

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF STEDMAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 2, 2023-----7PM
REGULAR MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Martin L. Jones, Commissioner Billy Horne, Commissioner Paul Pirro, Commissioner Louis Wood

STAFF PRESENT

Town Clerk Connie Veeder, Admin. Asst. Whitney Barlow, Attorney Donald Hudson

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Jones led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mayor Jones called for adoption of the agenda. Motion was made by Commissioner Pirro to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Wood seconded the motion and the motion to adopt the agenda was passed unanimously by the board.

CONSENT AGENDA

February 2, 2023 – Regular Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Horne made a motion to accept the minutes as written which was seconded by Commissioner Wood and was passed unanimously by the board.

PRESENTATIONS –

- a) Boy Scout Troop 701 was in attendance at our meeting earning their Citizenship and Community badges. Troop Leader Maggie McKenzie shared that the group has 19 youth ages 10-17 in attendance. Troop 701 also has a Boy Scout Pack with 22 youth ages 5-10 who attend as well.
- b) Mayor Jones presented and explained the National Day of Prayer Proclamation to everyone in attendance. The National Day of Prayer will be observed on Thursday, May 4th. In observance of the National Day of Prayer, Stedman will have “Prayer in the Park” at Ernest Freeman Park, 12 noon until 12:45 pm on Thursday, May 4, 2023.

PUBLIC FORUM – The following individuals signed up to speak to the board of commissioners: 1.) Casey Hughes spoke to the board concerning speeding vehicles traveling through the Blawell Street neighborhood. He voiced his concerns about his children and others in the neighborhood. Mr. Hughes pleaded with the board to help with speed bump installation for the street. The board shared their concern but the town is not able to address this issue and place speed bumps on the road due to the fact that the section of Blawell Street and Blawell Circle are not in the town limits. The streets are owned by the developers who have since passed away or left the area. The town had purchased the speed bumps to install but were told they could not due to this fact. The board offered Mr. Hughes ways of seeking help with this issue by starting petitions, contacting the NC Department of Transportation. 2.) Jennifer Paul from Concord Baptist Church presented a proposal to build a Blessing Box food pantry as a mission to help our community with food insecurities. The Blessing Box will be

placed in Ernest Freeman Park and can be accessed during park hours. The church will stock the pantry with the hopes of the community joining in and helping if they feel led. Mrs. Paul asked the board for permission to move forward with this church mission.

OLD BUSINESS –

- a) For an update on the park installation of the restrooms, Commissioner Wood presented an upgraded drawing of potential placement of the restrooms. The board offered another idea of placing the restrooms away from the shelter. Mayor Jones said he would talk with everyone involved and present a potential plan of building a separate structure away from the shelters to house the restrooms.
- b) For an update on the upgrade of the agreement with Spectrum, Mrs. Veeder talked with the town's account manager at Spectrum and was able to get the quote for the upgrade of internet services and phone system at a lower monthly cost than was quoted. The upgrades will take place at the end of the month.
- c) Update on Code Enforcement proposal from Mid Carolina Council of Government, the agreement was presented to each board member to review. The board agreed to look over the agreement and bring it back to vote at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS –

- a) The BOC was presented with a quote to review from Minuteman Press for a new website design. The company is a local vendor in Fayetteville and would offer support and training to the town. The town will also manage their email domain through this vendor. The cost is minimal compared to the current vendor we have providing our website at this time. Commissioner Pirro called for a vote to approve the website upgrade, Commissioner Wood seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously to move forward with the new website.
- b) The Mayor's Coalition sent out a proposed document for the BOC to vote on concerning the Interlocal Agreement between Cumberland County and local Municipalities. The proposal was to vote against the county collection of ad valorem taxes. The proposal is to keep all the ad valorem taxes collected coming straight to our town like it has been done in the past. The Coalition asked that we sign the proposal to be voted in and presented to the county in an upcoming meeting. The board was all in agreement to sign the proposal.
- c) The process of upgrading policies and procedures began with and upgrade to the Pool Adjustment policy, Request for Extension of Payment, Water Tap Lock Down, and the Leak Adjustment policies. The Billing Policy was upgraded to having utility bills due by the 15th instead of the 10th due to the new water meters making it easier to bill on a true monthly basis. Bills will be mailed out on the last day of the month and this will allow more time for our customers to receive their bills and not be late with payment due to the slow mail service, lost bills etc. Along with the upgrades we will be adding the capability to email bills to our customers instead of receiving paper bills. This will cut down on postage cost due to lost bills and it will be timely for receipt of bills by the customer. The new Emailing Bill system will begin with our March 30th billing. Commissioner Wood made the motion to approve all the updates and additions to the policies and procedures, Commissioner Horne seconded the motion and all board members approved and passed with unanimous vote.

- d) The presentation from Concord Baptist Church about the Blessing Box was brought to vote. The BOC asked that the church keep the structure maintained and make any repairs needed over time. The board also asked to make sure the placement of the structure is in the view of our camera system and in an area with lighting. Commissioner Pirro made the motion to approve and Commissioner Wood seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to allow the Blessing Box to be put in the park.

STAFF REPORTS/BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- a) Town Clerk's Report –
- b) Chief of Police Report – Deputy White
- c) Stedman Fire Department – BBQ fundraiser coming up, tanker truck was purchased.
- d) Planners Report – None
- e) Code Enforcement Report – None
- f) Mayor and Board of Commissioners: Opening Day parade, April 1st, starts at Stedman Baptist and ends at the Rec Center.

CLOSED SESSION

PURSUANT NCGS 143-318-11 (A) (3) Consult with Attorney for Legal Matters
(A)(6) To discuss personnel issues

Commissioner Wood called for closed session at 8:01 pm. Commissioner Horne seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously. Commissioner Wood made the motion the return to open session and Commissioner Pirro seconded the motion. The board came out of closed session at 8:13 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Pirro and seconded by Commissioner Horne to adjourn the March 2, 2023 meeting at 8:15 pm.