

FEBRUARY 2023 MINUTES

Attendees: Mayor Joe Slaton; Council Members: Austin Hedden, and Lauren Tiger; Town Clerk: Suzanne Hedden; Zoning Administrator, Ron Wallace

Others: Sandy Zimmerman, Lorraine Bennett, Josh Lance, Carol Ann Beine, Holly Brewer, Franklin Shook, Griffin Anderson

Mayor Slaton did not call the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. due to Council member Baughn being out of town and unable to attend, and Council member Tiger arriving late due to work obligations. It was decided to skip agenda items requiring voting and proceed to New Business information.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Franklin Shook, Director of Nantahala Regional Library introduced Griffin Anderson, the new branch manager at Moss Memorial Library. Mr. Anderson stated that he began his new job on January 1, 2023, and mentioned that his door is always open for suggestions, etc. Mr. Shook interjected that funding has decreased for library funding in the last few years and encouraged attendees to email Representative Karl Gillespie to stress the need for extra funding for libraries.
- Sandy Zimmerman presented a partial list of the 2023-2024 HHI, Inc. work plan. (Copy attached).
- Josh Lance, a member of the HHI Board, presented details concerning the initiation of ATM machines in Town of Hayesville. Financial details included the approximate cost to install a machine is \$2,500.00 with need for \$2,000 to \$8,000 required as funds in the machine. He mentioned an acquaintance, Chris Neuman, who is seeking partnership with anyone to begin this endeavor. Mr. Lance and Ms. Zimmerman jointly contributed information about a social district in town. They feel this will contribute to economic vitality in our town. Ms. Zimmerman advised that Sylva, North Carolina adopted a social district probationary plan for a period of six months; they have since adopted a permanent plan. She also advised that North Carolina Main Street is encouraging towns to do this if at all possible. (She presented a brochure to the Board detailing the Sylva plan). Mayor Joe stated a question of concern: “How do you control this since we have no police department within City limits?” There was no definitive answer given.

Mayor Slaton officially called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.

Mr. Hedden made a motion to approve the agenda, Ms. Tiger 2nd the motion. Motion approved.

MINUTES

January 2023 Town Council Meeting Minutes

Mr. Hedden moved to approve the January 2023 Town Council minutes. Ms. Tiger 2nd. Motion approved.

FINANCE REPORTS

January 2023 Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statement – reports are attached.

Mrs. Hedden reviewed budget information stating that our income exceeded our expenditures this month. Mr. Hedden inquired about line items 1007 (Restricted Cash) and 1008 (Restricted Cash Contra). Mrs. Hedden did not

have an explanation, but explained she will research for information. Our auditor, Kaseson Hooper (Turner & Company CPAs, P.A.), has been contacted twice concerning our audit report; we have not received it yet, but Mrs. Hedden will contact him again.

Mr. Hedden made a motion to approve the Profit and Loss report and the Balance Sheet. Ms. Tiger 2nd. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mayor Slaton noted that the Town of Hayesville did not receive the grant that would have been dedicated to a sidewalk for Ritter Road. Mr. Hedden stated that in the future, when applying for a grant for this road, it might be helpful to indicate that the school (Carolina Christian Academy), apartments (DeSoto Square), and the Senior Citizens' Building are vital entities along the road.
- Mayor Slaton also stated that Shelagh Whitney has agreed that a greenway near her property is a great idea. This would connect US 64 Business East and US 64 Business West.
- Ms. Tiger asked Mayor Slaton if there is any current news on the EV station, to which he replied that he is still working on the matter.

NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED):

- Mayor Slaton initiated discussion and explained the situation of having numerous feral cats in/around the Town of Hayesville. He addressed a similar situation in neighboring Towns County (Georgia) that is now being handled in a proper manner by trapping the cats, spaying/neutering them, giving required shots and testing to insure they are healthy. All of this is done in an organized manner and assistance has been received from the Towns County Commissioner's office. The mayor is planning to obtain more information on this project and will be giving more details in the future.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Report attached.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Report attached.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Zimmerman reported on: February Board of Adjustment meeting, Main Street Conference (March 2023), Old Town Hall, Heritage Park, Awning has been hit again at Sentinel Building.

Josh Lance reiterated that he is still experiencing water issues in the basement of his building and would love to work with the Town of Hayesville and/or Department of Transportation to correct the situation.

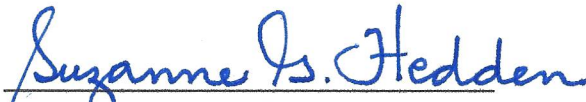
Mr. Hedden reported that Doug Bowden has cleaned up a large portion of his property.

Ms. Tiger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 pm. Mr. Hedden seconded.



Joe Slaton, Mayor

ATTEST:



Suzanne G. Hedden, Town Clerk