

Mount Pleasant

North Carolina

Founded in 1848

**Town of Mt. Pleasant
Board of Commissioners
Town Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 11, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.**

Attendance: Mayor Del Eudy
Mayor Pro-Tem/Commissioner Lori Furr (*absent*)
Commissioner Steve Ashby
Commissioner Justin Simpson
Commissioner William Meadows
Commissioner Jim Sells
Town Administrator Randy Holloway
Town Attorney John Scarbrough
Town Clerk Amy Schueneman

Also Present: Erin Burris, Crystal Smith, Captain Tessa Burchett, Deputy Stephen Wagoner, Deputy Adam Sellers, Deputy Blovsky, Pastor Earl Bradshaw, Rodney Schueneman, Ally Schueneman, Darrell Layton, Lane Bost, Crystal Bost, Ron Hurlocker, Joe Graves, Amy Underwood, Eric Boulware, and Kim Baker.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eudy called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Pastor Earl Bradshaw of Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church led the Board in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Eudy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING COMMENTS

Mayor Eudy addressed the audience concerning the **Town Branding process**.

"I would like to take moment here at the beginning of the meeting to address a topic that has caused quite a stir these past few weeks. I am going to provide a factual summary of what took place leading up to where we currently stand regarding a Town logo so we can set the record straight. Now what I am about to tell you is 100% the facts. The truth. This is not Facebook.

1. The Town has never had an official logo. There is a Town seal that is intended to be used for official business and a letterhead that was created by a Town Clerk many years ago.
2. In 2017, one of the strategies in the adopted Comprehensive Plan was to create logo to be used on signage, in print, and online media. Examples were provided in the plan.
3. Earlier this year, Town staff presented a proposal for a new Town Hall sign, to replace an existing sign that had been damaged and because it did not list all the addresses and

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everything that went on in this building. A sign to also let the public know of additional parking here at Town Hall.

4. The Town Board decided that ahead of any further investments in signage and online media, that now would be a good time to work on the creation of a logo. A subcommittee from Board membership was formed. (Mayor Eudy asked the people on the subcommittee to raise their hand. Commissioner Simpson and Town Clerk Amy Schueneman raised their hands. Commissioner Furr (absent) was also on the committee.)
5. The subcommittee engaged a local graphic artist who was asked to produce three logos. The subcommittee asked the graphic artist to present the **best** of the three options at the August Town Board meeting. At that meeting, the option received mixed feedback and the Board chose to wait a month before deciding on how to move forward. So, at that meeting that this tree was presented nothing happened. Now between that meeting and the September meeting, I personally talked to Commissioner Sells, Commissioner Meadows, and Commissioner Furr. I personally gave them my strong opinion of dislike with this logo.
6. At the September 13 Town Board meeting, the Board decided to pause the process and go in a different direction that had more public engagement or public input. The Board wanted the process and options of other graphic artists or branding consultants at the October meeting. So, let me stop right here for a minute. September 13, when we vote or do something up here, I have to have a Commissioner that says, for this example, "I make a motion to accept the tree as the new logo." Then a second Commissioner would have to say, "I second the motion." And then we'd have something to vote on or consider. That tree, that logo, that's all over social media never even received a motion to be voted on...It was never even considered.
7. Eight days later on September 21, an individual...chose to take minutes from the August meeting out of the context of the full months-long discussion, posted those minutes on social media, and made it seem like the decision had already been made on a logo. Eight days PRIOR to this social media post, the Board made a conscious decision to NOT choose the logo and explore other options which includes public input, including what it looks like, the colors the whole nine-yards.
8. The Town Board had hoped to hear from a branding consultant at this evening's meeting to help craft a process to engage the public on the new logo. Unfortunately, we felt like before doing that we needed to set the record straight and get the truth out there...so you will know the facts.
9. Everyone in Town is encouraged to attend the meetings and you can read the minutes, if you want to, but you are not going to have an accurate picture of what went on up here if you just read the minutes. It's impossible to do that. Then, in that social media post I was personally called out which was in the minutes that the Mayor said, "it don't have to be blue and gold." Now let me explain that. If you are designing the high school football helmet, I would tell you, you only need two colors: blue and gold...However, when you are designing a new town logo it don't have to be just blue and gold. Can blue and gold be in it? Absolutely! But it's ok to use other colors. That is what was taken totally out of context...This individual that posted this has not been to any of the meetings, none of them. This is the fourth month we have been talking about the logo...this is the truth, the

100% facts... This Town has never tried to change the colors of the Town. I don't know what to tell you the new logo will look like, but I about bet you it will have blue and gold in it."

Commissioner Simpson said, "I would just echo everything you (Mayor) said and even in the logo that was presented that was not put into motion...in that color palette was blue and gold. It's unfortunate that social media is the way it is. But I thank you (Mayor) for communicating that with our people tonight."

Commissioner Sells stated, "It's not the person that we hire or that brings something to us. Personally, for myself, I take responsibility, if we vote on something here, even if I disagree with it, I am going to support what they vote on. It's ludicrous to go out and start getting on somebody who is just trying to do something that helps somebody out. We've got employees here, we tell them to go do something, that's their job. They're just doing their job. Get on us (Board) don't get on them...I did a response on Facebook too, but it was mainly because of the Pastor. Because of what I was seeing. It was not his fault."

Commissioner Ashby said, "I am just happy somebody was looking at our minutes...If you do look at our minutes, rather than posting on Facebook and trying to, I won't say trying to cause and uproar because I am not sure that was his intent but contact somebody that was at the meeting and actually involved first. Get some information, some background, some story and then if you want to bash me on Facebook. That's fine, too."

Commissioner Meadows agreed with everything said by the others.

1. Public Forum

No one spoke

2. Conflict of Interest

The Mayor and Commissioners are asked at this time to reveal if they have a Conflict of Interest with any item on the Agenda in order to be recused for that item. (No member shall be excused from voting except upon matters involving the consideration of the member's own financial interest or official conduct or on matters on which the member is prohibited from voting under G.S. 14-234, 160A-381(d), or 160A-388(e)(2). NC State Statute 160A-75)

No one had a conflict.

Mayor Eudy informed the audience that Commissioner Furr would not be at the meeting.

A motion to excuse Commissioner Furr from the meeting was made by Commissioner Simpson with a second by Commissioner Sells. All Board Members were in favor. (4-0, Commissioner Furr absent)

3. Approve Agenda

ADD Ons:

New Business C: Consider approving the Agreement for Engineering Services with McGill Associates, P.A. for their services on the Municipal Complex and Park Improvements and the associated Budget Amendment.

New Business D: Speed limit signs on Walnut and Cook St.

A motion to approve the Agenda as amended was made by Commissioner Meadows with a second by Commissioner Ashby. All Board Members were in favor. (4-0, Commissioner Furr absent)

4. Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes September 13, 2021
- B. Proclamation for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Commissioner Simpson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as listed with a second by Commissioner Sells. All Board Members were in favor. (4-0, Commissioner Sells absent)

5. Reports

- A. Town Manager-Randy Holloway
Mr. Holloway introduced the Board to Darrell Layton, Public Works Manager and Lane Bost, Public Works Supervisor. Mr. Layton is part-timer that started in September. Some of the Board members have already commented that they have noticed an improvement in the Town. Mr. Bost was promoted today to Public Works Supervisor.
- B. Asst. Town Manager-Crystal Smith
- C. Town Clerk/Finance Officer - Amy Schueneman
- D. Planning & Economic Development Director - Erin Burris
- E. Code Enforcement- Jeff Watts
- F. Cabarrus Co. Sheriff's Dept Report - Deputy Claudette Tarte

6. Public Hearings

None

7. Old Business

None

8. New Business

A. ABC Board to address Town Board concerning FY2020/2021 proceeds

Eric Boulware, Vice Chair for the ABC Board, addressed the Town Board and requested the Town to reinvest the \$25,125 profits awarded from FY20/21 back into the upfit for the new ABC store. ABC Board is still in process of preliminary plans. It will be a 12-18-month process.

Randy Holloway stated it would be an investment in the new store.

Attorney John Scarborough confirmed there were no statutes to prevent the Town Board from doing this.

A motion to leave the \$25,125 with the ABC Board in order to make improvements to the new store was made by Commissioner Ashby with a second by Commissioner Simpson. All Board Members were in favor. (4-0, Commissioner Furr absent)

B. Consider approving a contract with Milligan Architecture, Inc. for the Architectural /Engineering Services for renovation / additions to the Mount Pleasant Fire Department.

Town Manager Randy Holloway stated that the Town has been working on this for a long time. The entire building is outdated with concrete issues in the bays. The

renovation estimate of \$2,000,000. The Fire dept. budget already has \$110,000 built into the budget to cover loan payments for the renovation. The A&E fees are only 5.8% of the project which is very good considering most are 10%. It would probably go to bid in February and start construction April or May. There will be a small addition to the front and back of the building. The apparatus bay would stay the same size with a facelift and new concrete floor since the current one is in bad shape. The trucks will only be out in the weather for a month or so.

2 motions were made:

1. A motion to approve the contract with Milligan Architecture, Inc. for the Architectural /Engineering Services for renovation / additions to the Mount Pleasant Fire Department in the amount of \$116,000 was made by Commissioner Sells with a second by Commissioner Meadows. All Board Members were in favor. (4-0, Commissioner Furr absent)

2. A motion to approve Budget Amendment #11 for Fire Department renovations Architectural /Engineering Services was made by Commissioner Sells with a second by Commissioner Simpson. All Board Members were in favor. (4-0, Commissioner Furr absent)

C. Consider approving the Agreement for Engineering Services with McGill Associates, P.A. for their services on the Municipal Complex and Park Improvements and the associated Budget Amendment.

Town Staff had multiple conference calls/emails with Doug Chapman of McGill Associates, P.A. to work out an acceptable rate for designing/overseeing several projects around Town Hall. This includes replacing the existing restroom/concession building, a storage building, cement walkways connecting areas, and paving gravel areas near the ballfield. Project will cost about \$900,000. It will be a 6 month project. Town Staff worked back and forth with McGill Associates, P.A. to reduce the engineering fees from \$130,000 to \$85,000.

Their Architectural & Engineering fees will be \$85,000, approximately 9% of budget. In the Town budget for FY21/22, \$50,000 was allocated for the loan payment for the Municipal Complex and Park Improvements. Town Staff would like to use the \$50,000 budgeted and add a Budget Amendment for \$40,000 from Fund Balance to cover the Architectural & Engineering services. The \$50,000 budgeted for the loan will not be used until the next Fiscal Year since the project would not be completed by June 30, 2022.

The Town will reach out to local banks to acquire a \$900,000 loan again since 60 day proposals have expired.

2 Motions:

1. A motion to allow the Town Manager to sign the Agreement for Architectural & Engineering Services with McGill Associates, P.A. for their services on the Municipal Complex and Park Improvements was made by Commissioner Meadows with a second by Commissioner Ashby. All Board Members were in favor. (4-0, Commissioner Furr absent)

2. Motion to approve Budget Amendment #12 Architectural & Engineering services for Municipal Complex Improvements was made by Commissioner Ashby with a second by Commissioner Simpson. All Board Members were in favor. (4-0, Commissioner Furr absent)

D. ADD on: Speed limit signs on Walnut & Cook Streets

Mayor Eudy stated speed limit signs are not enforceable until an Ordinance is approved. Tickets can be issued but a good lawyer can get them dropped without the Town going through the proper steps with the Ordinance. Signage must be per Federal Highway Administration must be official per the Manual Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

Signs can be placed in one area stating, "35mph in Town unless otherwise posted" to reduce sign clutter around Town. If 25mph, then a sign would need to go up on that street. Staff needs to look all the roads and do one Ordinance to make all the changes at one time. This would include stop/yield and one-way signs, as well as pedestrian cross walks, if Board feels they are needed. Town Staff will look at all the streets and bring back to the Board at a later date.

Board did not make a motion.


9. Adjournment

With nothing else to come before the Board, Commissioner Simpson made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Sells seconded the motion.

All Board Members were in favor. (4-0, Commissioner Furr absent)

By our signatures, the following minutes were approved as submitted and amended on Monday, November 8, 2021 in the Regular Meeting.


Town Clerk Amy Schueneman


Mayor W. Dell Eudy

