

Town of Mount Olive
August 8, 2023
Regular Board Meeting
Minutes

Mayor Kenneth Talton called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Those in attendance per roll call were Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins, Commissioner Delreese Simmons, Commissioner Barbara Kornegay, Commissioner Tommy Brown, Commissioner Vicky Darden, Town Attorney Carroll Turner, Town Clerk/Administrative Assistant Sherry Davis and Town Manager Jammie Royall.

Mayor Kenneth Talton welcomed everyone to the meeting and delivered our invocation and Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Kenneth Talton read the Conflict of Interest Statement; there were no conflicts.

Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to approve the agenda. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins made the motion to accept the agenda. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to approve the July 11, 2023 regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then moved to the Public Forum. He advised everyone to hold comments to three minutes.

Katherine Hansen of 105 East College Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-223-2752. She discussed the town-wide water shutoff for the repair of a major water leak and stated not everyone has access to the internet. Her eighty-year old mother did not know the water was going to be turned off. There are many things to do to prepare. The website stated the water would be turned off on Sunday night but her water went off on Saturday night. She called the health department and the emergency number on the Town's website and no one answered. She contacted Commissioner Tommy Brown and he was at her house within minutes. He contacted someone and they came to repair the issue. It was another issue not related to the town-wide repair. Commissioner Tommy Brown stayed until everything was handled. She would like to commend him. She feels there should be better notification such as placing a message on the water bills.

Pamela Washington of 105 Gordon Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 718-506-2616. She said her biggest concern is the garbage. She spoke with Commissioner Delreese Simmons because it causes roaches and bugs. She also spoke with Public Works Director Mitchell Davis, he assured her the garbage would be picked up that Saturday, and it was. She also discovered her commissioner is Tommy Brown and she know she can contact him in the future. She thanked Commissioner Delreese Simmons for his assistance.

Joe Hatch of 501 West James Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-252-8631. He wanted to know how far in advance we were aware the water was going to have to be shutoff town-wide. How did you notify people? He stated we should be embarrassed by the Town Hall parking lot, the stripes are completely faded.

Brenda Artis of 459 Franklin Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-738-0317. She is concerned about the trees that hang over the stop signs and road on Hillsboro, Johnson and Pollock Streets. She also discussed all the stray dogs running all over Mount Olive and wanted to know what the solution is. She talked about the lack of missing road signs being replaced.

Delreese Simmons of 600 Oliver Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-394-4482. He stated everybody is upset about water and trash situation that happened recently. He tried to let everyone know that he could. He apologizes to you guys because he knew how it looked but he cannot get political about it. He stated it won't happen again. He said one of his Facebook post let one thousand people know about the scheduled water cutoff.

Linda Boykin of 600 East Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. 919-922-9364. She said the subcontractor needs to be notified of the back door pick up list.

Mayor Kenneth Talton thanked everyone for their comments and closed the public forum.

Town Manager Jammie Royall asked to say a few words. He said good evening to everyone and apologized for the trash and water situations. He stated not everything was planned. The water had to be repaired or people could have been without water for longer. He wanted to thank utilities employee Chad Denning for calling in a favor for us to get T.A. Loving down here on Sunday. He commented that Channel 5 and Channel 11 news did a story on the water shut-off; it was also on our website, phone message, in the Goldsboro News Argus and posted on our doors. He said it is very difficult to distribute flyers to 2,500 water customers with such short notice. He thanked Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins, Commissioner Barbara Kornegay and Commissioner Vicky Darden for being there to approve him temporarily bringing in a subcontractor to pick up the trash. The subcontractor had planned to come on Monday but came ahead of schedule on Friday. This did not give us enough time to distribute the back door pick up list. It was Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins idea to refund customers for two weeks of trash pickup. That will be applied the first of the month.

Town Manager Jammie Royall advised our trash truck was taken in for a mandatory recall and we were advised it would be completed the next day. However, there was a delay in part needed and it was beyond our control. In the future will have the subcontractor has a back- up plan. He wanted to thank all of our employees for doing an outstanding job throughout this situation. We are currently working on so many different projects. He will speak with Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill regarding the stray dogs. He will contact Brenda Artis to find out the locations of the trees hanging over into field of vision.

Mayor Kenneth Talton suggested we all put ourselves in other people's shoes, take what we have learned, and apply it in the future.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Non-Action Memo – 08-08 - Discuss Safety Improvements at the Intersection of Smith Chapel Rd and US 117 in Mt Olive. He stated the NCDOT crash statistics show this area could benefit from a Reduced Conflict Intersection. They do not want to impose but would like to give us the opportunity if we are interested in the improvement. It is just a thought right now but we do have a diagram. Once approved the NCDOT can move ahead with the improvements because funding is available. We would like to hear from the public before approving. We would ask everyone to give this some thought and encourages the improvements.

Mayor Kenneth Talton asked the board if they had any comments. Commissioner Tommy Brown responded there have been many accidents at the Main Street Interchange. It may be inconvenient but increased safety is worth it. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins thinks it is a great idea to receive public input due to all of those who will be impacted. Fire Chief Greg Wiggins commented that is a very active intersection and this study did not show fatalities but there have been many in the past. Then you have four lanes of traffic to cross and most everyone is going above the speed limit of fifty- five. There is a turn lane but no acceleration ramp. A U-turn without an acceleration lane could create more accidents. He said this would make it a little more difficult for the Fire Department to cross but they can adjust if it saves lives. Police Chief Jason Hughes agrees with Commissioner Tommy Brown and Fire Chief Greg Wiggins and thinks this is a great idea.

Commissioner Barbara Kornegay would like to see a better drawing before having a public hearing. She asked if the room for acceleration lane gives the Fire Department enough room. Fire Chief Greg Wiggins responded the fire department would just go out to Highway 55 under the bridge. We will just alter our route. In three or four years, I-795 will close that intersection anyway. Mayor Kenneth Talton responded this is one of the first steps in closing that intersection.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then moved to Non-Action Memo 08-09 – Presentation by Commissioner Vicky Darden to Louis Pate, Jr. and Non-Action Memo 08-10 - Presentation by Commissioner Vicky Darden to Eastern Wayne. Commissioner Vicky Darden thanked them both for their service to the community and presented a plaque to both.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then requested a motion to go into the Public Hearing for the Public To Consider a Request to Make the 400 Block of East Nelson Street One Way Traffic Going East. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins made the motion. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Delreese Simmons explained that road is very narrow at Elmore and Oliver Streets. He stated when two cars are meeting only one at a time can pass. He has spoken with residents and they are good with this solution. It will also slow down some of the speeders. One resident Ben Highsmith is here tonight. Linda Boykin commented it is very narrow and some people have to pull over into our yard. This leaves ruts especially when it is raining. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins wanted to confirm that this would slow down the speeders on Elmore Street who are going to or coming from work. Joe Hatch asked who would enforce this. Mayor Kenneth Talton responded the police department. Joe Hatch said, like they do Wooten Street. Fire Chief Greg Wiggins stated the fire department has no problem with encouraging no parking. Police Chief Jason Hughes advised they would take care of this.

Mrs. Doris Yates commented not only does this street need to be one way but also Morning Drive. Town Attorney Carroll Turner stated this Public Hearing was advertised on the website and letters were mailed to every property owner on both sides so they would be aware.

Mayor Kenneth Talton asked if there were any other comments. He then requested a motion to close the public hearing and go back into regular session. Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then moved to Action Memo - 08-11 - Consider Adoption of Ordinance Regarding Making the 400 Block of Nelson Street One Way Traffic Going East. He asked the board if there were any questions or additional comments. There being none he requested a motion to adopt this ordinance. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made the motion to adopt the ordinance regarding making the 400 Block of Nelson Street one- way traffic going east. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay wanted to know when this would go into effect. Town Attorney Carroll Turner advised he could amend the ordinance to state thirty days. Town Manager Jammie Royall replied that would give him time to get the signs ordered and received because it has to be a special sign.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then moved to Action Memo - 08-12 - Consider Approval of Upset Bid Sale of 125 & 412 South Church Street for \$5,000.00 (\$2,500.00 per lot). Town Attorney Carroll Turner stated the staff for the Wayne County Attorney's office had notified him of the sale of these properties. A woman made an offer to purchase and the county approved but did not realize is jointly owned by the Town of Mount Olive. They are requesting we confirm the sale and receive half proceeds. Mayor Kenneth Talton asked what was the tax value of this property. Town Attorney Carroll Turner responded less than \$2,500.00 for both vacant lots. Commissioner Delreese Simmons wanted to know if anybody knew about this. Town Attorney Carroll Turner stated the county ran the process. Commissioner Delreese Simmons said he was talking to a guy about putting a car wash on that lot for a year.

Town Attorney Carroll Turner commented both the town and the county own the two lots. The county admits they thought they solely owned the lot. Many sales like this have been conducted by the town and the county has always agreed when we asked and has always deferred to him to complete. The property is jointly owned by and the Wayne County Board of Commissioners has already approved the sale. Mayor Kenneth Talton thinks we should consider advertising ourselves. Town Attorney Carroll Turner responded the county would say the Town still had the opportunity because it was ran in the only newspaper in the area. Some people are more dependent on social media. He saw forty notices regarding the trash and water shutoff but they were all on Facebook. He advised you could subscribe to the town's email list on our website. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins thinks the residents of Mount Olive should have the opportunity to bid. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay stated we should take it back to the county and we should rebid it here.

Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion regarding the board's preference for this memo. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins made a motion for Attorney Carroll Turner to take this back to Wayne County and advise we will do the rebid process here. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then moved to Action Memo – 08-13 - Consider Approval of Purchase of a New Dump Truck for \$71,000.00. Town Manager Jammie Royall advised our 1990 Dump Truck caught on fire last year and we have not replaced it. The original price was \$135,000.00 but we will be purchasing through a government contract, which brings the price down to \$71,000.00. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay asked if this could be used to pick up household garbage. Town Manager Jammie Royall responded no. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins stated this was on the wish list for Public Works and it is being purchased as a replacement with funding from our American Rescue Plan Act.

Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to approve. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made the motion to approve the purchase of a New Dump Truck for \$71,000.00. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then moved to Action Memo – 08-14 - Board will consider adoption of a NCPF Animal Ordinance as requested by the Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Lynn Williams with the North Carolina Pickle Festival Committee stated they have talked about this for a long time. Banning pets is a safety concern for everyone. The pets get hot and dogs can bite when they are stressed. This exempts service dogs and animals participating in the festival. Commissioner Delreese Simmons commented some animals are a comfort for their owners. Lynn Williams understands that some animals will come from out of town and they are working with a local boarding company. She would rather not see anyone else injured by a stressed animal. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay asked who would be responsible for enforcing this ordinance. Mrs. Lynn Williams stated the animal ordinance would give people the option of leaving or boarding.

Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to approve the adoption of the NCPF Animal Ordinance. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins made the motion. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then moved to Action Memo - 08-15 – Consider Budget Ordinance Amendment # 1 to Transfer Approved ARPA Funds to Distribute Employee Bonuses Finance Director Jamie Butler stated this amendment is to transfer ARPA funds for the purchase of the limb truck and the one time employee bonus that was discussed in numerous workshops. The total amount of Budget Ordinance Amendment # 1 is \$322,500.00. \$232,000.00 to Amick Equipment for the Limb Truck and \$90,500.00 for employee bonuses.

Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment #1. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made the Motion. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

There being no further business Commissioner Tommy Brown made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. in the board meeting room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth Talton
Mayor

Sherry Davis
Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk