

Town of Mount Olive
December 13, 2022
Regular Board Meeting
Minutes

Mayor Kenneth Talton called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Those in attendance per roll call of Mayor Kenneth Talton were Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins, Commissioner Delreese Simmons, Commissioner Barbara Kornegay, Commissioner Tommy Brown, Commissioner Vicky Darden, Town Manager Jammie Royall, Town Clerk/Administrative Assistant Sherry Davis and Town Attorney Carroll Turner.

Mayor Kenneth Talton welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Harlie Carmichael delivered our invocation and Commissioner Tommy Brown led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Kenneth Talton read the Conflict of Interest Statement; there were no conflicts.

Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to approve the published agenda. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins made the motion. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to approve the November 8, 2022 regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made the motion. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then moved to the Public Forum. He advised everyone to hold comments to three minutes.

Ms. Ruby James of 610 Fox Creek Court, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462. She wanted to address there being no right-of-way to her property on Morning Drive. She feels the property should be grandfathered in. She presented the Board with a Petition to Access Morning Street, Mount Olive. There were seven signatures on the petition and it stated Morning Street & Clay Street in Mount Olive, NC has been blocked by building being erected without a survey thereby blocking access to landowner's property. Landowner has owned this land for over forty years and is unable to access their property due to this. This requires immediate action so adjustments can be made to satisfy everyone involved as well as keeping everything within the law. She plans to move back here one day.

Mr. James Usher of 613 Oliver Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-920-4725 agreed with Ms. Ruby James. He stated that Town Attorney Carroll Turner said his property was not worth anything and that Jammie Royall was supposed to be the Town Manager by will not speak to him. Town Manager Jammie Royall advised that he spoken with Mr. Usher three times regarding this matter and that it has now been turned over to an attorney.

Mr. Dwight Merritt of 1101 South Center Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 910-990-4516 wanted to present his side regarding the concerns of Ms. James and Mr. Usher. He stated the said building has been there for four years and wondered why nothing has been said until now. His business is a safe haven for young children; He purchased the property on the other side so Mr. James Usher would have a right-of-way. Mr. Merritt feels this is just an attempt to stop growth in the area. He has advised Mr. Usher that he would provide a right-of-way to him and he is not here to fight. He said he is willing to die for what he stands for. His business employees a lot of kids who would otherwise be unemployed. For seven years, nobody has used that road or even knew where it was. He stated this is nothing more than busybodies trying to prove a point. If it is a fight you want, a fight you will get.

Mr. Steve Grady mistakenly signed up for the public forum and does not wish to comment.

Ms. Carrie Kornegay of 216 Brentwood Drive, Dudley, NC 28333, 919-222-1581 wanted to introduce herself as the newly elected president of the Carver High School Alumni and Friends Association, Inc. local chapter.

Mrs. Wendy Ford of 502 North Chestnut Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 651-368-1225 wanted to discuss the amplified noise every weekend that continues to come from R & R Brewing. She commented that Ryan Roberts thinks he is above the law. She stated Commissioner Barbara Kornegay was supposed to follow-up eighteen months ago. She and her husband Bill Ford have had to escape a minimum of twenty times the past few months. She asked the entire Board, who has a neighbor that dictates what they do on the weekend? She read the unlawful noise ordinance Section 14-136. She stated a decibel meter needs to be used not a phone app. Mr. Bill Ford suggested that all music be moved indoors. Mayor Kenneth Talton asked who enforces the noise ordinance. Police Chief Jason Hughes stated the police department.

Ms. Angie Boyette of 611 West Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-344-2986 feels there should be a way to come to a civil agreement together and everyone is happy. It can't be all or nothing and is not fair for those who enjoy going to R&R Brewing. She does not want to lose access and does not want to see R&R Brewing's reputation taken away.

Mr. Fabian Montano, no address was provided; 929-249-2461 stated he moved into town knowing the location of R&R Brewing. He is proud to bring people; it is part of the town's charm.

Mr. Brent Heath of 113 Crest Drive, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-635-0357. He said that he goes to taverns all across the state and has not been to one yet that did not have music.

Mr. Craig Hansen of 106 East College Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-658-9257 commented it has to stop somewhere. There are always going to be noises such as mufflers, fire trucks, church bells and the pickle plant whistle. Where do you draw the line?

Ms. Kelly Thwaite of 1430 NC Highway 55 W, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 856-217-4317 said, she if the Chairperson of the Mount Olive Area Chamber of Commerce Board. She advised that Mr. Ryan Roberts tries being a part of the board and reaches out to the community. She feels the noise ordinance should go away.

Mrs. Rhonda Wiggins of 105 Pineland Avenue, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-223-1076 introduced herself as the wife of Fire Chief Greg Wiggins. She commented that she hopes the fire siren never has to go off again, She prays when the firefighters go to a call that they come home safe. They deserve to be respected and not cussed at. That siren represents a distress signal in which volunteers have to leave their families, meals, jobs and churches. These calls do not last twenty to thirty seconds but thirty minutes to several hours. Their families also make these sacrifices. The siren lasts for twenty to thirty seconds and is necessary because pagers and the volunteers are not infallible. Sometimes they forget to take it off vibrate or may be mowing grass and simply don't hear it. The siren saves lives and property and the fire rating has a direct cost regarding homeowner's insurance. Please take all of this into consideration.

Mrs. Rhonda Wiggins then discussed R&R Brewing. She said it is a source of enjoyment, laughter and community. If you start eliminating sounds, what's next the children's laughter in the park? Sometimes the sound of silence is not what you want to hear.

Dr. Jerome Newton of 605 Connor Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-658-9569. He stated that is a hard act to follow. He discussed the water bills remaining high even when residents are gone for several months or when no one lives there. These bills are approximately one hundred dollars and sometimes they only reflect twenty-one days. He needs to understand why. In addition, he commented on the Transfer of the Carver Cultural Center Property. He requested a meeting but only received a phone call that the survey would cost two thousand dollars per building. Carver High School Alumni and Friends Association is requesting three buildings so that would be a total of six thousand dollars, Why has there not been a meeting to resolve this issue? We were under the impression the total survey would cost approximately seven thousand five hundred dollars. He would like an official letter with this information.

Mayor Kenneth Talton advised the board that many comments were heard. These are not easy discussions and he would like everyone to sit down and talk to one another and resolve their differences. He assured everyone that both sides have been heard. All shared experiences and we can't turn our heads. We have to work with both sides and try to resolve. There is a long history here and all sides need to be a part of the discussion. We will have a meeting at the Train Depot with all parties regarding the property rights, R&R Brewing and the fire siren. We can find a way forward.

Mayor Kenneth Talton thanked everyone for his or her comments and closed the Public Forum.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Non-Action Memo - 12-83 – Awards of Recognition to Ed Cromartie and Grady's BBQ by Commissioner Vicky Darden for their services to the Town of Mount Olive. Commissioner Vicky Darden recognized Steve and Geri Grady for their hard work, dedication to the community and thirty-six years of service. She said they put time and love in what they do. The Grady's thanked her and stated she is a blessing and this is a great honor.

Commissioner Vicky Darden recognized Former Educator, Town and Wayne County Commissioner Ed Cromartie. She thanked him for helping to get the new gym for Southern Wayne High School and his service to the community. Mr. Cromartie wanted to take a moment to thank his wife Hilda who was also an educator for thirty-two years. She pushed him to get things done and he would like to give credit where credit is due.

Mr. Ed Cromartie also wanted to take a moment to address his concern regarding police chases that end in fatalities. He advised the dash cams can get the license plate to track the person down. He feels the chases should stop. He commented this board raised taxes by ten cents when they said they wouldn't.

Mayor Kenneth Talton advised that so many citizens go unrecognized. He stated that Mr. Ed Cromartie is his neighbor and has done so much for this community and he is proud of him. Mayor Kenneth Talton thanked the board for bestowing these honors.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Non-Action Memo - 12-84 – Presentation to Duke Energy Grant Recipients by Commissioner Barbara Kornegay. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay introduced Mr. Derrick Reimer with Duke Energy and thanked him for the twenty five thousand dollar grant for downtown businesses who made changes during COVID so they could continue to serve customers. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins is the Chairman of the Mount Olive Community Development Corporation. He assisted her in presenting the thirteen mini-grants

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Action-Memo - 12-85 – Fire Chief Greg Wiggins – Address Concerns of Volunteers and Citizens. Fire Chief Greg Wiggins started out by saying the fire department is in trouble. We are short on volunteers at this time. Seventy five percent of fire departments are volunteer. He listed the reasons why volunteers are getting harder to find.

- 1) Social Media – some of it is positive which is good but more of it is negative which is bad. He used Facebook as an example. He also surprised that anyone would question the need for the fire siren. He stated the new digital radio system has nothing to do with the pager system. They used a repeater for four years and did not use the siren. The new system forced them to turn off the repeater. He wonders

why no one has mentioned this him. He has not been contacted by any firefighters or civilians. He has talked about this before so either they didn't listen, didn't understand or do not care what the volunteers think.

- 2) Response times - January 1, 2022 thru December 12, 2022 volunteers put in a lot of training to provide service and volunteer for this community. Our average response time is five and one half minutes. We were cussed at on a scene October 16, 2022 at a Franklin Street fire. Fire Chief Greg Wiggins was heading home when the call was toned out at 5:16 P.M. He turned around to go back to the station and was in route to the scene at 5:19 P.M. He arrived on scene at 5:23 P.M. and the fire was under control at 5:36 P.M. They made contact with the family at 5:39 P.M. and contacted the American Red Cross for them. Fire Chief Greg Wiggins wanted to make sure all his firefighters made it home. Unfortunately, for the homeowners all personal items were destroyed. They had to use fire foam on the house. Fire Chief Greg Wiggins went back personally at 9:44 P.M. for a rekindle check, which is standard procedure. A police officer pulled up with him, he called them on his cell phone and he did not have the call toned out. There was a rekindle and he extinguished it and cleared the scene at 10:20 P.M.

They were called to a traffic accident on October 18, 2022 at 3:29 P.M. on were on scene by 3:33 P.M. The police department called the Fire Department for traffic control and fluids. While on scene a citizen commented an explicative it's about time you got here. Took you thirty minutes. They stated it did not look good at the call on Franklin Street when they had three departments there to put out a house fire. Again, this is stand procedure to have mutual aid at a house fire. Just because people are not familiar with the procedures he will stand for his firefighters being disrespected and in the future, he will have the police department to remove them. At 4:41 P.M., the patient was loaded into ambulance with the help of the volunteers. One negative comment wipes out all the positive ones. He reads thank you notes just to keep his sanity. Negative things force volunteers away. We must keep the volunteers.

Fire Chief Greg Wiggins stated if anyone has any concerns, he is available anytime to discuss.

Mayor Kenneth Talton asked if there were any comments. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay apologized for not being able to find funding for a new fire department. She thanked them for their service. Commissioner Tommy Brown thanked them for their service as well. Mayor Kenneth Talton thanked them for what they do and stated you have our support with the siren. Try not to let it discourage you from what you do.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Action- Memo 12-86 – Consider Authorizing Approval to Proceed with Surveys Necessary to Transfer Ownership of Carver Cultural Center to ADLA, Inc., Men of FIC & Carver High School Alumni & Friends.

Town Attorney Carroll Turner recommended the board proceed with the surveys at Carver Cultural Center. He has spoken with Bobby Rex Kornegay's staff and he and Town Manager Jammie Royall will meet with them to look at the map and the site. This process will take several months. Town Attorney Carroll Turner advised there would be five surveys. The cost estimate four months ago was seven thousand five hundred dollars. He expects that cost now to be between ten thousand and twelve thousand dollars. Town Attorney Carroll Turner stated they would have a more definitive amount after their meeting next week.

Town Manager Jammie Royall said he would contact Dr. Jerome Newton to discuss. Wages paid for their survey when the buildings were transferred to them and he expects the same with this transfer. Mayor Kenneth Talton recommended acting as expediently as possible. Town Attorney Carroll Turner informed the board that no motion is needed regarding this item.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Action-Memo 12-87 – Consider Approval of Agreement for Engineering Services from McGill Associates, P.A. Totaling but not limited to \$997,000.00 for the North Carolina Environmental Quality Division of Water Infrastructure Collection System Rehabilitation & Replacement Grant in the Amount of \$8,000,000.00. McGill Engineer David Honeycutt was present to answer any questions. He advised this funding is one hundred percent grant and involves the replacement of twenty six thousand feet of sewer lines. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay wanted to know if McGill would be handling the bidding process for the construction phase. Mr. David Honeycutt responded yes.

Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made a motion to accept the Agreement for Engineering Services from McGill Associates, P.A. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Action-Memo 12-88 – Consider Approval of Agreement for Engineering Services from McGill Associates, P.A. Totaling but not limited to \$735,000.00 for the North Carolina Environmental Quality Division of Water Infrastructure Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Grant in the Amount of \$6,000,000.00. McGill Engineer David Honeycutt advised this funding is also one hundred percent grant. Mayor Kenneth Talton asked if there were any questions. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins made a motion to accept the Agreement for Engineering Services from McGill Associates, P.A. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay seconded and the motion passed 5-0. Mayor Kenneth Talton thanked David Honeycutt for attending tonight's meeting.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Action-Memo 12-89 – Consider Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendments #11 and #12. Finance Director Jamie Butler explained the budget

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #11

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Mount Olive, North Carolina, that the following amendment be made to the Budget Ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023:

Section I. ABC Board

A. Revenue

Wayne County ABC Board	10-3420-0000	\$ 12,400
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B. Expenditure

Maintenance / Repair of Equipment	10-4510-1600	\$ 12,400
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Section II. Explanation

1. Increase General Fund budgeted receipts to include excess funds from Wayne County ABC Board, and increase budgeted Maintenance / Repair of Equipment expenditures for Public Works needed to repair equipment.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #12

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Mount Olive, North Carolina, that the following amendment be made to the Budget Ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023:

Section I. ABC Board

A. Revenue

B. Expenditure

Contingency	10-4200-9500	(\$10,000.00)
Fuel Oil & Kerosene	10-4510-3301	\$ 6169.00
Departmental Supplies	10-4510-3300	\$ 3831.00

Section II. Explanation

1. DECREASE Contingency (Fund 10) by \$10,000 to account for excess budgeted expenditures in Fuel Oil and Kerosene and Departmental Supplies.

Finance Director Jamie Butler advised this is an expenditure fund only.

Mayor Kenneth Talton asked if there were any questions, there being none, he requested a motion to Approve Budget Amendments #11 and #12. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made the motion to approve budget amendments #11 and #12. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Town Manager Jammie Royall Presented Report As Follows:

- He commented, he sees what the Fire and Police Departments do every day and is proud and appreciates them.
- He stated we have received grant funding to use on Water and Sewer.
- He thanked McGill Engineer David Honeycutt for all of his assistance over the years.
- He advised the surveyors should be out next week for the Maple and Nelson Street Drainage Project. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay asked if this was for flood mitigation. He answered yes.
- He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Town Attorney Carroll Turner Presented Report as Follows:

- He stated we are in the process of acquiring the largest parcel at the airport.
- He said he couldn't say enough about the Mount Olive Fire Department. Fire Chief Greg Wiggins will never know what a source of comfort he was to him and his wife last December when there office was one of the buildings in a fire. He really appreciates what they did that day.

The Commissioner's Reports were as Follows:

Commissioner Vicky Darden

- She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
- She is very disturbed by a lot of things going on
- She stated some people have commented that she is stupid but they won't say it to her face.
- She does all she can to help people not tear them down
- She draws strength from her God; he will always be there to pick you up.

Commissioner Tommy Brown

- He requested prayers for his five year old son who broke his femur and is unable to be outside
- He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Barbara Kornegay

- She stated all the land being acquired surrounding the airport is being paid one hundred percent by State Grants.
- She said the Grants Group is searching very hard to find funding. She sent a FEMA link to Fire Chief Greg Wiggins.
- She thanked all the recipients of the Duke Energy Grant for their participation. We are so grateful to have you as merchants.
- She advised the WWTP Spray Fields are done and the filters and pumps are coming along well. We are still having weekly update meetings on the Waste Water Treatment Plant via Zoom and face to face once a month.

Commissioner Delreese Simmons

- He thanked Utilities Director Jeremy King and his crew for coming out on Thanksgiving to repair a water line. He has seen them get cussed at too but he keeps right on going.
- He has been receiving calls from every part of Mount Olive regarding R&R Brewing.
- He stated the dispute between Mr. James Usher and Pastor Dwight Merritt started with a busted storm drain and got to this point because Utilities Director Jeremy King had to go on the property to repair.
- He commented that he is not against the police or fire departments.
- He hopes these situations can be worked out. He has spoken with Mr. James Usher and Pastor Dwight Merritt and has called for them to work this out.
- He has been called a pretty boy and a womanizer. These people didn't know that he has daughters.
- He commented you are crazy if you think District 2 is all he cares about.
- He has been called all kinds of names and called a felon by the Town Attorney. He also made a comment that he had lied.
- He asked Town Attorney Carroll Turner to resign and said he thinks a lot of things Town Attorney Carroll Turner does are not right and he participates in things that are a Conflict of Interest.
- He thinks Pastor Dwight Merritt does a great job and there has to be a balance somewhere.
- He wants to know what permits were filed and who approved them.
- He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Pastor Dwight Merritt responded that he followed every legal procedure and this issue should have been brought up four years ago when he purchased the property. He wonders why now after he has spent millions of dollars and he has agreed to give Mr. James Usher access to his property, so why is this still an issue.

Mayor Kenneth Talton said we have to work with one another. We need to address this issue within thirty days. Right now, we only have bits and pieces of the situation.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins

- He said Christmas is coming with reindeers and the birth of Jesus Christ and we will celebrate his spirit here.
- He announced on December 23, 2022 and December 24, 2022 Gateway will offer free rides.
- He met with D.J. Coles a week ago and had a very nice dinner. They discussed the very real issue regarding homeless people in our community. People have actually been sleeping in our parks. He supports Pastor D.J. Coles and his ministry. He has information if anyone is interested.
- He advised there was another accident at the intersection of Church and James Streets. This is the second one within a month. The NCDOT should perform a study about putting up a four way stop. The house on the corner has small children who play in that front yard. In addition, it seems every time there is an accident that is where one of the vehicles ends up.
- The Eastern Carolina Council has grant resources and is offering a free online grant- writing course for First Responders and Building a Small Town.
- He feels that Commissioner Barbara Kornegay does an excellent job.
- He informed everyone the Ordinance Committee will be meeting on Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Conference Room and again on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Conference Room. Everyone is invited.
- He helped Commissioner Barbara Kornegay to distribute the thirteen Duke Energy mini-grants.
- He discussed the Gratitude Project targeted toward eliminating poverty in Mount Olive. At this time approximately seventy to eighty thousand dollars is unused and we are going to apply for it.
- He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and reminded everyone to remember the reason for the season.
- He commented the tax rate increase was three cents not ten cents.

Mayor Kenneth Talton

- He commented he was happy to have Mount Olive Area Chamber of Commerce President Julie Beck with us tonight. There were one hundred and forty three entries in this year's Christmas Parade. She always does a great job. Julie Beck thanked the town for all the help they provide.
- He thanked Ryan Roberts of R&R Brewing for what he has brought to this community. He understands the need and balance and is willing to sit down with all parties. We can find an answer.

- He urged everyone to think of other people in the community during the holiday season. There is a lot of stress and anxiety and everyone here is mighty blessed.
- He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. in the board meeting room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth K. Talton
Mayor

Sherry Davis
Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk