



TOWN OF MOUNT GILEAD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

110 West Allenton Street, Mount Gilead, North Carolina, 27306
October 6, 2020

The Mount Gilead Board of Commissioners met at 7:00 p.m. at Mount Gilead Fire Department, 106 East Allenton Street, Mount Gilead, North Carolina for the regular monthly business meeting. Present were Mayor Chip Miller, Mayor Pro Tem Tim McAuley, Commissioners Paula Covington, Vera Richardson and Mary Lucas, Police Chief Pat Preslar, Fire Chief Keith Byrd, Public Works Director Daniel Medley and Town Clerk Amy Roberts.

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Miller called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEM I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem McAuley made a motion to adopt the agenda as is. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. Agenda was unanimously adopted.

ITEM II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 1, 2020 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Richardson made a motion to approval the September 1, 2020 minutes. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved.

ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Don Burris, East Ingram Street, Mt. Gilead - Mr. Burris asked the Town to please address the issue of speeding on East Ingram Street. He said so many cars speed down this street daily and there are children and walking pedestrians on this street frequently. He is concerned for their safety.

Police Chief Pat Preslar introduced the Town's newest police officer, James Brown. Officer Brown came to us from Montgomery County Jail and spent 20+ years as a paramedic. Officer Brown began employment on September 28.

ITEM IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Storm Water Infrastructure on West Ingram Street

Public Works Director Daniel Medley updated the Board on this project stating that LKC Engineering is taking core samples for testing as part of the process to move forward with this project.

ITEM V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Compliance Options for 202 E. Allenton (Speakman)

Mayor Miller spoke on behalf of Alliance Code Enforcement Officer, Brandon Emory. Emory has been able to have in-depth conversations with the Attorney representing Mr. Speakman concerning the violations at 202 E. Allenton Street. The Attorney stated that Mr. Speakman wishes to become compliant and asked the Board to provide specific instructions on what needs to be done to his property to ensure compliance. Emory listed in the packet several possible compliance options for this property. The Board all agreed that they liked the idea of combining options 2 and 3 which in summary means that the property owner agrees to remove all junk and nuisance vehicles from the lot and remove all open storage items. Property owner also agrees to erect a privacy fence around the property to block public view and agrees to put nothing else inside the fence.

Commissioner Covington made a motion to accept compliance options 2 and 3 for this property owner and proposed a timeline of 3-5 months to become compliant ending on March 1, 2021. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Bids for Clean Up at 500 W. Allenton (Kearns)

Mayor Miller, acting on behalf of Alliance Code Enforcement Officer, Brandon Emory, presented the Board with quotes for clean-up of the property at 500 W. Allenton St. Emory recommended to contract with Hayes Professional Lawncare because of price and they advised they would be able to handle removing debris from open storage areas as well.

Commissioner Richardson made a motion to accept the bid from Hayes Professional Lawncare to complete the clean-up and debris removal from the 500 W. Allenton Street property. Mayor Pro Tem McAuley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Budget Amendment 2020-1006-01

Public Works Director, Daniel Medley, proposed a budget amendment to the Board to cover the cost to do emergency repairs and replace the sewer line under East Allenton Street. Commissioner Richardson made a motion to approve BA 2020-1006-01. Commissioner Covington seconded the motion. Budget amendment BA 2020-1006-01 was unanimously approved.

D. Christmas Parade/Festival

Clerk to the Board, Amy Roberts asked for the Board's wishes as to whether to hold the Town's annual Christmas Parade and Christmas on the Square event traditionally held on the first Saturday in December. Much discussion was had because of the concern and worry about putting people at risk of being exposed to COVID-19 in large crowds and gatherings. Governor's Order No. 169 states that no mass gatherings shall be held which includes parades, events and festivals. This Governor's Order was due to expire on October 23 so therefore the Board chose to table any action until the November meeting in order to get more information and see how the number of COVID cases increases/decreases as time progresses.

E. Park/Pavilions/Ball Fields/Fire Department

Due to recent requests and concern from citizens, the Board asked to discuss the re-opening of Stanback Park, including playgrounds, ballfields and pavilions as well as the event room at Mt. Gilead Fire Department. The Board felt like the park should be allowed to re-open and resume renting pavilions and the event center at the Fire Department with well-placed signage concerning COVID risks and requesting citizens to follow CDC guidelines for the use of personalized protective equipment and social distancing. Commissioner Covington made a motion to re-open all parks, ballfields, pavilions and Fire Department Event Room to the public with the use of COVID signage and following all CDC guidelines. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Utility Bill Convenience Fee-Invoice Cloud waived

Town Clerk Amy Roberts presented a spreadsheet to the Board showing the cost incurred to the Town for online transaction fees for Invoice Cloud. Invoice Cloud is the online portal for customers to make utility payments. In April, former Town Manager Matt Christian waived the \$3.95 transaction fee to the customer due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Town Hall being closed to the public. With the expiration of some of the restrictions and Town Hall now being open again for payments, admin staff needed clarification as to whether the Town should continue to waive this fee or resume passing this fee along to the customer. Commissioner Richardson made a motion to resume passing this fee along to the customer. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM VI. STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports were given by Police Chief Pat Preslar, Public Works Director Daniel Medley and Fire Chief Keith Byrd and were attached to the Board packets.

ITEM VII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

None

ITEM VIII. CLOSED SESSION

A. NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6) – Personnel

Commissioner Covington made a motion to go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. *NOTE: The Clerk was asked to step out during closed session.

After discussion, Commissioner Richardson made a motion to return to open session with a second from Mayor Pro Tem McAuley. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board agreed to allow Mayor Miller to contact Mr. Bill Zell, retired Town Manager from Aberdeen, and make him an offer for the position of Interim Manager under contract for the next 90 days.

Commissioner Covington made a motion to offer the Interim Manager position to Mr. Bill Zell with a second from Mayor Pro Tem McAuley. Motion carried.

ITEM IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no more Board business, Commissioner Richardson made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem McAuley seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.

Joseph M. "Chip" Miller, Jr., Mayor

Amy C. Roberts, Town Clerk