



TOWN OF MOUNT GILEAD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

110 West Allenton Street, Mount Gilead, North Carolina, 27306
November 1, 2022

The Mount Gilead Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Mount Gilead Fire Station, 106 E. Allenton St., Mt. Gilead, NC, for the regular monthly business meeting. Present were Mayor Beverly Harris, Mayor Pro Tem Tim McAuley, Commissioners Mary Lucas and Vera Richardson, Interim Town Manager David Smith, Town Clerk Amy Roberts, Police Chief Talmedge Legrand, Fire Chief Keith Byrd and Public Works Director Daniel Medley.

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem McAuley made a motion to adopt the agenda for November 1, 2022. Commissioner Covington seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. October 4, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to adopt the October 4, 2022 regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Covington seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

B. October 21, 2022, Special Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Covington made a motion to adopt the October 21, 2022 special meeting minutes. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT

- 1. Mr. Ben Blake, E. Haywood Lane, Mt. Gilead, NC** – Mr. Blake spoke to the Board about his disappointment with the current functioning of the Board as a body and stated that he is appalled that the Board has allowed our Town to get to the point that we've lost three Town Managers. He was very upset that the Board repeatedly tabled discussions about items that they approved in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan that he feels ultimately led to the resignation of Town Manager Mr. David Smith. He stated that a group has been formed to form an alliance for "A Better Mount Gilead" and that they should be "put on notice" that this group will be actively seeking their replacements as Board members if they don't start taking their positions more seriously and actively start working for the people. He stated that he feels Mount Gilead deserves better.
- 2. Ms. Myra Poplin, Speckled Paw Coffee, Main St. Mt. Gilead, NC** - Ms. Poplin addressed the Board's lack of support for Main Street businesses from her personal view as a business owner. In summary she questioned the Board as to why the Board hates their business so much and why they would have so much animosity towards them. Their newsletter has actively sought out news from all aspects of Town to be supportive of everyone, yet Board members tell others, such as past Town Managers to stay out of their business.

~ The complete copy of Ms. Poplin's speech is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk's office.

3. **Mary Poplin, S. Main St. Mt. Gilead, NC** – Ms. Poplin addressed the abuse of closed session meetings without proper cause. She stated that she was concerned that some of these closed session meetings that were simply cited as “personnel matter” may have been considered public information and may have been a violation of the open meetings laws.
~ *The complete copy of Ms. Poplin’s speech is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk’s office.*
4. **Dr. Bryant Ford, E. Ingram St. Mt. Gilead, NC** - Dr. Ford read a poem aloud that he had written titled *That Sensible Vote* that expressed his concerns about the potential annexation of a development at Lake Tillery.
~ *Dr. Ford’s poem is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk’s office.*
5. **Mr. Earl Poplin, E. Haywood Lane, Mt. Gilead, NC** – Mr. Poplin spoke to the Board about the potential growth at Lake Tillery and reminded the Board that they have a chance to make history by voting to annex the proposed development being developed by Lennar Developers. He stated that in all his years here, and his service to Mayor, he’s never seen a better opportunity for our Town. The potential sales tax revenue and change in the tax base could be substantial to the survival of Mount Gilead.
6. **Ms. Susie Routh, E. Allenton St. Mt. Gilead, NC** – Ms. Routh stated that serving on the Community Appearance Board (CATb) was both a rewarding an eye-opening experience for her. Ms. Routh resigned her position as Chairman and membership on the CATb Board after hearing of the resignation of Town Manager David Smith. She hopes the Board and Town will continue to work together and feels like that a lot of progress had been made in beautifying the Town’s entrances. She thanked Mr. Tim Patterson, who wasn’t even a member of the Board, who helped get the old trash cans repurposed into beautiful planters and she thanked Jordan Lumber Company for donating the funds to get the Town entrance sign area completed on Julius Chambers Avenue.
~ *The complete copy of Ms. Routh’s speech is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk’s office.*
7. **Mr. Chuck Routh, E. Allenton St., Mt. Gilead, NC 27306** – Mr. Routh spoke to the board about good leadership in our town. He stated that “leadership requires knowledge, talent, skill, and the ability and willingness to make a difference”. He stressed that Commissioners Covington and McAuley both have exhibited these characteristics by responding to citizens that they represent during these trying times. In summary, he pleaded with the Board to show the love they have for their town, separate themselves from toxicity and become a part of a Better Mt. Gilead.
~ *The complete copy of Mr. Routh’s speech is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk’s office.*

ITEM IV. OLD BUSINESS

None

ITEM V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget Amendment BA22-1101-01

Budget Amendment BA22-1101-01 was submitted to account for the increased revenue/expenses by donations for the Fall Festival. Commissioner Richardson made a motion to approve BA22-1101-01. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Pages 6-20)

A. Community Appearance Tree Board

i. Updates

Interim Town Manager David Smith told the Board that prior to the resignation of all but three members of the CATb the Town entrance on Julius Chambers Avenue was completed and that the Story Walk throughout town had been completed. With the submittal of the resignations, applications are being submitted for approval as members of the CATb.

- ii. **Approval of Applications**
Applications were received by Mitchell Lucas, Shaun Welland, Stephanie Welland and John Hall. Mayor Pro Tem McAuley asked if we could table this for another month so that we could advertise and give it more time for people to respond. Commissioner Covington stated that she felt like we should not table this vote since we have people present that are willing to step up and help our community. She didn't want to hinder anyone that is willing to volunteer. Commissioner Richardson made a motion to approve the new members as submitted for the CATb. Commissioner Covington seconded the motion. The vote was not unanimous. VOTE: 3 -Yay (Richardson, Covington, Lucas) 1 – Nay (McAuley). Motion carried and members were approved.

ITEM VII. STAFF REPORTS

Staff Reports were presented by Public Works Director Daniel Medley, Police Chief Talmadge Legrand, Fire Chief Keith Byrd and Interim Town Manager David Smith. Police Chief Legrand showed some pictures of evidence confiscated during traffic stops in Town over the last month. Chief Byrd showed demonstrated and showed the Board the plans for renovations for the Fire Department kitchen and Community Room. New commercial appliances have been ordered and once a final quote is complete for renovations, approval will be presented to the Board at the December meeting. These renovations, per Interim Town Manager Smith, are part of the approved special projects to be paid for with ARPA funds. Complete Manager Reports were attached to the Board Packets and are available in the Town Clerk's office.

ITEM VIII. MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS REPORT

None

ITEM IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no more Board business Commissioner Covington made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.



Beverly A. Harris, Mayor



Amy C. Roberts, CMC, Town Clerk