

**Town of Commissioner's Meeting
October 3, 2024**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Hamilton met in a regular meeting on Thursday October 3, 2024, at 07:05 p.m. at the Town Hall, 109 North Front Street Hamilton NC 27840.

PRESENT **Mayor:** Ervin Williams

Commissioners: William Freeman, Tamika Council, Edgar Taylor,
Brandon Raynor

Town Clerk & Finance Officer: Allison Roebuck

ABSENT: **Commissioner:** Larry Jackson

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 with removal of Yvonne Griffin – Department of Aging from Old Business and addition of Joseph Barnes to Public comments was made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Motion unanimously carried 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Linda Goodrich – She noted that her husband, Jim had changed the date and time on last years banners for the Roanoke River Festival and they had never been hung up. She received an email from Joe Miller with the state trail system. He wanted to set up a tent but couldn't get a call back so he could know when to come and set up. She also noted the library is a disgrace; filled with boxes of books and books are not organized in any way. Commissioner Council said she had cleaned it up today but she didn't have enough shelving to accommodate all the books brought in.

Mayor Williams stated the banners were not hung because there was incorrect information about the start time and a buzzard image on the banner from last year had not been removed from the banner. Commissioner Council stated she had cleaned up the library but there wasn't room to add new books. Someone suggested Pam Payne, a new resident, may be willing to go over and volunteer time to organize the books.

Joseph Barnes – He announced he had purchased a plot on August 5th but received a call on September 16th that the check he had written did not clear the bank. He noted he had to close the account and he thought the check had already cleared. Mayor Williams asked him to meet with him and Commissioner Taylor the next day to try to resolve the issue.

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Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from September 5, 2024, was made by Commissioner Council, seconded by Commissioner Raynor. Motion Carried 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

DILAPIDATED PROPERTIES UPDATE

Mayor Williams states that Commissioner Taylor is going to meet with Penny Swain. Commissioner Raynor said her days were Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

TOWN HALL GENERATOR

Mayor Williams stated he is reaching out to Pam Hurdle to see if the town can use ARPA grant funds to pay for connection of the generator to Piedmont Natural Gas.

TRANSMISSION IN WORK TRUCK

Commissioner Freeman reported that the transmission in Mike's work vehicle was in bad shape. A new truck like the one that Mike currently drives is expensive. However, the town may be able to find a used truck with a few miles at a better price than the quotes for a new replacement truck. Freeman is going to make a few phone calls and see if anything is available.

HAMILTON ROANOKE RIVER FESTIVAL

Mayor Williams states the Town of Hamilton Roanoke River Festival will be held on October 5th, 2024. The Perfect Blend Band will be performing, various vendors will be set up, tours in the area and a memorial wall will be set up at the school. A party tent will be set up at the Morris Lynch Center. Vendors should be in place by 10:00 a.m. A one-call will be sent out to citizens to remind them of the festival.

VEHICLE ON RIGHT AWAY IN TOWN

Mayor Williams reported that the vehicle which is parked in the right of way cannot be removed by the town. It was noted that the grass was not being cut on both sides of the road and there was overhang of trees. The town's attorney, Ms. Coleman sent a letter to guide the board in having the vehicle removed, including finding the last known owner through the DMV and stated the town send a letter to the owner to have it removed. The board would have to wait 30 days after sending the letter to hear from the owner and go from there.

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NEW BUSINESS

BOARD APPROVES ANNUAL DONATION TO EMS

Mayor Williams reported that EMS has requested the town send them their 2024/2025 annual donation of \$5,000. EMS has asked that the board approve the donation for 2025/2026 so they will not have to request in the next fiscal year.

It was moved by Commissioner Freeman, seconded by Commissioner Council and unanimously approved. Motion carried 4-0.

HAMILTON RIDGE REQUESTS SPRAYING FOR MOSQUITOES

Jodie, manager with Hamilton Ridge Apartments has requested the town include Hamilton Ridge Apartments. She has asked for the cost for the spraying so she can arrange to pay to have spraying done on their properties.

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Commissioner Raynor asked if the Board would be interested in having the town set up a separate email address for each of them which is dedicated to town correspondence.

After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Taylor and unanimously approved to set up town emails for each commissioner. Motion carried 4-0.

OTHER TOWN PROPERTY CONCERNS

There were concerns on the condition of the old cemetery. It is not being kept up. The owner of the old cemetery is Gill Matthews and/or Ricky Matthews and they have stated they would be willing to deed it to the historical society. There will be discussion at the next historical society meeting about the proposal.

Someone has shown interest in purchasing the old nursing home and setting up a VA home. The current owner is Henry Wallace Parker.

There was discussion on preparing a checklist for renters of the Morris Lynch Center and putting it on the wall for renters to see. In discussion, the possibility of raising the deposit to \$100 to at least replace any damaged items in the building. Also discussed was to consider raising the rent on the building.

FINANCIALS/BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Clerk/Finance Officer Allison Roebuck presented the financials for the board's approval.

Motion to approve the financials as presented made by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Motion carried 4-0.

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REPORTS

Commissioner Raynor reported there weren't many issues in September. A B&E report on Waldo was between friends and was resolved.

Commissioner Taylor reported he is working with Allison Roebuck to find ways to increase revenue in the utilities. This past month he attended a zoom meeting with the Committee of 100.

Commissioner Council reported that she did not like the color scheme sent by the banner company and is waiting for additional designs.

Commissioner Freeman reported that Public Power Day is on October 10th from 3 – 5 p.m. right here at the Town hall office. The office will send out a one call to area citizens. The Maintenance department has reported a company is going to go to houses and businesses testing for lead in water lines. If lead piping is discovered on the residential side the resident will have to remove those lines. Hamilton continues to be on the UAL list. At the Mid-East meeting, Commissioner Freeman was told that Mid-East will assist in any way they are able. There was recently an inspection of the water system.

Allison Roebuck reported that she is taking donations for western North Carolina due to the flood to send with Hobgood's relief drive.

REVIEW OF BIDS SUBMITTED FOR ROOFS AT WELL HOUSE AND CONCESSION STAND AT THE BALLPARK

Mayor Williams presented three bids for replacing the roof at the Well House: Alliance Roofing - \$8,500 (5-year labor warranty), Tommy Taylor - \$8,000 (10-year warranty) and Tim's Home Repair - \$ 4,400. (1 year warranty).

Mayor Williams presented three bids for replacing the roof at the Concession Stand: Alliance Roofing - \$6,200 (5-year labor warranty) and All-N-One Home Improvements- \$6,600.

The Board moved by majority consensus to award the bid for the Well House roofing to Tim's Home Repair at a cost of \$4,400; to award the bid for the roofing of the concession stand at the Ballpark to Alliance Roofing at a cost of \$6,200; and to award the bid for the work at the Morris Lynch Center to H-Squared Solutions at a cost of \$3,183.76. Motion carried 4 – 0.

It was moved by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Freeman to Finance Officer Roebuck to find available funds in the amount of \$800 in the budget. This will be added to the \$1,500 already budgeted for the Morris Lynch Center and the ARPA funds (approximately \$15,000) to pay for work on all three buildings and hook up the generator (estimated to cost of \$2,900) if approved by Pam Hurdle which is anticipated.

CLOSED SESSION

At 9:35 p.m., Commissioner Taylor made the motion to enter closed session, Seconded by Freeman. Motion carried 4-0.

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At 10:07 p.m., the motion to come out of closed session and return to open session was made by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Motion carried 3-0.

OPEN SESSION

It was moved by Commissioner Raynor, seconded by Commissioner Council and unanimously approved. Motion carried 4-0.

It was moved by Commissioner Freeman, seconded by Commissioner Raynor to pay Mike Pasternak \$16 per hour as well as provide the insurance and retirement benefits. Motion carried 4-0.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

At 10:20 p.m., Mayor Williams noted if there was no further business, the meeting could adjourn.

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

Submitted By:

Approved By:

Allison Roebuck, Town Clerk & Finance Officer

Ervin Williams, Mayor