

Town of Mount Olive
January 11, 2022
Regular Board Meeting
Minutes

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

Mayor Kenneth Talton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Commissioner Harlie Carmichael delivered our invocation and Commissioner Barbara Kornegay led us 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 published agenda with the addition of Non-Action Memo 01-03 – Fire Department Update by Fire Chief Greg Wiggins.

Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to approve the published agenda as amended. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made the motion. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to approve the December 14, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made a motion to approve the December 14, 2021 meeting minutes, Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then moved to the Public Forum. Mr. Hobart Yates of 1202 South Church Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-988-4252 signed up to speak. He wanted a status regarding the sidewalk easements. He stated there has been no movement and no feedback between Church and Center Streets along Hillsboro Street. He wanted to know why this work couldn't be done simultaneously. He stated Commissioner Harlie Carmichael spoke with the owner of at the corner of Nelson and Church Streets and she agreed to sign the easement. He said that was two months ago and he wanted to know why we have not gotten her signature yet. He advised that Mr. Hankerson agreed two years ago to let us put the sidewalk on his property and now he is deceased. Mayor Kenneth Talton stated Town Attorney Carroll Turner and Town Manager Jammie Royall have been working together and asked Town Manager Jammie Royall for an update. Town Manager Jammie Royall advised the last time he talked with Town Attorney Carroll Turner the heir of the property located at the corner of Franklin & Church Street was coming to meet with him. That was two weeks ago. Mr. Hobart Yates commented that is why they are so frustrated, they never get any answers. Mayor Kenneth Talton apologized for not being able to off anymore at this time. He stated we would have an answer by the January 11, 2022 Board meeting.

Mayor Kenneth Talton asked if anyone wished to speak. No one did and the public forum was closed.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Non-Action Memo – 12-85 – Presentation of Waste Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project from Dellinger, Inc. Mr. Dean Kite Vice President Division Manager Wastewater Treatment Division spoke on behalf of Dellinger, Inc. He advised that in 2022 Dellinger would have been in business for fifty years. They are a top contractor and have a great reputation. He stated things do not always go as planned. The issue with Contract 1 is the wrong gasket was shipped. This issue was unrecognizable when the smaller pipe was being installed but was discovered when the larger pipe was being installed. He said he contacted the engineer and the Town of Mount Olive immediately. Dellinger offered two options: 1) Use a split gasket or 2) Use a new gasket. The Town of Mount Olive was not interested in option one. He understands this is to replace all gaskets with the correct size. He advised that in the October 2021 meeting his expectations were to replace gaskets & pipe. He stated gasket replacement is normally acceptable and he was trying to be proactive. He said he reached out to Town Manager Jammie Royall and Waste Water Treatment Plant ORC Glenn Holland to request a face-to-face meeting but was unable to reach them until tonight. He feels an open discussion is the best way to resolve this. A five- year warranty has been offered to the Town. Typically, the warranty is only for one year. Dellinger is backed by a bond with Traveler's Bond Company. If an agreement is not reached, the warranty will revert to one year. He advised this is a win-win situation because once the changes are made, we have to test the pipe and the engineer will not sign off on until it is approved. He stated he had emailed a video showing the repairs to be made.

Commissioner Dennis Draper stated he did not receive a copy of the video. Mr. Dean Kite will resend the video. He then asked the board if they had any reservations or insights to share. Mayor Kenneth Talton asked if there were any questions. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins said he thought it was the engineer's recommendation not to accept. Mr. Dean Kite stated he is receiving conflicting stories because the engineer said he would sign off if it passes the pressure test.

Mayor Kenneth Talton stated time is of the essence and the Board is willing to meet face to face with Dellinger and Withers Ravenel as soon as possible. The Town wants it done right and we do not want to think about what we could have done. Mr. Dean Kite said that is why the five-year warranty is being offered. Mayor Kenneth thanked Mr. Dean Kite and advised that the Town respects your company. We need to think positively

moving forward and on one accord. Mr. Dean Kite stated he was available the earlier part of next week. He said they still have a crew ready to start on Monday, January 3, 2022.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Non-Action Memo 12-86 Wayne County Commissioner Freeman Hardison discussed the East Carolina Resiliency meeting he attended on Wednesday, December 8, 2021. He advised that unfortunately, Wayne County was not part of the acquisition for drainage funding but we are fighting for this. He distributed an agenda from the meeting and said there are agencies begging people to apply for their funding. Please review this least and he will try to get contact information to the Board tomorrow. He is here as a friend and will assist in anyway. Wayne County has money too but they need a plan for the funding from the Town of Mount Olive. He asked that we put a plan together to get off the sewer moratorium and we need answers regarding the sidewalk project.

Commissioner Barbara Kornegay asked Wayne County Commissioner Freeman Hardison if he is suggesting we put together a plan. She stated what amount do we request because we need \$1,000,000.00. Wayne County Commissioner Freeman Hardison advised that \$100,000.00 would be no problem but to ask for as much we can. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay wanted to know if the funding is for Water/Sewer only. Wayne County Commissioner Freeman Hardison said it includes infrastructure and Water/Sewer. Commissioner Dennis Draper said that he loves Mr. Hardison's positive thinking. Wayne County Commissioner Freeman Hardison stated that Wayne County Commissioner Antonio Williams is working for the Town of Mount Olive also. He said he would love to see the Mayor, Board of Commissioners and the Town Manager at the next Wayne County Board of Commissioners meeting. He the first of the year would be good. When you come tell us what you need, why and have a plan.

Mayor Kenneth Talton mentioned the Old Rescue Building but he said the Water/Sewer is the most important. Wayne County Commissioner Freeman Hardison advised the infrastructure funds do not need to be divided equally because some need more. He stated he has spoken with Representative John Bell and the plan is important. He said it would be a good idea if the Town of Mount Olive reached out to Representative John Bell.

Mayor Kenneth Talton thanked Wayne County Commissioner Freeman Hardison for all the meetings he attends for Mount Olive. This says a lot about him and resonates with this Board. You will hear from us in January.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then moved on to Action Memo 12-87 – Consider Approval of a Special Use Permit Request by Barfield Construction to Erect Two High Rise Billboards on Parcel #2572147017 owned by William Sutton. Mayor Kenneth Talton advised the Planning Board has recommended approval. Mayor Kenneth Talton asked if there were any questions or comments. There was none. Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to approve. Commissioner Harlie Carmichael made a motion to approve Action Memo 12-87. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1 with Commissioner Dennis Draper voting nay.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then moved on to Action Memo- 12-88 Consider Approval of Adding Juneteenth Holiday (Observed Annually June 19) as a Paid Holiday. Town Manager Jammie Royall stated this is actually a Non-Action Memo for discussion only. Mayor Kenneth Talton advised this has already been approved as a Federal Holiday but it is up to the states, cities and towns to decide. He requested a resolution giving the history of the holiday be presented for approval consideration at the January 11, 2022 regular board meeting.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Action Memo-12-89 – Budget Ordinance Amendments #12, #13, #14 & #15. Finance Director Geoffrey Merritt advised on all four budget amendments.

Finance Director Geoffrey Merritt discussed Budget Ordinance Amendment # 12 - the Town received NCDOT Grant Award 36244-71.4.1 in the amount of \$63,045.00 to provide funding of land acquisition for a parallel taxiway at the Mount Olive Municipal Airport. Expenditures for the administration and land acquisition equal to the grant award are included with this amendment. This amendment brings this grant up to date.

Finance Director Geoffrey Merritt then discussed Budget Ordinance Amendment # 13 - The town received NCDOT Grant Award 36237.52.14.2 in the amount of \$40,099.00 to provide funding of land acquisition for a parallel taxiway at the Mount Olive Municipal Airport. Expenditures for the engineering are included with this amendment.

Finance Director Geoffrey Merritt then discussed Budget Ordinance Amendment # 14 - The town received a FEMA reimbursement in the amount of \$203,750.57 from Hurricane Florence expenditures paid by the town in prior years. A budget increase has been made to expenditures for gas, overtime salaries and professional services due to increased expenses in the first five months of the year. The remaining \$150,711.00 has been budgeted as a contingency for additional expenditures over budget during the year. This covers the budget across the board.

Finance Director Geoffrey Merritt then discussed Budget Ordinance Amendment # 15 - The town received insurance proceeds in the amount of \$2,298.07 for fire and smoke damage to the municipal building at 114 East James Street. Expenses equal to the insurance proceeds are budgeted.

Finance Director Geoffrey Merritt then discussed Budget Ordinance Amendment # 16 - The town received NCDOT Grant Award 36244.71.3.1 in the amount of \$25,000.00 to provide professional services associated with the parallel taxiway at the Mount Olive Municipal Airport. Expenditures for the administration of the grant are included with this amendment. This is the remaining amount on this grant.

Mayor Kenneth Talton asked if there were any questions. He then requested a motion to approve Amendments #12, 13, 14, 15 & #16. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made the motion to approve the budget amendments. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Town Manager Jammie Royall presented his report as follows:

- He thanked Commissioner Vicky Darden for feeding the employees pizza just before Thanksgiving.
- He stated the employees love to see the Board at these functions and Commissioner Vicky Darden and Commissioner Harlie Carmichael were the only ones there.
- He said the Pickles, Pigs & Swigs event was fun and he enjoyed it. It was not as big as he thought it would be but it was the first year.
- He has heard many great comments regarding the Christmas Parade and it was well attended.
- He advised the audit is good this year and he will be proud when it is released. He feels the Town is moving in the right direction.
- He asked the board to please pray for the tornado victims.

The Commissioner's Reports were presented as follows:

Commissioner Vicky Darden

- She stated that Commissioner Barbara Kornegay had a birthday recently and she wanted to thank her because she does a lot behind the scenes.
- She attended the Board of Commissioner's & Housing Authority's Christmas Parties and had a great time.
- She thanked John Ryan with the Pizza Village for donating the pizza for the employee luncheon. He always steps up to the plate and she would like to do something to surprise him.
- She is now taking applications for the fifteenth annual Black History Parade scheduled for Saturday, February 26, 2022. The rain date is Saturday, March 5, 2022.

Commissioner Dennis Draper

- He stated the new appointments in leadership over the past year has been a successful accomplishment. Town Manager Jammie Royall, Police Chief Jason Hughes, Town Clerk Sherry Davis and Finance Director Geoffrey Merritt.
- He has noticed an increase in employee morale since being on the Police Advisory Committee and he is seeing more responsive attitudes toward Town Manager Jammie Royall.
- He is very thankful for Commissioner Barbara Kornegay.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins

- He stated he is looking forward to the Employee Christmas Party on Friday, December 17, 2021.
- He advised the Christmas Parade was great. He really enjoyed the route and has some good memories.
- He volunteered with the Exchange Club to ring the bell for the Salvation Army. He said the people who had the least were the ones giving the most.
- From his observation, the faith of the people, charity and the love of Jesus Christ is still alive in Mount Olive.
- He said remember the reason for the season.

Commissioner Harlie Carmichael -

- He stated these two years have gone by fast and they have been working hard.
- He said sometimes it feels like we are not getting anywhere but we are.
- We have to love and look out for one another.
- This season is because of Jesus Christ.
- We need to learn how to give back.
- He thanked Hobart Yates for his efforts in getting things accomplished.

Commissioner Barbara Kornegay –

- She thanked everyone for celebrating her seventy-fifth birthday.
- She thanked Julie Beck and the Mount Olive Area Chamber of Commerce for putting together the Pickles, Pigs & Swigs event. A team of twenty- five people worked very hard and it turned out to be a good event even for the first year.
- She thanked Town Manager Jammie Royall and Finance Director Geoffrey Merritt for their partnership & leadership team. We have one of the best audits received since she has been on the board.
- She thanked the Department Heads and Employees for all they do.
- She thanked Wayne County Commissioner Freeman Hardison for his hard work.

The Town Attorney was not present at tonight’s meeting so there is not report.

The Mayor’s Report was presented as follows:

Mayor Kenneth Talton

- He advised the auditor stated we are in good shape this year. He thanked Town Manager Jammie Royall, Finance Director Geoffrey Merritt and the staff.
- He stated he could not say anything that has not already been said.

Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to go into closed session **PURSUANT TO NCGS SEC. 143-318.11**

(a) 6: TO CONSIDER THE COMPETENCE, PERFORMANCE AND/OR FITNESS OF AN EMPLOYEE.

THE CLOSED SESSION SHALL BE HELD AT THE BOARD MEETING ROOM LOCATED AT 114 EAST JAMES STREET AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE REGULAR MEETING.

Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made the motion. Commissioner Harlie Carmichael seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

The closed session lasted for approximately forty- five minutes. Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to come out of closed session. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins made the motion to come out of closed session. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

There being no further business Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Dennis Draper seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. in the board meeting room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth K. Talton
Mayor

Sherry Davis
Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk