

Town of Mount Olive
March 8, 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 Vicky Darden, Commissioner Harlie Carmichael, Commissioner Barbara Kornegay, Commissioner Dennis Draper, Town Manager Jammie Royall, Town Clerk/Administrative Assistant Sherry Davis and Town Attorney Carroll Turner.

Mayor Kenneth Talton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Commissioner Dennis Draper delivered our invocation and Mayor Pro-Tempore Harlie Carmichael 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 February 8, 2022 meeting minutes. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made a motion to approve the February 8, 2022 meeting minutes. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to approve the February 18, 2022 special meeting minutes. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins made a motion to approve the February 18, 2022 special meeting minutes. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then moved to the Public Forum. Mr. Hobart Yates of 1202 South Church Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-988-4252. He wanted to inform every one of a Town wide trash pick-up and cookout at Nelson Street Park at 1:00 P.M. afterwards. He advised they are looking at a date in April 2022 but have not yet confirmed. He will provide a date at the next meeting. He stated there has been a couple of recent trash pick-ups but not south of Main Street.

Mr. Hobart Yates then asked the Board of Commissioners, Mayor and Town Manager if it would be feasible or practical to place trashcans throughout town. He also wanted to know if it could be mandated that all business owners must provide them outside of their business.

Mayor Kenneth Talton thanked Mr. Hobart Yates for his efforts. He asked if anyone else wished to speak. Mrs. Lynn Williams of 406 North College Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-658-2535 introduced herself as the Co-Chair of the 150th/Mount Olive History Celebration. She advised we had planned to celebrate in 2020 and we had our March 1, 2020 event but then COVID hit and it shut everything down. They are going to perform the remaining events this year. The kick-off event took place tonight at 6:30 P.M. with the burial of the time capsule. She will send out a complete list of upcoming events press release in the next couple of days. These are the most recent upcoming April 7 History of Mount Olive Masonic Lodge #208*, Michael Saviak III – Steele Memorial Library, April 23 North Carolina Pickle Festival 9 am to 6 pm - sale of 150th anniversary ornaments, and the David John Aaron History Museum will be open, May 14 Wagon Tours of Historic Mount Olive, Saturday. Tours begin at 10 a.m. in the Mount Olive Town Hall parking lot, 114 East James Street. Reservations are required by calling Steele Memorial Library, 919-705-1891, ext. 2. She is very excited and thanked the town.

Mayor Kenneth Talton thanked Lynn Williams for her efforts.

Fire Chief Greg Wiggins gave the monthly Fire Department report. He reminded everyone the ISO rating is scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2022.

Mayor Kenneth Talton closed the Public Forum.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Non-Action Memo – 03-18 – Review of Carver Cultural Center Plan of Action. He turned this over to Town Attorney Carroll Turner. Town Attorney Carroll Turner advised they had a meeting this morning at 10:00 A.M. and one group showed up. Mr. Al Southerland with Men of F.I.C. came. Town Attorney Carroll Turner stated he spoke with Bobby Rex Kornegay regarding the survey because he did the survey for WAGES. Mr. Kornegay will be able to provide us with an estimate of what dividing the parcels will cost. Hopefully the estimates will be available. We discussed who would be responsible for paying the survey cost. Mr. Al Southerland asked who paid for the WAGES survey. Town Attorney Carroll Turner researched and found a memo from former Mayor Joe Scott stating the town would pay for deeding the property and WAGES will pay for all other costs. Town Attorney Carroll Turner advised he would be glad to handle the deeds.

Mayor Kenneth Talton asked who would be responsible for the Infrastructure and Sewer. Town Manager Jammie Royall advised they have their own separate water meters and pay for their own utilities. Mayor Kenneth Talton wanted to know who would be responsible if there was a sewer back up. Town Manager Jammie Royall stated from the road to the meter is the property owner's responsibility; the town covers anything after that.

Town Attorney Carroll Turner said WAGES got the parking lot and were abutted to an adjoining street, so they did not require an easement. There are quite a few issues to discuss here. Ingress and Egress Easements will be required for access. Mayor Kenneth Talton wanted to know the time-

frame for all of this. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay said it is grant season. Town Attorney Carroll Turner stated a resolution of intent to start the process could be adopted at the April meeting. He will handle to resolution and we need the legal names of all entities to confirm they are non-profit.

Mr. Jerome Newton stated he and Mr. Danny King with ADLA, Inc. were not aware of the meeting this morning. He said they need to determine what is going on with the electricity billing and make sure it is distributed properly. Duke Progress Energy is billing them for usage when they are not even in the building. He said please advise of the next meeting and they will definitely be there. Mayor Kenneth Talton assured Mr. Jerome Newton the next meeting would be confirmed.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Action Memo 03-19 – Consider Approval of Plan to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing – CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Grant Administrator David Harris stated this is a requirement as a recipient of Federal Funding. This is not required for the CDBG-I Sewer Grant because there are not housing involved. He discussed quarterly reports and stated this plan provides a process for anyone who has a fair housing complaint and makes the town aware of any help that can be provided. He will send notices to banks, realtors and other places making them aware these forms are always available and town hall. This activity will be continued for the life of the grant, which is three years. The next project is compiling the surveys, once complete he will provide a report. On the last survey, the common theme was people thought Fair Housing was state and federal and we needed more affordable housing. He expects these results to be the same as before. There is always an educational component. The public will be given the opportunity to provide input by May or June of 2022.

Mayor Kenneth Talton asked if there were any other questions or discussions. He then requested a motion to approve the Plan to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made the motion. Commissioner Harlie Carmichael seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Action Memo 03-20 – Consider Approval of Updated Resolution Celebrating the 150th Anniversary. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay read the resolution. Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to approve. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made the motion to approve the updated resolution celebrating the 150th anniversary. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Town Manager Jammie Royall presented his report as follows:

- He apologized to Dr. Jerome Newton regarding the miscommunication with this morning's meeting. He stated he will set a new date for a couple of weeks and will advise him once a date is set.
- He thanked the Board of Commissioners for their grant finding efforts for the Waste Water Treatment Plant, paving and drainage. A lot of progress is being made.
- We are working on submitting an application for a fifteen million grant from ARPA for our Waste Water Treatment Plant in hopes of getting off the moratorium.
- He thanked everyone for standing with us and moving forward.

Mayor Kenneth Talton commented regarding the session last week with Wayne County at the Maxwell Center. Each municipality has the opportunity for fifteen million dollar. There are ninety- six distressed Waste Water Treatment Systems throughout the State of North Carolina. The Council of Governments is based in New Bern, North Carolina. He advised we also met with McGill Associates Engineering Services today regarding the application for the fifteen million dollar through the North Carolina Division of Environmental Quality. If we were awarded this funding, it would go a long way toward helping us with our challenges and taking steps to get off the moratorium.

Town Attorney Carroll Turner presented his report as follows:

- He stated he has seen some success regarding the downtown-dilapidated buildings.
- He advised the Sidewalk Easements have been received and recorded.
- He informed everyone that Mr. Ryan Roberts has been very busy working on the Center Street Theater Building and has made a lot of progress.
- He has been contacted by several people who are interested in purchasing the Dove House but Mr. Dove will not speak with them.
- He sent Mr. Dove a letter advising of the items that need to be taken care of to bring to the house up to code. April 8, 2022 will be the end of the sixty days he has to comply. If he does not comply, he can be charged with a Class I Misdemeanor or we can proceed with demolition.

Mayor Kenneth Talton said he hopes something good will come out of these. He asked if the community had any ideas or alternatives. The last thing we want to do is demolish this historical house. At this point, he is not sure of Mr. Dove's physical or mental state.

Mayor Kenneth Talton advised that Mr. Gerald Bell is pleased with the insurance settlement from the fire at the thrift store in December. He has stated it will be a more attractive building and will be working with Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill.

The Commissioner's Reports were presented as follows:

Commissioner Barbara Kornegay –

- She stated the grant's committee has a list of fifteen Capital Improvement Projects. We are looking at the funding amounts and the deadlines. We will add new ones as they become available. She stated we want grants not loans.
- She advised the Mayor, Town Manager & the Board are meeting with State & Federal Representatives next week. We need a list of what everyone wants at the front.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins

- He stated the Citizen Advisory Boards were established two years ago
- These the Citizen Advisory Boards have presented some legitimate concerns and requests. Some which are ongoing and some that may never be resolved. This is due to State and Federal processes that have to be followed.
- How do you determine what project takes priority. Through the Citizen Advisory Boards, your voice can become action.
- The Citizen Advisory Boards outlines the projects. The Public Works Citizen Advisory Board has a spreadsheet.
- If you are not in the meeting, guess who determines the priority of the projects. Neighborhood participation can make a difference.
- Our Finance Director Geoffrey Merritt has advised our financials are looking good. The town provides Parks and Recreation, Boys & Girls Club and Transportation services. The bus makes twelve to eighteen stops per day. There may be only one person on it one hour and three or more the next. People are taking advantage of this. The Gateway Bus is helping elderly and disabled people to the doctor, the grocery store and helping them stay independent. That is one more year of their life they are not in a nursing home. Nursing homes on average cost \$67,000.00 per year. Ask the families of those individuals whether this service is worth it or not.
- Gateway and Wayne County cover 82.5% of the cost. Our part is only \$763.00 per week.

Commissioner Dennis Draper

- He advised that one and half years ago, he got involved in the Waste Water Treatment Improvements Project. Inflation has driven the price of the original project way over budget.
- This old dilapidated plant has us on a sewer moratorium. We are currently updating the system so it does what it was supposed to do originally.
- We release 500,000 gallons of water per day on the spray fields. This water is clean enough to be classified as drinking water.
- The tree farm has been removed and we are going to replace with hay fields to harvest. We will need to purchase equipment in order to do this. He never knew there was so much involved in the operation of a Waste Water Treatment Plant. There are so many decisions to make as we work together.
- He stated each commissioner is involved with one Citizen Advisory Committee. He serves on the Police Advisory Committee as they work to make this department more effective and community oriented. We want all of you to be involved as well.

Commissioner Vicky Darden

- She thanked everyone who participated in the 15th Annual Black History Parade. It was cold but was a great success.
- She thanked Mount Olive Area Chamber of Commerce President Julie Beck, Human Resources Director Erin Lambert and Town Clerk Sherry Davis for the plaque she received at the Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet and she thanked everyone for coming and showing their support.

Commissioner Harlie Carmichael -

- He stated he would like to present a slide show of the ditch work that has been performed. He asked everyone to please give us time. Instead of complaints, we need everyone's support.
- The ditches being open helps to move water along and the cost were minimal including labor.
- He also asked that people not bother Town employees when they are working.
- Help each other and clean your own area.
- He stated we are working with Carver High School Alumni and Friends, Inc. to make sure they get three buildings.
- The basketball goals at Nelson Street Park look great.
- He hopes the mosquitos will not be as bad this year.
- It takes all of us to make this work.
- Our job is to budget.

The Mayor's Report was presented as follows:

Mayor Kenneth Talton

- He stated storm water is just as important and we need to maintain our ditches, we cannot neglect them.
- He advised our citizens to volunteer to serve on the Citizen Advisory Committees.
- He congratulated Commissioner Vicky Darden for receiving the Mount Olive Area Chamber of Commerce – Spirit of the Chamber Award, Commissioner Barbara Kornegay – Moses King Service Award and Human Resources Director Erin Lambert – Past Chair Award.
- He thanked everyone for all they do. He stated it was nice that Sam Platt was recognized. Everybody makes a difference.

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

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. in the board meeting room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth K. Talton
Mayor

Sherry Davis
Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk