

Town of Mount Olive  
March 14, 2023  
Regular Board Meeting  
Minutes

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

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins welcomed everyone to the meeting. Reverend Dr. Dennis Draper delivered our invocation and Commissioner Tommy Brown led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins requested a motion for an excused absence for Mayor Kenneth Talton. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made the motion. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins read the Conflict of Interest Statement; there were no conflicts.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins requested a motion to approve the agenda with an amendment to add Action Memo Item -03-13 Consider Purchase of a New Yard Waste Truck. Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion to accept the agenda as amended. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins requested a motion to approve the February 14, 2023 regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made the motion. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins then moved to the Public Forum. He advised everyone to hold comments to three minutes.

Ms. Tatetia Robinson of 734 South Breazeale Avenue, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-658-3878 wanted to thank the Town of Mount Olive for cutting the ditch near her property. She then stated last night she smelled smoke in her house and thought it was her heating and air conditioning unit. Then she realized it was smoke and fumes from the burning debris behind her house. It was really bad in her house and she was unable to sleep. She stated it was not being monitored and she called the Fire Department. She is here representing her neighbors as well. She advised you could smell the smoke even with masks on. She could not breathe and got up at 5:00 A.M. It was still burning at that time and she took photos for her records. She said the debris itself is an eyesore. She wanted to know who made the decision to do this when it was windy. There are four students nearby that have asthma. Her mom passed away in 2022 and she is so glad she was not there to experience this. She stated they should have been forewarned. She feared for her life. This is problematic because it now interferes with her life, her home and her job. She asked everyone, what if this was your mother, daughter or son. She said this is not a racial or neighborhood related issue but it needs to be fixed.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins thanked her comments and closed the Public Forum.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins advised Non-Action Item 03-08 - NCDOT Informational Presentation Regarding Proposed RCI (Reduced Conflict Intersection) at U.S. 117 & S.R. - 1157 (Smith Chapel Road) would be tabled since NCDOT Representative was unavailable tonight.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins then discussed Action Memos -03-09 – Consider Approval of Code of Conduct Policy & 03-10 - Consider Approval of Non-Discrimination Policy. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay informed the board this is a generalized version as required by the NC Department of Commerce for the Downtown Revitalization Master Plan Grant.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins request a motion to approve both Action Memo -03-09 and 03-10. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made the motion. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins then discussed Action Memos 03-11 - Consider Adoption of a Uniform Civil Penalty Ordinance and 03-12 – Consider Amending Section 20 – 83 of the Code of Ordinances Prohibiting Stopping or Parking of Vehicles on Street Right of Way.

Town Attorney Carroll Turner stated through the ordinance work sessions Civil Penalty Ordinances come up a lot (local laws) the same as state laws. Some are enforced by criminal penalty and some by civil penalty. He advised outside of the courtroom the Code Enforcement Office could site you with a civil penalty. He and Code Enforcement Office Justin Hill presented this at the last ordinance work session. He stated for example that the noise ordinance contained five or six sections that included a civil penalty section. Rather than amend all of those, they decided to set-up a uniform penalty. Everything was within a thirty-day period, which locked in Code Enforcement Office Justin Hill, and he would have to start all over again.

This is a fifteen-day period – if a violation is cleared within that period, no action is taken. If not the General Statutes, state we can impose a fine in addition to the Civil Penalty Violations that persist beyond the fourth offense shall be considered as a separate and distinct offense. This can be considered as a first reading and voted on next month or it can be voted on tonight.

Town Attorney Carroll Turner then discussed the proposed amending of Section 20-83 of the Code of Ordinances Prohibiting Stopping or Parking of Vehicles on Street Right of Way. He stated it adds sections ten and eleven which makes it illegal to park in areas that are not marked. We have eighteen- wheelers that park on the town right of way and blocks the view of other drivers. We had nothing in our Code of Ordinances addressing

this issue. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay stated they have had numerous discussions regarding this. There are so many repeat offenders and we want people safe and for the offenders to take this seriously. Commissioner Delreese Simmons stated the fifteen feet rule would hurt many property owners because the fifteen feet would actually be on their porch and on Silver Street in some back yards. He suggested maybe eight or ten feet instead. Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill commented that on SE Center Street some of the porches are not even seven or eight feet from the road.

Town Attorney Carroll Turner said generally, it is just referring to the shoulder or right of way. Utility poles are always on edge of the right of way. He advised we could change to whatever you want, just come up with a number to define the feet. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay asked if eight feet would be comfortable for everyone. Commissioner Delreese Simmons thinks the board should go out and get an average. This will make Center Street look better. Town Attorney Carroll Turner said we had the same issue with the sidewalk. We can look at this again next month. Commissioner Delreese Simmons agreed but stated we can vote on Action Memo 03-11.

Commissioner Tommy Brown made a motion to table Action Memo 03-12 – Consider Amending Section 20 – 83 of the Code of Ordinances Prohibiting Stopping or Parking of Vehicles on Street Right of Way until the April 11, 2023 Regular Board Meeting. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins requested a motion to approve Action Memo 03-11 - Consider Adoption of a Uniform Civil Penalty Ordinance – Commissioner Tommy Brown commented this ordinance has a little more bite and will be a better deterrent. He feels this is what we need. Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion to approve Action Memo 03-11. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins then discussed Action Memo 03-13 – Consider Approval of the Purchase of a New Debris Collection Truck for the Public Works Department. Town Manager Jammie Royall advised that we have a big problem with our current Debris Truck. It cost us eleven thousand dollars in repairs last year. He stated we could use American Rescue Plan Act funding to purchase. He presented Option 1) Petersen TR-3 Route Assistant 30 Cubic Yard Grapple Route Assistant for \$230,237.54 and Option 2) Petersen TL-3 Lightening Loader 26 Cubic Yard Grapple for \$208,808.44.

Town Manager Jammie Royall stated currently all debris is collected by hand. The grapples can pick up in one sweep. Option 1 also picks up trash carts. He advises originally the production time was eight to ten months but now the company has these two chassis'. Whichever option will choose should be ready by June 2023. With the American Rescue Plan Act funding, we can purchase the truck outright. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay stated we need versatility to pick up loads that change from season to season. Commissioner Delreese Simmons said we do need something that will pick up limbs. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins asked Town Manager Jammie Royall what his recommendation was. Town Manager Jammie Royall responded Option 1 with the route assistant is what we need. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay asked if we needed a third bid. Town Manager Jammie Royall responded, no they have a state contract so a third bid is not required.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins requested a motion to approve using American Rescue Plan Act funds for the purchase of truck option 1 with the 30 cubic yard grapple and route assistant for the cost of \$230,237.54. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made the motion to approve. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Town Manager Jammie Royall Presented Report As Follows:

- He said good evening to everyone. He apologized to Ms. Tatetia Robinson for any stress or inconvenience caused by the burning of the debris. He was just made aware of this around 4:30 P.M. this afternoon. He has been working with Ms. Best to get her somewhere to stay until the smell is removed from her house.
- Ms. Tatetia Robinson asked Town Manager Jammie Royall if he was aware they were going to burn the debris yesterday. He knew Public Works was scheduled to burn the debris but he did not know when. He has many questions to determine what happened. He was advised that the police department was checking on the debris every hour. He stated he would get this taken care of.
- Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins wants to confirm that the police department was checking on the debris every hour on the hour. Town Manager Jammie Royall confirmed. Ms. Tatetia Robinson stated it was still burning and no one was there. Town Manager Jammie Royall assured her someone was there and he will have answers for her tomorrow.
- Ms. Tatetia Robinson said the debris pile is real eyesore and no one consulted them. Town Manager Jammie Royall explained this is one reason we need this truck and why the debris is being taken there. Ms. Tatetia Robinson asked if the new truck would remedy this. Town Manager Jammie Royall responded yes, only hurricane debris will be stored there from now on.

The Commissioner's Reports were as Follows:

Commissioner Vicky Darden

- She thanked everyone for participating in the Black History Parade on Saturday, February 25, 2023. She had a tough decision to make because of the weather but she went ahead with the parade.
- She talked about something very important to her. We have many older citizens who have health problems such as dementia that really have no one to check on him or her. She does what she can but she asked for everyone's help. She stated these citizens do not want to be placed in a nursing home.
- She commented you always wonder whom you can count on when you live by yourself. One woman who is always in the parade was unable to participate this year because she is now living in her car. This is a serious situation.
- She saw the smoke yesterday and thanked everyone for his or her efforts in getting the fire put out.

Commissioner Tommy Brown

- He reminded everyone to come out to the benefit on March 25, 2023. Meal tickets are \$10.00 and raffle tickets are \$20.00. This is for meals, lodging and travelling for the families to attend the National Police Week in Washington, D.C. Wayne County will cover these costs so the families will receive more of the monies raised. He guarantees you will have a good time. Additional information can be found on the Town's website.
- He asked that everyone please pray for the family of David (T-Bone) Tyndall, the Mayor of Calypso who recently passed.
- He updated everyone on his son Brett, who received a clean bill of health at his last doctor's appointment.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins

- He advised that he, Town Manager Jammie Royall and Commissioner Vicky Darden attended a Resiliency Forum on February 28, 2023. The topic was Grant Writing.
- He informed everyone there is a free Grant Writing Class hosted by the Eastern Carolina Council in New Bern on March 20, 2023 and March 21, 2023. They will administer the grant for us.
- He reminded everyone that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. We have a child abuse prevention center that recently opened here in Mount Olive. The Mount Olive Children's Advocacy Center will be hosting an event on April 4, 2023 at 11:00 A.M.
- He stated the Ordinance Review Group is really starting to pay off. We represent citizens and that where it starts.

Commissioner Delreese Simmons

- He wanted to let people know that he has heard from certain people that we are trying to change the ordinances to take over. This is not true
- He stated we want to make things better for the future and protect homeowners. It may be a little steep but is needed.
- He thanked Police Chief Jason Hughes for his hard work and dedication.
- He said Utilities Director Jeremy King repaired a live water leak on Johnson Street because they do not have cut off valves on the majority of the lines.
- He advised the Public Works Director Mitchell Davis and his people do a good job using the Tonka truck we have.
- He thanked all of them and said he appreciates them.

Commissioner Barbara Kornegay

- She informed everyone that Jeremy King's youngest son is undergoing chemotherapy and to please keep them in your prayers.
- She stated she has two grant proposals due on Friday. One to the Department of Justice regarding funding for all new security cameras. The other is to the Federal Emergency Management Agency regarding funding for the Old Carver Gym to be used as an Emergency Shelter. We need our own because during natural disasters we cannot get across the river. It would help replace showers, add near generators and doors and ADLA, Inc. is located right next door and could provide food for displaced families.
- She said progress on the Henrietta Williams Building is moving along and she thanked Men of FIC for their assistance.

Town Attorney Carroll Turner

- He advised the Town of Mount Olive has concluded the Parallel Taxiway Land Acquisition Project with the purchase of 17.42 acres.
- He provided an update regarding the surveys at the Carver Cultural Center. He said the survey stakes are currently being placed. The next step will be preparing the deeds.
- He commented that Ms. Tatetia Robinson did not say a thing that was not accurate regarding the smoke blowing toward their homes.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins then requested a motion to go into closed session **PURSUANT TO NCGS SEC. 143-318.11**

(a) 6: To consider the competence, performance and/or fitness of an employee.

Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

The closed session lasted approximately forty-five minutes. The board discussed proposed new contracts for the Town Attorney, Town Clerk and Town Manager. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins requested a motion to come out of closed session and back into open session. Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins requested a motion to approve the new contracts for the Town Attorney, Town Clerk and Town Manager discussed in closed session. Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

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, April 11, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. in the board meeting room.

---

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Steve Wiggins  
Mayor Pro-Tempore

---

Sherry Davis  
Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk