

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF STEDMAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 13, 2023-----7:00 PM
REGULAR MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Martin L. Jones, Commissioner Billy Horne, Commissioner Paul Pirro (teams meeting online), Commissioner Mark Lee, Commissioner Louis Wood

STAFF PRESENT

Town Clerk Connie Veeder, Whitney Barlow, Attorney Donald Hudson, Deputy White

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

CONSENT AGENDA

June 1, 2023 – Regular Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Horne made a motion to accept the minutes as written which was seconded by Commissioner Lee and was passed unanimously by the board.

PRESENTATIONS – Lee Spruill, who is an advisory board member for parks and recreation in Cumberland Co., spoke to the board about the potential of all small surrounding municipalities and volunteer fire departments coming together to develop a plan to build up the Parks and Recreation program facilities and bring more funding to the communities east of the Cape Fear River. Mr. Spruill also shared that Stedman brought in 47 – 50 thousand dollars in tax revenue so far in 2023. Spruill also commented that CFHS has had lots of conference champions in swimming but there is not an aquatic center on this side of the river. The students have to get up super early and travel to practice swimming in the pools at College Lakes. Mr. Spruill asked the board if they were in agreement with forming the group that he would help organize the members and be a part of it. Mayor Jones spoke up and added the deteriorating playground equipment in the local parks. Jones also stated that he and others would like to have pickle ball courts and splash pads come to our area as well. Mr. Spruill stated that great ideas come forth in meetings but the ideas never get developed or completed.

PUBLIC FORUM – Joseph Manuel brought some concerns from the town. One being his neighbor received a notice changing the name on her utility account due to the death of her spouse. The Town has a new policy in place that each time a new account is opened a refundable deposit has to be collected by the Town. We shared with Mr. Manuel that our policies had changed as of July 1, 2023. He also had complaints about people that burn trash in the town should not burn plastic or other harmful items that emits fumes that may harm the environment. There was also a complaint about animals being housed in very small spaces during this summer heat and animal control has been contacted.

OLD BUSINESS –

- a) Annexation Public Hearing for Creekside: The Mayor called for open session for a public hearing. Commissioner Lee made the motion and Commissioner Wood seconded the motion. The public hearing began with Mr. Hudson, the town attorney, presenting the paperwork and informing the board that all the steps had been followed and completed for the annexation of the Creekside Subdivision lots. Mayor Jones asked for any discussion from the board. There was no discussion. Commissioner Wood moved to approve the annexation, Commissioner Lee seconded to motion, the full board approved. Commissioner Wood made the motion to close the public hearing, Commissioner Lee seconded the motion and the full board approved the annexation of two lots into the Creekside Subdivision and into the town limits.
- b) Todd Mobley is the newly appointed representative for the Town of Stedman on the Cumberland County Planning Board. Mr. Mobley will be official once they swear him in at the next planning meeting in July. Mr. Mobley will attend our next board meeting in August.
- c) The Inflow & Infiltration study and its funding needed was mentioned just to keep it in our minds to continue checking with the Mid Carolina COG and RWA to get help with funding this project. Mayor Jones stated that the addition of the Creekside Subdivision will bring the town's current water tank to 90% capacity. More growth is coming and our next steps are to identify an engineering firm to complete the study and continue to look for funding. The town will continue to collect information on this project and bring it forward at the town meetings.
- d) Progress on the funding for the new addition to the town hall. The Town is awaiting information from Mrs. Wheatley about funding.
- e) 152 Carol Street development of the duplex unit was discussed. The project is in the permitting office according to the planning board.

NEW BUSINESS –

- a) The discussion of advertising the police chief position came up in new business. The board decided that the job should be advertised again. The mayor asked the staff to post it on the town website and on the Indeed app. The job description needs to be updated to incorporate all the qualifications that the town and board require.
- b) The Cross Connection Ordinance was discussed. This is a requirement of the town to enforce this ordinance by the state. Mrs. Barlow had reached out to the Mid Carolina Council of Government but had not heard back from the organization about the data that was in question within the ordinance. The board decided to hold off on any vote or changes until the town hears from the COG.
- c) There are 3 open seat positions on our Board of Commissioners. Will Marsh, Billy Horne, and Mark Lee. Mark Lee will be seeking reelection. Will Marsh was originally appointed by the board to the seat but will be transitioning off due to living outside the town limits. We will wait to hear if anyone registers to run for the open seats.

STAFF REPORTS/BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- a) Town Clerk's Report – None
- b) Chief of Police Report – None
- c) Stedman Fire Department –Mayor Jones talked with Justin and asked that the Fire Department provide a report to the board each month at the town meetings.
- d) Planners Report – None

- e) Code Enforcement Report – Code Enforcement officer has identified 13 properties that need attention. He has mailed letters and marked properties with orange notices that need to be cleaned to meet ordinance code.
- f) Mayor and Board of Commissioners:

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Horne to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Commissioner Lee to adjourn the July 13, 2023 meeting at 7:49 pm.