



# TOWN OF MOUNT GILEAD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Meeting Minutes

110 West Allenton Street, Mount Gilead, North Carolina, 27306  
February 2, 2021

The Mount Gilead Board of Commissioners met remotely at 7:00 p.m. for the regular monthly business meeting. Information on how to attend the meeting was posted on the town webpage and the town bulletin board outside of Town Hall.

Present for the Zoom meeting were: Mayor Chip Miller, Mayor Pro Tem Tim McAuley, Commissioners Paula Covington, Mary Lucas and Vera Richardson, Town Manager Hiram Marziano, Town Clerk Amy Roberts, Police Chief Pat Preslar and Public Works Director Daniel Medley.

## ITEM I. INTRODUCTION & ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mayor Miller welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting at 7:03 p.m. Commissioner Covington made a motion to adopt the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem McAuley seconded the motion. Agenda was unanimously adopted.

## ITEM II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### A. January 5, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Covington made a motion to adopt the minutes as is. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously adopted.

## ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

## ITEM IV. PRESENTATIONS

### A. FYE 2020 Audit Presentation – JB Watson, Co.

Ms. Deneal Bennett of JB Watson and Company presented the FYE 2020 Financial Statements to the Board. She explained the report in detail and said that the Town was in good financial shape. The Town has a healthy fund balance of 82.39%.

### B. McGill Pavement Management Program Report Presentation

David Huneycutt, Engineer with McGill and Associates presented a map and assessment of the Town's streets and the condition of each street rating them from poor, fair, good and excellent as part of the Pavement Management Program and his recommendation to create a 5-year work plan detailing capital projects including scope, schedule and budget. McGill recommended increasing the Town's annual program budget over the next 5 years with several different budget options to consider preventing a backlog of paving and M&R work.

ITEM V. OLD BUSINESS

**A. Animal Ordinance Updates**

Hiram Marziano, Town Manager, presented two options to the Board as recommended wording to update the Town's animal ordinance(s). Marziano explained that he and the Police Chief have been working together to create a more clearly worded ordinance concerning the control of loose, at large animals in the city limits of Mt. Gilead. Commissioner Lucas, Covington and McAuley all agreed that they preferred Option 2 which, in summary, called for all dogs within the city limits to be kept under restraint at all times. Any dog found running at large without restraint or leash from a handler or owner will be deemed to be running at large and may be restrained or impounded by the County Animal Control Officer or other official as designated by the Town Manager. Any animal owner or person in possession of any such animal will be considered in violation and subject to penalties as stated in §91.99.

Commissioner Lucas asked that we be more specific with the wording to say that a dog who remains in the owner's yard without a restraint is not subject to violation of this ordinance. Commissioner Covington agreed to this wording and would like to add that the owner must be present with the dog even while in the yard un-restrained. Marziano agreed to have a draft ordinance prepared for the Board at the March 2, Board meeting including their recommendations.

ITEM VI. NEW BUSINESS

**A. Street Lighting Policy**

Town Manager Marziano presented a first draft of a Street Lighting Policy first introduced in November 2020 by Interim Manager, Bill Zell. The purpose of the policy, in summary, is to assist with determining objectivity if an area has "enough" lighting. This policy will apply to all public rights-of-ways within the municipal limits as well as any new subdivisions in the Town's ETJ with prior approval. This policy will not guarantee that the Town will accept ownership of streetlights nor that the Town be required to install new lights. All improvements to existing streetlights and/or erection of new streetlights will depend on funds available in the fiscal budget and at the discretion of the Town Board.

Marziano stressed that he wasn't looking for adoption or approval. He simply wanted to "get the ball rolling" so the Board can read the proposed policy and consider updates or changes that may be needed.

Commissioner Covington asked that the Board have more time to look over the policy. Marziano agreed and will add it to the March 2 agenda to be discussed further.

**B. FYE22 Budget Calendar & Workshop**

Town Manager Marziano presented a Budget Event Calendar marking the proposed dates for the annual Budget Retreat and deadlines to finalize the draft budget for approval. He also presented a Budget Suggestion Form for the Board members to utilize for any projects or savings they would like to see in the next fiscal budget. He requested the forms be sent back to him by March 1.

The consensus among all Board members was agreeable to the dates proposed. Marziano agreed to finalize the Budget Retreat plans and report back to the Board.

ITEM VII. STAFF REPORTS

Monthly staff reports were presented by Town Manager Hiram Marziano, Public Works Director Daniel Medley and Police Chief Pat Preslar and were attached to the Board packets.

Brandon Emory, Code Enforcement Officer, updated the Board through an email about the Speakman Property at 210 East Allenton Street. Emory stated that he has attempted to consult again with the Speakman's lawyer. He noticed that several junk vehicles and other items that were to be taken care of prior to March 1, 2021 were still not in compliance. Emory said he would update the Town as soon as heard back from Speakman's Lawyer.

ITEM VIII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Lucas asked if the Town had settled any payment arrangements made for customers due to the Governors Executive Order that forbid Towns to disconnect water services or charge late fees. The order ended on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and per the order, customers were to be allowed payments arrangement of up to six months to bring their accounts current.

Marziano stated that he would consult with Lessie Jackson, Utility Accounts Manager, to see the status of these accounts and any payment arrangements.

ITEM IV. ADJOURNMENT

With no more Board business, Mayor ProTem McAuley made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from Commissioner Covington. Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

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

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Amy C. Roberts, NCCMC, Town Clerk