

Minutes of the Work Session of
The Liberty Town Council
Held on September 20, 2021 5:30PM

Present

- Mayor: The Honorable Filmore York
- Council: Chris Compton, Larry Coble, Don Herndon, JR Beard and Tyson Nixon
- Town Manager: Scott Kidd
- Town Clerk: Jessica Brown
- Staff: Fire Chief; Matt Talbott, Safety Director; Bret Pedigo, Library Director; Brenda Heindl Hornsby, Public Service Director; Terry Crouse, Finance/HR Director; Kathy Bond, Library Assistant; Warren Dixon Police Chief; David Semrad
- Town Attorney; Bill Flowe

To Order

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and welcomed everyone.

Adoption of Agenda

Council Member JR Beard made a motion to adopt the agenda with a correction of 6.7 Ordinance Change - move stop sign at W. Bowman under New Business. It needs to be changed from N Asheboro to N Smith Street. Council Member Don Herndon seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Council Members Larry Coble, Don Herndon, JR Beard, Tyson Nixon and Chris Compton voted yes and adopted the agenda.

Information

Monthly Reports

The Town Manager has included the monthly reports from Department Heads and can discuss any comments or questions.

Bret Pedigo said he had nothing to add to the Safety Report.

Library Director Brenda Heindl said if anyone is wondering what happened to the bush in the corner it had a yellow jacket nest under it and had to be torn out to find it. She is working with the Garden Club to replant.

Police Chief David Semrad said he had nothing to add to his report.

Fire Chief Matt Talbott said he had nothing to add to his report.

The Parks and Recreation Director is not here due to a softball game.

Terry Crouse said he had nothing to add to the Water/Sewer report.

Administrative Reports

Manager’s Report

Town Manager Scott Kidd gave his report. The CDBG project is finishing up the cure in place process. They have met a couple of times about the ASADRA grant which will help move lift stations out of flood plains. They are working on drawings and engineering reporting.

He would like to talk about COVID related leave. He has had three employees out in the past week. He would like to add more hours for employees to use for the Delta Variant. We need to think about fireworks for next year. Our vendor is getting booked up. We may go back to a fifteen minute show. He is going to get prices from two more vendors. Terry Crouse came forward to the podium. He is going off salary since Joe Walsh accepted the offer for Public Service Director. He appreciates the Council’s confidence in him and will be staying on another week to train Joe and then go back to hourly. Mayor York thanked Terry on behalf of the Council for filling in.

Finance Report

Finance Director Kathy Bond came forward to give the report. Our ARP (American Rescue Plan) funding is \$423,548.91. DMV tax revenue is down from last year. Money for September is already going up. This week is a big week for working with the auditor. The goal is for the auditor to come in mid October and have completed by the 31st.

Old Business

Budget Amendment #4

This amendment is to budget ARP Grant Revenue from the state in the amount of \$423,548.91 that will be used for water Capital Outlay to provide new water meters.

Budget Amendment #5

This amendment is to move funds from Capital Reserve General (71 Fund) to Fire Dept Capital Outlay Equipment (to purchase Hurst Rescue Tools) at a savings of half.

Budget Amendment #6

This amendment is to move funds from General Fund Balance Appropriated to Fire Department Maintenance & Repair Vehicles. (This was not budgeted in the adopted budget to fulfill purchase of tires for Engine 33). This replaces all six tires

Resolution 2021-8 Leaf truck

This is a resolution to approve the lease agreement with Southern Vac for the leaf truck. The lease company asked for this resolution to be in place. Mayor York read for the record.

**Public Hearing Updated Animal Ordinance and speed limit change Highfill -
September 27, 2021**

There will be an advertised Public Hearing for the Updated Animal Ordinances and speed limit change on Highfill Street on September 27, 2021 5:30PM at the regular Council Meeting. Any questions or comments will be heard at this time.

New Business

Resolution 2021-9 Road Closure Liberty School Fall Festival

Liberty Elementary School is requesting temporary street closure for their annual Fall Festival November 5, 2021.

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Personnel Policy update - PD and FD time period change

This is a proposed change to the Personnel Policy Article V: Hours of Work and Overtime for Fire protection and Law Enforcement. The Town Manager referenced an attached FAQ sheet which came from the US Department of Labor. Payroll is every two weeks and can change to what fits a department best. It gives us the flexibility we need.

Discussion - Purchase of new PD building

The Town plans to purchase 10046 Old Liberty Road as a site for a new Police Department. The contract is attached. Town Manager Scott Kidd said it is a long document and a template was used to create it. It includes a price of \$500,000.00 for the purchase and \$2,000.00 in earnest money. We have until November 30, 2021 to close so we have time to go through the building again. He is working on the financial side and what is the best route to take. A USDA loan is forty years long term. Currently interest rates are so low there is not that much difference in commercial loans. We have \$213,000 set aside for the building. We could aim for a fifty nine month loan and we would not need LGC approval. Most are at 2% interest rates. Town Attorney Bill Flowe said he hopes the Town recognizes the contribution Dr. Karam has made to the Town by selling this building. Scott Kidd said we are still in conversation with the firm that originally designed the plans for a new PD building, Oakley and Collier.

Resolution 2021-10 - Road Closure for Liberty Christmas Parade

The Liberty Chamber of Commerce is requesting road closures for the annual Christmas Parade Saturday December 4, 2021.

Randolph County Strategic Planning Funds Library Grant

Library Director Brenda Heindl Hornsby came forward to discuss applying for the Randolph County Strategic Planning Funds Library Grant. She and Scott met about the possibility of this grant last week. She brought up the chance to move the Train Depot building to the Farmer's Market area. She spoke with Sue Wilson last week who pays the lease for it now. She said it was the wish of her late husband Jim Wilson for the building to go to the Town. Are we prepared to lose this building? It adds to the character of the Town. It is the last thing built by Yadkin Valley Railroad. She has gotten prices for moving the building which range from \$40,000 - 80,000. Council Member JR Beard said he thinks it would be better near the library. Council said to move forward with applying for the grant.

ABC Store lease agreement

The ABC store lease agreement is attached for approval

Ordinance change - move stop sign W Bowman

The Police Chief recommends the following changes to the ordinances regarding the stop sign on W Bowman: Chapter 73 Schedule III should have W Bowman first then N Smith second to indicate N Smith has the right of way. Chapter 73 Schedule IV should have Bowman and N Smith Streets removed. Town Manager Scott Kidd said this type of ordinance change does not require a Public Hearing.

Committee Reports

Patterson Cottage - Warren Dixon

Patterson Cottage Committee Chair Warren Dixon came forward to speak. Friends of Patterson Cottage raised \$130,000.00 to help purchase Liberty Hardware. The full price is \$160,000. They were counting on ARP funds but they have not received it yet. If the Town could make \$30,000.00 available to them it would keep them from having the

Murrays wait for them to purchase and they could recoup money when they do receive the ARP funds. If they do not receive the grant they will apply for Strategic Planning funds and the state has already \$50,000 funds but they are dragging their feet as well. They want to have a back up plan.

Citizen Comments

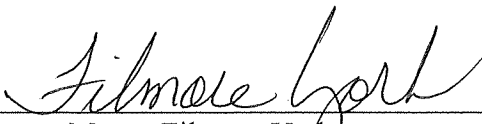
Del Pearce of 521 Dogwood came forward to speak. He thanked the Council on behalf of the Police Steering Committee.

Mayor Comments

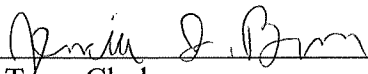
Mayor York reminded everyone about the antiques festival coming up. He also said he had spoken with Crystal Gettys of the Randolph EDC and the Newlin property has been taken off the market for now.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, Council Member Tyson Nixon motioned to adjourn the meeting and Council Member JR Beard seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Council Member Larry Coble voted yes, Council Member Don Herndon voted yes, Council Member JR Beard, Council Member Tyson Nixon and Council Member Chris Compton voted yes. The meeting was adjourned.



Mayor Filmore York

ATTEST: 

Town Clerk