

September 9, 2024

Town Hall Meeting

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Mayor James W. Dunn, Sr. was present along with the following Commissioners: Larry W. Adams, Edward G. Venable, Dawn Hobson and Kurt Held. Commissioner Neal Nichols was absent.
2. Commissioner Venable made a motion to approve the August 12, 2024 minutes as written. Commissioner Held seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT: Ben Peacock stated that the Small Town Christmas event will be held on November 30, 2024 at 5:30 PM at the East Bend Fire Department. Jan Hicks stated that the East Bend Library is setting up their yard sale, which benefits the library. Ronnie Fletcher thanked the employees of the Town for their hard work, especially for resolving a water leak at one of his families properties and also thanked Chief Shore for his continued work for the Town. Dawn Nelson stated that the East Bend Pool had an increase in pool membership and that the pool had a great season. Mayor Dunn recognized Yadkin County Sheriff Nick Smitherman and thanked him for being present.
4. The Board received a reply from the Friends of the East Bend Town Square in response to the Town's letter addressing the covering of the handicap signs during events at the East Bend Town Square. The Board discussed the contents of the letter and Chief Shore stated that there has to be one handicap spot per every 25 parking spots and that the Town met that requirement without the two spots at the East Bend Town Square. Commissioner Held made a motion to allow the Friends of the Town Square to have control and the ability to cover the handicap signs at the Town Square when they are hosting events at the Town Square. Commissioner Venable seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0.
5. Ben Peacock stated that Chief Shore approached him about automating items for the Town, namely resident checks and complaints. Mr. Peacock also stated that employment postings have been added to the Town website and that he is working on adding the resident check requests and complaint section to the Town website and that he will bring it to the Board for their review.
6. Mayor Dunn brought forth a document regarding Guidance Procurement Policy for N.C. Local Governments and it was explained that it was a policy detailing how APR Funds may be used and the approval process for expending the funds. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the policies. Commissioner Venable seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
7. Mayor Dunn brought for discussion the recent water bill the Town has received from the County as well as the increase in rates, which were double the prior month's rates. Attorney Epley stated that in analyzing the letter of Attorney Price and the contract signed in 2013, the issue was a pre-audit report and the belief that it was not included, however, the 2013 contract did include the pre-audit report and that the contract is valid between the Town and the County. Based on the contract from 2013, the increase in water rates should be in accordance with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Utility Commission, which increased 7% this year.

Commissioner Held recommended and the other commissioners agreed that the a letter should be sent to the County detailing the Town's position and requesting a meeting between the Town and the County in accordance with the 2013 contract. The commissioners directed that the letter include that the Town has not budgeted for the increase the County is attempting to impose. Commissioner Held made a motion for the Town to pay the water bill at the previous rate and for Attorney Epley to prepare a letter to the County to discuss water rates and contract terms. Commissioner Adams seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

8. Mayor Dunn brought forth the new Intergovernmental Water Services Agreement, however, the Board referenced the prior discussion and decided no further discussion was needed on this topic.
9. Mayor Dunn brought for discussion the County's request to change the payment method between the Town and the County. Commissioner Adams made a motion to continue to pay the bill by check. Commissioner Held seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
10. Chief Shore stated that he attended the Opioid Settlement meeting at the County offices and that the County stated they were going to use the settlement funds to distribute goods and materials to local municipalities within the County. There was one notable event within the Town, Mark Hobson had a car stolen overnight but there is no video evidence and no one has been charged at this time. The Town assisted with one runaway juvenile and the Town also assisted the County in apprehending the suspects that committed a string of breaking and entering offenses within the County. The Town Police also responded to downed trees and vehicle incidents from the recent storm. Chief Shore thanked Yadkin County Sheriff Nick Smitherman for his continued support of the Town. Chief Shore stated that he has received multiple complaints from Mayor Dunn regarding his work as the Chief of Police for the Town and his enforcement of the laws. Chief Shore felt his integrity had been called in to question and the Board voiced their continued support of Chief Shore and his work for the Town. Chief Shore detailed his daily routine for the Board so that his general daily activities were known and these activities included daily checks of East Bend Elementary School because the County has not funded a resource officer for the school. Chief Shore stated that Mayor Dunn provided him with a packet regarding activity that Mayor Dunn believed to be illegal that Mayor Dunn asked to be delivered to the District Attorney's Office, which he did. He received a response from Assistant District Attorney Matthew Leach regarding the contents of the packet and A.D.A. Leach found that there was no wrongdoing on the part of the Town or the Board and that there were no charges to be filed as a result of the conduct reported by Mayor Dunn. Commissioners Adams and Venable voiced their concerns as a result of the Mayor's actions towards Chief Shore and the Board in general. Commissioner Held thanked and offered his admiration for Chief Shore for the work that he does for the Town. Yadkin County Sheriff Nick Smitherman stated that he supports and stands behind Chief Shore and also stated that Chief Shore has conferred with him on some matters within the Town and in each instance Chief Shore was making correct decisions and decisions that Sheriff Smitherman

supported. Sheriff Smitherman further stated that he is working to get a School Resource Officer within all of the Yadkin County Schools. Vickie Matthews stated that the Chief Shore works very hard and that he is great with the general public. Commissioner Adams closed the conversation on this topic by stating that Chief Shore, as well as all other Town employees, should work more closely with their department head and bring any issues that they may have to the attention of their department head.

11. Commissioner Venable made a motion to approve the bills and any that come in prior to the next meeting. Commissioner Hobson seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
12. Commissioner Venable made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hobson seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

10-14-2024

Date

*James W. Dunn, Sr. Mayor*

James W. Dunn, Sr. Mayor

Board Approved the Minutes

Mayor Chose not to sign.

Dawn E. Hobson, Mayor Pro-Tem signed

*Vickie J. Matthews*

Vickie J. Matthews, Town Clerk/Administrator