

**Minutes of the Meeting of
The Town Board of Commissioners
Town of Hamilton, NC
Thursday, July 11, 2024**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Hamilton met in a regular meeting on Thursday July 11, 2024, at 07:03 p.m. at the Town Hall, 109 North Front Street Hamilton NC 27840.

PRESENT

Mayor: Ervin Williams.

Commissioners: William Freeman, Tamika Council, Brandon Raynor,
Larry Jackson

Town Clerk & Finance Officer: Allison Roebuck & Glinda Fox

ABSENT: NONE

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Williams, the prayer was given by Commissioner Raynor. The pledge was recited by all.

Approval of the agenda or Adjustments to agenda

Mayor Williams asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda or if the Board wished to remove or add to the agenda.

Motion to approve agenda without adjustments was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Council. Motion unanimously carried 4-0.

Approval of Minutes

****Moved after new business**

PUBLIC COMMENT

OLD BUSINESS

Dilapidated Properties Update

Mayor Williams asked if Clerk has received an email from Mrs. Swain regarding the Town dilapidated properties. After Fox reviewed the email for the town, she verified no email has been received from Mrs. Swain at all regarding dilapidated properties.

Availably Rate Codes

Commissioners requesting more information to confirm laws and regulations for the fee for utility services and the town's legal obligations. Documentation presented by the Town Clerk & Finance officer Roebuck that was issued by the Town Attorney Coleman. The N.C. Constitution Article I, Section # 32 "Every person in the same class, i.e. commercial versus residential, etc. must be charged the same rates. The law is clear that different individual rates cannot be charged within a class." Court case files and hearings for City of Wilson v. Carolina Builders of Wilson,

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Inc., 94 N.C. App. 117, 379 S.E.2d 712 (1989) ("Public utilities, including utilities owned by cities, may not discriminate in the distribution of services or the setting of rates."). Under North Carolina law, fees for utility services are the legal obligations of the person contracting for them, G.S. 153A-277(c) (counties); G.S. 160A-314(c) (cities). The board of commissioners decided to table the rate code available until zoom with attorney to clarify rate adjustments for accounts.

Commissioner Vacant Seat

Commissioner Freeman states the board should pick some names chosen from nominations by the board. Mayor Williams asked if Commissioner Freeman & Commissioner Council could create a list of names that would like to fill the seat. Residents requested to have the next highest vote getter at the prior election. Special elections to be held to fill the vacant seat per one resident. All others suggested the appointment of the next highest vote getter at the prior election.

Motion by Commissioner Raynor to appoint the next highest vote getter at the prior election. Motion was not moved 1-3.

Commissioner Raynor states that the public will need to appoint someone to fill the seat since the prior motion was denied. The public is the one who votes us into our position as a commissioner. Commissioner Council states that she would like to make nominations themselves. Commissioner Jackson requested if anyone has spoken to Judith Stewart. Commissioner Freeman make nomination themselves as the board. Mayor Williams would like the board to appoint which choice the board would like to fill vacancy in board of commissioners.

Motion to have a workshop to discuss how the board will fill the vacancy in board of commissioner-by-Commissioner Freeman, seconded by Commissioner Council schedule on July 23rd, 2024, at 6:30. Motion carried 3-1.

Town Hall Generator

Gas lines need to be run to the generator once a stove is installed. At this time we need \$2,700 to install the lines. We could buy a hot water heater to run the line to the office from the new hot water. Needs to be hooked up for usage due to hurricane season being upon us.

Motion to purchase a hot water heater that natural gas by Commissioner Freeman, seconded by Commissioner Council. Motion carried 4-0.

Ribbon Cutting for Verizon Wireless Tower

Town clerk & Finance Officer Roebuck invited residents to join us to the official ribbon cutting ceremony tomorrow, Friday July 12, 2024, at 1:30PM located at 301 South Front Street Suite T.

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NEW BUSINESS

Ethics Training for all elected officials

The Town Clerk & Finance Officer Roebuck presented the proposed training dates for ethics via zoom. Mayor Williams asked the board to pick one of the dates listed to complete the zoom call. The commissioners will complete the ethics zoom on Thursday August 15th at the Town Hall office from 6-8PM. Clerk Roebuck will email Mid-East to confirm the date and time picked to complete the training.

On Solve – One Call System

The Town Clerk & Finance Officer Roebuck announced that she is working on updating all information for citizens and residents in the town for the One Call System. The announcement is included in a flyer mailed with the last billing statement on July 9th, 2024. The One Call – On Solve Program is paid for by the town of Hamilton to inform residents ALL information that pertains to the residents. The system was initially purchased due to COVID a few years ago as an informational tool during the COVID era. The One Call Programs is still utilized by The Town of Hamilton as an information tool for Power & Water Outages, Piedmont Natural Gas installation & outages in areas and any important information for Town residents pertaining to their services which we provide. We also use the One Call Program for Town Information for clean ups, volunteers and other events and or activities carried out by the town. We are requesting if you do not receive these calls or messages from our program to please update your information with the office staff to make sure all residents are contacted if they wish to be included for information with the town.

Transmission in Work Truck

The Town Clerk & Finance Officer Roebuck informed the board of the older model maintenance truck that the boys are currently using the transmission is messing up and need to start looking into options to replace. Maintenance Supervisor Mike states he could “pass down” his truck and we could upgrade him to a newer work maintenance truck. This is something other towns pass down one and upgrade their vehicles to replace the older one needing repair. Attached is the information for a new Ford from Feyer Ford in Williamston NC, this is the only quote that has been collected. Commissioner Freeman will check with Raleigh for availability and prices for a replacement truck through their municipal state offers.

SECU Kiosks

Town Clerk & Finance Officer Roebuck presented the current lease agreement from 2018 as a trial run to see if there is a need within the town of Hamilton for a State Employees Credit Union Kiosk. When the Town generated and contracted with SECU, who agreed to pay rent for a monthly fee of \$75.00 for the first renewal and then \$150.00 for the second renewal monthly fee. The town considers the ATM as an asset to the residents within town as well as out of town. Resident Moring states we need to check with SECU to make sure the transactions are showing for Hamilton not Robersonville transactions. After meeting with the Branch Manager our ATM Kiosk is only making around 1,600 transactions every *3* months and most other locations are

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making well over 3,000 transactions every *3* months. SECU would like to continue to provide the services through the town of Hamilton, but they are not making any money off the kiosk it's costing them to maintain and allow the ATM to remain in its current location. At this time, they are requesting the town board to continue to FORGO the rental payment for the location and keep the kiosk if the Raleigh branch will allow them to. They need to update the lease agreement and want to run the current contract as well as their request to forgo rental payments by the board of commissioners.

Motion to keep the State Employees Credit Union ATM kiosk at its current location and forgo the rental payment to the Town of Hamilton made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Motion carried 4-0.

2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Town Clerk & Finance Officer Roebuck attached the 2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for their review and to have a copy on hand in case a resident would ask them for a copy or information about the report. Resident Jerry Griffin presented water from the tap out of his kitchen and a water bottle to the board of commissioners. The unclear water was in a mason jar and requested the maintenance department to come to next board meeting to review the flushing of the hydrates. The Maintenance Supervisor came in upon request of the Clerk and informed the board and all residents they perform hydrant flushing as required by the state. Mike also states that this has been an ongoing issue at Mr. Griffin's location since he has been working with the town. Mike also states he will run a test on Mr. Griffin's water at his location to confirm the water is safe.

**** Added to Agenda Celebration on July 3rd**

Commissioner Raynor states that Hobgood does a wonderful display of fireworks on July 4th and years prior. Raynor requested the board explore the options for the Town of Hamilton on July 3rd with vendors and celebration of fireworks in the town of Hamilton. Commissioner Raynor suggested we could reach the Town of Hobgood to find out the cost of fireworks and the cost to put on an event similar within the Town of Hamilton.

**** Added to Agenda Playground Equipment**

Commissioner Raynor requested the town look into adding playground equipment and bring back the basketball goals at the Morris Lynch Center. Commissioner Raynor suggested to Commissioner Jackson the town could apply for grants or donations to start a playground. This would be a benefit for the rentals at the Morris Lynch Center as well as the town.

**** Moved to follow old business Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from June 6th, 2024, Monthly Board Meeting with a correction to a name spelling for Anthony Boyles and the name change for the graduation from East End to EIC made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Motion Carried 4-0.

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Motion to approve the minutes from June 11th, 2024, Monthly Board Meeting made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Council. Motion Carried 4-0.

Motion to approve the minutes from June 17th, 2024, Monthly Board Meeting made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Freeman. Motion Carried 4-0.

Motion to approve the minutes from June 24th, 2024, Monthly Board Meeting made by Commissioner Freeman, seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Motion Carried 4-0.

FINANCIALS/BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Motion to approve the financials from May Monthly Board Meeting made by Commissioner Freeman, seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Motion Carried 4-0.

REPORTS

Commissioner Jackson had nothing at this time.

Commissioner Raynor suggested after attending the ribbon cutting event tomorrow to do the walk through the MLC building to see what needs to be updated. Guns violence is becoming an issue within Martin County please be aware and please keep your guns locked up and stay safe.

Commissioner Council attending a youth brunch, and the youth showed up and they are trying to start the youth programs back up within the recreation program.

Commissioner Freeman requested to adopt the Resolution Local Water Supply Plan presented the board and this would need to be completed once every five years. Mayor Williams entertained a motion to adopt the resolution.

Motion to adopt the Town of Hamilton supply plan resolution by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Council. Motion carried 4-0

Mayor Williams asked if any more business to come before the board.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mayor Williams entertained a motion to adjourn if there is no other business to cover at this time.

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Freeman, seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Motion carried 4-0.

Submitted By:

Approved By:

Allison Roebuck, Town Clerk & Finance Officer

Ervin Williams, Mayor