

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF STEDMAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 14, 2017-----7PM
REGULAR MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Billy Horne, Mayor pro-tem Martin L. Jones, Commissioner Peggy Raymes, Commissioner Jordan Stewart.

STAFF PRESENT

Town Attorney Tim Smith, Administrative Assistant Rebecca Johnson, Chief of Police Bob Stocks, Town Clerk Christy Horne

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

George Council of White Oak offered the invocation and Mayor Billy Horne led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Peggy Raymes made the motion to adopt the agenda and Commissioner Jordan Stewart seconded and motion was carried unanimously to adopt the agenda as is.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Martin Jones made the motion and Commissioner Peggy Raymes seconded and was carried unanimously to adopt the regular meeting minutes from August 3, 2017.

PRESENTATIONS

The Town Clerk Oath of Office was administered to Christy Horne by Mayor Billy Horne.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Earl "Moose" Butler former Sheriff of Cumberland County and Mr. Ronnie Mitchell, attorney for the Cumberland County Sheriff's department spoke in reference to Mayor Billy Horne's long service to the town of Stedman and presented him with a plaque from the Cumberland County Sheriff's department honoring his service.

Ms. Annette Maykovich of 6232 Azelia Drive, Stedman, NC spoke in reference to the great service done by Chief Bob Stocks in patrolling Stedman, but she feels that he needs additional help to control the rising crime in the area. She feels that the Cumberland County Sheriff's department deputies that patrol during Chief Stocks' off duty hours are not always following the law or serving the community sufficiently. She would like to see the Town of Stedman hire additional law enforcement officers due to the growth and increase in crime and would like to be able to "hand pick" these officers.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Consider LED Lighting Conversion contract with Duke Power. Duke Power agreed to convert all 174 of the Town's streetlights to LED's at no additional cost. Some of these were outside of the original contract and this will save the town \$10,500.00. Commissioner Peggy Raymes made a motion to accept the LED contract. Commissioner Martin Jones seconded the motion and was carried unanimously to accept the LED streetlight conversion in the town.
- b. Consider Town Storm Drainage issue. There is a continuing problem with standing water in areas of the town. The Town Clerk will contact the current engineer, Tyrus Clayton, under contract to

see what can be done to alleviate the drainage issues. Will have the engineer submit blueprints and recommendations along with an estimate of costs. Question was raised previously during the August meeting by Commissioner Jeremy George as to whether the town could contact other engineers and ask for bids to fix the town drainage issues. Commissioner Peggy Raymes has contacted Kim Hibbard through the League of Municipalities on the legality of hiring an outside engineer while we are under contract with current engineer, but has had no answer at this time. The town attorney, Tim Smith, will look into this matter and contact the Town Clerk regarding the legality of this matter.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consider Long Branch Street Plans
Samantha Grossman of Little and Young who is the Home Owner's Association manager for Long Branch Village is seeking clarification on ownership and maintenance of the streets whether it is the town or the Department of Transportation. She stated that the developer is no longer in control. She stated she was told that the DOT would not assume responsibility for the streets in Long Branch Village and submitted paperwork that she received from the DOT. She stated that the DOT told her that since the Town of Stedman approved the streets and subdivision that the town should assume maintenance of the streets. The Mayor stated that the town engineer would have to look at the streets in question and determine if they were up to code prior to assuming ownership and responsibility.
- b. Consider New Computers for Town Hall
Commissioner Jordan Stewart stated that the computers in the Town Hall are somewhere between 8 and 10 years old and need to be replaced. He also stated that the technology becomes antiquated rather quickly. He believes there is money in the General Fund that can be used to replace the computers in the offices. Commissioner Jeremy George has already contacted the League of Municipalities and the Town Clerk would need 3 estimates on the cost to replace and install the computers and we can accept the lowest bid.

STAFF REPORTS/BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- a. Town Clerks Report
Administrative Assistant Rebecca Johnson welcomed everyone back to the restored and remodeled board room and thanked Commissioner Peggy Raymes and Emily Jones for their help in choosing the new carpet and paint colors. She asked the board to consider the empty spot in the kitchen where the stove was previously. She says it was rarely used and asked their thoughts on replacement. Commissioner Peggy Raymes said to look into the cost of filling the spot with a cabinet and counter if a stove was not needed.
- b. Chief of Police Report
Chief Stocks spoke to the various prices, types and sizes of portable speed bumps. There is also a company that could install permanent speed bumps like those on Circle Drive that might be cheaper but would be expensive to remove as they would have to be grinded down. Two of the streets to be considered for speed bumps would be Azelia and Windwood. Chief Stocks reported on drug issues in the town. There were 3 people arrested on North Street in March for cocaine and an arrest on August 23 on North Street for heroin. He stated there is now an opioid epidemic in town and increasing crime in Stedman to include drugs, armed robberies and prostitution. He spoke about merchant concerns involving panhandling in town. There have

been incidents at the car wash, the IGA, Auto Zone, and Dollar General. These occur mostly at night and in the parking lots. The town does not have an ordinance concerning panhandling. Do we need or want one? The town attorney will look into sample ordinances of other small towns and send examples for the Board to consider. The issue on repeal and replace of the ordinance concerning basketball goals in the Town was tabled to the October Board meeting. Motion was made by Commissioner Peggy Raymes and seconded by Commissioner Jordan Stewart. Chief Stocks reported that the LED lighting upgrade throughout the town hall building has been accomplished and we should see the money recouped within 14 months.

- c. Stedman Fire Department---none
- d. Planners Report---none
- e. Mayor and Board of Commissioners
Mayor Billy Horne officially resigned from the office of Mayor effective immediately. Commissioners Jordan Stewart, Martin Jones, Peggy Raymes and former Commissioner Christopher Blake thanked the Mayor for his 20 years of service to the Town and said it was an honor and a privilege to serve with him.

ADJOURNMENT

The September 14, 2017 meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm by Mayor Billy Horne.