

Town of Mount Olive  
May 6, 2024  
Regular Board Meeting  
Minutes

Mayor Jerome Newton called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Those in attendance per roll call were Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay, Commissioner Delreese Simmons, Commissioner Danny Keel, Commissioner Tommy Brown, Commissioner Vicky Darden, Town Attorney Carroll Turner Town Manager Jammie Royall and Town Clerk/Administrative Assistant Sherry Davis.

Mayor Jerome Newton delivered our invocation and Commissioner Tommy Brown lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Jerome Newton read the Conflict of Interest Statement; there were no conflicts.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of Action-Memo 05-28 to be discussed at the June 3, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion to accept the agenda with the removal of Action-Memo 05-28. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve the April 1, 2024 Regular Board meeting minutes. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made the motion. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then opened the public forum. Fire Chief Greg Wiggins wanted to clarify some statements he made at the last board meeting. He apologizes if he sounded unprofessional. He does not want his statement he would not close a business to be perceived as him not doing his job. However, when it comes to lives, he does not give an inch. He tries to educate and work with the people. He has never closed down a business or issued a stop work order. Chapter thirty- four refers to large volume tire storage that cannot be used. Tires can burn for months not days but we are not dealing with this type of volume. He spoke with the Fire Marshall's office and was advised the Chapter 3 – Storage of Combustible materials can be reduced from ten feet to three feet. He wants to clarify this does not require fifty feet of clearance as long as the tires are cataloged as inventory and stored neatly. He apologizes if anyone was offended.

Mrs. Lynn Williams of Ms. Julie Beck with North Carolina Pickle Festival Committee and Mount Olive Area Chamber of Commerce wished to discuss the North Carolina Pickle Festival. They thanked the Town of Mount Olive for their continued support. The Town does not fund the North Carolina Pickle Festival but does offer in-kind contributions. They could not do this without the Town of Mount and the Public Works Department. This year's festival drew the largest crowd ever and there were one hundred and sixty vendors. There were some traffic and parking issues but they are working on this and vendor layout adjustments for the coming year.

Mrs. Lynn Williams informed the Town Board of Commissioners the most they have ever cleared through the North Carolina Pickle Festival is thirty thousand dollars from last year. They lost money for a couple of years and made approximately thirteen thousand for seven years. They would like to invite the Mayor and the Town Board of Commissioners to a joint meeting with the North Carolina Pickle Festival Committee and the Mount Olive Area Chamber of Commerce. They would like to do this within the next month. The relationship with the Town of Mount Olive and the Mount Olive Area of Chamber of Commerce is interdependent. Ms. Julie Beck commented they could not do this without the Town of Mount Olive.

Commissioner Tommy Brown thanked them for all they do. Mayor Jerome Newton thanked everyone for their comments and closed the public forum.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action- Memo- 05-27 – Consider Approval of McGill Agreement for Engineering Services for Drinking Water Improvements Grant. This designates Town Manager Jammie Royall as the official authorized to sign. Commissioner Delreese Simmons asked if this project was bid. Town Clerk Sherry Davis advised it was advertised for bids twice.

Mayor Jerome Newton then requested a motion to approve Action-Memo 05-27. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made the motion to approve. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action- Memo- 05-28 - Consider Acceptance and Approval for 2023 CDBG-NR Grant; Funding Approval, Grant Agreement, Resolution Authorizing Execution of Grant Documents, Financial Management Resolution and Project Budget Ordinance. Mr. David Harris with RSM Harris and Associates explained this is a housing improvements grant for nine hundred and fifty thousand dollars. These documents are the start-up grants to get the grant started. They include the acceptance of the grant, resolution for financial management and housing rehabilitation work. This grant will overlap fiscal years. These items can be approved individually or together.

Mayor Jerome Newton asked the board if they had any questions. He then requested a motion to approve Action – Memo 05-28. Commissioner Tommy Brown made a motion to approve Action – Memo 05-28. Commissioner Danny Keel seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action- Memo- 05-29 - Consider Approval of ARPA Project Ordinance Update. Finance Director Jamie Butler stated this is an update from the original project ordinance. We received under ten million dollars and used this as revenue replacement. We allotted these monies for three years of our largest salaries, which is the police department. This project ordinance must match the allotment we received. She asked if the board had any questions.

Commissioner Tommy Brown advised he had more of a concern than questions. He has heard time and time again the state wants us to stand on our own. If we vote, does it dissolve the last report? Finance Director Jammie Butler advised the December 2023 document was internal. This is separate and we just have to report it. This update includes the limb truck and the dump truck. She stated let us not get confused on this with the reporting requirements. This is use versus qualification and is separate. We just need to show salaries under revenue replacement. Commissioner Tommy Brown asked if the future timeline would have a paper trail to show. Finance Director Jamie Butler responded yes, this expires in 2026. We are required to keep records for five years and after that, it is internal.

Commissioner Danny Keel said he is just trying to understand regarding moving of the funds. Finance Director Jamie Butler commented the funds are moved into the budget and it increases the general fund but only temporarily because it has to be spent. Commissioner Tommy Brown wanted to know why the report does not just show the parking lot, salaries and trucks. Finance Director Jamie Butler explained this is for qualifications only. We are using a standard allowance this is very specific.

Mayor Jerome Newton commented in reference to Commissioner Tommy Brown's question, it sounds like it is internal. It is something we keep ourselves and you have the records to show the exact items it was spent on. Finance Director Jamie Butler responded the funds have to be allocated by December 2024. The funds are no longer a federal award but belong to the Town.

Mayor Jerome Newton then requested a motion to approve Action Memo 05-29. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made the motion to approve Action Memo – 05-29. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo – 05-30 – Consider Approval of Agreement with Patterson & Associates for Review of FY 23-24. Finance Director Jamie Butler stated this is part of the grant for the Black Mountain Software with the League of Municipalities, which is free to us. It is very similar to the contract we signed in November for the last fiscal year.

Mayor Jerome Newton then requested a motion to approve Action-Memo 05-30. Commissioner Danny Keel made the motion to approve Action Memo 05-30. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action Memo - 05-31 – Consider Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendments #11 & #12.

#### TOWN OF MOUNT OLIVE BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #11

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Mount Olive, North Carolina, that the following amendment be made to the Budget Ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024:

##### Section I. Recognize Revenue for Airport Grants FY 23 24

###### A. Revenue

Airport Grant      36-3470-0004      \$ 3,750,000.00

(36244.71.51 — Airport Safety Improvements)

NCCMT Account 36-1080-0000      \$ (3,750.00000)

(Airport Improvements)

###### B. Expenditure

##### Section II. Explanation

1. This amendment recognizes revenue for grants received by Mount Olive Municipal Airport. This grant's primary use will be for planning and construction of Airport Renovations and Safety Improvements.
2. Funds were moved from Southern Bank Airport Improvements account to NCCMT account per grant agreement rules and to collect all interest possible.

Finance Director Jamie Butler explained that with this grant the interest accrued increases the amount.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment # 11. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made the motion to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment # 11. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

#### TOWN OF MOUNT OLIVE

#### BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT # 12

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Mount Olive, North Carolina, that the following amendment be made to the Budget Ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024:

##### Section f. Recognize Revenue for Interest Earned FY 23/24

###### A. Revenue

Interest Income	10-3290-0000	\$ 37031.14
Interest Income	12-3290-0000,	\$ 6484.48
Interest Income	30-3290-0000	\$ 38,189.72
	51-3290-0000,	<u>\$ 32,077.20</u>
Interest Income		\$ 118,782.54

B. Expenditure

Professional Services	10-4200-0400	\$ 18,515.57
Maintenance/ Repair	10-4510-1600	\$ 18,515.57
Departmental Supplies	12-5700-3300	\$ 6,484.48
Departmental Supplies	30-6600-3300	\$ 19,094.86
Contracted Services	30-6600-4500,	\$19,094.86
Repair and Maintenance	51-5300-1600,	<u>\$ 32,077.20</u>
		\$ 118,782.54

Section II. Explanation

1. This amendment recognizes revenue for interest earned on NCCMT accounts through various departments.
2. Additional expenditure items were increased in each fund to account for the increase in revenue.

Finance Director Jamie Butler explained this is a Capital Management Trust Account.

Mayor Jerome Newton asked the board if they had any questions. He then requested a motion to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment # 12. Commissioner Danny Keel made a motion to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment # 12. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

The Town Manager's Report was presented as follows:

Last Tuesday night we had a Town Hall meeting for districts 1 & 2. There was a great turnout. Tonight, I want to talk about some of the concerns that were raised.

Streetlights were, I think, one of the key issues. On August 5, 2021, near Hardee's and Hwy 55 Burgers, Shakes & Fries a young man lost his life in an accident. He was on a motorcycle and collided with a car. It is hard to see around dusk with the lighting that is there. I spoke with Duke Energy about lighting from Hinson Street to Walmart. After going round and round with Duke Energy, they finally turned this project over to Pike Engineering. I received an email from Pike a couple of weeks ago stating that they have sent the project over to DOT (Division of Transportation) for their approval. I hope to hear something soon.

On January 24, 2024, Barbara Kornegay and I met with a representative from Duke Energy to talk about adding lights or changing the old lights with new LED lights, which will brighten up some of the darker areas in town. I have attached a map that Duke Energy has gone over and sectioned off the town to start the work. I spoke with a Representative of Duke Energy this morning. I requested the exact dates the work would start. I asked him to be straight with me and give me an actual timeline on things, and he said, "it is going to be a few months before they start putting the lights in. He said that with a job this big, the whole town, they must order all the materials, hoping that everything is in, and nothing has to be backordered.

Ditch cleaning was another big concern. We are looking at purchasing two new backhoes. Delivery date is 10 to 12-weeks. There is approximately a 3 months turnaround before our equipment will be delivered. I am waiting for the contractors to get this started.

Another area of concern was our cameras. I have been working with ITSS out of Goldsboro. They are the company that will be providing our internet service. I know it seems like it is taking forever, but I want to make sure that we are making the right decision and that they are going to still work for more than a few years. I am hoping that we will decide on this very soon.

We had some asking about the drainage project. I am sorry, but there is still not a lot to tell. They are still in the Engineering stage. The Engineering should be finished by the end of this month. They are still trying to get all the paperwork from CSX and from DOT for the Right of Way. I will follow up with any new info next month.

We do not want to leave out the Moratorium; we are still working with Viable Utilities. They are helping us make sure that we are reporting everything in the right format for the Washington office, DWQ.

I am sorry to say that we do not have signs made and placed. It has been a very busy month. We will have some signs made and placed in June.

I want to thank Ms. Vicky Darden and her Widow's group for taking time out of their busy schedules to feed all the Town Employees. It was a nice gathering. Again, thank you.

The Mayor and Commissioner Reports were presented as follows:

Commissioner Vicky Darden:

- She has been feeding the Town employees for a long time because she is thankful for them.
- She advised everyone the Widows New Beginnings clothing, furniture and toys give-a-way at the First Methodist Church had a great turnout.
- She had a great time helping Public Works clean up after the North Carolina Pickle Festival. She like to spend time with employees to find out what they do.
- She loves to help First Baptist and First United Methodist Churches feed the community.
- She said the Southern Wayne High School band would like to go to the Battle of the Bands. She has helped to raise nine hundred dollars and is expecting more.
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Commissioner Tommy Brown:

- He thanked everyone for coming out tonight; he was a little worried because of the rain.
- He wanted to give a shout out to Julie Beck and Lynn Williams for all they do.
- He reminded everyone on May 8, 2024 from 6:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. there will be a District 3, District 4 and At-Large meeting at the Train Depot.
- He wants everyone to have a great evening and safe travels.

Commissioner Danny Keel:

- He thanked Julie Beck and Lynn Williams for all they do. He does agree we need to work on the parking.
- He thinks it is awesome that so many people were here and the North Carolina Pickle Festival is recognized not only state wide but nationally.
- He attended the District 1 and District 2 meeting and said citizens were concerned about lighting, ditching and gun- shots in the middle of the night. There is a possibility there will be another meeting held in the next two months.
- He stated the moratorium is moving very slowly but we need to continue working towards getting off with I-795 coming soon.

Commissioner Delreese Simmons:

- He stated cars are being flagged up and down Church Street for drugs and prostitution. It is not true, the drug problem is not bad and we do not have a prostitution problem.
- He said people are still complaining about the water meters and their bills being up and down.
- People have reached out to him on Facebook regarding the basketball courts at Nelson Street Park.
- He wishes Utilities Director Jeremy King would stay.
- He commented the small roots in the road in front of his house were marked with spray paint for repair. His niece asked him why those little roots when there are larger ones in other areas.
- He advised Town Manager Jammie Royall not to fix the one in front of his house. He requested that Public Works Department fix the ones on Beems Street, which they did.
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Commissioner Barbara Kornegay:

- She thanked Julie Beck, Lynn Williams and Carroll Turner for the downtown beautification.

Mayor Jerome Newton:

- He commented people came from all over to the North Carolina Pickle Festival.
- He is still working on advisory committees.
- He stated a letter was received from a family in North Myrtle Beach thanking everyone for the good care provided to their family member who passed out at the North Carolina Pickle Festival. He is thankful it was not too out. There were others who passed out but refused transport.
- He commended Police Chief Jason Hughes and Fire Chief Greg Wiggins for a good job.
- He advised we have a lot of work to do and hopes we can communicate in a positive way and not attack. He has sat on the side of the citizens.
- He urged citizens to speak with their commissioner first and if they cannot handle the issue then bring it to the Board of Commissioners. We need to work things out.
- He thanked everyone for their support and for coming out tonight.

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

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 3, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. in the board meeting room.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jerome Newton  
Mayor

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Sherry Davis  
Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk