarding donating 61 cemetery plots at Crestview Memorial Cemetery to the Town.

Interim Manager Ron Niland stated the Public Works Director has found a good deal on a grapple boom truck that may require a budget amendment. The funds are in the Public Works department but may need to be moved to a different account.

Interim Finance Director Homer Dearmin discussed the current attorney bill. Council will need to adopt a budget amendment for the latest bill and the projected amount until the lawsuit is over at the March 10 meeting.

Interim Manager Ron Niland stated the items that will be on the Regular Council meeting March 10 will be as follows:

- Bobbitt Construction Contract & Capital Project
- Resolution to adopt NC Local Government Debt Setoff Program
- Budget Amendment for Attorney Fees
- Budget Amendment for Grapple Boom Truck
- Accepting the Gift of 61 Cemetery plots at Crestview

**Board Questions/Comments:**

Councilwoman Carithers requested a tour of the property on Jackson Avenue adjacent to the park. The Council thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and staff for their hard work.

Councilwoman Mayor Pro Temp made the motion to adjourn at 4:12 PM.

Lynette E. Hendrick  
Town Clerk