

Town of Mount Olive
February 5, 2024
Regular Board Meeting
Minutes

Mayor Jerome Newton called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Those in attendance per roll call were Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay, Commissioner Delreese Simmons, Commissioner Danny Keel, Commissioner Tommy Brown, Commissioner Vicky Darden, Town Attorney Carroll Turner Town Manager Jammie Royall and Town Clerk/Administrative Assistant Sherry Davis.

Mayor Jerome Newton delivered our invocation and Town Attorney Carroll Turner lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Jerome Newton read the Conflict of Interest Statement; there were no conflicts.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Danny Keel made the motion to accept the agenda. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve the January 8, 2024 Regular Board meeting minutes, the January 17, 2024, January 18, 2024 and February 2, 2024 Special Called Board meeting minutes. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made the motion. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then opened the public forum. Mr. Billy Wilkins of 102 Overbrook Road, Goldsboro, NC 27534, 919-273-3283 was granted eight minutes to speak by Mayor Jerome Newton prior to the tonight's meeting. Mr. Billy Wilkins had prepared a speech regarding the Waste Water Treatment Plant moratorium. Due to the length, the entire speech has been included as part of the meeting minutes

Ms. Cindy Bell of 109 Ramblewood Drive, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-658-5491. She wanted to follow up on the paving of the town hall parking lot. She advised this project was a violation of a North Carolina General Statute. She asked if other property owners of the adjacent parking lot paid any part of the paving expense. Did they justify paving other properties and what was the priority of this project. She spoke again about the sign machine. The cost was \$15,000.00 and has to be located in a climate controlled room. What was the expense of wiring this room? Was there true transparency? She stated the citizens are entrusting the town with over seventy thousand dollars was it spent wisely, there is additional lighting and ditches to be cleaned. She said there is a new day of oversight and accountability.

Ms. Janet Blunt advised she signed up by accident, she thought it was a sign in sheet.

Mayor Jerome Newton commented all the concerns mentioned are our concerns too, he then closed the public forum.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed 02-07 - Consider Approval of Black History Month Proclamation 2024. Town Clerk Sherry Davis read the Proclamation. Mayor Jerome Newton then requested a motion to approve action item 02-07. Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion to approve. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action- Memo 02-08 - CDBG-NR 19-C-3131 Project Revised Budget for the Additional Two Hundred Thousand Dollars Awarded by NC Rural Economic Develop Division on January 18, 2024. One Hundred Ninety Thousand Dollars Added to Planning/Engineering Services and Ten Thousand for Administration. David Harris with RSM Harris and Associated advised this was funded under the Community Development Block Grant and we just received approval to combine two hundred thousand dollars to the Downtown Revitalization Planning Grant. One resident's house had a fire before replacement so insurance proceeds have been applied to the budget. Mayor Newton asked if the insurance proceeds go into a specific fund. David Harris answered it is allocated to the grant it was the resident's obligation. Mayor Newton requested a motion to approve Action- Memo 02-08 - CDBG-NR 19-C-3131. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made the motion. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action-Memo 02-09 – Consider Adoption of Eligible Project Policy For The Expenditure Of American Rescue Plan Act Of 2021 C Coronavirus State And Local Fiscal Recovery Funds By The Town Of Mount Olive Eligible Use Policy Resolution and Policy. Finance Director Jamie Butler stated these are three of the six policies that have to be adopted for any municipality who received American Rescue Plan Funding. She advised the town elected to use the revenue replacement option. All records will be audited. She commented with the smaller towns the government assumed revenue was lost. The prohibited uses of the funding has been relaxed since the initial distributions. This funding must be allocated by December of 2024 and expended by December of 2026. She said she prefers to request budget amendments monthly. Commissioner Danny Keel asked if any of the disbursements are approved by the board and how much funding is left. Finance Director Jamie Butler responded yes they are approved by the board and the funding information is in your financials report.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve Action-Memo 02-09. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made the motion to approve. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action-Memo 02-10 – Consider Adoption of Allowable Costs and Cost Principles For The Expenditure Of American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus State And Local Fiscal Recovery Funds By North Carolina Local Governments Allowable

Cost Resolution and Policy. Finance Director Jammie Butler explained this policy stated that she and Town Manager Jammie Royall approve and verify the funding is there. Commissioner Danny Keel wanted to confirm this was approved by the Town Manager. Finance Director Jamie Butler responded yes, direct and indirect does not apply to us this is for large projects. She referred to the Project Budget Ordinance that was approved at the December 12, 2023 Regular Board meeting. It included funding for police salary replacement and paving of the town hall parking lot. It can be changed and updated at any time. If any cost is deemed unallowable, the revised cost would become a board of commissioner's decision to pay.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve Action-Memo 02-10. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made the motion to approve. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action-Memo 02-11 – Consider Adoption Of The Non-Discrimination/Civil Rights Compliance Policy Resolution and Policy. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay stated we already this policy. Finance Director Jamie Butler advised this policy is specific to American Rescue Plan Act funding.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve Action-Memo 02-11. Commissioner Danny Keel made to motion to approve. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action-Memo 02-12 - Consider Special Called Board Meeting for Selection of Engineer for Downtown Revitalization Grant on February 29, 2024 at 2:00 P.M. David Harris with RSM Harris and Associates advised the amendment was submitted in September of 2023 and we had to include a time line. We expected the state to respond within two months. They did not respond until a couple of weeks ago but did not change the schedule. We need the special meeting to stay on schedule. Town Attorney Carroll Turner stated he is unable to attend on February 29, 2024 but he is not asking us to change the date. Mayor Jerome Newton said February 29, 2024 was not a good day for him either. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay asked if it has to be February 29, 2024. David Harris replied no but it has to be before February 29, 2024 to be on schedule.

Mayor Jerome Newton suggested Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 3:00 P.M. That time worked for everyone and he requested a motion to approve. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made the motion to approve. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action-Memo 02-13 Consider Approval of New Procurement Policy and Plan as Required by the CDBG-I Program/Division of Water Infrastructure. David Harris with RSM Harris and Associates stated CDBG-I compliance plans have been updated. The new procurement policy has added some sections that included federal regulations. This will be for any CDBG-I project for three years and must be amended by March 1, 2024. This will keep us on schedule.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve Action-Memo 02-13. Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion to approve. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action-Memo 02-14 - Consider Approval of Budget Amendment #6 – To Budget New Revenue for the Airport TRDF Legislative Grant funds for \$3,750,000.00. To transfer to NCCMT. Finance Director Jamie Butler explained this is the new airport grant and has been received in our account. This amendment will allow these monies to be transferred to North Carolina Capital Management Trust. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay advised this is a two part grant.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve Action-Memo 02-14. Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion to approve. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action-Memo 02-15 - Consider Approval of Budget Amendment #7 – To Transfer from Water Sewer Fund to General Fund for Reimbursement of Allowable Administrative Cost. Finance Director Jamie Butler stated these are salary amendments for the 30 Fund (Water/Sewer) and 10 Fund (General). These are half and half items but moving from fund to fund requires board approval.

Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to approve Action-Memo 02-15. Commissioner Danny Keel made the motion to approve. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

The Town Manager's Report was presented as follows:

- A copy of the Town Manager's report is included with the meeting minutes and on the website.

Mayor Jerome Newton thanked Town Manager Jammie Royall for his report and stated it is good to have communication.

The Mayor and Commissioner Reports were presented as follows:

Commissioner Vicky Darden:

- She visited all the apartments yesterday and the worse ones she saw were on McDonald Drive. She had Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill go with her and they have spoken with the Housing Authority.
- She reminded everyone about the Black History Parade on Saturday, February 24, 2024. Line-up starts at 11:00 A.M. and the parade starts at 1:00 P.M. The rain date is Saturday, March 2, 2024.

Commissioner Tommy Brown:

- He said it is great to see this turnout. He advised that three weeks ago he, Mayor Jerome Newton and Commissioner Danny Keel met with Robert Tankard with NC DEQ. He stated we will get past this moratorium.

Commissioner Delreese Simmons:

- He stated he has no comments.

Commissioner Danny Keel:

- He commented he is new to the board and we are doing everything we can. We need to increase tax revenue and the moratorium is a very important issue.
- He wanted to commend Commissioner Tommy Brown for his efforts. He said the main concerns he hears from citizens are issues with trash pick-up and downtown revitalization.
- He appreciates everyone's input.

Commissioner Barbara Kornegay:

- She stated the Downtown Revitalization Project is coming along. We have a one hundred page draft and we need five to six people to serve on the action team.
- She asked that property and business owners to let her know if they are interested.

Mayor Jerome Newton:

- He advised everyone the moratorium has not fallen on deaf ears. He asked everyone to work with us and be patient with us regarding road paving and grant projects.
- He is still working on advisory committees. He commented we have to work together. He commented to the citizens that he was in their place not long ago and understands the frustration. He hopes any research you do is to help. We want Mount Olive to be desirable and we are working on this. We are trying and we know communication is very important. If we don't have the answer, we will find it.
- He said we can and shall be one town, one community and one Mount Olive, together we attack all of that.

Mayor Jerome Newton advised we were getting ready to go into closed sessions and asked the citizens to please step out.

Mayor Jerome Newton then requested a motion to go into closed session PURSUANT TO NCGS SEC. 143-318.11

- (a) 3: To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. General policy matters may not be discussed in a closed session and nothing herein shall be construed to permit a public body to close a meeting that otherwise would be open merely because an attorney employed or retained by the public body is a participant. The public body may consider and give instructions to an attorney concerning the handling or settlement of a claim, judicial action, mediation, arbitration, or administrative procedure. If the public body has approved or considered a settlement, other than a malpractice settlement by or on behalf of a hospital, in closed session, the terms of that settlement shall be reported to the public body and entered into its minutes as soon as possible within a reasonable time after the settlement is concluded.
- (a) 6: To consider the competence, performance and/or fitness of an employee. The closed session shall be held at the board meeting room located at 114 East James Street at the conclusion of the regular meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay made the motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Danny Keel seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

The closed session lasted approximately thirty minutes. Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to come out of closed session. Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion. Mayor Pro-Tempore Barbara Kornegay seconded and the motion passed 5-0

Mayor Jerome Newton then discussed Action-Memo – 02-16 – Any Action the Board Deems Appropriate. No action was taken and Mayor Jerome Newton requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business Commissioner Tommy Brown made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

A Special Called Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 3:00 P.M. in the board meeting room.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 4, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. in the board meeting room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. J. Jerome Newton
Mayor

Sherry Davis
Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk