**Town of Red Cross**

**Minutes of Town Council Meeting**

**At Town Hall**

**Monday, March 11, 2024, at 7:00 PM**

Present:

Mayor Kelly Brattain

Council Members: Melvin Poole, Trina Plowman, Lisa Lowder, and Andrew Smith

Planning and zoning officer: Mike Efird

Clerk: Shannon Alberta

Attorney: Jim Phillips

Mayor Kelly Brattain Called the meeting to order

Invocation was given by Trina Plowman

Welcome and Recognition of guests 12+

The agendawas approved with no adjustments **Motion #1798** was made by Andrew Smith, second by Lisa Lowder Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay.

The **Minutes of the Public Hearing #1 of February 12, 2024**, were approved **Motion #1799** to approve was made by Melvin Poole, second by Trina Plowman: Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay.

The **Minutes of the Public Hearing #2 of February 12, 2024**, were approved **Motion #1800** to approve was made by Lisa Lowder, second by Trina Plowman: Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay.

The **Minutes of the Council Meeting of February 12, 2024**, were approved **Motion #1801** was made by Andrew Smith, second by Trina Plowman; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay.

 Trina Plowman presented the Financial Reports to each Council Member for the month of February, 2024. Trina Plowman stated there will be a need for an amendment for the professional fees again before the next meeting. It was decided to setup a budget workshop for Monday March 25th at 7pm. Lisa Lowder also asked about a void check number 2407. Town Clerk Shannon Alberta explained it was a void check needed for Reggie Hinson to enroll in the EFTPS system for electronic filing. **Motion #1802** to approve the financials was made by Melvin Poole, second by Lisa Lowder; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay.

 Fire Protection was presented by Melvin Poole who had no report, but explained to the citizens how each of the fire departments are paid based on the coverage area and taxes received.

 Police Protection was presented by Lisa Lowder. There were 50 total items on the report with traffic stops being the highest with 10 items, Suspicious vehicles 4 motorist assist 4, 9 criminal/civil paper service, and the rest were all very small incident totals.

 Street Maintenance was presented by Melvin Poole, he shared the sign was back up at North Oakridge and 24/27. The Bethel church and Running Creek sign was also put back up which just needed the top connector piece installed. Melvin Poole also noticed the sign at Hatley Burris and 205 was knocked down, but due to the construction it may be best to wait to replace or repair until the construction is completed.

 Waste Collection was presented by Lisa Lowder bulk trash is scheduled for April 13th it is best for the citizens to have everything out by end of day on April 12th, they may not pick up all on the 13th but best to have everything out by then. They will not come back once picked up so do not try to put anything out after your trash has been picked up.

 Zoning was presented by Andrew Smith, Mike Efird had a few items to share from the previous meeting. Mike Efird shared the Public Park Workshop will be taking place on Tuesday, March 26th at 6pm. There was a rough map drafted and will be shared at the meeting. Mike Efird also shared there were 4-5 more undocumented annexations after researching the minutes that were recently digitally converted. Mike Efird and Attorney Al Benshoff are working on re-writing a good portion of the zoning ordinance and it should be ready for review in the next month or so. Andrew Smith also added there was a lot of discussion about the park plans and grants.

OLD BUSINESS:

 The Council discussed if there was someone who was able to represent the town on the Rocky River RPO TAC committee. Andrew Smith spoke with Heather Britt about possibly attending as a citizen and she agreed, she would act as a liaison to Andrew Smith to notify him if there is a vote to be made. Andrew Smith agreed to be the official representative for the TAC committee. **Motion#1803** to approve Andrew Smith as the representative was made by Melvin Poole, Second by Lisa Lowder; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

NEW BUSINESS:

 Town Clerk Shannon Alberta provided an update on the 2023 audit it is still on hold for submission due to the 2022 audit still not being received by the LGC. Shannon Alberta is continuing to communicate with Will Huneycutt and hopefully, it will be submitted ASAP so Mr. Tony Brewer can then move forward with the 2023 audit approval and presentation.

 Shannon Alberta shared that she reached out to our current telephone and internet provider to get information on a new updated phone system for the office. They shared their version of the Office suite phone system through Windstream. This new system would give two lines, give a better capacity to check voicemails even when not in the office, be able to do call forwarding in case of emergencies, and control the phone lines over a cloud. The cost is going to increase from $256 per month to $800 per month for the new system. The council agreed to table and look into other options or just even new phones for the town instead of a new phone system. Vote to table for further investigation was 4 yea, 0 Nay.

 The Council discussed and voted on filing fees for the 2024 elections. **Motion#1804** to keep as is (Mayor $15 and Council $10) was made by Andrew Smith Second by Lisa Lowder; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

 The Council discussed a letter the town received requesting sponsorship of a classroom for the Stanly County Schools Spring Special Olympics for the cost of $300. After discussion and input from our town attorney, the council agreed to not move forward with the sponsorship as there was some concern regarding possible legalities in such sponsorships and also the way the letter was worded. Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

 Mike Efird explained to the council that some individuals asked for a request for a speed limit decrease from 55-45MPH to the NCDOT for Liberty Hill Road to Pless Mill Road on 24/27 and Lakewood Road to 24/27 on South Oak Ridge Road along with a no Jake Brake sign at the 24/27 intersection. This request also comes as a recommendation by the planning and zoning board. The council voted to table and try to get a representative from the NCDOT to attend the April 8th meeting.Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

 The council discussed who could represent the town for the Cabarrus Stanly Union Hazard Mitigation plan meeting on Wednesday, March 13th from 2pm-4pm  **Motion#1805** to have Mike Efird attend virtually was made by Lisa Lowder, Second by Trina Plowman; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

 Mayor Kelly Brattain asked for Comments from citizens, there were no further comments.

 Mayor Kelly Brattain asked for Comments from Council, Melvin Poole thanked Clerk Shannon Alberta for her communication. Andrew Smith thanked everyone in attendance for showing their support

 **Motion #1806** to **Go Into Closed Session** was made by Trina Plowman, second by Lisa Lowder; Vote: 4 Yea 0 Nay; for attorney client privilege and discussion of contracts(**“attorney client privilege” “Contracts”, G.S. 143-318.11.)**

**------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

 **Motion #1807** to **Adjourn the Closed Session** was made by Melvin Poole, second by Trina Plowman; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay.

 The council discussed and voted on updating the Sheriff's contract beginning July 1, 2024 from the current contract price to $30,000/year (amendable at any time) for increased Sheriff hours in the Town of Red Cross, **Motion #1808** to approve the change was made by Melvin Poole, Second by Andrew Smith; Vote: 4 yea, 0 nay.

 The council discussed and voted to approve having attorney Jim Phillips assist Clerk Shannon Alberta in getting the 2022 audit to be sent into the LGC by Will Huneycutt, **Motion #1809** to approve was made by Andrew Smith, Second by Lisa Lowder; Vote: 4 yea, 0 nay.

 The council discussed and voted on allowing Mike Efird and attorney Jim Phillips to move forward with investigating and contracting to get the property of Donna Brooks cleaned up and brought up to code by the means they find necessary as discussed, **Motion #1810** to approve was made by Lisa Lowder, Second by Trina Plowman; Vote: 4 yea, 0 nay.

 **Motion#1811** was made by Melvin Poole second by Trina Plowman; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay**, to Adjourn the Council Meeting.**