

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF STEDMAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 6, 2023-----7PM
REGULAR MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Martin L. Jones, Commissioner Billy Horne, Commissioner Paul Pirro, Commissioner Louis Wood, Commissioner Mark Lee, Commissioner Will Marsh (zoom)

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 Horne to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Wood seconded the motion and the motion to adopt the agenda was passed unanimously by the board.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

March 9, 2023- Special Meeting Minutes- Commissioner Wood made a motion to accept the minutes as written which was seconded by Commissioner Lee and passed unanimously by the board.

PRESENTATIONS –

PUBLIC FORUM – Thimi Kollar spoke to the board about Party in The Park on Saturday, May 20, 2023. He asked the Town to help fund the event. The budget for this event is not enough this year to cover all the plans due to the increase in costs of materials and keynote entertainers. The event brings a lot of people to the town and has been a great community event in the past.

OLD BUSINESS –

- a) For an update on the park installation of the restrooms, Commissioner Wood and Mayor Jones spoke with Tim Johnson about the location of the restrooms. The new location would be to the right of the gazebo facing east. It will be a standalone structure and will be smaller in size compared to the first plans. Automatic programmable locks will be installed on each door so the restrooms will be locked during the hours that the park is closed to visitors. They are working on plans to be drawn up and a contractor.
- b) For an update on the ARPA refund, Mrs. Veeder shared that the Town's UEI number that is assigned to entities by the federal government has expired as of April 2017. Mrs. Veeder has applied for the UEI number to be reinstated and requested to be the new administrator through Sams.gov. The refund check will be mailed to the Town as soon as we receive confirmation of the UEI number reinstated.

NEW BUSINESS –

- a) A new updated Golf Cart Ordinance was presented to the board. The old ordinance was adopted on November 6, 2014. This policy was amended on April 6, 2023. The town staff will now complete the inspections for the golf carts. The tags have been upgraded to last a complete year from the time that the inspection is complete until 12 months after the date of inspection. The wording of the ordinance needed to be changed due to not having a police chief on staff to conduct the inspections. Also there was a rate increase to encumber the increased cost of printing the tags.
- b) Discussion was started concerning complaints about an overabundance of cats in the town. Mayor Jones called Animal Control and spoke with Elaine Smith. She offered a researched solution that involves a trap and resident of the town. Animal Control will provide traps for a resident to capture the feral cats, take them to Animal Control and they will spay/neuter them for free. The resident would then have to travel back to pick the cat up and release the animal in the location that it was captured. The board thought this was a lot to ask our residents to do because so many of them are elderly and not able to follow this process. The town is seeking organizations or groups who may adopt the feral cats and help stop the growing population.
- c) Discussed Interlocal Cooperation agreement for Collecting Ad Valorem Taxes between Cumberland County and the Town of Stedman. This agreement will keep the sales tax collected in Stedman for a period of 3 years. Then the agreement will come back for another vote. The county would like to collect all the sales tax and then divide it out to each municipality as needed. Stedman collects about \$182,000 from sales tax and there is room for it to increase with all of the growth coming to our community. The agreement that the board voted on will keep the sales tax coming to Stedman with any increases from the 2020 sales tax collection amount being split 60/40 with the county. The town will receive 60% of the increase and the county will receive the 40% of the increase. Commissioner Lee made a motion to approve the agreement, Commissioner Wood seconded the motion and the vote to sign the agreement
- d) Water and sewer rate increases were discussed due to increased rates from PWC. The PWC rates have increased four times in the last year. The town is losing money each month due to the increase in rates and the sewer charges that have tripled since July 2022. The town is looking at creating a tiered rate system. With this rate system the more water used by a customer, the more they will pay per gallon. The board voted to move forward with the rate increase once all the data was collected from a rate study.
- e) Rural Water Association (RWA) completes rate studies for free for municipalities if the towns are members of the organization. The Town is a member of the organization so Bobby Cavanaugh, SFR Water Circuit Rider with RWA came and met with the staff to collect data that was needed to complete a rate study. This rate study will help determine the appropriate rate increases that are needed by the Town. The preliminary study showed that our rates are too low to match the increases from PWC. The board decided unanimously to move forward with the rate study to determine the appropriate rates that we need to charge our customers for water and sewer.
- f) Mayor Jones discussed seeking grant funding to have an Inflow and Infiltration Study completed to determine if our water and sewer system is equipped to handle the growth and development that is coming to Stedman beginning in the next 9 months. Mayor Jones informed the board that he and Mrs. Veeder had met with Justin Hembree with the Mid

Carolina Council of Government. The board again voted unanimously to move forward with seeking funding.

STAFF REPORTS/BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- a) Town Clerk's Report – Technology upgrades are complete as far as equipment goes and working great. The new phones will be installed soon. There was a delay in shipping and manpower needed to run new wiring for the phone lines.
- b) Chief of Police Report – Deputy White was made aware of drag racing and loud trucks gathering at the carwash
- c) Stedman Fire Department – BBQ fundraiser was a huge success.
- d) Planners Report – None
- e) Code Enforcement Report – Mayor Jones is talking with the COG/Justin Hembree about some concerns he has with the Code Enforcement contract that was presented at the March 2, 2023 meeting.
- f) Mayor and Board of Commissioners: Opening Day parade, April 1st was a huge success and Commissioner Wood thanked Deputy White for participating with the event and making sure everyone was safe. There are 350 children participating in sport at the Parks and Recreation center in Stedman.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Horne and seconded by Commissioner Lee to adjourn the April 6, 2023 meeting at 7:59 pm.