



TOWN OF MOUNT GILEAD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

110 West Allenton Street, Mount Gilead, North Carolina, 27306
May 3, 2022

The Mount Gilead Board of Commissioners met at 7:00 p.m. at the Mount Gilead Fire Station, 106 E. Allenton St., Mt. Gilead, NC on May 3, 2022, for the regular monthly business meeting. Present was Mayor Beverly Harris, Commissioners Paula Covington, Mary Lucas and Vera Richardson, Town Manager David Smith, Clerk Amy Roberts, Police Chief Pat Preslar, Fire Chief Keith Byrd, and Public Works Director Daniel Medley.
Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Tim McAuley

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Beverly Harris called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. She called for an extra moment of silence in memory of Mr. Kent McAuley, brother of Mayor Pro Tem McAuley who passed away Sunday, May 1, 2022.

ITEM I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Covington made a motion to adopt the agenda as is. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion. Agenda was unanimously adopted.

ITEM II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Richardson made a motion to approve both the April 4, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes, and the April 22 & 23 Budget Workshop minutes. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved.

ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Chuck Routh, 307 East Allenton St., Mt. Gilead – Mr. Routh reported that the Downtown Merchants Association had a very successful event on April 14, named Thankful Thursday. Because of this successful event and the support of the Town's citizens, Mr. Routh's business, Cotton and Wood, was able to make a donation to Mt. Gilead Elementary School to go towards beautification and make a donation to the Town of Mount Gilead to be used by the Community Appearance Board for help with beautifying the entry signs coming into Town at all 5 entrances. This event will become an ongoing event and will be held every third Thursday of each month. From May through September from 4-8 p.m.

Ms. Patsi Laracunte, 305 Stanback St., Mt. Gilead – Ms. Laracunte wanted to make the board aware that the Town receiving a new Dollar General that is supposedly bigger and better is not necessarily a good thing. She stressed that she had spoken with their corporate office on numerous occasions complaining about the conditions of the store and the way they treat their employees. She stressed that even though the demand for employees will be greater with a bigger store, that Dollar General's policies will not change the way they operate. They will expect the few employees that they have employed now to operate with more job duties and the same hours. She invited everyone to see for themselves by visiting their website and typing in #putinaticket. She hoped the Board would at least just explore this.

Mr. Tim Patterson, 505 N. Pine St., Mt. Gilead – Mr. Patterson started his conversation with the phrase, “Well here I am again...”. He stated that there is a serious problem going on in our town with drugs, shootings and speeding and he is very frustrated that nothing is being done about it. He stated that about a month ago, there was a random shooting in the general vicinity of Lewis Street. When 911 was called, they were told that was it was not in the Town’s jurisdiction and that the sheriff’s department would be dispatched. He said nothing at all happened. No one every responded. He said, “We’ve got to do better”. He says he understands that the Police can’t be everywhere all the time, but the officers know where the “hot spots” are. He knows the police are scared these days because most of these young guys are carrying guns, but he said, “we are all scared” and something must be done. He thinks we need a new Police Department and a new Board. We need to place speed bumps in these neighborhoods to slow down the speeders, do license checks and drug busts. “We need to get together”.

Pastor Jerome Dumas, Mt. Gilead – Pastor Dumas wanted to speak about ways to help bring this young community together. He is opening a healthcare facility that will help with at-risk youth, counseling, and activities to help our youth. He reiterated what Mr. Patterson was saying about the problems our Town has with drugs and theft. He said he used to be one of them himself back in the day. He wants to do all he can to help these youth and hopes others will join in the fight and all of us come together as a town and a community.

Mr. James (Jamie) Kerney, MCSO, Troy – Mr. Kerney passed out a brochure that told a little about him and why he is running for Sheriff of Montgomery County. He stated to the previous two public speakers that he as well is sick of the problems that not only Mt. Gilead, but the whole county is facing with drugs and the opioid epidemic. He wants to make change with how the Sheriff’s office and law enforcement handles situations. No more jurisdictional departmental issues and policies. He says in his years of law enforcement he has seen what works and what doesn’t. He thanked everyone for letting him speak and offered to answer any questions after the meeting.

ITEM IV. OLD BUSINESS
None

ITEM V. NEW BUSINESS
A. Request for Public Hearing – June 7, 2022 - FY 22/23 Proposed Budget
Town Manager David Smith requested that the Board hold the required Public Hearing for the FY 22/23 Proposed budget on June 7, 2022, during the regular monthly meeting. Commissioner Richardson made a motion to approve the request for the Public Hearing. Commissioner Covington seconded the motion. The Public Hearing was unanimously approved for June 7, 2022.

ITEM VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS
A. Community Appearance Board
A monthly report was given by Committee chairperson, Ms. Susie Routh. She discussed ongoing projects of the committee and the proposed goals and missions of CATB. During their last meeting, Ms. Debbie Museka, Director of the Montgomery County Partnership for Children spoke to the committee members about the Story Walk project. The equipment was delivered to the Town in 2020 but was never installed. That is a project that will hopefully get completed over the next few months. She also spoke about the ongoing project of beautifying all the Towns main entry ways into the Town.

ITEM VII. STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports were given by Public Works Director Daniel Medley, Police Chief Pat Preslar, Fire Chief Keith Byrd, and Town Manager David Smith. A written report was provided by Code Enforcement Officer Brandon Emory. All reports were attached to the Board Packet and are available for public viewing in the Clerk's office or on the Town's website at www.mtgileadnc.com.

During the Police Chief's report, Police Chief Pat Preslar submitted his notice of resignation effective August 31, 2022. He thanked the Board for allowing him to serve our Town over the past 7 years. He stressed that he loved Mt. Gilead and its citizens, but he felt that the time had come to retire after 37 years of law enforcement. He offered his help in the training and/or onboarding of a new Police Chief and to help in any way he was needed. He also stressed to the Board that he felt that there were at least two (maybe 3) highly qualified candidates to step into the role of Chief within the current police department and hoped that they would at least consider one of them. A formal letter of resignation will be put in his personnel file.

ITEM VIII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS


Commissioner Covington reported that May Day will be held at Highland Community Center on Saturday, May 7 beginning with a parade beginning at the First United Methodist Church and parading through town all the way to Highland. Afterwards there will be opening ceremonies, praise dancing, vendors, and activities throughout the day for all to enjoy.

ITEM IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no more Board business, Commissioner Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:07 p.m.



Beverly A. Harris, Mayor



Amy C. Roberts, CMC, NCCMC, Town Clerk