

**MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
OF THE  
TOWN OF STALLINGS, NORTH CAROLINA**

The Town Council of the Town of Stallings met for its regular meeting on September 11, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at the Stallings Town Hall, 315 Stallings Road, Stallings, North Carolina.

Those present were: Mayor Pro Tempore Regis Griffin; Council Members Deborah Romanow, David Scholl, and Shawna Steele.

Those absent were: Mayor Wyatt Dunn; and Council Members Rocky Crenshaw and Kathy Heyse.

Staff present were: Erinn Nichols, Interim Town Manager; Emily Hughes, Communications Specialist/Deputy Town Clerk; Brian Price, Maintenance Supervisor; Kevin Parker, Associate Engineer; and Marsha Gross, Finance Officer.

**Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance and meeting called to order**

Stallings Police Department's Honor Guard presented the colors in honor of 9/11 and lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Council Member Romanow then delivered the invocation. Mayor Pro Tempore Regis Griffin called the meeting to order.

Carol McKee, 145 Cuffed Oak Dr., business owner in Union West Business Park, stated she was touched by the Honor Guard because it was a great reminder of community. Ms. McKee stated as a member of the business community she had a lot of empathy for the residents of Forest Park due to the construction traffic and large truck traffic cutting through their neighborhood. She explained that her business was also affected by Highway 74 construction traffic. Ms. McKee stated as business owners they tried to be good neighbors. She did not believe all the traffic in Forest Park was due to the business owners in Union West Business Park. She stated that restricting that size vehicle was appropriate but preventing all through traffic was not the solution. Ms. McKee offered to sell land to the Council so there could be a place for tractor trailers to turn around in Union West Business Park. She also felt that the issues were related to the construction. Limiting one entrance to Union West Business Park would not be the solution. She felt communication was very important and felt there was not conversation about the problems. Ms. McKee also told the residents that as a business owner she was willing to help find a solution but she needed more than one access.

Len Tower, 44 White Oak Ln., thanked the Council for the open discussion. He stated Forest Park had been under siege due to the construction for a number of months and there was a lot of cut through traffic. Mr. Tower understood that the barriers were removed on Cuffed Oak after a "temper tantrum" was held to several of the Council Members. He expressed that he felt that was a concern. Mr. Tower was in favor of the barriers and speed humps.

Linda Gleason, 219 Cuffed Oak Dr., stated she appreciated Ms. McKee being present but had seen her company's vehicles speeding and running stop signs in Forest Park. She explained that a tractor

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trailer got stuck in the neighborhood because he was going through the neighborhood. Ms. Gleason also stated that the traffic light at Highway 74 and Stalling Road needed to have more signage and road marking.

James Gleason, 213 Meadowbrook Dr., stated he wanted to show everyone very disturbing photos of trucks vs. pedestrians but did not have time to gather. He had seen accidents between humans and trucks first hand even when traveling at low speeds. Mr. Gleason knows there are business owners who cut through Forest Park and suggested staggering the barricades. He understood one of the barriers got hit but no police report was filed. Mr. Gleason wanted the barricades back at a staggered setting. He also suggested using limited access gates.

**1. Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

Council Member Griffin read the Suicide Prevention Week Proclamation into the record and proclaimed the week of September 10 to September 17 Suicide Prevention Week in Stallings, NC. The Suicide Prevention Week Proclamation is attached to these minutes and therefore incorporated herein.

Council Member Griffin read the Constitution Week Proclamation in honor of the 230<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Framing of the Constitution into the record and proclaimed the week of September 18 to September 24 Constitution Week in Stallings, NC. The Constitution Week Proclamation is attached to these minutes and therefore incorporated herein.

Council Member Romanow made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Scholl which passed unanimously by Council.

**2. Reports**

**A. Report from the Mayor**

Mayor Dunn was not present to give a report but Mayor Pro Tem Griffin announced that the Mayor had appointed a Town Manager Hiring Committee: Council Members Griffin and Scholl and former Mayor Lynda Paxton. Applications for the Town Manager position were due by September 15.

**B. Reports from Council Members/Town Committees**

Council Member Griffin reported that Council would receive a copy of the Emergency Response plan at the second meeting in September. He also reported that the Police Policy final draft would be given to Council at the last meeting in October.

Council Members Romanow and Steele had no reports.

Council Member Scholl reported that the Website Committee would be meeting with the new website developer in the next couple of weeks. He also reported that he would be attending the Regional Transportation meeting with NCDOT in Monroe.

Nancy Franz, Parks and Recreation Committee, reported that the summer programs were a success with 538 participants in 17 programs.

## C. Report from Town Manager/Town Departments

Interim Town Manager Erinn Nichols reported that the garbage pick-up would be delayed if there was severe weather due to Hurricane Irma. She also thanked the staff for their preparedness due to the threat of Hurricane Irma and Captain Flynn and his honor guard for the Presentation of Colors in honor of 9/11 that evening. She explained that NCDOT would be adding better signage to Stallings Road and Highway 74 as soon as the weather improved.

Chief Minor Plyler reported that instead of the polar plunge, the Stallings Police Department would be hosting a Charity Car Show for Special Olympics NC on September 16 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Stallings Elementary School.

### 3. Agenda Approval

Mayor Pro Tempore Regis Griffin requested to move Agenda Item 7, *Street Naming Information and Process for Naming New Roads Due to Bypass*, to Agenda Item 4.A. and requested to add a closed session to discuss a legal matter as Agenda Item 7.A.

Council Member Romanow made the motion to approve the Agenda with the amendments stated above. The motion was seconded by Council Member Scholl which passed unanimously by Council.

#### **4. Ordinance Prohibiting Cut Through Traffic in Forest Park (Steele)**

Council Member Steele explained that the traffic issues within Forest Park had been going on for quite some time however truck traffic had increased due the Hwy. 74 Bypass construction. The Town had the right to regulate the traffic on Town streets. The water barriers on Cupped Oak appear to be a temporary solution for cut through traffic. Complaints were received due to the barriers.

Council discussed the need to have a safe neighborhood while still allowing certain vehicles in the subdivision. Council decided to prohibit any commercial vehicle Class 7 or higher in the subdivision. It also wanted to re-install the water barriers on Cupped Oak in addition to adding more signage stating 11716 September 11, 2017

the tonnage limitation. The Engineering Department would also assess the roads in Forest and report the viable long-term solutions to Council in October.

**Clerks Note:** While the ordinance with the exact language was being drafted for Council adoption, Council proceeded to move forward with Agenda Item 4.A. Council then came back to this item and made the motion below.

Council held consensus to have the water barriers stenciled and reinstalled on September 25, 2017. All Union West Businesses would also be noticed of these actions.

Council Member Steele made the motion to adopt the Ordinance Prohibiting Cut Through Traffic in Forest Park effective September 25, 2017. The motion was seconded by Council Member Scholl which passed unanimously by Council. The Ordinance Prohibiting Cut Through Traffic in Forest Park is attached to these minutes and therefore incorporated herein.

#### **4.A. SR 2 and Union West Blvd Presentation**

Associate Engineer Kevin Parker introduced Bjorn Hanson, Union County Transportation Planner, to present a slideshow regarding the naming process of the new and modified roads in the Town of Stallings due to the Monroe Expressway construction. The public would be able to make suggestions for the road names via the Town's website.

#### **5. Brunch Bill**

Interim Town Manager Nichols explained that Senate Bill 155 allowed the sale of alcoholic beverages before noon on Sundays at licensed premises. If the Council adopted the Brunch Bill Ordinance, Senate Bill 155 would be applicable in Stallings and alcoholic beverages could be sold beginning at 10 a.m.

Council Member Scholl made the motion to adopt the Brunch Bill Ordinance, Senate Bill 155, allowing the sale of alcoholic beverages before noon on Sundays in the Town of Stallings. The motion was seconded by Council Member Steele. The motion passed with a 3-1 vote with Council Member Romanow opposing. The Brunch Bill Ordinance for the Town of Stallings is attached to these minutes and therefore incorporated herein.

6. 2017-18 Budget Ordinance Amendments

Finance Officer Marsha Gross presented the Amended Budget Ordinances for fiscal year 2017-2018. The 2017-18 Amended Budget Ordinances 1-3 are attached to these minutes and therefore incorporated herein.

A. Amended Budget Ordinance 1 – Public Works (air conditioning units)

Mrs. Gross reported that Amended Budget Ordinance 1 – Public Works was needed due to replacement and repair of air conditioning units at Town Hall.

Council Member Steele made the motion to adopt 2017-2018 Amended Budget Ordinance 1. The motion was seconded by Council Member Romanow which passed unanimously by Council.

B. Amended Budget Ordinance 2 – Public Safety (department renovations)

Mrs. Gross and Chief Plyler explained that this amendment was two part: 1) transferring funds from the asset forfeiture funds to cover the police department renovations; and 2) transferring funds from the asset forfeiture funds to cover the purchase of a police vehicle in accordance to the Emergency Response Plan which would allow the department to be responsive during an significant weather or emergency situation.

Council Member Romanow made the motion to adopt Amended Budget Ordinance 2 – Public Safety. The motion was seconded by Council Member Steele which passed unanimously by Council.

C. Amended Budget Ordinance 3 – Economic and Physical Development (small area plans)

Finance Officer Marsha Gross explained that the Budget Ordinance 3 would support the Council's approval of the Small Area Plans for the Town.

Council Member Steele made the motion to adopt Amended Budget Ordinance 3 – Economic and Physical Development. The motion was seconded by Council Member Romanow which passed unanimously by Council.

7. Street Naming Information and Process for Naming New Roads Due to Bypass

*This item was moved to Agenda Item 4.A.*

**7.A. Closed Session Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3)**

Council Member Steele made the motion to go in to Closed Session Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3). The motion was seconded by Council Member Romanow which passed unanimously by Council.

*Council went into closed session at approximately 8:33 p.m. and reconvened in open session at approximately 8:45 p.m.*

**8. Adjournment**

Council Member Romanow moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Steele, and the motion received unanimous support. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Approved on October 9, 2017.

*s/Wyatt Dunn*

Wyatt Dunn, Mayor

*s/Erinn Nichols*

Erinn E. Nichols, Town Clerk

Approved as to form:

*s/Cox Law Firm, PLLC*

Cox Law Firm, PLLC