



# TOWN OF MOUNT GILEAD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

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110 West Allenton Street, Mount Gilead, North Carolina, 27306  
**September 6, 2022**

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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 Tuesday, September 6, 2022, for the regular monthly business meeting. Present were Mayor Beverly Harris, Mayor Pro Tem Tim McAuley, Commissioners Paula Covington, Mary Lucas and Vera Richardson, Town Manager David Smith, Clerk Amy Roberts, Interim Police Chief Austen Morton, Fire Chief Keith Byrd and Public Works Director Daniel Medley.

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Richardson made a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of ITEM X. CLOSED SESSION – Personnel. Commissioner Covington seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 28, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to adopt the minutes. Commissioner Covington seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved.

ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Patty Almond – East Allenton St. Mt. Gilead – Ms. Almond spoke about the safety of our sidewalks and that we should be considering using any grant money we may receive to help promote the safety for children by giving them better sidewalks to walk on, ride their bikes. She also stressed the need for a centralized community center that all can use.

Ms. Mary Poplin, E. Haywood Lane, Mt. Gilead – Ms. Poplin stated that the Board really needs to consider adding a PA system at the Fire Department for use during Board meetings. She also wanted to stress the importance of the growth at Lake Tillery and what a great idea she thinks it is to consider annexing this development into the Town because the Town really needs the increase in tax revenue and the increased tax base.

Ms. Patsi Laracuate – Stanback Street, Mt. Gilead – Ms. Laracuate wanted to speak about an article that the Town Manager posted in the Speckled Paw newsletter in July. She stated her opinions and dislikes with some of the statements the Town Manager made in his article. She also stressed her disappointment with the lack of communication between her and the Town Manager and how disappointed she is that he has disregarded her numerous emails, texts, and phone calls.

ITEM IV. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

A. Resolution to declare Police Surplus Property

Mayor Harris read a Resolution declaring the gun and badge of the retiring Police Chief, Pat Preslar, as surplus property and selling it to the Police Chief for a sum of \$1.00.

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve this declaration with a second from Commissioner Covington. The property was unanimously declared as surplus and the sum of \$1.00 was accepted as payment from Police Chief Pat Preslar.

- B. Presentation of Badge and Gun to Retired Police Chief  
Mayor Harris presented a sealed and signed copy of the resolution to Chief Pat Preslar and thanked him for his service to the Town of Mount Gilead.  
Preslar spoke to the Board and staff and thanked them for allowing him to serve the Town as Chief and stated that he is always available if needed. He also stated that he will remain on staff as a reserve officer, working special events and such, at least for a little while.

ITEM V.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Presentation LKC Engineering  
Mr. Rob McIntyre, Engineer with LKC Services spoke to the Board about the progress that has been made and that is in process with the Water and Wastewater AIA Grant funds as well as the need for upgrades to the WWTP to prepare for development within Lake Tillery and the Industrial Park across from Unilin on Highway 109. He presented three resolutions required by the State that provides the Town's intent to request State loan and/or grant assistance for projects requested.
- B. Resolution Mt. Gilead Stormwater Construction  
Mr. McIntyre with LKC presented a resolution to request funding from the State for Stanback Park Stormwater Construction. Mayor Pro Tem McAuley made a motion to adopt this resolution with a second from Commissioner Richardson. Resolution was unanimously approved.
- C. Resolution Mt. Gilead Stormwater AIA  
Mr. McIntyre with LKC presented a resolution to request funding from the State for Stormwater AIA. Commissioner Lucas made a motion to adopt this resolution with a second from Mayor Pro Tem McAuley. Resolution was unanimously approved.
- D. Resolution Mt. Gilead WWTP Construction  
Mr. McIntyre with LKC presented a resolution to request funding from the State for WWTP Construction. Commissioner Richardson made a motion to adopt this resolution with a second from Commissioner Lucas. Resolution was unanimously approved.

ITEM VI.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. BA 2223-09-01  
Town Manager Smith requested approval for a Budget Amendment that will relieve the Town of Mount Gilead from receiving and budgeting for annual funds that are received by Mt. Gilead Fire Department from Montgomery County that are designated ONLY for the Fire Truck provided by the County to pay for repairs and maintenance to the County Fire Truck. A Truist Checking Account will be opened to hold these annual funds so that they cannot be dispensed for any other expense other than the County Fire Truck funding. Mayor Pro Tem McAuley made a motion to approve Budget Amendment BA2223-09-01. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. The amendment was unanimously approved.
- B. ABC Board Replacement Recommendation  
Mr. Phil Richardson, General Manager of the ABC Board, sent a letter of request for a new appointment to the ABC Board after the passing of long time Mt. Gilead ABC Board member, Ben Haithcock. The ABC recommended either Mr. Jones Almond or Mr. Chip Miller. Mr. Almond has agreed to serve if he is appointed by the Mt. Gilead Board of Commissioners. Mr. Miller could not be reached as of meeting time. The Board of Commissioners decided to table this replacement recommendation until the October Board meeting to allow time to try and reach Mr. Miller and see if he has interest in serving before making an appointment to the Board.

- C. ARPA Funding Reclassification Approval  
Town Manager Smith spoke to the Board about the use of ARPA funds received and possibly reclassing the use of these funds. The Board had originally designated \$102,000 of these funds for LKC Engineering to do a survey of needs for sewer upgrades between Lily's Bridge Road and Lake Tillery. Smith stated that this study can now be tied into other projects in process and other grant monies that could be coming down the pike. This can free up some of the current ARPA funding for other projects to be determined. Commissioner Covington made a motion to approve the reclassification of ARPA funds. Mayor Pro Tem McAuley seconded the motion. Reclassification was unanimously approved.
- D. Police Department Restructuring  
Town Manager Smith discussed with the Board the need to restructure the Police Department to allow for the opportunity for a new position of Assistant/Deputy Chief of Police. This would not require any more funding but pull money from the current vacant position within the department as well as reclassify the current positions in the department. He stressed the accelerated need for strong community policing and restructuring the department will greatly enhance an already great department. The Board was unsure of depth of the request and decided to table this request until they could gather more information.
- E. Update to Personnel Policy Section IX. Leave of Absence  
During the annual audit, it was discovered that the Town's Southern Software (FMS) system was automatically accruing 4 hours per bi-weekly pay period rather than 8 hours per month. The policies and procedures manual were never updated when the Town went from a weekly pay period to bi-weekly and accrual was no longer being entered manually. Town Manager Smith requested that the Board approve the re-wording of the Personnel Policy to state vacation and sick leave accrual reflect hours accrued bi-weekly rather than by the month. Commissioner Richardson made a motion to change the wording in the policy. Commissioner Covington seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Community Appearance Board  
Ms. Susie Routh, Chairman of the Community Appearance Board reported that the Committee had met and discussed the ongoing project of entryway signage and the progress that has been made. She also discussed the Community Garden and the planting of sunflowers that will rejuvenate and enhance the dirt and ground for next spring's crops.
- B. Restructuring of Parks and Recreation Committee  
Town Manager Smith stated that since the creation of the Parks and Rec Committee in the early spring of 2022 there has only been one meeting and due to no fault of anyone, he feels that the Committee needs restructuring and reforming. He plans to contact all current members of the committee within the next couple of weeks and tell them his plans for restructuring and give them the opportunity to either continue as members of the committee or resign. Once this is done, he will report back to the Board and open an invitation to the public to apply for membership on this committee.

ITEM VIII. STAFF REPORTS

Staff reports were presented by Public Works Director Daniel Medley, Interim Police Chief Austen Morton, Fire Chief Keith Byrd, and Town Manager David Smith and were attached to the Board packets. A copy of these reports is on file in the Clerk's office and are available for public viewing.

ITEM IX. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Mayor Pro Tem McAuley wanted to publicly thank the Mt. Gilead Fire Department for doing a wonderful job burning an outbuilding on his property. Commissioner Lucas requested Town Manager Smith explore getting time clocks installed for employees. She also requested that Smith speak to someone with Valley Proteins in reference to waste spills in our roads within Town.

ITEM X. CLOSED SESSION – Personnel (NCGS 143.11. (a) (6))

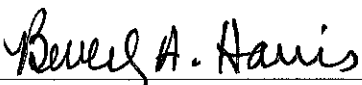
Commissioner Covington made a motion to end open session and go in to closed session. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

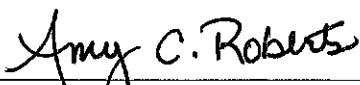
Commissioner Richardson made a motion to return to open session. Commissioner Covington seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously to return to open session.

Mayor Pro Tem McAuley asked the Board if they could re-open the discussion of ITEM V. (D) – Restructuring of the Police Department that they had tabled earlier during the meeting. The Board consensus was to re-open the discussion. Town Manager Smith explained further his purpose for requesting to restructure the Police Department and the importance of this move. He feels this will help move the Town forward in the direction that is needed and broaden our community policing efforts. After much discussion, Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve the restructuring of the Police Department. Mayor Pro Tem McAuley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Town Manager Smith stated that following this approval, he would contact the Police Advisory Committee to discuss how to proceed with the selection of the new Chief of Police.

ITEM XI. ADJOURNMENT

With no more Board business, Commissioner Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

  
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Beverly A. Harris, Mayor

  
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Amy C. Roberts, CMC, NCCMC  
Town Clerk