

Town of Mount Olive
September 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. He asked that everyone please remember Former Town Manager and Mayor Ray McDonald's family in their prayers. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins delivered our invocation and Commissioner Delreese Simmons 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. 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 August 9, 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. Mr. Henry Fulghum of 200 Crest Drive, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-223-1284. He wanted to discuss the sidewalk project on South Church and Franklin Streets. Mr. Henry Fulghum stated he was contacted by Town Manager Jammie Royall regarding this project and met him there. A set of blue prints was presented to him and he was advised to pay special attention to page three. Mr. Henry Fulghum said he quoted a price of eighteen thousand dollars to perform the job. The plans included curb and gutters from Nelson Street to Franklin Street Mr. Henry Fulghum said he was told there may be small changes but no inspection. As soon as he started the job and formed up the concrete, he was approached by a citizen and told he need to put rock down. Mr. Henry Fulghum stated he put down five thousand dollars worth of rocks. He was told the rocks needed to be four inches thick. A new set of blueprints were delivered and he realized the plans called for a five inch sidewalk and he had priced a four inch sidewalk. He continued to be approached by this citizen and the job was stopped. Mr. Henry Fulghum advised this citizen several times to contact Town Manager Jammie Royall regarding his opinion. Mr. Henry Fulghum received three checks only. He stated he was never told he had done anything wrong. He had been advised it was just a sidewalk not a museum. He said he was never given the opportunity to correct any issues. Mr. Henry Fulghum commented he has all the text messages with Town Manager Jammie Royall stated he should box around the optic cables and go around the water meters. Mr. Henry Fulghum said that he was told he could increase the price of the quote at anytime.

Mrs. Linda Boykin of 600 East Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-922-9364 comment she was concerned about the utility bill price increase she read about in the paper. She stated a lot of citizens are on a fixed income and have to choose between water, food or medicine. She said the article stated the increase would be added to the bill gradually so no one would notice. She asked the board to be considerate of the current job market and economy. Mayor Kenneth Talton wanted to know what paper published this article. Mrs. Linda Boykin advised the Goldsboro News Argus published the article twice. She said this is why people need to come to meetings. Mayor Kenneth Talton advised there was no motion and it was a non-action informational item only. Mrs. Linda Boykin responded even though there was no motion, it was suggested. Mayor Kenneth Talton advised this was not intentional.

Dr. J. Jerome Newton of 605 Connor Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365, 919-658-9769 stated he thought he was on the agenda but he is not. He was allowed to speak ten minutes instead of three. He stated that he is a member of the Citizens of Action Group which is made up of members who feel disenfranchised, unimportant and lied to. He said he is not here to complain because he realizes this board may be working on transparency and a plan of action. He discussed the two grants recently received: one for Downtown Revitalization and the other for the Maple Street Drainage. He would like to know how the plan will be executed and who the administrator will be. He commented about the Mount Olive Driver's License office being closed and how it would impact our senior citizens who still drive. This office was convenient for them. He asked if the Downtown Revitalization Grant could be used to repair the driver's license office. He stated this is not a black and white thing. He said the south side needs vamping and asked if some of the grant funds could be used for that. He commented about the drains and ditches that have not been cleaned in years. This causes flooding and snakes. He advised that some work has been done. He asked if there was a comprehensive plan with a timeline people can see. He wonders why abandoned houses can't be renovated. He stated there are many homeless people in Mount Olive. They have skills, can't some of these people be used. The roads are all in need of repair. He feels we should pave the ones that have needed the repairs the longest. He wanted to know if some of the old police cars located at the recyclable center could be repaired and auctioned off. He asked why the water bills are the same amount when some people have been away for a month. He talked about the town limits, on one side of Elmore Street people can't vote for Mount Olive officials, neither can area near Freeman Motors. However, people at Vista Verde and North Point Apartments can. This needs to be revisited. He stated the Town Board meetings appear to be a briefing because the decisions seem to already be made and citizens don't get a chance to vote. He said that senior citizens would like to attend the board meetings but they don't drive at night.

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

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Non-Action Memo – 09-64 – Pastor D.J. Coles – Presentation of The Portal and The 4 Day Movement. Pastor D.J. Coles stated he is the founder and CEO of the Portal and the 4 Day Movement. Both organizations are transparent and divine. The 4 Day Movement – Non-Profit in Wayne County formed nine years ago. He stated on June 4, 2013 he was awakened and took divine instruction using Matthew 25: 35-40. You will see things you didn't even know existed. Take care of those who need it. Their day mission and 4 day pillars can be found on their website: www.4daymovement.com In 2017 they acquired the Johnson Legacy House. In July of 2017 they acquired the Newly Legacy House where sixteen year old boys who are emancipated or displaced can stay. In March of 2019 they acquired the Taylor Newly Legacy House for single mothers and abused women and children. One of these women is from Mount Olive.

Pastor D.J. Coles stated they have a Thanksgiving Initiative from Mount Olive to Fremont. They have a Giving Tree Initiative during Christmas. He is the Pastor of Cornerstone Church and has served as a civilian Chaplain and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base for over twenty two years. He worked with the ADLA, Inc. food pantry as part of the COVID response here in Mount Olive. He advised when they can an assignment there is movement in four days and not by his hand. They distribute water bottles that have a contact number for people in need. Their organization has helped a mom and three kids who were sleeping in the back of a rental truck. Sometimes the homeless seem invisible but there are nine thousand two hundred and eighty in North Carolina. There are eight hundred and nine families and one thousand seventy two individuals in Wayne County, North Carolina. He said we would not believe the amount of homeless children in Mount Olive, North Carolina. There are two hundred plus in Wayne County but he believes the number has risen since COVID. Sheltering and feeding people has become more difficult. At one time they were spending thirteen to fifteen thousand dollars in hotel rooms.

Pastor D.J. Coles stated they have found the answer that will benefit many in Wayne County, North Carolina. The Portal – is a place of restoration, accountability and love located at 1019 Royall Avenue, Goldsboro, North Carolina. The Portal will be used to set people on a path of sustainable housing and navigate them away from homelessness. It is a sixty bed unit in which several beds could be placed. It has three wings which can all be locked down. One is for single women, one for veterans and one for addiction. It is the former Alzheimer's Unit. The purchase price is one point twenty five million dollars but it still has furniture, chairs, full kitchen, parking and washers and dryers. They had a major donor meeting in May and July of 2022. Has a good faith effort his organization has to raise fifty thousand dollars by October 2022 and then an additional four hundred thousand. The donors will finance the rest which includes twenty three to twenty seven employees and security. The annual cost to run the facility will be one hundred and seventy five million dollars. An investment like this will help contain our homeless. He has looked at other models but this one is so unique. The best way to overcome homelessness is to forge deep relationships.

Some of the Board of Commissioners have toured the facility. There are many ways to donate and each case is different. You can say a prayer, donate your time, refer a friend or sponsor a portal resident. He knows first- hand how important such facilities are. His family stayed at a Ronald McDonald House when his daughter was really sick. This helped to keep them alive. Mayor Kenneth Talton commented he knows Pastor D.J. Coles personally and he is the real deal. This will happen as God is here. Mayor Kenneth Talton thanked him for what he is doing.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Non-Action Memo - 09-65 - Discussion Regarding Update of Ordinance Article 2, Division 2, Section 2-45 (b) (4) to three minute time limit instead of ten minutes. Town Attorney Carroll Turner stated this ordinance is pertaining to public hearings only and the three minute rule stands for the public forum comment time. Mayor Talton advised we will save this item for another month.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Action Memo –09-68 – Consider Approval of Resolution Authorizing McGill Associates Authorizing Their Proposal for Preparation of the Storm Water Master Plan Funding Application. Town Manager Jammie Royall advised this is the second part of the fifteen million dollar grant going to drainage instead of Inflow and Infiltration to see what would benefit the most. Mayor Kenneth Talton asked if the was part of the nine hundred and seventy five thousand dollar grant. Town Manager Jammie Royall responded no this is part of the eight million dollar storm water grant. David Honeycutt will be here soon to discuss this. Mayor Kenneth Talton wanted to know if this grant application is for the whole town to see if we qualify. Town Manager Jammie Royall answered yes. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made the motion to approve. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Action Memo – 09-69 - Consider Approval of Appeal of Building Inspector's Order for Property Located at 110 East Williamson Street allowing owner Prince Noah Dugba only sixty days to demolish the building. Town Attorney Carroll Turner asked if Mr. Dugba was in attendance tonight. Mr. Dugba was not here. Town Attorney Carroll Turner advised the house is in horrendous condition. This same action was brought up last year. Mr. Dugba never did any repairs. The tenant was relocated and Mr. Dugba has stated he has no intentions of repairing but he is getting estimates to tear down. Town Attorney Carroll Turner has assisted Mr. Dugba in getting estimates and he has been given reasonable time. Town Attorney Carroll Turner advised the board can affirm Code Enforcement Office Justin Hill's order, give Mr. Dugba extra time or take no action at all.

Mayor Kenneth Talton asked Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill what he recommends. Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill stated if Mr. Dugba needs thirty more day to tear it down, he has no problem with that. Mayor Kenneth Talton wanted to know if the building is an imminent threat to the public. Code Enforcement Office Justin Hill responded the property has been condemned and the power has been turned off. Mayor Kenneth Talton asked if there was any traffic or squatter through there. Code Enforcement Office Justin Hill stated no. Town Attorney Carroll Turner said it would be more than thirty days before we can demolish. Mayor Kenneth Talton advised the order states thirty days but we can consider sixty days. Town Attorney Carroll Turner said there is more than thirty days left on the order. Mayor Kenneth Talton suggested giving him the remaining thirty days. Town Attorney Carroll Turner said that Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill has received estimates much less that the ones Mr. Dugba has brought.

Code Enforcement Officer advised he received an estimate for ten thousand two hundred and fifty dollar. The house is two thousand square feet and Mr. Dugba wants to retain the land. Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to approve staying with Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill's order. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins made the motion. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then discussed Action Memo -09-70 - Consider Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendment # 5. Finance Director Geoffrey Merritt advised this is an adjustment to the Water-Sewer Fund. The American Rescue Plan funds will be applied to the 2023 fiscal year. He asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay asked if this included the second round of American Rescue Plan funds plus the other. Finance Director Geoffrey Merritt answered yes. Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment # 5. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins made the motion. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #5

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. Water & Sewer Fund ARP Funds

A. Revenue

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| Transfer In – ARP Special Revenue Fund | 30-3440-0100 | \$ 924,600.00 |
| Sale of Surplus | 30-3810-0000 | \$ 30,000.00 |

B. Expenditure

| | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| Capital Outlay - Equipment | 30-8210-7600 | \$ 232,000.00 |
| Capital Outlay Water & Sewer Improvements | 30-8310-8400 | \$ 722,600.00 |

Section II. Explanation

1. This amendment increases Water & Sewer Fund ARP revenue available for the current fiscal year in the amount of \$924,588.73. Expenditures are increased for the purchase of a new Vac Truck for \$232,000. The Town's old vac trailer was traded for \$30,000 as a part of the sale. Therefore, revenue for the \$30,000 sale of the old vac trailer is included as revenue. The remaining expenditures are budgeted for ARP Water & Sewer Capital Outlay.

Town Manager Jammie Royall Presented Report As Follows:

- He stated we are almost in the new building, we just need a few more things mainly related to the internet. It has been over a year now.
- He advised Henry Fulghum he would be in contact with him tomorrow.
- He told Ernestine Oates, he was very sorry for the loss of her son.
- He said we are now waiting on connector switch for the internet before we can move back to our original offices. He stated he would use in house staff to finish up.

Mayor Kenneth Talton commented regarding the fourteen million dollar grant for Inflow and Infiltration. Six million of that would be in loans which we are trying to get transferred back over to grants because we don't want the extra debt. He said it was good to have Commissioner Vicky Darden back.

Town Attorney Carroll Turner Presented Report as Follows:

- He stated he has some good news but is unable to discuss at this time.

The Commissioner's Reports were as Follows:

Commissioner Vicky Darden

- She advised her son is doing better but is still having some chest pain. He had five bypasses. His dad and granddad had heart issues.
- She thanks God for all the prayers and donations that helped with the fifteen bottles of medicine he is on.
- She sends prayers to each and every one who knew and loved I. Ray McDonald, Sr., he was a good man and she would like to recognize him for all his good deeds. He is the reason the Black History Parade happens now. He will be missed.

Commissioner Tommy Brown

- He also asked everyone to keep I. Ray McDonald Sr's. family in their prayers. They will need our support. He feels very fortunate to have worked with him.
- He advised the Crime Stoppers raised twelve thousand dollars for Sergeant Matthew Fishman's widow and the Torres and Cox families.
- He has spoken with Mr. Franklin Lane and Pastor Jeff Dail may bring this event to the Mount Olive First Pentecostal Holiness Church in Mount Olive next year. The Grantham Grange is also helping.

Commissioner Barbara Kornegay

- She stated she had a special place in her heart for I. Ray McDonald, Sr. and he will be missed.
- The mobile home parks committee has been formed and they visited all of them in our town, two in Northern Wayne County and eight in Goldsboro.
- She advised that not all mobile homes are located in mobile home parks here in Mount Olive. The committee has met with two of the four owners and has a meeting planned with the mobile home parks tenants.
- She said the Grants Search Group will resume meeting in October once we have caught up on paperwork.
- She commented the Waste Water Treatment Improvements Update group meets via Zoom every Friday morning.
- She informed everyone the second annual Pickles, Pigs and Swigs is scheduled for Saturday, October 9, 2022 from 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Commissioner Delreese Simmons

- He has listened to Mr. Henry Fulghum and believes everything he said. There will be more conversation because this is not what he or the Board of Commissioners were told. He advised Mr. Henry Fulghum he would like to meet with him
- He commended Public Works for the great job they did on Connor and Maple Streets. Mr. Sammie Faison said thank you, thank you, thank you he can finally see the sidewalk
- He commented that Utilities Director Jeremy King is doing a good. Everybody is doing something positive. He thanked Code Enforcement Officer Justin Hill for all his hard work. He has to work the North and South side of town.
- He asked the Board of Commissioners what they wanted to do about the people constantly violating our code of ordinance.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins

- He thanked Mr. Henry Fulghum for coming tonight.
- He advised Dr. J Jerome Newton made some good points in his presentation and he would like a copy if possible.
- He said sometimes the right things just click. Commissioner Vicky Darden was the first to bring the plight of homeless in Mount Olive to the attention of the Board of Commissioners. They worked together to help a citizen and that's how he met Pastor D.J. Coles. He really appreciated Pastor D.J. Coles coming to the meeting and giving his presentation. He had no idea there were so many homeless people in Mount Olive.
- He stated we need to make efforts to help them. Some are victims of circumstance, some their own habits but everyone needs to search their hearts.
- He advised the Old Robinson's Service station is a work in progress but cars have been removed from the front.
- He said the Thrift Store located on Breazeale Avenue will have to have the property rezoned or they will have to cease and desist.
- He commented Real Deal Tires located across from the Thrift Store is licensed and has a bond of fifty thousand dollars.
- He stated if there is anything else Commissioner Vicky Darden needs help with he is here.
- He is glad the tree at Maple Street has been removed.
- He has been very busy in meetings and interviews for a new Finance Director.
- He serves on the Eastern Carolina Council and they just found a replacement for their Executive Director.
- He also serves on the Gateway Board and is the President of Mount Olive Community Development Corporation
- He said he has been working on a plan to update the Public Works Equipment. He has placed a list on the table if anyone would like to review.

Mayor Kenneth Talton

- He asked that everyone keep the family of I. Ray McDonald, Sr. in their prayers.

Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to go into closed session to discuss the following:

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NCGS SEC. 143-318.11 (*Motion/Second-Roll Call)

(a) 6: To consider the competence, performance and/or fitness of an employee. The closed session shall be held at the board meeting room located at 114 East James Street at the conclusion of the regular meeting.

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

The closed session lasted approximately forty-five minutes.

Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to go back into open session. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins made the Motion. Commissioner Vicky Darden seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

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

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. in the board meeting room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth K. Talton
Mayor

Sherry Davis
Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk