

Town of Mount Olive
May 9, 2023
Regular Board Meeting
Minutes

Mayor Kenneth Talton called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Those in attendance per roll call were Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins, 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 Kenneth Talton welcomed everyone to the meeting. Fire Chief Greg Wiggins delivered our invocation and Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins 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 agenda. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins made the motion to accept the agenda. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to approve the April 11, 2023 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.

Mr. Al Southerland of 513 East Pollock Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-658-8776. He informed everyone MEN of FIC will be hosting a clothes give away on Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the Carver Cultural Center located at 612 South Breazeale Avenue, Mount Olive, NC 28365. All new clothes will be given to children and adults. He advised the Henrietta Williams Center was coming along. They will be selling rib and barbecue plates and accepting donations at the clothing give away.

Mrs. Linda Boykin of 600 East Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-922-9364. She started out by asking isn't the Board elected by the people and doesn't the Board elect the Town Manager, Town Clerk and Town Attorney. She wanted to know why Town Manager Jammie Royall never returns her calls. When she calls from her cell phone, she gets no answer but when she calls from a different number, he answers. She feels she is worthy of him picking up the phone.

Mr. Eric Kimes of 420 Norbert Wilson Road, Mount Olive, NC, 919-432-7112 wanted to advocate for himself to purchase the piece of property on SW Center Street. It has been vacant for so long and he wants to make it into a gym and install basketball goals for the kids. He thinks his offer was fair and thanked the Board for their time.

Mayor Kenneth Talton thanked everyone for his or her comments and closed the public forum.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then moved to Non-Action Memo 05-20 – Presentation by Carrie Kornegay Regarding the Juneteenth Holiday

Ms. Carrie Kornegay of 216 Brentwood Drive, Dudley, NC 28333, 919-222-1581 introduced herself and stated she is the President for the Local Chapter of Carver High School Alumni and Friends Association. On Saturday, June 18, 2023 from 2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M., they will be hosting a Juneteenth Celebration at Westbrook Park, Mount Olive, NC. June 19, 1865 marks the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. She stated this year's theme is Honoring the Past While Building the Future. She extended an invitation to the Board and said she needs volunteers to set up the information booth. She also requested assistance in putting on the event. Last year was a great celebration and there was a large turnout. People were ready to get out of the house. She is striving for diversity at the event and is taking steps to achieve this. She started putting together the event in March 2023. They will provide an enjoyable and family friendly environment with music and food at no charge. On June 8, 2023 at 6:00 P.M., there will be a power point presentation at Steele Memorial Library. On June 11, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. at Holy Ghost Cathedral Church, musical entertainment will be provided. A Carver High School Alumni and Friends, Inc. will also be hosting a Legacy Program at Steele Memorial Library. She requested the Town of Mount Olive consider them in the upcoming budget for next year's event.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then moved to the public hearing on A Proposed Amendment of the 2020 Community Development Block Grant – Infrastructure (CDBG-I) Project. He requested a motion to go into Public Hearing. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins made the motion. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Talton turned the Public Hearing over to Grant Administrator David Harris with Harris & Associates. Mr. Harris advised this is regarding the Sewer Line Rehabilitation Project Program Amendment. The inflow and infiltration costs are included in the grant and everything has already been approved. The state is now requiring specific wording to include "placement of sewer service laterals" instead of sewer replacements. The state will approve the amendment when necessary but it requires this public hearing. There are no other changes.

Mr. Harris asked if there were any questions from the public or the board. There were no questions.

Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to come out of the public hearing and back into regular session. Commissioner Tommy Brown made the motion. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins seconded and the motion was passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then moved to Action Memo 05-21 - Consider Approval of Proposed Amendment of the 2020 Community Development Block Grant – Infrastructure Project. Mr. David Harris stated the bid opening for this project was today but only two bids were received. The first request you must receive at least three. We are going to rebid and only one bid is required at that time. The language required by this amendment is already included in the bids.

Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to Approve the Proposed Amendment of the 2020 Community Development Block Grant-Infrastructure Project. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made the motion. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then moved to Action Memo 05-22 – Consider Cemetery Plot Rates Increase. Town Manager Jammie Royall stated Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill has done the research. Code Enforcement Office Justin Hill informed the board that available plots in the cemetery are shrinking and the maintenance cost continue to rise. Mayor Kenneth Talton asked the current price of cemetery plots. Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill stated they are \$800.00 and \$900.00 in the older parts and \$1,000.00 in the newer parts of both cemeteries. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay asked what the proposed price is. Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill stated \$1,100.00 across the board. He advised mowing bids are coming up soon and he know there is going to be a huge increase.

Town Attorney Carroll Turner wanted to know where the most revenue comes from the cemeteries; from the sale of plots or opening and closing. Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill responded; the sale of plots, we sell many pre-pay plots. Some people pre-pay for the opening and closing too. He said some cemeteries have a different price for the opening and closing of graves for weekdays, weekends and holidays.

Commissioner Vicky Darden informed everyone that Mrs. Francis Cobb was in the audience. She and her husband own the cemetery in Faison and sell their plots for \$600.00. Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill advised that Code Enforcement and Cemetery Administrative Assistant Marilyn George contacted Faison Cemetery. She was advised the plots are \$800.00 and \$1500.00 for a double plot. Commissioner Delreese Simmons asked Mrs. Cobb if their plots are sold for \$600.00 or \$800.00. Mrs. Cobb replied \$600.00 regardless and \$1200.00 for double plots.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins asked Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill what he was asking for. Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill responded either \$1,000.00 or \$1,100.00 across the board for all cemetery plots. Commissioner Vicky Darden commented it is already hard enough for people who have no insurance. Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill stated some towns charge one price for in town residents and another for out of town residents. Town Attorney Carroll Turner advised the cost of everything is going up. When you consider the Town of Mount Olive in perpetuity, \$1,100.00 is a deal. If the grass is not cut and the cemeteries maintained people, get very upset. Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill agreed, he said that get very mad.

Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill informed the board the Town paid \$60,000.00 this year for the grass cutting in both cemeteries. Mayor Kenneth Talton asked how much we pay the opening and closing contractors. Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill responded we pay them \$500.00 per grave and we charge \$1,000.00, it goes toward the upkeep of the cemeteries. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins commented, with the level of care we receive now both cemeteries have never looked better. The current contractor goes above and beyond. This is our town and people deserve the best.

Code Enforcement Office Justin Hill stated the bid requirements specify the contractor must have at least two full crews, be responsible for edging around the sidewalks, tombstones and cleaning. He stated even \$1,000.00 across the board would help. Town Attorney Carroll Turner asked about raising the cost of the opening and closing. Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill answered he will bring that up at a different time.

Commissioner Tommy Brown recommended tabling this until we get the bids for this year to make sure this would be enough. Then we will know exactly how much of an increase we need. Mayor Kenneth Talton asked when the bid process will be completed. Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill advised the bids are due by the end of May.

Commissioner Delreese Simmons asked Mrs. Cobb who cuts the grass at her cemetery. She responded Garris does. Commissioner Delreese Simmons commented that Carver Cemetery has many holes, sunken graves and some are leaning. Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill stated the cemetery committee is working on these issues. The family is responsible for the vault. He said there are some newer graves the diggers will repair and when they have extra dirt, they will fill in the holes and place it under the other graves as well. All the rain and varying weather conditions cause the dirt to settle and the monuments to lean.

Mayor Kenneth Talton asked if we anticipate the cost of opening and closing to go up this year. Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill responded yes. He stated there are other maintenance needs too. He would like to be able to place block and plot number markers in both cemeteries to make it easier for family members to find their love ones. Mayor Kenneth Talton wanted to know if we needed to purchase more land due to the lack of space in both cemeteries. Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill responded yes, especially Carver Cemetery. Town Attorney Carroll Turner commented that the town owns land near the cemetery. Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill said that land is fields and would be expensive to develop.

Commissioner Barbara Kornegay recommend tabling this item and discuss further at the next Ordinance Workshop scheduled for Tuesday, June 6, 2023 from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Conference Room. She stated the public is invited.

Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to table Action Memo 05-22 – Consider Cemetery Plot Rates Increase until the June 13, 2023 Regular Board Meeting. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made the motion. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then moved to Action Memo - 05-23 - Consider Adoption of Local Water Shortage Response Plan Resolution. He turned this over to Utilities Director Jeremy King. He advised the Local Water Shortage Response Plan has to be adopted every five years. It details our plan of action in case of drought or issues with interconnectors. We did this last year with the Local Water Supply Plan. He asked if there were any

questions. Mayor Kenneth Talton asked if we have any partnerships with outside of Wayne County, Utilities Director Jeremy King responded no. We have interconnections with at Northeast Church and Indian Springs Road and by the old Sonoco plant. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay referred to page four and asked if we have ever had to fine anyone. Utilities Director Jeremy King answered no; we are so close to the coast so we do not usually run out of water like Texas who has to purchase the water they use. Mayor Kenneth Talton asked if there were any other questions. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins made a motion to adopt the Local Water Shortage Response Plan Resolution. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then moved to Action Memo - 05-24- Consider confirming the sale of the Property at SW Center Street to Rasoon, LLC. Town Attorney Carroll Turner advised that Eric Kimes is Rasoon, LLC. This is the commercial lot next to the building he currently owns. His bid was \$10,600.00, which is what the property was appraised at. The upset bid process has been completed and there were no opposing bids. Wayne County owns half the lot. Town Attorney Carroll Turner is asking the Board to confirm and approve the sale. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins made a motion to confirm and approve the sale of the Property at SW Center Street. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made the motion. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Town Manager Jammie Royall Presented Report As Follows:

- He said good evening to everyone.
- He addressed Linda Boykin's concern regarding him not taking her calls. He stated that he does not recognize her cell phone number and receives so many robocalls every day. However, when she called him for her work number, he recognized it and answered her call.
- He advised he was out walking around trying to get things ready for the North Carolina Pickle Festival and was not avoiding her calls
- He stated Mrs. Boykin has always helped us and he appreciates that.
- He commented the North Carolina Pickle Festival had a great turnout this year and thanked all the employees for their hard work.
- He informed everyone the new limb truck is ready and will be delivered in the next week or so.
- Mayor Kenneth Talton asked him the status of the street sweeper. Town Manager Jammie Royall responded it is used occasionally but is actually a curb sweeper and used on streets with grates. It is mainly used in the fall.

Mayor Kenneth Talton asked Town Clerk Sherry Davis if she had anything to report. She advised no but welcomed back Mayor Kenneth Talton.

The Commissioner's Reports were as Follows:

Town Attorney Carroll Turner

- He mentioned the mural on the side of his building is now lit up. It was pricey but was paid for by himself; Mount Olive Pickle Company, Southern Bank and a couple of other entities.
- He advised the Carver Cultural Center Surveys are complete and he will record them on Thursday.
- The next step will be recording the deeds. He needs verification of the 501 (c) (3) groups and official names as soon as possible, so we do not hold up the process.

Commissioner Barbara Kornegay

- She advised everyone the Downtown Revitalization Planning grant required us to request streetscape proposals. We will be meeting with Retail Strategies next Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 2:00 P.M. This is a reimbursable grant so we have to pay invoices first and then request reimbursement. She thanked Town Manager Jammie Royall and Town Clerk Sherry Davis for their help.
- She discussed a recent meeting with the Local Government Commission. The Town of Mount Olive is on a watch list for the Department of Treasury because our fund balance is low. We have two to three months of reserve and they requires over a year.

Commissioner Delreese Simmons

- He said the cemeteries ordinances were discussed in a workshop and he thinks the cemeteries look terrible. He feels the prices should be increased and Carver Cemetery needs some lights.
- He discussed the unknown graves at Carver Cemetery and advised Town Attorney Carroll Turner found out who some of the bodies were. Town Attorney Carroll Turner said there were 128 bodies relocated when Hwy 117 was widened.
- He said we need a marker by either the Town or the state. He thanked Town Attorney Carroll Turner for his hard work.
- Town Attorney Carroll Turner stated he and Town Manager Jammie Royall are working on a marker. He has a quote between \$3,000.00 and \$5,000.00 and will submit at the next ordinance workshop.
- He stated he was sure that Town Manager Jammie Royall would start answering Mrs. Linda Boykin's calls.

Commissioner Tommy Brown

- He is glad to hear the North Carolina Pickle Festival went well. There is no doubt with Julie Beck and Lynn Williams organizing it. His hat goes off to everyone involved.
- He was unable to attend due to a wedding in Oak Island.

Commissioner Vicky Darden

- She stated she is starting back her widow's group. They stopped due to COVID. Next month will be their first meeting at First United Methodist Church of Mount Olive but she has to get permission first.
- She would like to have a give- away and serve hot dogs and chips.
- She and Town Manager Jammie Royall rode around and looked at the apartments on County Road and McDonald Drive. They are in horrible condition. They got the addresses and pole numbers. The inspector from the Housing Authority needs to look at these properties.

- She thanked God for everyone who is here tonight.
- Town Manager Jammie Royall stated the apartments on Davis Drive are privately owned.
- She commented the potholes on Center Street need to be repaired.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins

- He agreed with Commissioner Vicky Darden regarding the potholes on Center & Pollock Streets. They are huge.
- He thanked Ms. Carrie Kornegay for her presentation.
- He advised at the Mount Olive Community Development Corporation's recent meeting they were visited by an outside organizations who asked for their input regarding planning to have a series of music events in the fall.
- The Veterans Memorial Committee did raise some monies at the North Carolina Pickle Festival but is still very short of our goal of \$75,000.00.
- He stated the Exchange Club would be selling raffle tickets at their annual Fourth of July event at Westbrook Park. The prizes will include a grill, power saw and shop vac. He thanked Commissioner Tommy Brown, Town Attorney Carroll Turner, Mr. Harlie Carmichael and everyone for their help.

Mayor Kenneth Talton

- He stated he was glad to be back. He was dealing with a health scare for the past three months but is back to 90% now. There was some medication his body did not agree with him and incapacitated him.
- He is thankful to the Lord and everyone for their support.
- He gave a shout out to Julie Beck and Lynn Williams for another successful North Carolina Pickle Festival. He also thanked the Town of Mount Olive staff, and everyone involved.
- He informed everyone Wings Over Wayne will take place Friday, May 19, 2023, Saturday, May 20, 2023 and Sunday, May 21, 2023. This event is free to the public.
- The Arts Council is interested in using a building owned by First Baptist Church as a satellite facility.

Mayor Kenneth Talton thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

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

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. in the board meeting room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth Talton
Mayor

Sherry Davis
Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk