

# Mount Pleasant

North Carolina

*Founded in 1848*

**Town of Mt. Pleasant  
Board of Commissioners  
Town Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 20, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.  
ZOOM Electronic Meeting ID #695 184 154**

**Attendance:** Mayor Del Eudy  
Mayor Pro-Tem/Commissioner Lori Furr  
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, Jennifer Blake, Pastor Nick Newman, River, and Lindsey (iPhone).

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Eudy called the meeting to order.

## **INVOCATION**

Pastor Nick Newman of Propel Church led the Board in prayer.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Eudy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **1. Public Forum**

No one spoke at the Public Forum.

(Time was allowed for anyone to call into Town Hall or send a Chat box message.)

### **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.

Roll Call: Ashby-no, Furr- no, Meadows-no, Sells- no, and Simpson-no.

### **3. Approve Agenda**

Mayor Eudy added under New Business

G. Resolution to Adopt the Cabarrus Stanly Union Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

8590 Park Drive : P.O. Box 787 : Mount Pleasant, North Carolina 28124 : tel. 704.436.9803 : fax 704.436.2921

A motion to approve the Amended Agenda was made by Commissioner Furr with a second by Commissioner Meadows.

Roll Call: Ashby-yes, Furr- yes, Meadows-yes, Sells- yes, and Simpson-yes.

All Board Members were in favor. (5-0)

#### **4. Consent Agenda**

- A. Minutes from Budget Workshop March 7, 2020
- B. Minutes March 9, 2020
- C. Budget Amendment #17- To Correct BA#12 Transfer funds for Fire Dept. SUV's
- D. Budget Amendment #18 Proceeds from 1968 Kais FD truck to Vehicle Maint.

Commissioner Sells made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as listed with a second by Commissioner Ashby.

Roll Call: Ashby-yes, Furr- yes, Meadows-yes, Sells- yes, and Simpson-yes.

All Board Members were in favor. (5-0)

#### **5. Reports**

- A. Town Administrator- Randy Holloway
- B. Asst. Town Administrator-Crystal Smith
- C. Town Clerk/Finance Officer- Amy Schueneman
- D. Planning & Economic Development Director -Erin Burris

Mrs. Burris wanted to update the Board on a few items:

- Small Businesses are staying afloat. Emails have been sent out to every business that the Town has email addresses for to let them know about the Care Act. The program started on Friday and by Tuesday all the money was gone. Hopefully, more money will be allocated for small businesses. Several of our local businesses have applied. Unfortunately, does not apply to Sole Proprietorships.
- The PARTF grant will be sent off this week. It is due May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Surface Transportation Block Grant (SBG) for the Main St. sidewalk project has several options. Currently a 4' sidewalk and want to increase to the DOT standard of a 5' sidewalk. It would be good if we combine projects of new waterline, resurfacing, and sidewalks at one time to only tear up N. Main St. once. If we would get the SBG, they would pay 80% and the Town would pay 20%; however, the Town would have to pay the \$2,500,000 project up front and get reimbursed as bills were submitted. This project could take 4 years. The grant would cover sidewalks and storm water for 1 mile on N. Main St. Mayor Eudy thought other areas without sidewalks were more pressing like to Food Lion on Hwy 73. This grant may not become available again. If we do not try for it, the Town would only be able to do what our normal budget would allow in the future.

E. Code Enforcement Officer- Jeff Watts

F. Police Dept.-Deputy Stephen Wagoner

G. Fire Dept.-Fire Chief Jerry Taylor, Deputy Jeff Watts and Deputy Chief Dustin Sneed

#### **6. Old Business**

**A. Consider continuing the contract with the Cabarrus County Sheriff's Department for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 with minor changes recommended by the Town Manager.**

Town Manager Randy Holloway reminded the Board at the Budget Workshop the Board wanted to either keep the old contract with Cabarrus County Sheriff's Dept. or drop the service altogether. Mr. Holloway reached out to Sheriff Van Shaw and suggested with all that is going

on due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, it would be best for everyone to leave things as is and not cause more hardships on the three municipalities (Midland, Harrisburg, and Mount Pleasant). Sheriff Van Shaw agreed. Cabarrus County updated the contract which would mean a \$700 increase for FY2020/2021. Town Manager would like Board to think about either accepting the new contract for next year with an improvement on the service level or to drop it. Board could except for next year and then drop it the following year if they desired. Mr. Holloway would like permission from the Board to continue fine-tuning the contract in the following areas: vehicles paid by the Town but titled in Cabarrus County's name until replaced, fixing future increases to average of Deputies salaries, and the 10% Administrative charge for invoicing. The contract would be brought before the Board in May.

A consensus was given by the Board to allow Mr. Holloway to continue working with Cabarrus County to fine tune the contract.

Roll Call: Ashby-yes, Furr- yes, Meadows-yes, Sells- yes, and Simpson-yes.  
All Board Members were in favor. (5-0)

## **7. New Business**

### **A. Resolution providing for remote participation by Commissioners for the Town of Mount Pleasant**

Town Attorney John Scarbrough informed the Board that he used bits and pieces from several different sources to comply with the Social Distancing guidelines by the Governor's Executive Order to produce the Resolution. It ratifies and vilifies past and future use of electronic meetings. It can also be used if a Board member is unable to physically be at a future meeting. However, it does not apply to quasi-judicial meetings.

A motion to approve the Resolution providing for remote participation by Commissioners for the Town of Mount Pleasant was made by Commissioner Simpson with a second by Commissioner Furr.

Roll Call: Ashby-yes, Furr- yes, Meadows-yes, Sells- yes, and Simpson-yes.  
All Board Members were in favor. (5-0)

*A copy of the Resolution providing for remote participation by Commissioners for the Town of Mount Pleasant is included in the Minute Book.*

### **B. Resolution to ratify Department of Labor Notification Requirements related to Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)**

Assistant Town Manager Crystal Smith informed the Board that President Trump signed a second coronavirus emergency aid package into law on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 with an effective date of March 1, 2020. The Act is designed to provide emergency leave measures to protect employees who need to take leave for a variety of reasons related to COVID-19 and was declared by federal authority. The UNC School of Government encouraged each Municipality to ratify the FFCRA and include in their personnel manuals.

The Town will take care of its employees. If a Town employee or Firefighter contracts Covid 19 while on duty and it is verified by the Health Dept. that this is where they contracted it, they will be covered by Worker's Comp. Cabarrus County has set up shelters at hotels for anyone that may be exposed.

The Resolution will become part of the Town's Personnel Policy.

A motion to approve the Resolution to ratify Department of Labor Notification Requirements related to Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) was made by Commissioner Furr with a second by Commissioner Ashby.

Roll Call: Ashby-yes, Furr- yes, Meadows-yes, Sells- yes, and Simpson-yes.

All Board Members were in favor. (5-0)

*A copy of the Resolution to ratify Department of Labor Notification Requirements related to Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) is included in the Minute Book.*

### **C. Consider approving the Water/Sewer Bill Payment Assistance Plan**

Due to Executive Order 124 signed by the by the Governor, all water/sewer facilities are not allowed to charge late fees or disconnect services between March 31, 2020 when the order was signed through June 1, 2020 which is the expiration of the Executive Order.

Customers that can't or choose not to pay their water/sewer bill during this time period must be put on a 6 month payment plan to pay back the delinquent account as of June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The customer must sign the Water Bill Payment Assistance Plan for the payment plan to go into effect. At that time, all previous charges will be divided by 6 and the customer will be responsible for 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the previous bill PLUS the current bill each month. Payments must be made promptly by the 20<sup>th</sup> (regular due date) of each month to adhere to the plan. Failure to pay on time would result is invalidating the contract which would result in fees and disconnection.

The customer can refuse to sign an agreement. If they choose to not to participate in the Water/Sewer Bill Payment Assistance Plan, fees and possible disconnection for previous balance would occur immediately after June 1st.

Town Attorney John Scarbrough drafted the Water/Sewer Bill Payment Assistance Plan according to guidelines set by Executive Order 124 and UNC School of Government.

A motion to approve the Water/Sewer Bill Payment Assistance Plan was made by Commissioner Simpson with a second by Commissioner Sells.

Roll Call: Ashby-yes, Furr- yes, Meadows-yes, Sells- yes, and Simpson-yes.

All Board Members were in favor. (5-0)

*A copy of the Water/Sewer Bill Payment Plan is included in the Minute Book.*

### **D. Discussion regarding 2020 Independence Celebration**

Assistant Town Manager Crystal Smith asked for guidance by the Board for the Independence Celebration scheduled for June 27<sup>th</sup>. She has contacted Harrisburg, Oakboro, and Faith on their plans, and all are proceeding. Oakboro coordinator did state if health conditions have not improved they would have fireworks only. Faith said they were continuing to plan as usual, and they would look at health conditions the week before Celebration before cancelling.

The majority of the Craft vendors called said they enjoy participating in Mount Pleasant festival, but due to COVID-19 and stay at home order, they are not committing to any craft shows at this time.

Crystal Smith also spoke with Abby Carter (from BRIO Live) regarding the band scheduled, which is Too Much Sylvia. If needed they would hold our deposit for 365 days (2021 Independence Celebration) OR transfer to future event within the 365 time frame (if we wanted to have a band at Fall Festival or Tree Lighting). However there is no guarantee of availability for Too Much Sylvia - deposit would be applied to available band.

Fireworks - According to last year's fireworks contract, down payment could be transferred to an event within six (6) months of Independence Celebration (if this case, we could use toward fireworks at this year's tree lighting - December 4, 2020)

The Board felt that the Town needed to do something but agreed to err on the side of caution and only do the Fireworks.

A motion to only have the Fireworks and to cancel the Independence Celebration including band, food vendors, craft vendors, and parade was made by Commissioner Furr with a second by Commissioner Simpson.

Roll Call: Ashby-yes, Furr- yes, Meadows-yes, Sells- yes, and Simpson-yes.

All Board Members were in favor. (5-0)

**E. Consider approving Eddie Carrick CPA, PC to perform the Town's annual audits.**

Town Clerk/Finance Officer Amy Schueneman stated due to a change in State Statutes, the Town is required to have one Accounting firm to prepare the books for Audit and one to do the Audit each year. Town Staff would like to keep Sherrill & Smith to prepare the books for the Audit each year. They would prefer to prepare the books also.

Two firms prepared RFP's (Request for Proposal) for the Town when it was put out to bid. Eddie Carrick CPA, PC and Martin Starnes & Associates. Both were very qualified; however, Martin Starnes & Associates wanted to do both parts of the auditing process while Eddie Carrick CPA, PC agreed to do just the Audit.

Tony Brewer from Eddie Carrick CPA, PC made a point to come meet the Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, and Finance Officer prior to putting in the RFP. Eddie Carrick CPA, PC works with many small towns like ours and appears to be a good fit for the Town.

A motion to approve Eddie Carrick CPA, PC to perform the Town's annual audits was made by Commissioner Simpson with a second by Commissioner Furr.

Roll Call: Ashby-yes, Furr- yes, Meadows-yes, Sells- yes, and Simpson-yes.

All Board Members were in favor. (5-0)

**F. Discuss the potential impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on the projected revenues for Fiscal Year 2020/2021**

Randy Holloway stated the Town Staff is very concerned about the impact that Covid 19 is projected to have on revenues for Fiscal Year 2020/2021. Sales tax revenues are projected to be 10-20% below the current fiscal year revenues. Town Staff is projecting

sales tax revenues for next year to be down \$48,000 below the current year. We are also projecting other revenue sources to be down an average of 10.4%.

Earlier this year in the Budget workshop, Staff recommended the Board's consideration of taking the Town's tax rate down one penny from 50.5 cents to 49.5 cents. The Town Staff is now recommending the Board's consideration to leave the tax rate unchanged. This recommendation is based on the following points:

- We are projecting the tax collection rate to go down from the current 98% range to 90% based on the current economic conditions. Based on the projected 90% collection rate we will essentially remain revenue neutral by leaving our tax rate unchanged. We would see an estimated increase of approximately \$75,000 in property tax revenue.
- We anticipate a decrease in sales tax revenues of \$48,000.
- If we lower our tax rate then we also lose additional sales tax dollars. The sales tax distribution is based on the property tax rate.
- The other four municipalities and Cabarrus County managers are strongly recommending to their respective boards their tax rates remain unchanged for the reasons listed above.
- Town Staff also project a decrease in our water and sewer fund of between 5-10% which would be a decrease of \$57,000 to \$114,000. There are very few areas of the water and sewer fund that can be cut to help cover this shortage. The only option is to move some of the line items over to the General Fund to help cover this shortfall.

The Town Staff strongly recommends the Town Boards support to leave the tax rate unchanged for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 to help cover the anticipated shortfalls in both the General Fund and the Water and Sewer Fund. The Staff needs to know the Boards position on this item before we proceed with preparing the budget message and documents to be presented at the May Board meeting.

The Board would have the option to change things after the May presentation if they wanted to change the tax rate at that time.

A motion to direct the Town Staff to prepare the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 budget with a property tax rate of 50.5 cents was made by Commissioner Ashby with a second by Commissioner Simpson.

Roll Call: Ashby-yes, Furr- yes, Meadows-yes, Sells- yes, and Simpson-yes.

All Board Members were in favor. (5-0)

#### **G. Resolution to Adopt the Cabarrus Stanly Union Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Randy Holloway and Commissioner Sells explained that this is an agreement that is signed every four years. It is a regional agreement for potential help from FEMA for regional disasters.

A motion to approve the Resolution to Adopt the Cabarrus Stanly Union Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan was made by Commissioner Sells with a second by Commissioner Ashby.

Roll Call: Ashby-yes, Furr- yes, Meadows-yes, Sells- yes, and Simpson-yes.

All Board Members were in favor. (5-0)

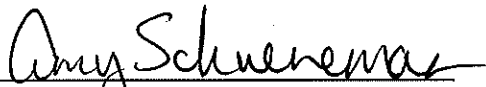
*A copy of the Resolution to Adopt the Cabarrus Stanly Union Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan is included in the Minute Book.*


**10. Adjournment**

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

Roll Call: Ashby-yes, Furr- yes, Meadows-yes, Sells- yes, and Simpson-yes.  
All Board Members were in favor. (5-0)

By our signatures the following minutes were approved as submitted and amended on Monday, May 11, 2020 in the Regular Meeting.

  
Town Clerk Amy Schueneman

  
Mayor W. De/Eudy

