

Town of Mount Olive  
May 23, 2023  
Special Board Meeting  
Minutes

Mayor Kenneth Talton called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.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. Reverend Dennis Draper delivered our invocation and Commissioner Tommy Brown 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 May 9, 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 Non-Action Memo 05-25 - Present the Proposed 2023-2024 Budget. Town Manager Jammie Royall advised the proposed budget was balanced by raising taxes by seven cents, keeping in the 2.5% employee raises and approximating the health insurance increase. The Town Manager's Budget Message and the Budget Ordinance would be ready tomorrow morning. Mayor Kenneth Talton stated last year there was a tax increase of three cents. He asked if the seven cents increase would make our tax rate seventy one cents or seventy four cents.

Town Attorney Carroll Turner said he has researched this and our current rate is sixty seven cents. He pulled the tax records on his house to determine what the increase would be for him. He advised it would be \$93.00 per year. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay commented the new tax rate would be seventy four cents. Finance Director Jamie Butler confirmed the new rate would be seventy four cents per \$100.00 value.

Commissioner Barbara Kornegay wanted to know if the sales tax local option is decided by the county and retirement increases are mandated by the state. Town Manager Jammie Royall responded he believes that is correct. Town Attorney Carroll Turner stated if we do not increase the ad valorem taxes the only other way to increase revenues is to implement a fee. He said an example would be a water bill service fee for three dollars. This fee can be placed in the ten fund. Finance Director Jamie Butler commented normally anything collected under water/sewer stays in that fund and can not be mixed but trash pick-up is a ten fund.

Commissioner Vicky Darden asked about Goldsboro's rate. Commissioner Delreese Simmons said they are going up eight cents this year. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay stated that would make us even with Goldsboro. Mayor Kenneth Talton wanted to know when the next tax evaluation is scheduled. Finance Director Jamie Butler responded next year.

Commissioner Barbara Kornegay commented the surveillance cameras were included but what about sidewalks and street signs. Town Manager Jammie Royall advised we are going to purchase our own machine and make the signs ourselves. Commissioner Vicky Darden said she does not see the Unity Parade funding in this budget. She stated she was told to contact Julie Beck regarding insurance. She informed the board she pays her own insurance. Finance Director Jamie Butler responded she was not given anything to add. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay said she would make a personal contribution after they speak with Julie Beck.

Mayor Kenneth Talton asked if the raises are two and one half percent. Finance Director Jamie Butler commented two, two and one half and one percent raises were discussed at the workshops. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay stated everything else if going up including health insurance. Finance Director Jamie Butler advised you have to receive three quotes for the health insurance. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay stated we need the actual health care numbers to decide. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay asked if we are required to pay one hundred percent of employee insurance. Finance Director Jamie Butler responded yes we do since we have over fifty employees. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay said some employees are eligible for medicare. Finance Director Jamie Butler commented we were cautioned that the younger employees make up our group and looks more favorable on us. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay said, so we don't want to lose all of our younger employees. Finance Director Jamie Butler stated she and Town Manager Jammie Royall are working on standardizing.

Mayor Kenneth Talton commented it is noteworthy to discuss the water/sewer rates. Town Manager Jammie Royall said yes to keep our system up and running. We increased our rates by four dollars last year and one dollar for the next three years. Mayor Kenneth Talton asked about the cost to taxpayers and do this rates have to be established before the budget is approved. Finance Director Jamie Butler answered no they can be raised at anytime. Town Manager Jammie Royall stated it is something that has to be done. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay reminded the board the NC Rural Water Association gave us a proposal last year and they deduct points. This is separate conversation from the budget. Mayor Kenneth Talton understands we are asking our tax payers for and increase all around and that is a lot. Commissioner Vicky Darden wanted to know when the Waste Water Treatment Plant will be fixed so we can add more businesses. Town Manager Jammie Royall responded we don't know.

Mayor Kenneth Talton confirmed the employee raise last year was a five percent across the board. Finance Director Jamie Butler responded from what she's seen. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay asked if the cemetery fees were included. Finance Director Jamie Butler advised the revenues increased not the fees. We would have more revenue if we increase the price of the cemetery plots. Town Manager Jammie Royall thanked Finance Director Jamie Butler and Town Clerk Sherry Davis for their hard work.

Finance Director Jamie Butler asked if there were any other questions. She stated she did not make any large changes, she just had to move or increase certain line items. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay asked if the Police Department was separate. Town Manager Jammie Royall responded the Police Chief and Assistant Police Chief would receive a two and one half percent pay increase. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay advised the police department now has nineteen officers and one civilian.

Commissioner Tommy Brown wanted to verify all employees are receiving two and one half percent raise and that some are not receiving more. Finance Director Jamie Butler confirmed the proposed two and one half percent raise was for everyone. Commissioner Tommy Brown asked if any employees would be receiving more than a two and one half percent increase. Town Manager Jammie Royall responded no increases were in last year's budget. Finance Director Jamie Butler stated all proposed employee increases are two and one half percent across the board. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay asked if they needed to vote on this budget now. Town Clerk Sherry Davis responded no vote is needed today. This is just the presentation of the proposed balanced budget. The board can consider adopting the budget at the regular board meeting on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 or holding a special board meeting before June 30, 2023. She asked Town Attorney Carroll Turner if he had any comments. Town Attorney Carroll Turner advised the board any changes can be made prior to the June 13, 2023 meeting. After the public hearing, they can make any changes right up until the approval. The board can have as many workshops as they want between now and the public hearing but it has to balance. He commented we are still waiting on health insurance and cemetery bids. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay asked if the budget workshops have to be published. Town Clerk Sherry Davis answered yes and there must be at least a forty-eight hour notice.

Mayor Kenneth Talton asked if there were any other questions or comments. He has some concerns about raising the property tax rate all at once. He favors a more incremental approach. The citizens are already encountering a county tax increase. He would like to do more research on the town tax and service rates both for our citizens and employees. He said speaking on behalf of our citizens, are there any other ways to decrease our spending.

Mayor Kenneth Talton wanted to know if there were any other comment. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay stated we need to pick a date for another Budget Workshop. Commissioner Delreese Simmons said Friday's are not good for him. Mayor Kenneth Talton stated Monday's are not good for him and he would prefer 6:00 P.M. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay suggested Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Conference Room. Commissioner Delreese Simmons feels we should go ahead with the tax increase. Some of our employees are working two and three jobs to make ends meet. People who can't afford the tax increase can apply for relief at Wayne County. A home valued at fifty thousand dollars would only see an increase of thirty dollars per year. Finance Director Jamie Butler advised social services has many helpful programs available.

Commissioner Vicky Darden stated when citizens go to these places for assistance, they have to wait a certain amount of time before they can request additional assistance. Also, some of them request assistance from the First United Methodist Church Peanut Crew and Area Churches in Action. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay advised Finance Director Jamie Butler was talking about federal programs. Finance Director Jamie Butler confirmed federal programs are different and receiving other charitable donations will not affect their eligibility. Commissioner Vicky Darden stated some people say when they request funding they are told they don't have any. Finance Director Jamie Butler said all federal programs are allocated a certain amount. Town Manager Jammie Royall responded citizens can request a property exemption every year. Utilities Director Jeremy King they used to have sixty regulars on the cut-off list but they found out how long the assistance process is and now they only have about two on the list. Finance Director Jamie Butler commented they had to reduce the proposed revenues for cut-offs because people are paying on time.

Commissioner Vicky Darden asked how do the citizens know where to go to get help. Finance Director Jamie Butler said our staff informs them. Social Services pays the town directly so we are in constant contact with them. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay wanted to know how many citizens were receiving this assistance. Utilities Director Jeremy King answered around forty. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay wanted to know if the information is printed on a flyer or the utility bills. Finance Director Jamie Butler said they are provided with a phone number and the process usually takes up to three weeks. However, the funding agency sends a pledge. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay suggested having a representative from the social services office attend a future board meeting with a presentation of their requirements. Everyone was in agreement with this.

Mayor Kenneth Talton wonders how this will affect the market value of properties. Finance Director Jamie Butler spoke with Wayne County Tax Administrator Alan Lumpkin and he said it is currently a stable market. Mayor Kenneth Talton asked Finance Director Jamie Butler if she would reach out to Mr. Lumpkin to determine the amount. Town Attorney Carroll Turner commented there was a period of time the town went without a tax increase for several years. He asked if Walmart is contributing sixty to eighty thousand dollars in income to the town. The entire burden is on people who own real property. One hundred sixty five thousand and nine hundred dollars is the additional revenue needed. He stated there are four thousand five hundred utility customers. One option is to increase the surcharge by one dollar per month and it will raise revenues by fifty four thousand dollars and effects everyone. This additional revenues could fund what we pay for garbage and collection which could be moved to something else. We could also adjust the proposed seven cents property tax increase and project the income.

Commissioner Barbara Kornegay asked if the proposed one- dollar monthly surcharge an annual increase per user. Finance Director Jamie Butler responded it is twelve dollars per year per household. Finance Director Jamie Butler asked if there were any other questions.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then moved to Action Memo - 05-26 – Consider Approval of May 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins had a minor change on page four – the correction should read: - He advised at the Mount Olive Community Development Corporation’s recent meeting an outside organization presented their proposal to host a series of music events in the fall. Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to approve the May 9, 2023 meeting minutes with the correction. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins made the motion. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then moved to Action Memo - 05-27 - Consider Approval of Budget Ordinance Amendments 16, 17 & 18. Finance Officer Jamie Butler stated these amendments are for this year’s budget.

### **Budget Ordinance Amendment # 16**

#### Section t. Additional Revenue in Fund 10

##### A. Revenue

Recreation Fees (Revenue)	10-3650-0000	\$18,706.00
Cemetery Fees (Revenue)	10-3970-1900	\$ 19,000
Business Registration Fee (Revenue)	10-3250-0000	\$1,920
Ad Valorem Taxes (Current Year)	10-3010-2100	\$31,888
Penalties and Interest (Prior Years)	10-3170-0000	\$5,232
ABC Revenue	10-3470-0000	<u>\$17,110</u>
		\$93,856

##### B. Expenditure

Contingency	10-4200-9500	\$ 10,000
Retirement — PD	10-5100-0700	\$ 40,000
Retirement FD	10-5300-0700	\$ 12,000
Recreation — Contract Labor	10-6200-4500	<u>\$ 16,756</u>
		\$93,856

#### Section 11. Explanation

Capture additional revenue received during FY 22-23 budget and apply to expenditures

### **Budget Ordinance Amendment # 17**

#### Section 1. Transfer between departments— Fund 10

##### A. Revenue

##### B. Expenditure

Salaries and Wages	10-4530-0200	\$ (50,000)
Maintenance and Repair	10-4510-1600	\$ 50,000

#### Section 11. Explanation

Transfer between departments (4530- Trash) and (4510 — Public Works) to forecast additional costs through end of FY 2022-2023.

### **Budget Ordinance Amendment # 18**

#### Section 1. Transfer between departments — Fund 30

A. Revenue

B. Expenditure

Contingency	30-8200-8900	\$ (100,000)
Farm Contract Labor	30-8200-6200	\$ 60,000
Contracted Services	30-8200-4500	\$ 40,000

Section II. Explanation

Transfer from Contingency (WWTP) in order to forecast additional costs for farm and contract labor expenses.

Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to approve Budget Ordinance Amendments #16, 17, 18. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay made the motion. Commissioner Tommy Brown seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Kenneth Talton then moved to Action Memo - 05-28 – Schedule Public Hearing to For Budget Approval at June 13, 2023 Regular Board Meeting. Mayor Kenneth Talton commented we must use due diligence as we are required by state law to approve a balanced budget.

Mayor Kenneth Talton requested a motion to approve scheduling the Public Hearing for the 2023-2024 Budget at the June 13, 2023 Regular Board Meeting. Mayor Pro-Tempore Steve Wiggins made the motion. Commissioner Barbara Kornegay seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Vicky Darden stated she would like to discuss Carrie Kornegay's request for the Juneteenth Holiday Events at the June 1, 2023 Ordinance Workshop.

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 Tommy Brown 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