

**Town of Hamilton**  
**Regular Monthly Board Meeting**  
**April 4 2019 @ 7:00 PM**  
**Morris Lynch Center**

**Present:** Mayor Matthews; Commissioners: Williams, Staton, Freeman, Jackson and Everett.

Meeting Called to order and Welcome by the Mayor. **Prayer:** Commissioner Ervin Williams

**Pledge** to the Flag by All.

**Commissioner Williams** motion for the Board to approve agenda and motion was second Commissioner Staton. Motion carried 5-0.

March 7, 2019 Board minutes read by the mayor. There were no corrections or addendum to the minutes as read. Commissioner Williams motions that the minutes be approved as read and the motion was second by Commissioner Jackson. Motion carried 5-0.

**Old Business** Mayor's report and comments:

- asked for a motion from the Board to amend (5) minute Public Comment Topic to (3) minutes and motion to approve amendment. Commissioner Williams motions to amend and approve Public Comment Topic from (5) minutes to (3) minutes and the motion was second by Commissioner Jackson. Motion carried 4-1. Commissioners Williams, Staton, Freeman and Jackson **yes**; Commissioner Everett **nay**.
- states that NCRW followed up with maintenance supervisor, Freeman and Mayor. The mayor reports that the State approved the way the Town was handling the water pressure situation and gave the Town a brochure to follow.
- reports that he has not heard from Scottie Wilkins concerning the cell phone tower. Commissioner Williams informs the Mayor that Mr. Wilkins has sent a new Wireless Communication Management Agreement.
- states and Commissioner Everett agrees that the sale and marketing of transformers and any selling of old equipment from the old waste water treatment plant would come under Mr. Freeman's definition as Town Maintenance Supervisor and would not need a motion. Board was in agreement.
- Asks Supervisor Freeman if has he heard anything about pipe testing whether it be camera or smoke and if there were any grants available that would assist with that. Mr. Freeman sates that NCRW will be returning on April 24<sup>th</sup> and hopefully they will have something to tell him.
- Asks for action pertaining to Utility Deposits. Commissioner Freeman motion to credit back to homeowners only the \$500.00 utility deposit if they have made 12 consecutive payments within required timeline to be credited over a 6 month period beginning January 2012 forward. **Commissioner Williams** second the motion.
- Commissioners Everett comments that we may be opening a can of worms because of the homeowners that paid back in the 2000 or earlier will not be included when we start giving back. That could become a big deal. Commissioner Freeman withdrew the motion and Board will agree
- to schedule a workshop in the future to discuss further.
- **Utility Service Protocol:** Commissioner Freeman motions that if a person buys a home there will be a \$500.00 deposit to have utility service connected. If the homeowner buys additional properties with proof of purchase the deposit on each additional property will be \$150.00 for utility service to be connected. If at anytime the homeowner decides to rent the additional properties the \$150.00 will be refunded to the owner. The renter will need to fill out application for utility services and pay \$500.00 deposit. The motion was second by Commissioner Williams. Motion carried 5-0.

**New Business:** Mayor read email from the NCLM, Karen Waddell clarifying mayor's authority to move scheduled board meetings according to GS 160A-173 that the Town's attorney must consider and weigh in with the final opinion to the governing body and Mayor.

Commissioners Everett states that years ago when this situation came up his suggestion was to clean bay area at the Town Hall that would take care of the overflow and there wouldn't be any need to move the meeting and he states he still has the same opinion today.

Attorney James states proper notice should be given if the meeting is to be moved whenever there is an overflow. He agrees with Commissioner Everett but states that due to the recent meeting attendance that the Board could be polled privately to authorize mayor to change meeting place whenever an overflow is anticipated given the proper notice.

Mayor asked for a motion from be Board. Commissioner Williams motion that Board of Commissioners authorize the Mayor after private polling of the Board of Commissioners to be able to relocate meeting place with proper notice of 48 hours of scheduled meeting. This polling authorization should be made for every request for change of meeting location. Motion was second Commissioner Staton. Carried 5-0.

Commissioner Williams motion that Board renew Utility Service Wireless Communication Management Contract to market and manage Tower. Motion was second by Commissioner Everett. Approved 5-0.

**Public Comment:** Ms. Linda Goodrich voice concerns that Board is shutting out citizens from the meeting by not giving adequate notice of relocation of meetings; waiting for names of Business from Commissioner Williams that has shown an interest in buying or renting the old southern bank building.

Ms. Patricia Moring request a waiver of late fee she was charged for her November 2018 utility bill. The clerk response to Ms. Moring's comment is filed in the Minutes book. Mayor states that it would take a motion from the board to return the \$10.00 late fee and ask for a motion to that effect. No motion from Board. Ms. Moring states that they do not have to make a motion because she never paid the \$10.00

Judith Stewart: Questions parade and festival expense and Town only have vouchers with no contract or invoices. Mayor explains that parade contracts are verbal some do not show up including bands. The Payment Vouchers were made by the Town and is used as an official document. A lot of the participants are not businesses but are just people who do certain things on the side.

**Financials:** Were reviewed by the Mayor and Board. Filed with the April 7, 2019 minutes.

**Commissioners' Report:** Commissioner Everett nothing at this time.

**Commissioner Jackson:** states that a resident approached him about the high rate of speed of trucks pass through town; he contacted Sheriff Manning about placing speed indicator to let drivers know the rate of speed they are traveling and a speed indicator has been put in place. He reports that the Fire Department is still looking for volunteers.

**Commissioner Freeman:** The flower pots located at the corner of residents yard is a nuisance because maintenance crew has difficulty trimming to match the way residents trim and he feels that eventually this may become a problem. He suggests taking the pots up and storing them in the maintenance yard and if a resident wants one, we can let them use it and they can service and trim to their preference. He would like for the Town to place 3 pots at the 3 larger signs.

The Town has put aside money in the Electric CIP for a backhoe and eventually we will need one because the transmission is bad in the present one the Town has now. Mr. Freeman states he will began looking for a backhoe. Mayor asked Mr. Freeman to keep Board informed. Mr. Freeman thanked the people for coming out to the meeting.

**Commissioner Staton:** Reports having received a letter for Mr. Johnnie Council on March 8, 2019 stating that he has approached her several times about a hole on South South Street which leads to the Hamilton Community Organization at 116 South South Street. Commissioner Staton states that she does not recall

ever having this conversation with Mr. Council and that she would have contacted Mr. Freeman about the situation. Mr. Freeman states that he has taken care of it.

**Commissioner Williams:** Attended the Mid East meeting they had US census representatives who states the 2020 census taking will start April 1, 2019 and how important it is for people to register online or mail in. Census takers will be going door to door also. The representative stated they will be hiring people. Basically this is how the Town/County receives federal funding.

Spoke with Mr. Parker and he said that they are talking with architects in Raleigh because the local engineers suggest demolishing the building versus redoing it.

Commissioner Williams also states that he received information from Electricities in reference to grant funding for downtown revitalization project for \$10,000.00. After discussion by the Board, Commissioner Williams motion that the Board give him permission to apply for \$10,000.00 Electricities Downtown Revitalization Grant September 9, 2019. The motion was second by Commissioner Everett. Motion carried 5-0. Approved

No further business. Commissioner Everett made motion to adjourn and motion was second by Commissioner Staton. Carried 5-0. Meeting adjourn.

Annie B. Jones 5/2/19  
Clerk

DG Matthews III 5/2/19  
Mayor