

Town of Mount Olive
January 10, 2023
Regular Board Meeting
Minutes

Mayor Kenneth Talton called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 and Town Clerk/Administrative Assistant Sherry Davis.

Town Attorney Carroll Turner was absent due to illness.

Mayor Kenneth Talton welcomed everyone to the meeting. Fire Chief Greg Wiggins delivered our invocation and Police Chief Jason Hughes 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 an excused absence for Town Attorney Carroll Turner. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins made the motion. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made the motion. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to approve the December 13, 2022 regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay 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.

Mr. Joe Hatch of 501 West James Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-252-8631. He stated his yard debris has not been picked up in over one month. He discussed his concern regarding University of Mount Olive students going the wrong way on Wooten Street and no Police presence there. Another concern he has is traffic going the wrong way at Burger King and Food Lion. Mayor Kenneth Talton stated someone would call him

Fire Chief Greg Wiggins of 401 North Center Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-658-3843 presented the Fire Department's annual report from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. He advised the volunteer firefighters had 1,651 hours of training and the paid firefighters has 1,759.00 hours for a total of 3,410 hours. They had 389 calls with an average response time of 6.7 minutes with paid staff and 3.4 minutes without paid staff. The complete report is attached to the minutes. Mayor Kenneth Talton asked if there were any fees associated with the false alarm calls. Fire Chief Greg Wiggins stated no, they are actually not false alarms just very sensitive alarms.

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

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Non-Action Memo – 01-01 – Award of Recognition to John Ryan owner of Pizza Village Commissioner Vicky Darden. Unfortunately, Mr. John Ryan has been delayed and will not be here until later. Therefore, we will move on with the next item.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Non-Action Memo - 01-02 – Discussion of Security Cameras Through-out Town by Commissioner Delreese Simmons. Commissioners Delreese Simmons turned this item over to Town Manager Jammie Royall. Town Manager Jammie Royall informed everyone that Wildfire Connections went out of business. He stated the cameras are a priority and Police Chief Jason Hughes has already planned to meet with someone next week. Mayor Kenneth Talton asked how many cameras we have. Town Manager Jammie Royall answered fourteen. Commissioner Delreese Simmons wanted to know the monthly cost of the ones we have. Town Manager Jammie Royall responded he is not sure. Commissioner Delreese Simmons asked how much it would cost to get the current cameras up and running again. He stated his district wants these cameras working no matter how much it costs. We should not have to depend on personal security cameras from residents. Mayor Kenneth Talton agrees the welfare of our citizens is what matters.

Commissioner Tommy Brown advised that Wildfire Connections went out of business in 2018. The person he dealt with at Wildfire Connections went to work for a company called W2D2 but she advised him the name was later changed to Phoenix. In 2019 or 2020, new cameras were installed on Franklin Street and Burger King. A new module had to be placed on the water tower. He stated this was budgeted and Phoenix tried to make contact with the Town. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay suggested inviting a Phoenix Representative to the meeting scheduled for next week.

Commissioner Delreese Simmons asked Police Chief Jason Hughes if he had any comments. Police Chief Jason Hughes advised he did not at this time. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins commented, the Town wants the cameras to work and does not feel that anyone dropped the ball. He thinks it was a combination of COVID, Change in Staff and Fire at Town Hall. We also need more cameras and he is pleased something is being done. The key is perseverance. He thanked everyone for the history and Commissioner Delreese Simmons for requesting this item be on the agenda. Mayor Kenneth Talton stated we must continue to move forward. Commissioner Delreese Simmons asked if funding is in the budget for the cameras. Town Manager Jammie Royall answered no but we can budget amendments. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins said the board could vote to amend.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Action-Memo – 01-03 - Consider Approval of Amendment Regarding Ordinance Article 2, Division 2, Section 2-45 (b) (4) to three minute time limit instead of ten minutes and rules of decorum. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay advised this just clarifies and specifically states what was already in the ordinance. She said it addresses items to be placed on the agenda must be delivered to the Town Clerk the Wednesday prior to the regular board meeting.

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

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Action- Memo 01-04 – Consider Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment #13.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #13

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. Southeastern Wayne Water District

A. Revenue

Other Departmental Revenues	30-3690-0100	\$ 30,000
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B. Expenditure

Departmental Supplies	30-8110-3300	\$ 15,000
Miscellaneous Expense	30-8110-5700	\$ 15,000

Section II. Explanation

1. Increase Water/ Sewer Fund budgeted receipts to include funds from Southeastern Wayne Water District, and increase Departmental Supplies / Miscellaneous Expense expenditures for Water Distribution needed to forecast increased cost of chemical prices and other inflated expenditures for FY 22-23.

Finance Director Jamie Butler stated this is an increase to Fund 30 for \$30,000.00 from Southeastern Wayne Water Districts. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made a motion to approve. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Town Manager Jammie Royall Presented Report As Follows:

- He thanked the Police Departments for the outstanding job they did on the murder case last week.
- He thanked Commissioner Delreese Simmons for his assistance as well.
- He thanked the Water-Sewer Crew for working over the Christmas Holiday in sub-zero temperatures.
- He acknowledged all departments for their hard work.
- Mayor Kenneth Talton asked him about the yard waste pick-up. Town Manager Jammie Royall advised the truck they use for yard waste pick-up is twenty- two years old.

The Commissioner's Reports were as Follows:

Commissioner Barbara Kornegay

- She thanked all departments for their dedication and hard work.
- She said the Grants Group is searching very hard to find funding. She sent a FEMA link to Fire Chief Greg Wiggins.
- She expressed her condolences to Town Manager Jammie Royall regarding the passing of his sister.
- She advised the WWTP Spray Fields Upgrades are coming close to completion within the next few months
- She stated we are working with two other grants to alleviate the Inflow and Infiltration issues
- She is currently working on the Farmer's Market Proposal (through Tobacco Fund). The location will be the corner of Pollock and SW Center Streets. We already have a very extensive design and there is already a sewer connection there.
- We are waiting on the Department of Commerce for the next steps on the Downtown Master Plan. We are planning to hire Retail Strategies to develop our plan.
- She is planning to attend Coffee and Conversation hosted by the Mount Olive Area Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 8:00 A.M. at Southern Grounds.
- The next Ordinance Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Conference Room.

Commissioner Delreese Simmons

- He stated he was tired of excuses from Public Works regarding the yard waste pick-up. He does not understand why they cannot just do it. Town Manager Jammie Royall responded this starts with him.
- Commissioner Delreese Simmons said Public Works Director Mitchell Davis does not come to the meetings. He caught some of his employees at Burger King at 8:00 A.M. in the morning. Commissioner Delreese Simmons stated Public Works Director Mitchell Davis has not brought this to our attention. Things are being hidden from us.
- He advised the murder situation is something that he did not want to be involved in but the suspect's family asked him to get involved. He does not want people to think that he goes around with a badge on his shirt. They reached out to him and asked him to get their

child that committed the murder and carry him in because they were afraid he would be killed. He told them to turn the suspect in and he won't get killed.

- He knows both families and gives recognition to the Police Department.
- He thanks the family for turning the suspect in.
- He stated we have to do something about our Town. He asked Town Manager Jammie Royall if Public Works Director Mitchell Davis came to him about the employees stealing.
- He said then we need to remove the department head.

Commissioner Vicky Darden

- She wished everyone a Happy New Year.
- She feels that we need a change in Mount Olive
- She reminded everyone the fifteenth annual Black History Parade is scheduled for Saturday, February 25, 2023 with a rain date of March 4, 2023. She asked Pastor Dwight Merritt if he would be the Grand Marshall this year.
- She wants to get all the pastors together, black and white.
- She stated we are losing too many of our children. People are consumed with hating each other.
- She said she is ready to fight for this. It is a must and a need in Mount Olive. It makes no sense when nothing is done. There are too many guns coming together.
- God wants this to change.

Commissioner Tommy Brown

- He hopes everyone had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year. He looks forward to serving another year. He stayed home all during Christmas with his son.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins

- He advised Mr. Joe Hatch that he appreciates what he said. He had a similar situation with University of Mount Olive students on Wooten Street. We almost hit head-on.
- He stated he has been receiving phone calls regarding the yard debris as well. We have worn out equipment and are working on alternative solutions.
- He informed everyone the Veterans Memorial Committee reconvened on January 18, 2023 at 2:00 P.M. Commissioner Tommy Brown will also be serving on the committee.
- He attended a Legislative Breakfast on January 23, 2023 in Kinston.
- He commented the Ordinance Committee review went well. They discussed Calypso Sewer Service, Cemeteries, Old Ordinance Books and some way to honor the mass graves in Carver cemetery. They also discussed proper respect and courtesy in the board meetings.
- He stated they would review the Stand Alone Mobile Home Ordinance at the February 7, 2023 meeting.
- He said the Exchange Club Christmas Fundraiser to provide scholarships and prevent child abuse raised \$5,000.00.

Mayor Kenneth Talton

- He appreciates everyone who is here tonight.
- He hopes everyone will come together on January 16, 2023 in honor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Having peace is the best way with so many things going on in the world. We can do so many good things if we just work together.
- He stated two Sundays ago a lady came by his house. Ms. Bowden wanted to talk about trash pick-up over the holidays. They began to talk and went from trash to family to church. Just talking a being together was worth it. We all need to do more of that. With the Lord's help that is a resolution, we can all make happen today.
- He advised the Black History Parade is scheduled for Saturday, February 25, 2023.

Mr. Al Southerland reminded everyone the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration is Sunday, January 15, 2023 at 3:00 P.M. at the Holy Ghost Cathedral Church.

There being no further business Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Barbara Komegay seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. in the board meeting room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth K. Talton
Mayor

Sherry Davis
Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk