

Town of Mount Olive
October 7, 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 the invocation and Commissioner Tommy Brown led 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 published agenda. Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion to approve the published agenda. Mayor Pro-Tempore seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve the September 9, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Tommy Brown made a motion to approve. Commissioner Danny Keel seconded and the motion passed 5-0. Mayor Jerome Newton made a motion to approve the September 11, 2024 Recessed Board Meeting Minutes. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made the motion to approve. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0. Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve the September 24, 2024 Special Board Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion to approve. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then opened the public forum.

Mr. Billy Wilkins of 102 Overlook Road, Goldsboro, NC 27534, 919-273-3283. He wished to discuss the Waste Water Treatment Plant Improvements Contract I and Contract II. The current eight million dollar grant for Sewer Collections Improvements and the status of the Sign Machine. A copy of his comments are included as an attachment to these meeting minutes.

Mr. Delbert Melvin signed up for the public forum by accident.

Mr. Joe Hatch of 501 West James Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-252-8631. He commented his trash was not picked up today. He stated the Town Manager's Report is a very useful item. He asked if informational items could be posted on the water bills.

Mayor Jerome Newton thanked them for their comments and closed the public forum.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action-Memo 10-12 - Consider Approval of a Proclamation Honoring the Golden Reunion of the Southern Wayne High School Class of 1974. Town Clerk Sherry Davis read the Proclamation. Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve Action-Memo 10-12. Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion to approve. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton asked if any of the commissioners desired to address their constituents. Commissioner Delreese Simmons talked about the cleaning of the ditches. He stated many of them have not been cleaned in years. They are doing a remarkable job and the water is now flowing. The ditches were definitely part of the flooding problem. He advised the trash truck is back in service and they started the routes on Friday. The trash collection staff used the trash truck, boom truck and yard waste debris truck. He commented he read a post stating this board was incompetent, no one on this board is incompetent. He informed everyone the sign machine is now up and running.

Town Manager Jammie Royall responded the sign machine is up and running and he brought one of the signs. It is our newest street Dora Lane. We hope to be putting signs up within the next two weeks.

Mayor Jerome Newton discussed a mission statement and core values that he has discussed with a group. He stated unfortunately none of the other commissioners were available on the date of this meeting. He would like to get this information to the Board of Commissioners and hopefully vote on it at the next meeting.

Mayor Jerome Newton asked Town Attorney Carroll Turner who is responsible for demolitions and condemnations and what is the procedure. Town Attorney Carroll Turner responded Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill actually just sent him a list this morning of five properties. He stated the first step is to examine the title for the current owners. He stated the second step is mailing a certified letter advising the owner of the violation. The third step is to publish the notice of violation in the Goldsboro News Argus. The fourth step is to set up a hearing before the Code Enforcement Officer in the courtroom. He advised that some people show up and some do not. He stated in the past these properties were brought before the board of commissioners to decide and it can still be done that way. However, a couple of years ago the board of commissioners voted to have allow the Code Enforcement Officer to handle.

Town Attorney Carroll Turner stated they then work with the owners to bring the houses up to code. If all these attempts fail, the house if ultimately demolished. He said we have had wonderful success stories. Mr. Delbert Melvin who is here tonight is one of those. Mr. Melvin has completed half of the work that was required. When the project is complete, he will have a show case. That is our ultimate goal.

Town Attorney Carroll Turner commented in the email sent by Code Enforcement Office Justin Hill today, he hopes to get cooperation. The town incurs the fee of working with the owners. Mayor Jerome Newton asked if any of the owners are bullied. Town Attorney Carroll Turner responded, the owners are not bullied we do our best to work with them.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed the street light project. He said that even though the lights have been replaced, some streets are still dark in certain areas. He asked any citizens that still need additional lighting to please contact us at Town Hall.

Mayor Jerome Newton advised the audience that he understands what their concerns are and the Town is working on them. However, there are some things that can't be discussed at this time.

Our next Regular Board meeting will be held on Monday, November 4, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Danny Keel seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerome Newton
Mayor

Sherry Davis
Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk

The engineering contract was made on 10/25/19 for drawing up and supervising the work for what is now known as contract 1 & 2. The amount of this contract was \$778,000.

On 3/15/21 the construction part of Contract #1 started.

Total bid \$3,282,183.

5 months later 8/31/21 the construction part of Contract #2 started. The total bid was \$1,677,000.

Each contract had a 365 day time limit.

All the change orders for contract #1 & #2 total \$ 113,556.

An amended agreement for service for the engineer was signed on 2/18/22. This was for work on a mechanical bar screen which is a significant bottleneck at the WWTP. The amount for this was \$ \$189,000. There is no documentation as to whether this was rescinded or fulfilled or bid or paid. Nothing. This all totals ~~\$6,007,176~~.

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My first question today is from where is the extra 1/2 million dollars coming. The grant was only for \$ 5.5 million dollars and it's gone. There are bills waiting to be paid?

Last February I made you aware that the contractor had not sprigged the Bermuda grass as spelled out in the contract. It went into such detail on the sprigging to give the amount of foot pounds of pressure to apply the sprigs. The contractor bid \$200,000 for this. Others bid \$ 450,000, 474,000 and 149,000. All the contractor did was seed the land. He did not abide by the contract. Where is the Change Order refunding the cost difference back to the project.

We now have a grant for \$ 8,000,000 for I & I. It was my understanding the engineer awarded the contract would be back in March or April with plan for this \$8,000,000. It's now October and crickets. Nothing. Were they given any time line for them to perform this work? Are we just pushed aside once the contract is signed.

We don't want excuses we want action. Who heading this grant up? Who is pushing our interest and needs? Where is the point of the spear? Who, who is leading us? I'd love to know.

As far as your sign making endeavor, what's up with that? Last March I made myself available (at no charge) to help get this project going. I was in the sign business for several years. Even though some of the technology may have past me by, it is still very basic sign making. We all know the speed of light and the speed of sound, but the speed of government is sickening. We have seen this same inefficiency in our mountains by FEMA. In the business world these things don't happen with out someone paying for it but not here just the taxpayers loose out. Come on folks you can do better than this. Guess you like blue tarps!