

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
The Town Board of Commissioners  
Town of Hamilton, NC  
June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

**The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Hamilton met in a regular meeting on Thursday June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, at 7:02 p.m. at the Town Hall, 109 N Front Street, Hamilton, NC.**

**PRESENT** Mayor: Ervin Williams

Commissioners: William Freeman, Linda Goodrich, Kerry Spivey, Judith Stewart, and Larry Jackson

**ABSENT** None

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Williams, the prayer was given by Commissioner Stewart. The pledge was recited by all.

**Approval of the agenda or Adjustments to agenda**

**Commissioner Stewart made the motion to approve after adjustments made to the agenda as follows: Globe life before the start of old business; add Ordinance referencing Junk Cars. Requested to add Beautification, Hamilton Festival & baseball field to the new business section, Seconded by Commissioner Goodrich. It was unanimously passed, 5-0.**

**Approval of Minutes**

Mayor asked the board if everyone has had time to review May 4, 2023, board meeting minutes and if there are any corrections needed at this time. Corrections to the old minutes per Mayor Williams referred to 115 Circle Drive not 110 Circle drive. **Commissioner Stewart made the motion to approve the minutes from the May 4, 2023, board meeting and seconded by Commissioner Freeman. The vote was carried 5-0.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Data Group Technologies, INC**

Mayor Williams requests the board's input and action they wish to take on having this group come in for our Information Technologies. Commissioner Stewart states this is an action we should investigate with the data breaches that happen all around us. Stewart requested the need to add this contract and payment into the 2023-2024 budget.

**Security System**

Commissioner Goodrich states Mike Pickle is awaiting a return call to inquire prices. Once prices as well as quotes are returned, we will revisit this security system once pricing is received.

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**Hours of operation**

Mayor Williams asked to review the section in May's meeting minutes in reference to hours of operation. States that he spoke with attorney with the League of Municipalities, Tom Carruthers, and he has never heard of office hours and other attorneys at the League said their thoughts are this motion should not have happened. Attorney Carruthers states there will be times when serving a community these things will happen. Our town's attorney Lynn Coleman was contacted also who thinks this is a matter that the board can settle and solve without her attendance. Mayor Williams requested to reconsider or rescind the motion of hours of operation. **Commissioner Freeman requested to rescind the motion of office hours for the town, seconded by Commissioner Jackson. The vote was not carried 2-3.**

Commissioner Jackson states that the corrections to Hours of Operation are as follows: He was approached by a former commissioner, a citizen in our town and he in return requested the former commissioner/citizen to come to our board meeting and we will discuss this matter at that time, so we are not out of protocol. **Motion to reapprove the minutes from the May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, board meeting with the requested changes upon review by Commissioner Jackson and seconded by Commissioner Spivey. The vote was carried 5-0.**

**Sewer Machine Inquiry**

Commissioner Goodrich states the town has submitted the bid to the Town of Williamston. Mike Pickle turned the bid into Mr. Stalls. Currently, there are only two active bids for the sewer machine. The town of Williamston will resubmit the advertisement due to only receiving two bids, so they have extended the bidding time frame.

**Junk Car Ordinance**

Ordinances in reference to Junk Cars inquired by Commissioner Goodrich and requested to know why the town of Hamilton could not speak with an officer to come out and enforce the ordinances the town has in place about the junk cars. Mayor Williams states that he has spoken with a company by the name of N-Focus that could come out and enforce these ordinances at cost to the town. They would provide their services once a month to the issues as outlined by the board. Commissioner Spivey asked that Commissioner Stewart, our Zoning Commissioner, and a few others of could come up with a timeline from sending a letter to the resident about their property to the eventual enforcement. Commissioner Stewart and Commissioner Goodrich will present their ideas at the July board meeting.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**Globe Life**

Mayor Williams introduced Desha Hollowell from Globe Life Liberty national division to inform the town board of what they could offer their employees. Cancer plans with no lifetime limits, accidental plans as low as \$2, critical illness, group term life insurance.

**American Red Cross**

Nacey Meeks announced a blood drive on Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 10am -2pm at Hamilton Fire Department. The donations will assist sickle cell anemia patients especially mothers that recently delivered or are in trauma. We have a goal of at least 15 participants. You can sign up by going online and just type in Hamilton. She left a flyer to inform the residents and keep here at our location.

**Dilapidated Properties**

Commissioner Spivey requested the updates on properties in town. Mayor Williams was handling it by speaking with the attorney and she would be sending a letter to the owner of the property. The town is only requesting to maintain and clean up one of the store fronts. Following up with earlier statement Commissioner Goodrich and Commissioner Stewart would like to come to a position and we can handle the dilapidated properties. Commissioner Stewart states she will follow up with our town attorney and inquire about the clean-up of the location as well as contacting the owner. Commissioner Goodrich states that Jody Griffin from the state inspections could come and check out all the small businesses in town, not just one but all. Give dates, set time frames in place to have things followed up and make sure this same information is carried through.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Spivey to allow Commissioner Stewart and Commissioner Goodrich to begin working and processing letters and working with the attorney to finalize anything outstanding to get all properties taken care of. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Freeman Motion carried 5-0.**

**Set Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget**

Mayor Williams states that the public hearing for approval of the FY 2023-24 budget will have to take place on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, starting at 9:30AM at the town hall.

**Beautification**

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Commissioner Stewart states she has been working throughout the town and noticed that since we removed the trees at the Town hall, the roots are coming through, and the beds need to be cleaned up and stones added. She requested to have a town cleanup day and cookout for the volunteers from the town, and she would collect the items like mulch and possibly investigate doing something at the Morris Lynch Center. Requesting to have the town clean-up day on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, from 10AM to 3:00PM meeting at the Town hall. **Motion to have a Hamilton Cleanup Day on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, from ten am to three pm made by Commissioner Stewart, seconded by Commissioner Goodrich. Motion Carried 5-0.**

### **Hamilton Festival**

Commissioner Stewart states that the town should reach out to other towns and see what and how they carry out their events and setting dates as well as funding. Mayor Williams states that he was looking at August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023, or on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, timeframes ranging from 10:00am – 6:00pm. Historical society would like to do a walk-through of all the historic locations in Hamilton. **Motion to have a Hamilton festival on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, by Commissioner Stewart, seconded Commissioner Goodrich. Motion carried 5-0.**

### **Baseball Field**

Commissioner Goodrich stated that it would be nice if local churches could use our baseball field for their softball teams/groups. Commissioner Freeman will look into the amount of the load of sand to be hauled into the fields as well as cost.

### **Financials/Budget Amendments**

Mayor Williams requested the board to review the financials as printed and presented. Clerk informed board she received the e-statements after five pm today, but the financials are provided with the need for corrections to be completed on general ledger and Clerk will make these corrections tomorrow, but statements are reconciled to match the bank statements and entries in the systems. Commissioner Stewart stated she believed that Board approval was needed for expenditures of \$500 or greater. **After discussion, a motion was made to approve the financials as presented by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Stewart. Motion carried 5-0.**

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

**Commissioner Jackson** requested to know about the LED lighting and the old lights and if we are going to replace them throughout the town. Commissioner Goodrich states that LED lights are used and replaced as lights burn out. Mike Pickle is flushing out dead end lines where they equipped for flushing. Inquired to know why Mike Pickle doesn't attend the monthly board meeting. Commissioner Goodrich states that he was not told he would have to attend board

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meetings. She noted that her job as the commissioner of the maintenance department was to have him report all issues or any information to her and the clerk and be presented to the board every meeting. If any issues are not addressed or if issues need to be addressed, it will be followed up the very next business day with him. The information is sent via email back to the entire board.

**Commissioner Stewart** Mid-East released a grant today for non-profits through the Camber Foundation Operation ranging from \$25,000 – \$50,000 for health, wellness, or education. Boys and Girls club breakfast fund raiser was held last week in Robersonville and Williamston. This is an annual fundraiser yearly and they welcome all donations. Invitations will be given out to Hamilton next year in hopes for attendance in our area.

**Commissioner Spivey** Our pump that had been down for a while is back up and running this past week. He and Mike Pickle have repaired the pump. Roy Rouse came in and completed back up for him while he was out of town. He will come back to training in a few days per state requirements and sign off on a few forms.

**Commissioner Goodrich** on behalf of Mike Pickle, state troopers have been monitoring speeding traffic, emailed Mr. Harrell from Jernigan's Oil about the electric bill adjustment and he was agreeable about paying it, and spoke with Martin County Office thanking them for the use of portable signage placed in town to detect speed. Waiting on East Coast Security to quote security cameras and pricing, WWTP pump is now operating. The water lines have been flushed at various locations throughout the town and there were three water lines breaks throughout the town. The Power Grid survey which has been issued to the board via email and printed out for review tonight outlines the power grid needs. Requested to budget around \$15,000.00 yearly to cover the cost for needs outlined in the power grid survey that was submitted a few years ago.

**Commissioner Freeman** will wait until another time to discuss the funds and information in Parks and Recreational Funds.

**Mayor Williams** attended the NCRWA with different sessions including active shooter class, leaderships customer experiences, and public relations. Our town is on the unit assist list due to the pandemic and unable to collect funds. They presented grants such as AIA Grants to help towns. USDA was also in attendance, and they have grants available to provide viable drinking water offered throughout different locations. Requested to vote on Board of Elections in the amount of \$5.00 for filling fee.

**Motion to keep the Martin County Board of Elections candidacy and filling fee in the amount of \$5.00 approved by the Board of Commissioners for the Town of Hamilton by Commissioner Goodrich, seconded by Commissioner Stewart. Motion carried 5-0.**

He recommended Gloria Gentry and Kim Martin to work on a grant of one million dollars for the town well replacement. The clerk will be getting vetted to submit and have access to the accounts

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next week. Mayor Williams requested to have a motion to enforce the signage around the town about the semi-trucks. Commissioner Stewart states she would like to table this solution by next month's board meeting. Herbert Lee Everett asked that in remembrance of his Mother Edna Everett, he and her family would like to have a bench placed near the gazebo at our Hamilton Cemetery. A resolution will be needed as to how many will be acceptable to our location. Resolution will be ready for the next board meeting.

**Clerks Report.** ARP report was submitted this afternoon. It was due at the end of March 2023, but we were unable to submit due to information that was not correct in the filing system and access was denied.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Matti Randolph would like to thank the Town of Hamilton and every commissioner, Mayor, and Clerk over the past several years for their support. West Martin will be celebrating its tenth year on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Tonight, she would like to request that we place a \$100.00 full page ad in West Martin 10 Year Celebration Book. **Commissioner Goodrich motioned to donate \$100.00 to the West Martin Alumni Association for the ad on behalf of the Town of Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Stewart. Motion carried 5-0.**

Thomas Gilson states that he is pleased to hear about the junk car ordinance moving forward and he would like to suggest having a training session prior to addressing issues throughout the town. When the board or employees are approached everyone will be on the same page and have the same verbal response.

Patricia Moring asked if the town allows chickens in town. Mayor Williams states that we shouldn't have farm animals in town. Commissioner Stewart states maybe this is something we can investigate expanding and possibly allowing chickens in town.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn there being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Spivey, seconded by Commissioner Goodrich, and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting. The vote was 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 09:36 PM**

Submitted By:

Approved By:

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Allison Roebuck, Town Clerk & Finance Officer

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Ervin Williams, Mayor