

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020  
TOWN OF SAWMILLS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
6:00 PM**

**COUNCIL PRESENT**

Mayor Johnnie Greene  
Melissa Curtis  
Joe Wesson  
Rebecca Johnson  
Keith Warren via Zoom

**STAFF PRESENT**

Chase Winebarger  
Julie A Good  
Terry Taylor

**COUNCIL ABSENT**

Clay Wilson

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Johnnie Greene called the meeting to order at approximately 6:01pm.

Mayor Johnnie Greene stated that Councilman Keith Warren was out of town due to work and wanted to participate in the meeting remotely via Zoom.

Melissa Curtis made a motion, and Rebecca Johnson seconded, to allow Councilman Keith Warren to participate in the October 20, 2020 meeting remotely via Zoom. All were in favor.

**INVOCATION:** Mayor Johnnie Greene gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Johnnie Greene led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPT AGENDA:** Mayor Johnnie Greene asked for a motion to adopt the October 20, 2020 Agenda.

Rebecca Johnson made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to adopt the amended October 20, 2020 Agenda. All were in favor.

**APPROVE SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:** Mayor Johnnie Greene asked for a motion to approve the September 15, 2020 regular meeting minutes.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Rebecca Johnson seconded, to approve the September 15, 2020 regular meeting minutes. All were in favor.

**APPROVE SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 CLOSED SESSION MINUTES:** Mayor Johnnie Greene asked for a motion to approve the September 15, 2020 closed session minutes.

Rebecca Curtis made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to approve the September 15, 2020 closed session minutes. All were in favor.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mayor Johnnie Greene asked if anyone had any questions or comments at this time.

No one wished to speak.

#### **RECOGNITIONS:**

**RECYCLE REWARDS WINNER:** Mayor Johnnie Greene announced Amanda Arney, as the October Recycle Rewards winner. A credit of thirty-two dollars (\$32.00) will be added to the current sanitation bill.

No Council action was required.

#### **FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

**GRANITE FALLS BOOSTER CLUB DONATION REQUEST:** Mayor Johnnie Greene stated that the Granite Falls Booster Club had requested a donation in the amount of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Melissa Curtis seconded, to give a donation in the amount of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) to the Granite Falls Booster Club. All were in favor.

**SOUTH CALDWELL BOOSTERS DONATION REQUEST:** Mayor Johnnie Greene stated that the South Caldwell Boosters had requested a donation in the amount of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).

Keith Warren made a motion, and Melissa Curtis seconded, to give a donation in the amount of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) to the South Caldwell Boosters. All were in favor.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mayor Johnnie Greene asked if anyone had any questions or comments at this time.

No one wished to speak.

**UPDATES:**

**OCTOBER CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:** Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that there are eight (8) code enforcement cases open:

- Carolyn Bray/Robyn Brittan, owner 2570 Baker Circle. Abandoned Mobile Home/Garbage and Rubbish. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that he is working with Town Attorney Terry Taylor to abate the property. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps also stated that he will treat this as a Junk and Debris and not minimum housing. If so, the Town can proceed to abate after thirty (30) days of notice. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that he got a quote that will demo entire trailer and haul off all debris including our equipment, labor and fees. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that the quote is four thousand one hundred dollars (\$4,100.00). Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that he rode by the property and it is still in the same condition and would like to discuss demolition;
- Teresa Annas Compton, 4486 Sawmills School Road. Abandoned Mobile Home/Garbage and Rubbish. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated he received a complaint on January 13, 2020. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that a NOV letter was sent out on January 23, 2020 with a deadline of February 10, 2020. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that the trailer is not finished and located on the same property as the Compton house that the Town abated in 2018. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that staff will investigate and work with attorney for possible courses of abatement. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that one (1) of Ms. Compton's sons is scheduled to meet with staff in late February to work towards getting the property in his name and get the property cleaned up. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that staff has is waiting for Ms. Compton's son to schedule a time to come in and speak with staff regarding this property. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that he went by the property on September 10, 2020 and the property is still in same condition with extremely high grass and would recommend demolition;
- Dale E and Debra Miller, 4434 Jess Dr. Garbage and Rubbish/Property Maintenance. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that a complaint was received on January 28, 2020. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that the complaint addressed two (2) separate properties and possible violations. A NOV letter was sent on February 13, 2020, with a deadline of March 4, 2020 for the Miller property. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that the Miller property is in violation for having high grass/vegetation and junk and garbage located around the property. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated another complaint was received on May 7, 2020 and a final letter was sent on May 13, 2020, with a deadline of May 31, 2020. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that on June 1, 2020, staff spoke with Mrs. Miller, who has a medical condition, and she asked for an extension and stated that she is working on getting the property cleaned up. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that on September 10, 2020, a new tenant is cleaning up the property and is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way done. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that he will issue a final citation;

- Denise Dotson/William S Annas, II, 4095 Gatewood Dr. Abandoned Mobile Home/Minimum Housing. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that a complaint was received on March 5, 2020, and a regular NOV letter and a certified NOV letter was sent on March 5, 2020, with a deadline of March 23, 2020. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that the mobile home has been sprayed painted and has an apparent tenant, however, the water meter has been pulled from the property. Property was cleaned up. However, Mr. Annas informed Town Planner Dustin Millsaps that a new tenant has moved in the mobile home. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that a second NOV letter was sent on May 15, 2020 with a deadline of June 15, 2020 for additional garbage on property. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that staff will investigate and work with Town Attorney for possible courses of abatement. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that he went by the property on September 10, 2020 and all garbage has been picked up, however, the house has multiple windows smashed out which is now a minimum housing violation;
- Steve and Mary Hand, 2511 Baker Cir. Garbage and Rubbish/Property Maintenance. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that a complaint was received on April 20, 2020. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that the complaint states that the property is overgrown and consist of junk vehicles. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that a regular letter was sent on April 23, 2020, with a deadline of May 15, 2020. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that staff will investigate further. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that he had contacted the property owner and the junk has been removed, but the junk vehicle still remains. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated he will keep a check on this;
- Loreane M and Charles F White, 4698 Rockview Pl. Garbage and Rubbish/Property Maintenance. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that a NOV letter was sent out on October 8, 2020. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that the grass looks like it hasn't been mowed in years;
- Shirley Maxine Bentley, 2265 O J Ln. Junk Vehicle. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that the property does have a junk vehicle on it and a NOV letter was sent on October 8, 2020;
- Jessie Kristen Smith, 4215 Trojan Ln. Rubbish grass. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that a NOV letter was sent out on September 29, 2020, and grass was mowed by October 8, 2020. Town Planner Dustin Millsaps stated that there is still junk in the yard that still needs to be cleaned.

No Council action was required.

#### **TOWN MANAGER UPDATES:**

- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that fees for online payments will resume starting November 1, 2020;

- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the remodel of the paycounter window at Town Hall was slated to take place between September 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>, but the installation company has been overwhelmed because of COVID they are running behind and the installation should occur in the next few weeks. The installation company has stated that it should only take about four (4) to six (6) hours to complete;
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the electrostatic sprayers are here and Public Works have been spraying Town Hall, Public Works, Park Restrooms and the Playground Equipment on a regular basis;
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that on October 6, 2020 the Town began a short 10u softball “league” that will run until November 5, 2020. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the games are played on Tuesday and Thursday nights and he has already received tremendous amount of praise from parents, grandparents, etc., for having the “league”. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that there is a great turnout for the games. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that there are five (5) teams in the league from Maiden, Collettsville, Morganton, North Catawba Optimist and Granite Falls;
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated the Steering Committee, for the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan, had their first meeting on October 13, 2020 and everything went well. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that in the coming weeks the Steering Committee will have a survey for citizens to complete so they can have input in this process and the Town plans on pushing the survey out through Facebook, the CodeRed system, the Town’s website and we will have copies at Town Hall. The Steering Committee will meet again in December to continue to plan and discuss the results of the survey;
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he is waiting on quotes from an electrician for setting poles at the Farmers Market lot and at Veterans Park the work will start soon after;
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that after meeting with different Managers, it appears that no Town is having any events right now and are not planning any in the near future. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he recommends, for the time being, that Sawmills follows suit and not have any “Town sponsored” events;
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that when he had first discussed the stormwater mapping with the Council, that the Town was just going to have to pay for half of the total cost because Sawmills was going to joining with other municipalities and were seeking a grant to pay the other half. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that because of COVID the grants were pulled. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the State mandates that there has to be a stormwater map in place. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the WPCOG is going to split the cost over a five (5) year period, beginning the 2021/2020 Fiscal Year;
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the issue of paving Stillwater Drive/Marblestone Drive in the Doe Run subdivision has been brought the Town’s attention yet again. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that there is one (1) lot on the unfinished part of the road that cannot sale because the Town has an ordinance that all homes must have an outlet to an existing road. Town Manager Chase

Winebarger stated that the lot could have been sold already had the road been paved. Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that he has talked with a contractor about finishing paving the street (approximately two hundred fifty (250) to two hundred sixty (260) feet) for around nineteen thousand dollars (\$19,000.00).

Keith Warren made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to approve a budget amendment (as set forth in the attached Amendment Ordinance) in the amount of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) to finish paving Stillwater Drive to connect with Marblestone Drive. All were in favor.

Keith Warren made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to approving finish paving Stillwater Drive to connect with Marblestone Drive according to the paving quote attached. All were in favor.

- Town Manger Chase Winebarger stated that there would be someone coming to look at the ball fields this weekend to see if a ball tournament could be held at Baird Park;
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that the November bill would be back to a thirty (30) day billing cycle;
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that normally Council would vote on longevity pay for full time town employees in November, but that since Council voted on longevity during the budget process, that it would not be on the November agenda for a vote;
- Town Manager Chase Winebarger stated that a new business, Harrison's, will be opening up in Town on November 1, 2020;
- Town Manger Chase Winebarger stated that he will be on vacation from October 23, 2020 til October 27, 2020. Town Manager Chase Winebarger informed Council that he will have his cell phone and his laptop with him incase Council would need to reach him.

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Rebecca Johnson wanted to thank Kelly Price for coming to the meeting.

**COUNCIL ADJOURN:** Mayor Johnnie Greene asked for a motion to adjourn.

Rebecca Johnson made a motion, and Keith Warren seconded, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:41pm.