

Town of Hamilton
Regular Monthly Board Meeting
February 7, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Matthews; Commissioners Williams, Staton, Freeman and Jackson. Commissioner Everett was absent due to illness

Meeting called to order by Mayor. Prayer was made by Commissioner Williams and Pledge to the Flag recited by all.

Mayor states that because of NC GS the meeting could not be moved to another location.

January 7, 2019 minutes were read by the Mayor. There were no corrections or addendums to the minutes. A motion to approve minutes as read by Commissioner Jackson and second by Commissioner Staton. Carried 4-0.

Old Business Mayor asked for a motion by the Board to approve An Insurance Proposal Prepared by Alliance and Associates for the Town of Hamilton effective date 02-07-2019.

A motion to approve by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Freeman. Motion carried 4-0.

In response to Ms. Linda Goodrich concerns about the \$500.00 utility deposit during January 7 2019 Meeting the Board will schedule a workshop date during this meeting to review \$500.00 deposit and also CIP Project. This will be covered in Commissioner Freeman's report.

Public Comment:

Ms. Hardison expressed her concerns over the negative and not positive things being printed in the newspaper about the Town of Hamilton. She states the Town is growing and asked that the Board and Citizens have a cordial and respectful communication because Hamilton is better than what she has seen communicated in the paper.

Ms. Joan Staton: asks about the burning ban for the Town. She reports someone burning trash 3 days in a row that she suffers with asthma and the smoke caused her difficulty breathing. She would like to know what can be done to enforce the burning ban. Mayor states that the Town follows the County ordinance and when it happens she may contact Mr. Freeman. The sheriff informed the mayor that the contact person would be Jody Griffin to report burning.

Ms. Mary Greene: Ms. Greene states she has had two prospective tenants to change their minds about renting her properties because of the \$500.00 utility deposits. She was told in the past by the Town Board that this would be revisited. Mayor states that Board in past voted to increase deposit because people were moving and leaving delinquent utility bills and the \$500.00 deposit would cover the bill. Commissioner Freeman will discuss this further in his report.

Ms. Linda Goodrich: States she has talked with Electricities who told her by rights Utility Deposits should be put in separate fund. She asked the Board if TOH utility deposits are put in separate fund or a general fund. Mayor informed her that this is Public Comment section and the Board was only required at this time to listen to her comments and take into consideration.

She asks for utility rates to be placed on electric bills. It was explained that the software town use does not have that particular function. The clerk will make available electric, water and sewer rates for citizens.

She asks if Cellphone tower can be placed on town water tank. Mayor states that he will contact Scotty Wilkins of Utility Service who holds the contract and in the past has advertised for a tower, will touch basis with him to see if it is still in force or could it be reinstated.

Judith Stewart: Asks why was Abrams paid \$1700.00 and still charged for the rides. Commissioner Williams said that the Town's agreement with Abrams fee was actually \$2500.00 the Town paid \$1700.00 and the fee for the rides was charged to make up the difference.

Did the Town buy the school supplies for the Festival. Commissioner Williams states he gave that task to Mr. Freeman and they were purchased with the TOH credit card.

Has the Town purchased the school? Mr, Williams states that Park and Recreation has been using the school gym for approximately 20 years for the kids to play basketball at no charge. Now Board of Education is asking by verbal agreement that they foot the bill for January, Feburay and March.

Patricia Moring: States sshe received a cutoff notice for her November 2018 bill states her check was mailed and somehow her check was lost now she is being charged a late fee. Has the Town signed a contract with Mid East concerning the abandon houses. Mr. Williams states that Jamie Heath, of Mid East who has been working on the ordinances has been ill and they are trying to replace her with someone else. She states there has been no report on the Archer Development since Mr. Parker was here. Commissionner Williams states he gives a report each month and that he talks with Mr. Parker 2 to 3 times a month and is now looking at engineering firms here in Martin County.

Questions the status of Crystal Broad Band has Town cancelled contract so Suddenlink can come in. Mr. Williams states that the Mayor is to contact the Town's Attorney concerning the contract.

Questions the mistake county made on residential taxes (.52 should have been .57) ask if Town could help citizens by absorbing the dfference. Mayor states that it was a county mistake and not the Town's.

Mike Pickle: The Town bought the Bank Building to use as the Town Hall why is it not being used? Commissioner Williams states that it was not bought for that purpose, but because at that time we had lost our bank and we wrote letters to approximatly 39 banks in hopes that one would be interested only one responded. So our marketing director at that time started looking at Teller machines and with an agreement with SECU they have installed one.

Are there any Town grants to help with small business owners? Mayor states we do not have any unless they come up and in the past Alan Teitleman, former Marketing Director for the Town of Hamilton would apply for grants and was somewhat successful; however the Board decided it was too costly to keep him on payroll and you really need a professional grant writer to apply for grants.

Mattie Randolph: Thanks the Mayor and Commissioners for their support of the West Martin Community Center. She spoke on behalf of Ms. Shields (Rosenwald School Project). Ms. Randolph statement is filed with these minutes.

Stefan Swearingen: Hamilton EMS presented to the Board about EMS advancing to level to BLS to ALS. His statement is filed with these minutes. Mayor asked Mr. Swearingen to come back during the Budget process in April 2019.

Financial Report: Nothing looks out of budget. Still ahead on all funds Water/Sewer; Electric and General.

Commissioners' Report: Commissioner Jackson Fire Department still stressing recruitment for volunteers.

Commissioner Staton: Streets and ditches looks like they have been cleaned.

Commissioner Williams: Community event holiday festival sponsored by Holliday Concessions at the Ball Park 3/2/2019 featuring rides, car shows, yard sale food concession.

A motion to approve Community event holiday festival sponsored by Holliday Concessions to be at the Hamilton Ball Park March 2 2019 by Commissioner Jackson and second by Commissioner Staton. Motion carried 4-0.

Would like to apply for grant by Green Leaf Tobacco to improve the Farmers Market. Will need a motion by the Board to have Mid East, Kevin Richards to apply for grant to improve. Motion by Commissioner Freeman and second by Commissioner Jackson. Carried 4-0.

Commissioner Freeman: #1 Well need new roof. We can buy materials and maintenance crew can do the work no need to contract out. Mayor states that he can take it out of the maintenance budget.

Met with Rural Water representative today they are waiting for us to schedule Workshop for CIP water/sewer Plan for a 20 year span they will do the study free of charge. Also along with the CIP workshop we need to do ElectricCities rates and discuss utility deposits all in same workshop. I am looking at March 5, 2019 at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall, will need a motion. Motion by Commission Jackson and second by Commissioner Williams carried 4.0.

Mayor: Need a motion to approve a donation to Martin County Committee 100 in the amount of \$250.00. Motion by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Staton. Carried 4-0.

Commissioner Williams states the Board need to appoint 2 volunteers to Hazard Mitigation Plan. Commissioners Staton and Commissioners Freeman accepts this appointment.

It is time to renew our bookkeeper, Ms. Kim Cockrell contract. She has been doing a great job has everything caught and got a lot of things in place. Need a motion to renew her contract for one year at \$1200.00 a month. Motion to approve by Commissioner Jackson and second by Commissioner Freeman. Carried 4-0.

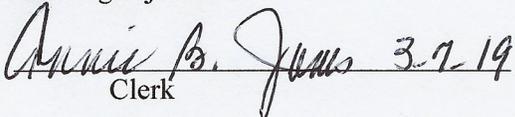
Motion to go into closed session for personnel reason by Commission Williams and second by Commissioner Staton. Carried 4-0.

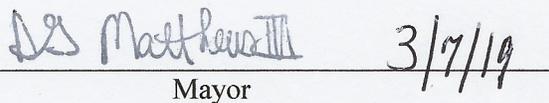
Motion to come out of closed session by Commissioner Freeman and second by Commissioner Staton. Carried 4-0

Motion by Commissioner Freeman and second Commissioner Jackson to give Anthony Boyles, maintenance crew member a .78 raise which will bring him up to \$12.61 per hour. Carried 4-0.

No further business discussed. Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Staton. Carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned.


Clerk


Mayor