



**Stanley Town Council Meeting
Official Minutes
Monday, March 4, 2019**

The regular monthly meeting of the Stanley Town Council was held on Monday, March 4, 2019 at Stanley Middle School. The following elected officials and staff were present:

Steven Denton, Mayor
Cathy Kirkland, Mayor Pro-Tem
Kerry Hart, Council Member
Bud Pate, Council Member
Danny Sparrow, Council Member

Jim Windham, Town Attorney
Heath Jenkins, Town Manager
Tug Deason, Recreation Director
Olivia Smith, Finance Director
Derek Summey, Police Chief
Craig Roseberry, Public Works Director
Michael Hullett, Interim Fire Chief

Call to Order:

Mayor Denton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation:

Council Member Cathy Kirkland gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance:

All citizens present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda:

Mayor Denton asked if there was a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Council Member Danny Sparrow made a motion to accept the agenda and Council Member Kerry Hart seconded the motion. A vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Denton asked for a motion to accept the February 4, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes. Council Member Kerry Hart made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mayor Pro-Tem Cathy Kirkland seconded the motion. A vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

A. Amendments to the Code of Ordinances related to Sewer and Penalties – Reschedule Public Hearing for April

Mayor Denton confirmed the rescheduling of the public hearing until the April 1st meeting. The Town Clerk explained that while she was out with the flu, she missed the advertising deadline and the hearing needs to be postponed until the next meeting.

New Business:

A. Public Hearing – Rezoning of Parcel 175772

Manager Jenkins summarized the request, explaining that the Tiny Tots daycare center and gymnasium are on two separate parcels. He stated that the highest and best use of the property is General Business, like the day care parcel. He stated that the Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend approval.

Mayor Denton asked for a motion to open the public hearing. Council Member Kerry Hart made the motion. Council Member Bud Pate seconded the motion. A vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Denton asked if there were any comments from the public regarding the rezoning. There were none.

Mayor Denton asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Mayor Pro-Tem Cathy Kirkland made the motion. Council Member Danny Sparrow seconded the motion. A vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Denton asked for a motion to approve the rezoning as requested. Council Member Kerry Hart made the motion. Mayor Pro-Tem Cathy Kirkland seconded the motion. A vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Budget Amendments

Mayor Denton asked if there were any questions from the Council. There were none.

Mayor Denton asked for a motion to approve the budget amendments. Mayor Pro-Tem Cathy Kirkland made the motion. Council Member Bud Pate seconded the motion. A vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

Special Presentations:

Barry Smith, Brevard Station Museum: Mr. Smith addressed the Council and audience regarding funding for Brevard Station Museum. He stated that the museum has been in and out of the budget for several years, and out of the budget last year. Mr. Smith stated that it takes \$10,000 a year to keep the doors open. He stated that they depend on \$5,000 a year from the Town of Stanley to keep the doors open. He stated that the other \$5,000 they can usually get

through book sales and donations. He stated that the museum has a lot of support, and passed out a letter from Congressman Patrick McHenry. He also passed out a letter from Senator Ted Alexander and Representative John Torbett.

Mr. Smith asked Mary Francis Forrester to step to the podium. Mrs. Forrester stated that she has lived in Stanley for many, many years. She explained that Stanley has a lot of history to be shared. She shared that the museum has served as a meeting place for parties and family gatherings, with attendees commenting that they did not know Stanley had so much history. She stated that the history we have here is important to her. She stated that she hopes the Town would continue to support the museum, she would hate to lose it.

Mr. Smith thanks Mrs. Forrester, stating that she has done a lot for the museum. Mr. Smith stated that he would like to move or enlarge the museum.

Mayor Denton thanked Mr. Smith and Mrs. Forrester.

Mayor Denton asked for a motion to accept the documents that Mr. Smith presented into the minutes. Council Member Kerry Hart made the motion. Council Member Bud Pate seconded the motion. A vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

Citizens Comments:

Sue Pruet, 511 Blacksnake Rd – Ms. Pruet spoke on behalf of Life Chain. She stated it was a witness event held on community sidewalks. It came to Gaston County in 1993. The event is typically held for one hour, once per year in October. She stated that there were 1500 life chains in U.S. and Canada last year, including Belmont and Mount Holly. She stated that given the current events surrounding abortion, they have decided to have a Life Chain event on April 7, 2019, from 2-3 pm, at Stanley Pentecostal Holiness. She stated that they will pray for the community, those in crisis and babies in the womb. She stated that they will hold signs to encourage people to think about abortion. She stated the closest abortion clinic is in Charlotte and in 2017, they performed 10,000 abortions. She stated parking will be along the routes, particularly at Stanley Pentecostal Church. No sign up is necessary to participate. For questions, contact Stanley Pentecostal or Life Chain. Additional locations include Belmont, Mount Holly and Gastonia.

Pastor Dr. Penny, Stanley Pentecostal Holiness Church – Dr. Penny stated that the church felt strongly about opening their doors for this event. He thanked everyone involved for their support and participation.

Karen Gann, Mount Holly – Ms. Gann stated that she is a member of Stanley Pentecostal. She stated that her husband's daughter became pregnant at 18 and her mother sent her here because she was afraid she may abort the baby. She now raises her granddaughter.

Sherry McCall, Lowesville Ln – Ms. McCall addressed the Council and audience and stated she was grateful to be a part of the Life Chain events. Ms. McCall showed the signs that would be displayed at the event. She stated she is very much pro-life. She stated she loves the Stanley

community, which is so pro-family, pro-children, pro-education, pro-law enforcement and Stanley loves its neighbor. She stated that the community wants to pray for each other. She stated that a lot of what is going on in the community and country today is due to a lack of being informed.

Department Reports:

Finance Department: Financial reports were provided.

Public Works: Mr. Roseberry had no further report.

Recreation: Mr. Deason had no further report.

Fire: Fire reports were provided. Interim Chief Hullett stated that back in January, the money allotted for a vehicle was moved to staffing. He stated that since the night time coverage was funded, the night-time response time has been reduced dramatically. He thanked the Council for the funding and stated that the employee morale has been boosted and they are very grateful for the additional staffing. Interim Chief Hullett told the Council that he would prepare whatever reports the Council would like to see.

Interim Chief Hullett stated that he nominated Deputy Chief Ashley Price for Firefighter of the Year. Ashley dedicates a significant amount of time, unpaid, to the department, while also working a full-time job and often traveling out-of-state and out of the country. Interim Chief Hullett hopes that Ashley Price will win this award at the banquet on March 30, 2019.

Police: Chief Summey had no report.

Manager's Report: Manager Jenkins thanked Interim Chief Hullett for filling in while the Town conducts a search for the next Chief.

Manager Jenkins stated that the Town held the bid opening for the CDBG project and received three bids, with Hickory Sand being the lowest bid. He explained that the engineering firm will vet the bids to determine if the lowest bid is a 'responsible bid'. He stated that our engineers have done work with Hickory Sand before.

Manager Jenkins stated that the Planning Board and Board of Adjustments met in February regarding two matters: the rezoning already discussed and a variance for an accessory building, which was approved. John Miller was selected as the new Chairman of both boards. Tony Froneberger has served as Chair of both boards for many years and is moving outside the ETJ.

Manager Jenkins attended the Manager's conference where he learned of several bills that will affect towns and cities. One of those bills is a separation allowance for full-time firefighters. The NCLM said that the state will come up with some funding mechanism to support the mandate, if passed.

The voter ID and cap tax were both struck down by a Superior Court judge in Wake County.

There have been multiple bills for funding for wastewater, transportation and public safety, as well as a push for funds for roads, beyond what is supplied by Powell Bill funds.

The LGERS employer rates will be increasing for the next few years.

Kirk Gavel sponsored a table at the Montcross event which the Mayor and Manager attended.

Manager Jenkins stated that the new charter school has received a lot of publicity. Council Member Hart stated that she is concerned with another school starting at 8 am and creating

additional traffic concerns. Manager Jenkins stated that they have not gotten that far into the traffic counts but he has expressed his same concerns. Councilwoman Hart stated that she heard the church was going to collect \$20,000 a month in rent for the space coming from taxpayer dollars. She asked if that money was county or county and city. Manager Jenkins stated that it would not be city tax money, it would be converted from Gaston County Schools to the charter school on a per student basis.

Council Comments:

Mayor Denton addressed the Council and the audience regarding the recent financing resolution. "I'd like to clarify some misinformation about the financing resolution that was passed unanimously at the February meeting. Several projects were stated in the resolution that I want to address. First being the new Council Chambers, additional office space and a conference room. Stanley Middle School has been gracious enough to let us use their facility for the past several months but there is going to come a time when they are going to need to use this room like they did with the last room we met in. We need a professional long-term solution. This was never meant to be a permanent situation. The current conference area at Town Hall is anything but private. Besides the ringing of telephones, town hall employees walking back and forth, not to mention when citizens come into the lobby conversations can be heard from the conference area on the other side of the wall. We need a professional council chamber. We also need a private conference area. When I meet with investors that come into the Town, state and local elected officials, we need somewhere that we can utilize, especially when there are 5, 6, 7, 8 different individuals. The room that we are in is just not feasible.

Also, with the radio read meters the current archaic system in place needs to be updated. The current process is that a town employee has to manually lift the lid, read those figures, relay those figures back to another public works employee in a truck, he has to write down that information, go back to Town Hall after reading several hundred meters, relay that information to a Town Hall employee who then enters that information into the computer system, then they have to print out the report and match it up to make sure it is entered correctly. The risk for human error is a great risk. With the new meters, they are more efficient, they're accurate. This will allow public works to focus their energy elsewhere. Also, numerous times, you can ask Director Roseberry and Superintendent Ritter how many times they are called out to reread meters when citizens feel there has been an error. This will alleviate that as well. I also want to point out that every municipality within Gaston County has some form of radio read meters, with the exception of Stanley and Lowell. Lowell just passed a measure to upgrade their meters which would leave Stanley the only municipality within Gaston County that manually reads meters.

The last point is the upfit of the community building and other capital improvements. I think it is obvious if you look at the current community building and the state that it is in. I know some of you here, I know Ms. Miller and I, attend the Stanley Area Business Association meetings on a regular basis. The building is in complete disrepair. It is to the point now that it either needs to be upfitted or torn down. Stanley citizens rent the building out on a regular basis. Recreation

Director Deason holds senior events there throughout the year. I think that our citizens, especially our seniors, deserve better.

Regarding capital improvements, again this is an obvious, if you look at other cities and towns throughout Gaston County: Dallas, Lowell, Cramerton, Belmont, Mount Holly, Bessemer City, Gastonia, they are making steady improvements to their downtown area and it is paying off with the outside investments coming into their downtown. Stanley has to begin making investments in the community or we are going to continue to be outpaced by our neighbors. Since I've been Mayor, I've met with several investors and restaurant owners, trying to entice them to come to Stanley. When I follow back up with them after they decided to go somewhere else their number one feedback has been, I just don't see Stanley investing in their downtown. So, if we are going to make change, if we want business to come here, we want restaurants to come here. We are going to have to start with us, and we're going to have to spend some money to get it to happen. I'm glad this Council has supported me unanimously by passing the financing resolution last month that gave Manager Jenkins direction to move forward with these projects. What some may call wasteful, liberal spending, I call it investing in the community and there is a difference. I do want to state and make clear that this financing resolution, that everyone of us on this council unanimously approved, will not cause Stanley taxes or fees to increase one penny. Manager Jenkins clearly stated this during our last meeting. Anyone who states otherwise is grossly misinformed."

Mayor Denton asked if there were any questions from the Council. There were none. Mayor Denton stated "If we want change, we are going to have to start spending a little bit of money on this Town. Thank you to this Council for their support".

Mayor Denton asked if there were any other council comments. There were none.

Mayor Denton asked for a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters. Council Member Kerry Hart made the motion. Council Member Bud Pate seconded the motion. A vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

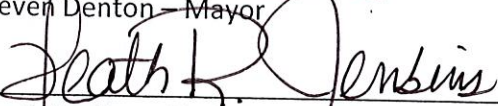
Return to open session.

Adjournment: Mayor Denton asked for a motion to adjourn. Council Member Kerry Hart made a motion to adjourn the regular session of the Council meeting. Council Member Bud Pate seconded the motion. A vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:



Steven Denton - Mayor



Heath Jenkins - Town Manager



Catherine Greder - Town Clerk

