

# Mount Pleasant

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North Carolina

*Founded in 1848*

**Town of Mt. Pleasant  
Board of Commissioners  
Town Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, September 13, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.**

**Attendance:** Mayor Del Eudy  
Mayor Pro-Tem/Commissioner Lori Furr  
Commissioner Steve Ashby (*by phone*)  
Commissioner Justin Simpson  
Commissioner William Meadows  
Commissioner Jim Sells (*arrived at 6:52pm*)  
Town Administrator Randy Holloway  
Town Attorney John Scarbrough  
Town Clerk Amy Schueneman

**Also Present:** Erin Burris, Crystal Smith, Captain Tessa Burchett, Deputy Stephen Wagoner, Kay Beckett, Deputy Claudette Tarte, Carol Miller, Marcella Beam, Pastor Earl Bradshaw, Chad Troutman, Dr. Bonnie Coyle, and Nick Newman.

#### **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.

#### **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 Sells would not be at the meeting and Commissioner Ashby was attending by conference call.

#### **3. Approve Agenda**

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

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

- A. Minutes August 9, 2021
- B. Minutes-Special Called Meeting September 1, 2021
- C. Proclamation for Constitution Week Sept. 17-23, 2021
- D. Budget Amendment #4 (Correction)LKC Engineering for USDA project
- E. Budget Amendment #9 NCDOT Refund- HUT for Engine 19
- F. Consider allowing the Mt. Pleasant Fire Dept. to accept the AFG Grant to purchase a Source Capture Exhaust System (Plymovent) *(approved by email vote August 27<sup>th</sup> due to September 12<sup>th</sup> acceptance deadline; copies of emails in Minute Book)*

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

#### **5. Reports**

- A. Town Manager-Randy Holloway  
Mr. Holloway informed the Board the Fire Dept. sold the 2011 Sutphen Fire Engine to Ellendale Fire Dept. in Alexander County for \$210,000. The Town will have to pay Company Two a commission of \$10,500 once we receive our check for the truck. Also, one of the Public Works employees, Lane Bost, is out with Covid.
- 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 Stephen Wagoner  
Deputy Wagoner introduced Deputy Claudette Tarte who will be taking his place as the Mt. Pleasant Community contact. He will still be working in the Mt. Pleasant area.

#### **6. Public Hearings**

None

Mayor Eudy moved up **New Business A**. Presentation of Community Health Needs Assessment report by Marcella Beam of Cabarrus Health Alliance to allow her to leave earlier to be with her family.

Ms Beam introduced the new CHA Director Dr. Bonnie Coyle to the Board. She then went over the Power Point presentation *(included in the Minute Book)*. She stated the top 3 needs for Cabarrus County residents were 1. Housing 2. Behavioral Health (mental) 3. Early Childhood Education. Covid skewed the numbers on some items for 2020.

No motion was made.

#### **7. Old Business**

- A. Duke Energy Line Burial Study**

Erin Burris stated Town staff has been working for two years with Duke Energy and Windstream to determine the feasibility of burying or relocating overhead utility line in the downtown as outlined in Comprehensive Plan Downtown Strategy #2. The original project area study cost of \$20,000 was provided by Duke Energy. Earlier this year, Town staff tightened the project area to focus on just downtown in order to examine the feasibility of including some of the work with the Main Street water line project. Duke Energy has provided a cost of \$15,000 to complete a full study of the smaller project area. The information from this study is necessary to engineer duct bank installation with the water line project. Upon meeting with Duke Energy personnel, it was determined this will greatly reduce the cost of utility line burial if duct bank installation is done in conjunction with the water line project. The turn around for the study should be 30days.

Board members questioned the need for the study since the Town cannot afford to bury the lines at this time. Ms. Burris explained if the study is not done now while LKC Engineering is working on the plans for the water/sewer capital projects, the Town would never be able to bury the lines in the future. Cost to do the entire project separately could be up to \$2,000,000 according to Duke Energy estimate and during the USDA project it would be approximately \$600,000. It would be wise to consider doing the study, allow LKC Engineering to use the information to design the water lines, and pay the small cost of putting duct banks in with the water lines, and then NCDOT will pave the road at the completion of the project. It would give the Town the option to bury all the lines in the future.

Ms. Burris also stated by receiving a grant for the storm water study last Fiscal Year the \$20,000 in FY20/21 budget was not used and can pay for this study. It is \$5,000 less than when the Board opted not to do the study in March 2020. If the study is not done now, it can not be even considered again because of cost.

By getting rid of the poles, sidewalks would benefit and could be ADA compliant on South Main St.

*Commissioner Sells arrived at 6:52pm during this discussion and was included in the vote.*

A motion to approve a budget amendment and move forward with the Duke Energy study for a cost of \$15,000. was made by Commissioner Simpson with a second by Commissioner Ashby. All Board Members were in favor. (5-0)

#### **B. Update from WSACC meeting**

Commissioner Sells stated that in the latest Sewer Capacity Allocation proposal (*included in the Minute Book*) is going to be voted on Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. The Town will still receive 64,000 gallons per day allotment with these proposals which is the minimum needed for all projects currently approved. He reminded the Board that an agreement is better than "first come first serve" until the first phase of the sewer expansion project is complete in 2024 at WSACC.

No motion made.

#### **C. Town Branding** (continued from August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting)

Mayor Eudy stated he did not care for the current logo presented and had several individual conversations with Board members. He stated we had a lot on our plate right

now with WSACC, \$8million from Federal Government, USDA projects, and this is just not as important right now. Mayor Eudy is ok with the tree but not the root system that is NCDOT streets. He would like something he did not have to explain what it was. Also, more than one option would be desirable.

Commissioner Furr stated she thought it was important to have "buy in" because we don't want to roll out to the community if everyone is not supporting it.

Mayor Eudy stated that putting it out on Social Media to let the community help make the decision. Even if the Town doesn't use what the public wanted at least they would have the input.

Commissioner Furr still feels that "if everybody isn't sold 100% where we can flip that and show it to our community and be excited and ready to roll with it, then we need to just pause."

Commissioner Simpson agreed and felt that as long as we continue to move forward in some direction. We have had community input with the Comprehensive Plan that does detail what our community wants and values. We can use some of that to draw from and move forward, to see what Town needs to do to move forward. What will satisfy everyone feeling confident moving forward. He does not want to table it and move away from doing this. Whether it is this design of another design. We want to look our best on the other side of all these projects as we relaunch into what Mount Pleasant is.

The Board would like to see other designs. A Work Session was requested by the Board in the near future with several different vendors. Town Clerk Amy Schueneman will contact a few graphic artists and set up a time for the meeting.

## **8. New Business**

### **A. MOVED UP TO START OF MEETING: Presentation of Community Health Needs Assessment report by Marcella Beam of Cabarrus Health Alliance**

*See above.*

### **B. Consider awarding the low bid of \$429,621.50 to RPM Partners of Kernersville, NC on the condition that FEMA approves the change of scope for the repairs to the Dutch Buffalo Creek Dam.**

Randy Holloway requested the Board award the low bidder, RPM Partners of Kernersville, NC, the contract for the repairs to the low water intake dam on the Dutch Buffalo Creek for a cost of \$429,621.50. Town Staff has submitted a change of scope for the project to FEMA along with an extension request for 12 additional months if needed. Staff anticipates that both the change of scope and time extension will both be approved. Town Staff are requesting the Board's approval with the condition of FEMA approval for the change of scope.

A motion to approve awarding the low bid of \$429,621.50 to RPM Partners of Kernersville, NC on the condition that FEMA approved the change of scope and time extension for the repairs to the Dutch Buffalo Creek Dam was made by Commissioner Simpson with a second by Commissioner Ashby. All Board Members were in favor. (5-0)

**C. Discuss the status of Covid 19 in the Town and the vaccination status of employees and various options to hopefully increase the number of employees vaccinated.**

Randy Holloway gave a quick update with the status of vaccinations among employees. Full timers are 50% vaccinated. Par timers not so well with Fire Dept. only 6 of the 45 fire fighters are vaccinated. Most are fulltime at the bigger Cities like Concord, Kannapolis, etc.

A list of NC counties/towns with incentives they are using to encourage staff to get vaccinated was handed out to the Board (*copy is included in the Minute Book*). Anything from \$250 to a day off with pay. Also, more bonuses if % of staff is above 75%.

Among the school system Mount Pleasant High and Mount Pleasant Middle were #1 in Covid cases with Mount Pleasant Elementary #5 with the highest infection rates in the county. Children are being infected at the same rate as adults.

Mr. Holloway asked if the Board was interested in offering any type of incentive to employees to get vaccinated.

The Board asked for someone to reach out to unvaccinated employees to see what it would take for them to consider vaccination. They were not comfortable with requiring vaccinations.

Commissioner Ashby would like to use some of the ARP funds coming in from the state to give incentives to residents for getting vaccinated.

No motion needed.

**Other Comments:**

Mayor Eudy mentioned a resident asked about having a bike rack in the downtown area. He asked staff to look in to making it happen.

Crystal Smith addressed the Board to make sure everyone still wanted to have the Fall Festival due to rising Covid numbers. The Town has cancelled the bouncy houses at the event. Precautions will be made by requiring mask, hand sanitizer, and social distancing.


Board felt that since it is outside, football games are still taking place, and precautions are being made we would have the Fall Festival.

**9. Adjournment**

With nothing else to come before the Board, Commissioner Sells made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion.  
All Board Members were in favor. (5-0)

By our signatures, the following minutes were approved as submitted and amended on Monday, October 11, 2021 in the Regular Meeting.

  
Town Clerk Amy Schueneman

  
Mayor W. Del Eudy

