



## TOWN OF MOUNT GILEAD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

110 West Allenton Street, Mount Gilead, North Carolina, 27306

**March 2, 2021**

The Mount Gilead Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, March 2, 2021 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 Pro Tem Tim McAuley, Commissioners Paula Covington, Mary Lucas and Vera Richardson, Police Chief Pat Preslar, Fire Chief Keith Byrd, Public Works Director Daniel Medley and Town Clerk Amy Roberts.

Absent: Mayor Chip Miller

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem McAuley called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm with an introduction, a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

### ITEM I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

### ITEM II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 2, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Lucas made a motion to adopt the February 2, 2021 regular meeting minutes as read. Commissioner Covington seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously adopted.

### ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### ITEM IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Ordinance to amend Chapter 91: Animals; for the purpose of establishing a Leash Law and updating Animal Cruelty Regulations  
Town Manager Hiram Marziano presented a finalized and updated amendment to Chapter 91 of the Town Ordinances which establishes a leash law, updates animal cruelty regulations and gives Law enforcement and/or County Animal Control authority to restrain “at large” animals within the Town of Mount Gilead. Marziano stated that if the Board chooses to adopt the policy, he would still like to have time to educate the citizens and the public before this policy takes effect. He recommended approving this ordinance with an effective date of May 1, 2021. Commissioner Richardson made a motion to adopt this amendment to the Chapter 91 Town Ordinance- Animals with an effective date of May 1, 2021. Commissioner Covington seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Street Lighting Policy

Town Manager Hiram Marziano presented the final proposed Town of Mount Gilead Street Lighting Policy for the Board's review. The Board was presented with this policy during the prior month's meeting and requested to review it further before making a decision. With no questions or concerns about this policy, Mayor Pro Tem McAuley asked for a motion from the Board. Commissioner Covington made a motion to adopt the proposed Street Lighting Policy as written. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. The Town of Mount Gilead Street Light Policy was unanimously adopted.

ITEM VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution Opposing House Bill 35 Regarding Electronic Notice

Town Manager Hiram Marziano presented a Resolution to the Board asking that we as a Town oppose House Bill 35 which gives local governments authority to only advertise via electronically or through their website. Marziano stated that the elderly demographics in our area should obligate us to continue advertising in the local newspaper because of lack of access to internet and a large population of elderly residents in our community. Commissioner Lucas made a motion to adopt the resolution opposing House Bill 35. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously and the resolution was adopted.

B. Budget Amendment BA21-0302-01

Town Manager Marziano presented budget amendment BA21-0302-01 for review. These budget items were erroneously not carried over from the Interim Budget that was passed in June 2020 to the full current budget that was passed in September 2020.

The first item on the Budget amendment was to add \$52,463.48 to the Parks and Recreation building and grounds budget to cover the paving of the park that was approved in the 19-20 budget. The work carried over and was paid for in the 20-21 budget but was not allocated in the 20-21 budget.

The second item was to add a budget line item of \$46,246.60 to show revenue allocated to the Town of Mount Gilead from Montgomery County which was part of the federal CARES act funding and the Federal COVID-19 relief care package to each state. This was an allocation that was received after the approval of the interim budget and therefore not set up.

C. Sewer Use Ordinance Proposed Amendments

Town Manager Marziano presented an updated Sewer Use Ordinance for the Board's review. He explained that because of the depth and amount of pages to this Ordinance amendment it would require two readings before final approval. Mayor Pro Tem McAuley suggested they take action at the April meeting which will give the Board time to thoroughly read through the proposed Ordinance. The Board unanimously agreed to take action at the April meeting.

D. COVID-19 Emergency Paid Sick Leave (EPSL) Policy -Extended

Town Clerk Amy Roberts presented the Board with an updated EPSL policy. The current policy that was approved in April of 2020 expired on December 31, 2020. Since December 31, 2020, employees that have had to miss work or quarantine due to the COVID-19 pandemic have had to use their own accrued sick or vacation leave. Extending the current EPSL would allow any employees going forward to utilize this leave rather than use their own personal leave. It would also be backdated to January 1, 2020 to help employees recoup lost time that should have been covered under the

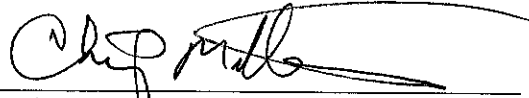
EPSL policy. No other changes were made to the policy. Commissioner Richardson made a motion to approve the extended Emergency Paid Sick Leave Policy until December 31, 2021. Commissioner Covington seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- ITEM VII. STAFF REPORTS – Monthly staff reports were given by Public Works Director Daniel Medley, Police Chief Pat Preslar and a written report from Code Enforcement Officer Brandon Emory and were included in the Board packets.
- In addition to the monthly reports, Daniel Medley asked the Board for a recommendation on how to move forward with the personalized banner pole program. Currently, there is no set policy about these banners. Per the original verbal agreement in 2019 that the former Town Manager made with the Mt. Gilead Community Foundation, the Town of Mount Gilead would pay for hardware to place the banners on poles and the Foundation would pay for the banners. Citizens paid \$100 each for the banners to be placed on poles throughout town in honor of or in memory of someone of their choosing. Medley explained that this has become a very costly project because of having to constantly replace broken hardware for these banners. His question for the Board is - how long do we continue to do this? Do we replace the flags when they get torn or tethered at the Town's cost? There are many unanswered questions that need clarification for future reference.
- The Board asked the Town Manager and/or Daniel to further investigate and speak with the Mount Gilead Community Foundation about the past agreement and how to proceed moving forward. Marziano said he would contact the Foundation and report back at the April meeting.
- Town Manager Marziano updated the Board on the Speakman property behind the Fire Department on East Allenton Street that is currently non-compliant and under review with Code Enforcement. Marziano spoke with Speakman's lawyer and was avid that the Speakman's are eager to become compliant. The Speakmans had originally been given until March 1, 2021 to become compliant to avoid the next steps in code enforcement through the Town. Commissioner Lucas spoke to the Board and stated that she had been in touch with the Speakman family. She stated that every family member had recently been sick with the COVID virus and that Mr. Speakman had recently had knee replacement surgery and has not been able to do any of the required work that it would take to get the property in compliance. The family asked Commissioner Lucas to request that the Board consider granting them an extension until June 1 to become compliant. The Board was in agreement with this recommendation and granted the extension for the Speakman property until June 1, 2021.

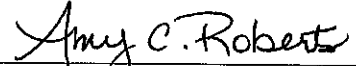
- ITEM VIII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS
- Commissioner Covington asked about replacing or updating the slate at the Town of Mount Gilead entrance signs.
- Commissioner Covington asked the Public Works Director about the fence that separates the property between a private residence and the Stanback Pool parking lot on East Allenton Street. The fence has fallen over, and she asked if the Town is responsible for this or the property owner. Medley explained that it is private property and that it may be a code enforcement issue. Medley will follow up and investigate this further.

ITEM IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no more Board business Commissioner Covington made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



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



Amy C. Roberts, Clerk