



**Minutes of The Board of Commissioners Meeting
December 11, 2023
Held at 163 West Main Street, Franklinville Town Hall**

Attending:

Mayor A.C. Hurley, Mayor Pro Tem Priscilla Dunn, Commissioner Billy Farias, Commissioner Richard Goodwin, Commissioner Brandon Hurley, Commissioner Mac Whatley

Town Clerk /Finance Officer Beverly O'Brien

Public Works Director-Arnold Allred

Utility Clerk – Christie Gunter

Guests: Vicki and Ray Caudle, Laurie Cone, Perry Conner, Danny Duncan, Harvey Harman, Benita Hurley, Haden, Sawyer, and Maddox Hurley, Charity Johnson, Todd Lowder, Mary Scoggins, Jack and Lane Scoggins, Peter Seoane, The Honorable District Judge Barron Thompson, Richard Underwood

24-52 7:30 pm COMMISSIONER'S MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence/ Prayer

24-53 CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Goodwin to accept the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Whatley.

Motion adopted, unanimously.

24-54 OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Goodwin introduced Vicki and Ray Caudle from Ramseur. Vicki is the immediate past Mayor of Ramseur, and she and Ray have bought and have been renovating the old Poole building at the corner of Main and Rose Streets. They have prepared a draft of a new sign for the building and wanted approval since the building is in the Town Center Zoning and is located in the historic district. They listed a time schedule and plans for the building for use for estate sales, and antique sales. **Motion by Commissioner Farias to approve the plans for the signage for the building. Seconded by Commissioner Goodwin. Motion adopted unanimously to approve the proposed signage.**

24-55 ADMINISTRATION

Finance Officer O'Brien asked for questions about the Administrative Report, or the Financial Reports provided. She had three items for the Board to consider that she asked to cover quickly. The first was to be able to negotiate with NCDIT, a state department that covers the phone system. Both LUMOS and Spectrum have offered reduced rates for new phone systems and neither works with NCDIT. As a small town we only have

three lines and do not necessarily need the services of NCDIT. Many of the cell #s we call from the office are outside the NCDIT calling area and we are forced to use the office cell, bought for that purpose, or our own personal phones. **Motion by Commissioner Whatley to allow the Clerk to negotiate the best deal for the Town. Seconded by Commissioner Goodwin. Motion adopted unanimously.**

The second item to discuss was the bids for repair or replacement of the HVAC unit for the Town Hall. The price for repair was \$2,321.45 or full replacement of the 9-year-old unit for \$7,000.00. General discussion reference the costs and the benefits of replace or repair and energy usage. **Motion by Commissioner Farias to replace the HVAC unit. Seconded by Commissioner Whatley. Motion adopted, unanimously.**

The third item for discussion was the meter reading software upgrade from Core and Main. The current software is going out of service and cannot be upgraded. The new software is a cloud-based software. Public Works Director Allred had intended to add to next year's budget for the new software, but the office is experiencing issues between the software and the financial software (FMS) that the office uses for billing. The old software is no longer supported by the technical people for the company and will end on July 1st. Finance Officer O'Brien asked the Board to allow her to set up a payment schedule with Core and Main and have the new software installed for the meter reading process. **Motion by Commissioner Farias and seconded by Commissioner Whatley to allow Finance Officer O'Brien and Director Allred to work with Core and Main to purchase the new up-dated meter software.**

Motion adopted unanimously. Finance Officer O'Brien thanked the Board.

24-56 OATHS OF OFFICE

After a few brief comments about the respect he holds for elected town officials, The Honorable District Court Judge Barron Thompson administered the Oaths of Office to Mayor A.C. Hurley, Mayor Pro Tem Priscilla Dunn, Commissioner Mac Whatley, and Town Clerk Beverly O'Brien.

24-57 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner Whatley discussed his recent conversation with the attorney, Tom Terrell, and the information the Clerk needed to prepare for him to work on the case of the illegal sexual offender rehab house at 216 Sunrise Ave. The Clerk had provided the information to the attorney that day and the case is progressing. He had asked for a copy of the Town's Land Development Ordinances and any correspondence between the Town and the owner.

24-58 PUBLIC SAFETY

Commissioner Farias discussed the schedules of the part time deputies, as well as how well received their presence has been in the Town.

24-59 PUBLIC SERVICES

Library Director, Charity Johnson gave a brief rundown of up-coming Library programs, including the Polar Express on December 21st at 6:00 pm and a visit with Santa in the Library.

24-60 TRANSPORTATION

No report was needed for transportation.

24-61 PUBLIC UTILITIES

In the interest of time, Public Works Director Allred presented his written reports, see attached, and declined to present an oral or video report this month.

24-62 PUBLIC COMMENTS

Director Allred introduced his Assistant Director, Todd Lowder to the Board and welcomed his Maintenance Personnel, Danny Duncan to the Board Meeting. General discussion and thanks to the Public Works staff from the Mayor and Commissioners. General discussion reference the Groundbreaking for the new bridge at Sandy Creek and discussion of the timeline for completion, perhaps late Spring, or Summer.

Former Mayor, Perry Conner complemented the Board on the progress of the old bank building refurbishment into the new Town Hall. He said comments from citizens have been overwhelmingly positive and they were happy to have light on in the building in the center of Town. He had provided pictures for the website and the comments and shares were very positive.

A resident of the Living Well Development, Peter Seoane, spoke to the Board and volunteered to help with grant writing and acquisition for the Town. He is a retiree and has a particular interest in water quality issues but can help with the library grant process or recreation or beautification grants as well. The Board and Clerk were enthusiastic about the chance for help with the grant writing process.

Harvey Harman with the Living Well Community wished to address the problem of a citizen's cows crossing Town property to get to Sandy Creek. Commissioner Farias offered to meet with him and look at the property in question.

24-63 MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor A. C. Hurley discussed the Christmas Parade, the tree lighting, and the bike giveaway and thanked the town employees for their hard work. The Mayor and Board especially thanked the Utilities Clerk, Christie Gunter, for the success of the Town events. Mayor Hurley reminded the Board of the county-wide greenway walk event to be held on January 1st in Riverside Park. Participants will meet at the West end of the park. Mayor Hurley also reminded the employees of the staff luncheon to be in the Town Hall Board Room on December 21st at 12:00pm.

The Christmas reception will follow the Board meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Whatley to adjourn.

Seconded by Commissioner Brandon Hurley

Meeting Adjourned 8:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A.C. Hurley, Mayor

Attest: _____

Beverly O'Brien, Finance Officer/Town Clerk