



TOWN OF MOUNT GILEAD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

110 West Allenton Street, Mount Gilead, North Carolina, 27306
April 7, 2020

The Mount Gilead Board of Commissioners met remotely via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 for the regular monthly business meeting. Information on how to attend the meeting was posted on the town webpage www.mtgileadnc.com and on the Town's bulletin board.

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

ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Chip Miller called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

ITEM II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Paula Covington made a motion to approve the April 7, 2020 agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Tim McAuley seconded the motion. Agenda was unanimously approved.

ITEM III. INTRODUCTION

Matt Christian, Town Manager, welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting and explained to everyone how the electronic meeting would work.

ITEM IV. DISCUSSION TOPICS

A. Covid-19/coronavirus Response

Mayor Miller welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting. He stated that he had written a public response to the citizens during this COVID-19 outbreak. In his response he gave a general statement to the public letting them know that the Town is here for them during this time and asking for their support, compliance and patience.

B. FY 20-21 Budget

Town Manager, Matt Christian explained that he had a recent conference call with other Town Managers in the county and Montgomery County leaders concerning the timeline of the revaluation of property taxes for the citizens of Montgomery County. He explained that right now is the time the County would normally mail out notices about tax revaluations to the citizens. From that point, the citizens are allowed 30 days to question or appeal the revaluation. The County was concerned about creating a panic and added stress during this pandemic if they sent out these notices right now. Therefore, they decided to delay the distribution of these notices. Because of this, the Town of Mount Gilead will not be able to estimate revenues for our FY 20-21 budget. Matt explained that we may need to consider passing an Interim Budget for up to 90 days of the new fiscal year until the County can finish the property revaluation. In

summary, this means no new projects can begin or no new capital purchases during this interim time period and until the 20-21 full budget is adopted.

We will still have to conduct a public hearing to pass some form of budget.

Commissioner Lucas asked Matt if he was keeping up with any changes to the Sales Tax Revenues through the NC League of Municipalities. Matt said he had been keeping an eye on any and all information coming down from the League concerning any changes that could be coming.

Mayor Miller asked Matt if he would briefly update the Board on major needs for the upcoming budget year since the Board Retreat got cancelled. Matt said that he asked the department heads to summarize their wants/needs for the new budget. Matt will send a Budget Summary to the Board by email.

C. Project Updates

According to Town Manager, Matt Christian, the WWTP Rehab Project is on schedule and the contractors are on track and continuing with construction.

There is some uncertainty with how the Comprehensive Plan will continue in the near future because of COVID-19. The May 7 workshop has been postponed. Matt is working closely with Mosaic to come up with new ideas, such as surveys by mail in case we can't have public workshops. The completion of the Comp Plan is scheduled for October 2020.

There has been a draft plan completed by Mosaic for the Albert Johnson Pocket Park.

Mayor Pro Tem McAuley asked Matt if the town plans on doing anything to help Mr. James Lilly, owner of a home on Hwy. 109 South, who has a culvert to the right of his home, bordering his property. This culvert is managed by NC DOT but the homeowner has asked the Town if Public Works could help him get something done. During major storms and heavy downpours this culvert overflows and causes invasive flooding into his yard causing damage each time it happens. Commissioner McAuley stated that he felt like the Town should do something to help him. McAuley said he remembers years ago that Public Works did some maintenance to the culvert to help with the flooding. Matt says he and Daniel have discussed possibly getting the inmates to remove some of the rocks. McAuley asked Daniel if he would speak to James McCormick (former Public Works employee) and ask him what type of maintenance they used to do to the culvert.

Mayor Miller asked Daniel about the status of paving the parking lots at Stanback Park. Daniel stated that we have received a bid from CK Earnhardt and Riley Paving. JT Russell and Sons declined to bid on the project. According to Daniel, both bids exceeded the budgeted amount. Commissioner Lucas expressed her concern about moving forward with this paving project and asked if the Board thinks we should delay because of the fear of how the economy may plummet during this crisis and that small towns may be "hit hard". Mayor Miller expressed his concern about delaying the project because he's afraid prices are going to balloon because of the crisis and he assured the Board that it has already been budgeted for and approved. Matt said he and Daniel would seek additional bids and summarize this information for the board.

Commissioner Lucas asked for an update on the erosion issues behind the Mt. Gilead Antique Mall. Per Matt, there was a survey/model done of the area. The drain under the road from the Police Department at Ingram Street leading under and across Main Street is failing because of age. Engineers are working on developing a solution.

ITEM III. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

A. Town Manager

Town Hall is closed to the Public until further notice. Citizens have been instructed to make payments via US mail, dropbox, or online. The Town is waiving the service fees to customers associated with online payments until further notice.

Administrative staff have been isolating at home for the past two weeks to prevent possible COVID-19 exposure. Any work that can be done from home has continued. The Town Clerk has continued with payroll, state reporting and Accounts payable during this time. The clerk has checked the post office box and the drop box on Tuesdays and Fridays during this time and made bank deposits. Admin staff will start back to work in the office on Wednesday, April 8, with clear instructions on social distancing and work schedules during this time. Matt will have a safety briefing first thing on Wednesday morning with the Admin team to assure there are clear expectations for the near future.

B. Police Department

Police Chief Preslar spoke briefly and explained that he had put his monthly updates in the Board packet and asked if the Board had any questions for him. Commissioner McAuley asked if the PD has had any issues with people hanging out at the car wash during the Stay at Home order. Chief Preslar said they had not seen any major issues. The Chief explained that officers have been instructed to keep an eye out for large groups gathering not only at the car wash but anywhere in Town and to educate the group(s) and ask them to leave. Commissioner McAuley said he had noticed people gathering at the Car Wash and said they might want to keep a close eye on it.

Commissioner Richardson asked Chief Preslar if he had any other complaints, other than her, about rapid gunfire in the area Sunday, April 5. Chief Preslar said the officer on duty said he also had heard this and thought it came from a different area. The officer investigated that area and did not find anything. Commissioner Richardson stressed her concern about officers not patrolling all areas of the town.

Commissioner Lucas asked Chief Preslar if the Town has regulations or a policy in reference to putting Wrecker Services on a call rotation. Chief Preslar said the Police Department has always followed the County's rotation list. If someone requests to be added to the rotation list they usually approach him or Montgomery County Dispatch to be added. Recently, Randy's Wrecker Service asked to be dropped from the Rotation List. Chief Preslar reached out to a wrecker service out of Norwood, and he agreed to service our area because of the proximity to our town. Commissioner Lucas expressed her concern over this decision stating that she felt like that we should be using services from our own county. She was under the impression that there was a policy that stated that any wrecker service in rotation is required to have an office and a holding space in our county. She asked Chief Preslar to look into this.

C. Public Works

Daniel spoke briefly to the Board and explained that Public works has continued with work as usual. His monthly report was attached to the Board packets and asked if they had any questions for him. The Board had no questions.

ITEM IV. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Lucas stated that she felt like administrative staff should not come back to work until Monday, April 13 rather than Wednesday, April 8. She also asked Matt if he was going to have any extra precautionary protective measures at the front window at Town Hall before re-opening to the public. Matt said he was open to suggestions.

Commissioner Lucas stated that she had some complaints about people playing pickle ball at the park while it is closed to the public. Mayor Miller says he has been told that pickle ball has stopped in large groups. Commissioner Covington stated that the Executive Stay at Home order says that people can still be outside for recreational activities as long as they are still practicing social distancing and no groups larger than 10 people.


Matt commented that the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners made a proclamation declaring Wednesday, April 8 as a Day of Memorial in honor of fallen Deputy Bud Phaoung's 44th birthday. "Officer Bud" was the first Montgomery county resident lost to COVID-19.

ITEM V. PUBLIC COMMENT


NOTE: Public comments were requested to be submitted in writing to the Town Clerk clerk@mtgileadnc.com, in the chat section of the Zoom meeting, or by texting 910-439-6687. No requests from the public came in.

ITEM VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no more Board business, Commissioner Covington made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.



Joseph "Chip" Miller, Jr., Mayor



Amy C. Roberts, Town Clerk