

November 12, 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, Kurt Held and Neal Nichols.
2. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the October 14, 2024 minutes as written. Commissioner Venable seconded. The motion carried 5-0.
3. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the October 14, 2024 closed session minutes as written. Commissioner Held seconded. The motion carried 5-0.
4. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the October 22, 2024 special called meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Held seconded. The motion carried 5-0.
5. Commissioner Held made a motion to approve the October 22, 2024 closed session minutes as written. Commissioner Nichols seconded. The motion carried 5-0.
6. PUBLIC COMMENT: Ben Peacock stated that he worked as a precinct assistant during the election and 834 people turned out in the town to vote. He also stated that there was a police presence the entire time and there were no issues at the polling site and also stated that the election is not certified until Friday, November 15, 2024 at 11:00 AM. Commissioner Adams spoke about Vickie Matthews, how she came to work for the Town in May 2014 and he stated that the Town would miss her and he thanked her for her work for the Town and informed everyone that her last day is November 25, 2024. Ronnie Fletcher applauded Commissioner Adams for his work with Vickie Matthews during her employment with the Town and he thanked all the Town employees. He also thanked the members of the Board that will no longer be Commissioners for their work for the Town during their service on the Town Board.
7. The Town discussed the East Bend Waterline Letter, received on October 17, 2024, during the October 22, 2024 special called meeting and no further discussion is necessary.
8. Attorney Epley presented his recommendation of attorney Andy Fitzgerald to the Commissioners to handle the impending litigation with the Town. Attorney Epley stated that he discussed the Town's plan in how to handle the litigation and Attorney Fitzgerald was in agreement with the plan and was prepared to begin work for the Town upon the Board's approval. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to hire Andy Fitzgerald and to proceed with litigation. Commissioner Hobson seconded. The motion carried 5-0.
9. Cameron Pearson, from Wooten Company, presented the results of the rate study completed for Yadkin County, which was commissioned to analyze the town systems within Yadkin County and to analyze user fees and expenses. Mr. Pearson stated that Yadkin County has a \$270,000.00 shortfall due to the debt service associated with the water line. Wooten Company has made a recommendation to Yadkin County to change the way that Yadkin County charges the Town for their

water rates and to change the rates from a flat rate to a variable rate, which would ultimately increase the Town's rate to \$17.47. Mr. Pearson described the Highway 21 water system and compared that system to the East Bend waterline and stated that the Highway 21 waterline water was purchased from Jonesville and Jonesville provided operation, whereas on the East Bend waterline, the Town is paying for operation and maintenance. Mr. Pearson stated that the debt service is the main cost associated with the increased water rates due to Yadkin County not receiving a grant that they had expected to receive. Wooten Company is also performing a rate study of the Town, even though the Town did not ask for the rate study, the rate study is being completed due to a requirement for grants received by the Town. When Wooten Company completed the rate study for Yadkin County, Wooten Company was not made aware of the contract between the Yadkin County and the Town nor the pending issues relating to the contract.

10. Mayor Dunn raised issues relating to the September 9, 2024 minutes and stated they were inaccurate due to the failure to include items stated by Chief Shore during the September 9, 2024 meeting, namely harassment of an elderly person and a trespassing incident, claiming they were necessary to be included in the September 9, 2024 minutes. Attorney Epley advised the Board that the minutes could be amended by the Board as necessary to correct or add statements to increase the accuracy of the minutes. The Board discussed whether to amend the September 9, 2024 minutes and ultimately chose to take no action and chose not to amend the September 9, 2024 minutes.
11. Mayor Dunn asked Vickie Matthews to put together a list of the Town's bank accounts, their balances, and the Town's budget. Vickie Matthews stated that this information is available at Town Hall or on the Town's website. Mayor Dunn inquired if there was at least \$100,000 in the Town's bank accounts and Vickie Matthews responded in the affirmative.
12. Mayor Dunn requested a change in the time of the regular meetings from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM and the Commissioners stated they wanted to keep the meeting time at 6:00 PM.
13. Mayor Dunn asked if the Board would consider live streaming the Town meetings. Commissioner Held stated he had no problem live streaming the meetings and the other Commissioners agreed. Chief Shore stated he believed a system to live stream the meetings could be obtained for less than \$500 and he is going to get more information and an estimate to present at the December meeting.
14. Chief Shore thanked the Veteran's for their service and thanked Vickie Matthews for her service and help with the police department. Chief Shore stated he assisted at the polls during the election and that things have been relatively quiet within the Town.
15. 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 5-0.

16. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Venable seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

12-9-24

Date

Dawn E. Hobson Mayor Pro Tem

James W. Dunn, Sr.

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

Bettina Miller

Bettina Miller, Town Clerk/Administrator