**Town of Red Cross Town Council**

**Meeting At Town Hall Minutes of**

**Monday, February 12, 2024, at 7:00 PM**

**(Following Public hearings 1& 2)**

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 agenda was approved with adjustments: to add Item# 10 adoption of the Statement of Consistency and Reasonableness (to be done before vote on public hearing #2 to re-zone town property) and Item #18 for council to discuss and vote on changing the term for CD acct ending 0126 for an interest rate of 4.69% up to 9 months or allow it to rollover at 1.20% for 12 months; **Motion #1778**; to approve the agenda with those adjustments added was made by Andrew Smith, second by Lisa Lowder Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

The Minutes of the Public Hearing of January 8, 2024, were approved **Motion # 1779** was made by Melvin Poole, second by Trina Plowman; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

The Minutes of the Council meeting of January 8, 2024, were approved **Motion # 1780** was made by Lisa Lowder, second by Andrew Smith; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

The financial reports were presented by Trina Plowman for January 2024. Trina Plowman mentioned we may need to amend the budget shortly as the professional fees were coming close to the budget allowance. The financials were approved by council, **Motion #1781** to approve was made by Andrew Smith, second by Lisa Lowder; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

Fire Protection was presented by Melvin Poole with no report.

Police Protection was presented by Lisa Lowder for January, there were mostly traffic stops with the highest number of 11. Overall, per the report received by the Sheriff, it seemed quiet. One abandoned vehicle, two animal calls, one criminal/civil call.

Street Maintenance was reported by Melvin Poole. There is a sign needing replacement, but we are still waiting for the hardware to mount it as it is a cross-piece type sign. Once the pieces come in Melvin hopes to complete this week.

Waste Collection was presented by Lisa Lowder who just wanted to commend resident Barbara Carpenter for pitching in and picking up some trash around her residence along the highway.

Zoning was presented by Andrew Smith, Mike Efird has 2 minimal housing complaints currently being worked on. Mike Efird went on the explain he received five different complaints for a property on Deerfield and still one in progress on Bear Claw Road. Mike Efird also discussed he received a request for a driveway permit for an RV park that is located in Oakboro, but the property for the driveway is in Red Cross Town limits. He is working with the NCDOT, and attorney Al Benshoff to ensure the property owners are aware of their uses of the property regarding what is allowed on that property and how it is currently zoned. Andrew Smith discussed the workshop that was held in regards to plans for a possible town park and the regular board meeting where conservation subdivisions were discussed as well with attorney Al Benshoff.

Old Business:

Guest speaker Lori Harper from the Chamber of Commerce presented possible grants that may be of interest to the town. She described the following:

-North Carolina Department of Parks and Recreation has a grant that is a part F and matching grant through NCPARKS.GOV to local governments, this one she recommends over others for parks because this one is funded through the state.

-There are others that will fund more specific things like splash pads, playground equipment, trees, a community garden, fruit trees, and a horticulturist who will educate on the maintenance of the trees as long as they will be for community use.

-There are also different infrastructure grants for lights and crosswalks.

-Target has grants for police and fire equipment along with police body cameras through Axon.

-Walmart has a matching grant for the purchase of a town vehicle of about $5,000.00.

-Safe streets and roads through the dept of Transportation has a grant that will help with the maintenance of roads not covered by state DOT

-Small city grants – charging stations of electric vehicles, if property ready they will install and teach how to maintain those.

-There is also a Broadband infrastructure program especially geared toward rural communities who can face limitations on internet capabilities

- There is a Big one called Community Heart and Soul, no one in the state of NC has ever gotten it yet. They will come in for 2 years and promote your community, everyone MUST be on board faith leaders, local govt, schools, and community leaders all coming together and promote the community with events parades ect. At the end of the two years they will give you a check for 10k with no stipulations.

-Duke Power may or may not have some available as well but that is being looked into at the moment

Lori Harper also explained that she would write the grants and send them in, but would need someone to act as fiduciary to manage money and send reports on the town’s behalf. Usually, the grants have windows which are usually once a year so if you do not get it this year will have to wait until next year to try again. Some grants can be up to a few hundred to almost $60,000.

New Business:

The Council discussed and voted on the zoning text change regarding the location of fences in relation to property lines as discussed in Public Hearing #1. **Motion#1782** to approve was made by Melvin Poole, Second by Lisa Lowder; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

The Council discussed and voted on the adoption of the Statement of Consistency and Reasonableness regarding the rezoning of town property. Mike Efird explained this is required per general statute anytime a town is rezoning a property. This statement is to show that the rezoning of the property is consistent and reasonable with the land use plan adopted by the town. This was reviewed with favorable recommendation by the planning and zoning board to be presented for approval by the town council. **Motion#1783** to approve was made by Andrew Smith, Second by Trina Plowman; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

Council discussed and voted on the rezoning of 32.31 acres owned by the Town of Red Cross, located at 176 E. Red Cross Road, Oakboro, NC 28129 as discussed during Public Hearing #2. **Motion#1784** to approve was made by Lisa Lowder, Second by Andrew Smith; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

Andrew Smith discussed the grant from Stanly County for the planning of a public park on town property. The grant is a matching grant of up to $10,000. If the town agrees to pay $10,000 towards the planning of a park, the county will match that 100%.

The Council adjusted the agenda for the council to discuss and vote on approving Mike Efird to pursue and approve a grant from Stanly County Parks and Rec for the engineering and planning of the town park**. Motion#1785** to **adjust the agenda was** made by Melvin Poole, Second by Andrew Smith; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

The council discussed and voted on approving up to $10,000 to invest in the engineering and planning of the town park and, having Mike Efird pursue and approve the matching grant from Stanly County Parks and Rec. **Motion#1786** to approve was made by Andrew Smith, Second by Trina Plowman; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

Town Clerk Shannon Alberta gave an update on the 2023 audit. CPA Tony Brewer had finished the audit and is working on submitting to the LGC. Mr. Brewer hit a minor speed bump that the LGC said they haven’t received the 2022 audit report. Mr Brewer and Shannon Alberta have been in contact with Mr. Huneycutt’s office who stated they sent it already but will re-send. Once the 2023 audit is submitted, Mr Brewer will come to the council meeting to present the 2023 books and the council can then approve the 2022 and 2023 at the same time.

The Council discussed enrolling in the electronic federal tax payment system for monthly electronic payments. This recommendation is per Reggie Hinson’s recommendations as our taxable income liability is requiring us to do so as they are over $2,500.00 per quarter. **Motion#1787** to approve was made by Melvin Poole, Second by Trina Plowman; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

The council discussed on sending a request to the NCDOT to apply for an exception to accumulate the sum of the past 20 allocations instead of the past 10 allocations (currently) in the Powell Bill. The NCDOT allows smaller towns with under 5,000 population to accumulate the sum of 20 allocations instead of 10 allocations. **Motion#1788** to approve was made by Melvin Poole, Second by Lisa Lowder; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

The Council discussed renewing the Deer Urban Archery participation for the January 11 – February 16, 2025 season, contingent on confirmation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife. **Motion#1789** to approve was made by Lisa Lowder, Second by Andrew Smith; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

The Council discussed who from the council, should represent the town at the Rocky River Rural Planning Organization TCC/TAC meetings. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is made up of elected officials who meet on the third Thursday of every other month from 6 pm to 8 pm. The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) is made up of staff officials who meet on the second Tuesday of every other month from 10 am-12 noon. The council has agreed to table this to the March meeting to further discuss with planning and zoning board members; 4 Yea, 0 Nay.

The council discussed changing the term for CD account ending 0126 for an interest rate of 4.69% up to 9 months instead of allowing it to rollover at 1.20% it currently is for 12 months. **Motion#1790** to change term to up to 9 months with 4.69% interest was made by Trina Plowman, Second by Lisa Lowder; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

Comments from citizens:

Wendy Growcock from the Stanly County Health Department spoke regarding the 2024 community health assessment. They are trying to get as much input from the residents of Stanly County in regards to what the needs are of all the county residents as far as health and wellness. Every 3 years there is a survey with about 40 questions that are asked to as many residents as possible. The survey will be from March 1st to March 29th. Once all input is received they can come back by zip code with the results of the survey.

Resident Barbara Carpenter shared her experience of picking up trash in the past, she was helping pick up trash and found a $5.00 bill in a McDonald's bag. That was a great incentive to show her and others why it is great to pick up trash.

Comments from Council:

The Council honored Aloma Whitley for her many years of service and presented her with a plaque, and some gift expressions to show the town’s appreciation for her hard work.

Lisa Lowder thanked everyone for showing their support and coming out to the meeting especially with the weather being less than ideal.

**Motion #1791** to **Go Into Closed Session** was made by Lisa Lowder, second by Trina Plowman; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay; for approval/discussion of closed session minutes and discussion on the purchase of property (**“attorney-client privilege” “Contracts”, G.S. 143-318.11.)**

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

**Motion #1792** to **Adjourn the Closed Session** was made by Melvin Poole, second by Trina Plowman; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay

**Motion#1793** wasmade by Melvin Poole, second by Trina Plowman; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay**, to Adjourn the Council Meeting**