



**TOWN OF MOUNT GILEAD
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

110 West Allenton Street, Mount Gilead, North Carolina, 27306
May 2, 2023

The Mount Gilead Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Highland Community Center, 131 Hoffman Rd, Mt Gilead, NC, for the regular monthly business meeting. Present were Mayor Beverly Harris, Mayor Pro Tem Tim McAuley, Commissioners Paula Covington, Mary Lucas and Vera Richardson, Interim Town Manager Bill Zell, Incoming Town Manager Dylan Haman, Town Clerk Amy Roberts, Police Chief Talmedge Legrand, Public Works Director Daniel Medley and Fire Chief Keith Byrd.

ITEM I. Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Interim Manager Zell asked the Board if we could re-arrange the agenda by moving Item VII – Committee Reports to Item IV and vice versa. The Chairman of the Community Garden had another engagement and needed to leave. Commissioner Covington made a motion to adopt the agenda with noted changes. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. April 4, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. April 19, 2023 Special Joint Meeting Minutes
- C. April 21, April 22, 2023 Budget Retreat Minutes

Mayor Pro Tem McAuley made ONR motion to adopt all three sets of minutes. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. Minutes from April 4, 19, 21 and 22 were all unanimously approved.

ITEM IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tim Patterson, 501 N. Pine Street – Mr. Patterson wanted to address the gun issues going on around town. He feels like no one is communicating with the Police Department. He stressed that he heard a large explosion a few nights prior to the meeting. He said no one came out to do anything about it. He and his neighbors hear gunshots all the time and nothing is being done about it. He says we all must start communicating with each other and we have to do better. He is very concerned with the number of guns being held by young adults and teenagers. He said he's scared of living in his neighborhood.

ITEM VI. OLD BUSINESS

None

ITEM VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Water Shortage Response Plan Supporting Documents
- B. Water Shortage Response Plan Resolution

Interim Manager Zell asked that Items A and B be tabled until the June 7 meeting because there was a lot of prerequisite work that needed to be done before these items could be voted on.

C. New Water/Sewer Rates for The Next Fiscal Year

Incoming Town Manager Haman and Interim Manager Zell presented two options to the Board that showed the difference in base water rates using a 5% increase and also showed them a 10% increase. The amount of difference was low enough that the Board felt we should go ahead and raise the rates by 10% effective July 1, 2023. This increase stemmed from the 21-22 Financial Report from JB Watson and Co., Inc. that showed a loss in our Enterprise Fund that has been steadily getting worse over the last few years. The auditors recommended that we increase rates to help with the loss. Interim Manager Zell stressed that we may possibly need to do small increases over the next few years to get us on a break even basis. Commissioner Richardson made a motion to approve a 10% water increase across the Board for residential and industrial users.

Commissioner Covington seconded the motion. The vote was not unanimous. Commissioner Lucas voted in opposition of the increase. Motion carried 3-1.

D. Donation For Montgomery County Babe Ruth Baseball

Incoming Manager Haman presented a letter that was received by Mr. Chris Lucas, Chairman of Babe Ruth Baseball for Montgomery County. The league was asking for a \$500 donation. Even though the Board had approved this annual donation for the current FY 22-23 budget, Haman wanted to bring this to the Board because we had also approved a \$500 donation to the Mount Gilead Dixie Youth league as well. Since we don't have a local Dixie Youth league this year, Haman suggested we use that donation to give a one-time donation of \$1,000 to Babe Ruth rather than the allotted \$500. Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve the one-time donation. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Community Garden

Chairman Mary Poplin gave a report of the status of the Community Garden. She says they have done a lot of garden maintenance. Their bean test failed unfortunately but they are hoping for tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, and okra as well as other stuff. They have several workdays coming up if anyone is interested in volunteering. The full report was attached to the Board packet and is available for public viewing at Town Hall.

ITEM VIII. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Staff reports were given by Public Works Director Daniel Medley, Police Chief Talmedge Legrand, Fire Chief Keith Byrd and Interim Manager Bill Zell and were attached to the Board packets. All reports are available at Town Hall for public viewing.

ITEM IX. MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS REPORT

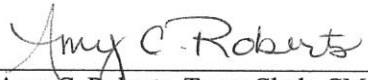
Commissioner Richardson reminded everyone of May Day coming up on Saturday, May 6. The parade begins at 10 am and the festivities will begin immediately afterward at Highland Community Center until 5 p.m.

ITEM X. ADJOURNMENT

With no more Board business Commissioner Covington made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



Beverly A. Harris, Mayor



Amy C. Roberts, Town Clerk, CMC