

October 14, 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 Neal Nichols. Commissioner Kurt Held was absent.
2. Mayor Dunn stated that he did not agree with paragraph 10 as written on the September 9, 2024 minutes and noted his objection to the absence of Chief Shore's comments regarding trespass on another's property, harassment of an elderly woman, and the handicap signs at the Town Square. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the September 9, 2024 minutes as written. Commissioner Hobson seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT: Vickie Matthews asked that Town Hall close for Christmas on the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of the week of Christmas and that the Town Clerk would be working on Christmas Eve per her request. The Board stated there was no issue with this request. Ronnie Fletcher thanked the planning board for assisting him in cleaning up deeds from his brother's passing that he owned jointly with his brother. Mr. Fletcher also commented on the stop signs on the east and west side of Main Street and stated that he has inquired at the state level about the possibility of attaching two flashing red lights to those stop signs, pointing out that there are four properties in close proximity to these two stop signs that could benefit from additional signage in these areas.
4. Charles Hagan did not appear at the meeting and the water bill payment method was not discussed.
5. Vickie Matthews stated that the response from the County that the Town received in response to Attorney Epley's September 10, 2024 letter was informal and consisted of emails forwarded from the County from May 2024 and she further stated that the Town did not receive any updated response. The Town was paying \$7.93 as the water rate and the County has increased the rate to \$15.86. Mayor Dunn stated that he was in discussion with State representatives that could potentially step in to assist with resolving the dispute. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to file suit against the County for breach of contract for not upholding the current water contract. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. This motion carried 4-0.
Commissioner Venable inquired with Attorney Epley as to what the legal process would look like and Attorney Epley explained the process to the Board. Mayor Dunn stated that the County was also attempting to raise the sales tax by 0.25% in an effort to generate \$800,000.00 for the County. Vickie Matthews inquired as to what the Board wanted to pay for the water bill. Commissioner Nichols asked if the Board wanted to pay \$8.49 for the water rate, which would be a 7% increase in line with the increase in accordance with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Utility Commission. The Board discussed other rates that were available to pay for water other than the rate being charged. After discussion, Commissioner Nichols made a motion to pay the County at the old rate (\$7.93) and to pay the late fee of \$5.00. Commissioner Hobson seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

6. Commissioner Hobson made a motion to hold the November board meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. Commissioner Venable seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
7. Mayor Dunn received notice today that the issue relating to authorized names on the Town's bank accounts has been resolved. Vickie Matthews stated that her name needs to be removed from all accounts and that the new Town Clerk, Bettina Miller, needs to have her name added. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Hobson seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
8. Vickie Matthews stated that the Town needed a representative on the East Bend Medical Foundation. Commissioner Nichols volunteered to represent the Town. Commissioner Adams made a motion to add Neal Nichols as the Town's representative to the East Bend Medical Foundation. Commissioner Hobson seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
9. Mayor Dunn read a prepared statement in the mayor's moment thanking Chief Shore and Sheriff Smitherman for bringing to light items that were reported by Chief Shore at the September 9, 2024 meeting.
10. Chief Shore stated that the Town had a good month and that there was a bad traffic accident in front of the Dollar Store. He further stated that everything is going well within the Town and that there has been an increase in animal complaints but no other issues within Town.
11. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the bills and any that come in prior to the next meeting. Commissioner Venable seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
12. Commissioner Adams made a motion to go in to closed session to discuss personnel. Commissioner Nichols seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
13. After coming out of closed session Commissioner Nichols made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hobson seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

Nov. 12, 2024
Date

Dawn G. Hobson Mayor Pro-Tem

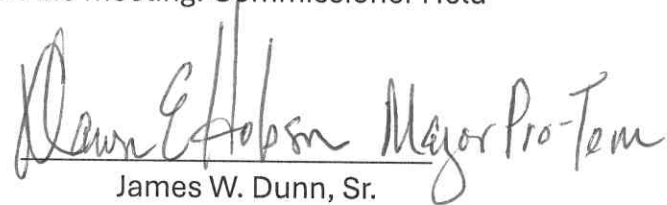
James W. Dunn, Sr. Mayor
Board approved the minutes.
Mayor Dunn chose not to sign.
Dawn Hobson, Mayor Pro-Tem signed.

Vickie J. Matthews
Vickie J. Matthews, Town Clerk/Administrator

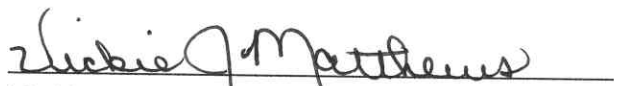
October 22, 2024
Special Meeting

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm. Mayor James W. Dunn, Sr. was present along with the following Commissioners: Larry W. Adams, Dawn Hobson, Kurt Held and Neal Nichols. Commissioner Venable attended a portion of the meeting via telephone and arrived in person during the closed session.
2. After the meeting was called to order, members of the public attending the meeting had a discussion regarding the water issue. Commissioner Nichols stated during the discussion that the Board would ensure that the water would not be shut off. It was asked if the Town had the money to bring the bill current and Vickie Matthews responded that the Town did in fact have the funds necessary. Commissioner Nichols responded to a comment that the Town had sought grants but that the Town had not received any grants. Archie Hicks corrected a comment made during the discussion stating that this issue was not in litigation for 5 years and that the Town approached the County in 2019 to try to renegotiate the contract and that the County would not renegotiate the contract and further stated that the County informed the Town in 2019 that the contract between the County and the Town was valid.
3. Commissioner Held made a motion to go in to closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3). Commissioner Nichols seconded. The motion carried 4-0 (Commissioner Venable was not yet present in person to vote).
4. Upon return to open session, Commissioner Nichols made a motion for the following: to allow Attorney Epley to engage in discussions with the County attorney to attempt to arrange for pre-suit mediation; for the Board to hire outside counsel in the event it becomes necessary; and to proceed to litigation, including filing a lawsuit and seeking an injunction, in the event it becomes necessary. Commissioner Held seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. Commissioner Nichols made a second motion for the following: to place the disputed funds relating to the water bill in trust/escrow; and to pay the October 2024 water bill at the previous rate of \$7.93. Commissioner Held seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.
5. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Held seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Nov. 12, 2024
Date


James W. Dunn, Sr.

Board approved the minutes.
Mayor Dunn chose not to sign.
Dawn E. Hobson, Mayor Pro-Tem signed.


Vickie J. Matthews, Town Clerk/Administrator