

TOWN OF JAMESVILLE
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING 02/26/2024
MINUTES

The following is an account of the minutes taken at the Special Board Meeting held between 7:00 p.m. & 8:03 p.m. on 02/26/2024 at the Jamesville Town Hall, 1211 Water Street, Jamesville, NC 27846. Virtual meeting attendance was provided for public access through Zoom meeting.

Attendees

- Craig Tucker – Mayor
- Willis Williams – Commissioner
- Rachel Craddock – Commissioner
- Mary Allen – Commissioner
- Kimberly Cockrell – Commissioner
- Preston Craddock – Commissioner

Minutes Recorder – Kimberly Cockrell, Town Clerk/Finance Officer

I. Call to Order

Mayor Craig Tucker called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Commissioner Willis Williams offered the prayer. Staff attending was Employee Betty Williams. No Zoom attendees.

II. Adopt Agenda

Commissioner Mary Allen moved for approval of the agenda with Commissioner Williams giving the second. Vote was unanimous. 5 Ayes – 0 Nays.

III. Public Comment – None.

IV. Town Hall Building – Repairs Needed

Town Clerk/Commissioner Kimberly Cockrell displayed pictures of conditions affecting the town hall building. Cracks in the bricks & mortar and at the foundation are occurring where moisture can get in the walls and cause structural problems due to wood rot. The stress fracture in the flooring of the conference meeting room was also discussed and the need for it to be repaired. General comments stated the Town of Jamesville has long needed a new administrative building and that a source of funding needs to be sought. For the time being, getting estimates for the cited repairs will address short-term preventative measures.

Commissioner Preston Craddock moved that two estimates be obtained for needed repair patchwork until the board can solidify a long-term plan of addressing a new town hall. Commissioner Allen gave the second. Vote was unanimous. 5 Ayes – 0 Nays. Time was 7:31 p.m.

V. Jamesville Herring Pageant

At the November 13, 2023 Jamesville Board of Commissioners meeting, the 2024 NC Herring Festival was officially cancelled by unanimous vote. As part of the 2023 NC Herring Festival, a first pageant event was organized and held by volunteers with hopeful intentions of an annual pageant at future festivals. One of the pageant organizers contacted town staff on Wednesday, February 21, to inform of plans in progress to still hold a pageant event set for Saturday, April 13, 2024, at NERSBA and that advertisement has been placed on social media with contestants already expressing interest. Said event was initiated without board knowledge or approval.

On Friday, February 23, Commissioners Rachel Craddock and Kimberly Cockrell spoke with Mr. Tom Carruthers/NCLM Deputy General Counsel to seek advice regarding persons holding

activities not associated with town approval or financial responsibility. It was noted that the NC Herring Festival was approved in 2011 by Senate Bill 275 adopting the festival as an official state event held in the Town of Jamesville.

Craddock and Cockrell reported that Carruthers recommended that the Town of Jamesville be careful that it is not linked to outside private activities and that anyone holding an event understands that the town will not be supporting, supervising or insuring the event. The Town of Jamesville's insurance does not cover any non-profits or individuals holding events held separately from under the town's umbrella insurance policy. Also, the words "Jamesville" or "herring" cannot be used in the naming of a non-town sponsored event as they relate to an official event recognized by the Town of Jamesville and carries liability.

Discussion by the board focused on the subject pageant event needing to retract current advertisement and that the event be renamed and advertised publically as being privately organized and financially sponsored. Said advertisement needs to clarify that the event is not part of the NC Herring Festival. Emphasis was made that it be known the pageant is not being authorized or financially assisted by the Town of Jamesville. This matter will be presented to the town's attorney for review and input for a formal letter to be written to the pageant organizers, giving added protection for the Town of Jamesville to avoid any challenge or lawsuit.

Mayor Tucker indicated the pageant organizers have been covering expenses thus far and hope that the pageant event pays for itself, for instance, with contestant fees and pageant admittance monies. Mention was made about the organizers forming a non-profit business.

Commissioner P. Craddock moved to have the town attorney write a letter explaining that due to NC General Statutes the individually-sponsored pageant cannot use in its name "Jamesville" or "herring" and that the subject pageant advertisement be retracted. Additionally, language needs to be included in the letter which indicates that the Town of Jamesville is not supervising nor supporting or insuring the pageant event in any way. Commissioner Allen gave the second. Upon call for the vote, the motion carried unanimously. 5 Ayes – 0 Nays.

VI. Closed Session – Pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel

Commissioner Preston Craddock moved to go into closed session, with the second given by Commissioner Allen. Vote was unanimous. 5 Ayes – 0 Nays. Time 7:53 p.m.

Commissioner P. Craddock moved to go back into regular session, with the second given by Commissioner Allen. Vote was unanimous. 5 Ayes – 0 Nays. Time 8:01 p.m.

During closed session, the mayor's supervisor and office responsibilities were discussed, as duties had been lessened during recent health issues. Commissioner Rachel Craddock moved that the board give Mayor Tucker back his keys and the positions he's responsible for, with the second given by Commissioner Kimberly Cockrell. Vote was unanimous. 5 Ayes – 0 Nays.

VII. Board Comments – None.

VIII. Adjourn

Commissioner Allen moved to adjourn at 8:03 p.m., with a second by Commissioner P. Craddock. The motion unanimously passed. 5 Ayes – 0 Nays.

Respectfully submitted by:
Kimberly Cockrell,
Town Clerk/Finance Officer