

Town of Pink Hill  
Board of Commissioners Meeting  
February 21, 2023

Minutes

The Town of Pink Hill Board meeting was held February 21, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Police Bay. Present at the meeting were: Mayor Yvonne Deatherage, Commissioner Penny Murphy, Commissioner James Quinn, Commissioner Pete Fantini, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Town Clerk Lisa McGee, Police Chief Michael Hoffman, Public Works Supervisor Timmy Kennedy and Public Works Assistant Phillip Swinson.

Visitors present were: Carolyn Whitfield, Robin King, Rod Howard, Kevin McGee, Dough Stroud, J Mac Daughtey, David Bone, Carmen Fernandez, Kristin Fantini, Trina Patrick, Daniel White, Rhiley Marshburn, Joshua Dunham, Brandon Marshburn, David Mychesky, Paige Marshburn, Alex Crespo, Debbie Heath, Rodney Scott, Willie Dixon, Linda Dixon, Joe Baker, Mona Jones, Janice Goldsby, Brett Smith, Michael Whitfield, Canyon Heath

Mayor Yvonne Deatherage called the meeting to order. Mayor Deatherage asked everyone to join in the pledge of allegiance. Everyone stood and said the pledge of allegiance. Town Clerk gave roll call: Mayor Deatherage, Commissioner Murphy, Commissioner Quinn, Commissioner Fantini, Attorney Jenkins & Town Clerk Lisa McGee, all were present at the meeting.

Michael Hoffman, Chief of Police, made a statement addressing everyone:

“Cut off all mobile devices as the meeting is being recorded. Please refrain from speaking unless you have the floor. Any outburst could be the cause for you being asked to leave the meeting. Be it noted that our meetings are being recorded. Let’s conduct ourselves in a professional manner. Thank you! “

**Public Comments:**

4 citizens signed up for public comments

- Robin King
- Rod Howard
- Riley Marshburn
- Debbie Heath

Robin King: spoke about the trash trucks leaving residue on the roads. She wanted to if anyone has brought it to our attention.

Rod Howard: stated he had a couple of things. First, we wanted to say thank you to the town hall and the town employees that he could see a lot of improvement happening around our town. Very thankful for the safety procedures on the roads at two different intersections. There seems to be a lot going on with the roads lately. I stated that he had a whole lot of people including Commissioner Fantini waiting in line as they were taking some stripes up off the road. I am just curious as to what is going on because there are a lot of cones in front of my house? I am concerned that the road might be fixing to be widen. Commissioner Fantini stated that he could answer that question. Mayor Deatherage stated we respond afterwards that's not part of the protocol.

Riley Marshburn: giving an update on the Spring Festival because Jennifer Murphy could not be here tonight. The Festival Committee is hosting the Spring Festival on April 8, 2023. Jennifer Murphy will be here next month to provide invoices to the town any other information that the town might need. The festival is going to include: an Easter Egg Hunt, Corn Hole Tournament and a Car Show. We would like to thank the town and community for their support and encouragement as we are working on this event. We currently have 28 vendors and 6 sponsors and we also be having a live band performing. If you are interested in signing up to be a vendor or a sponsor, there is still time and we also seeking area churches. If anybody has any church contacts that you think would love to help, we would love to have them. We will be posting more information on our festival Facebook page, so keep an eye out for it.

Debbie Heath: stated that she wanted to encourage our local churches to participate in our spring festival. Our church Mt Zion PFWB will be a sponsor this year. We did Christmas on the Hill and I think all that attended would agree that it was a big success. The festival committee did a great job and it takes a lot of people working together to get it done. So far, I have been disappointed in our town board for their lack of support for this community. Not only do I see a lack of support but an outright attack. This letter was address to my daughter personally. It was sent by the mayor an delivered to my daughter by our police chief. It is not address to the committee and no one from the committee has been contacted. The letter basically states that; I am contacting you on regarding the cleanup of the from the December Christmas on the Hill event. Having an event on town property and streets is ensuring that you clean up afterwards and this was not done. I have attached photos of markings and vendor locations. The town staff is not sure how to remove the paint. The product that we used, serval committee members talked with Timmy and he said he uses the same product. It reads this product is not permit and eventually will fade away over time. The calculated cost of paint and labor to remove it will be \$896.00. This is before fuel tax and time to get to get the materials. The town request that the Festival Committee reimburse the town for the expense of this cleanup effort. In addition, the committee is planning an event on Carol Dr. As you know that street was recently paved, you are hereby given notice that you or anyone from the committee is to have any marking on the street with paint of any kind. We plan to complete the paint project as soon as possible. This was not directed

to the committee it was directed to my daughter. There has also been a hastily called and canceled planning board meeting concerning Cierra and Josh's ABC Permit Application. Copies of this were distributed to the planning board members without redacting their personal information that was on that application. There should be privacy in your office and that was not honored. Even though we have been told in every meeting how busy the town office is, there is plenty of time for personal business. And this harassment needs to stop.

Mayor Deatherage, read the Conflict-of-Interest Statement. No comments were made by the Board of Commissioners.

Mayor Deatherage asked for a motion to Amend the Agenda. Commissioner Quinn made a motion and seconded by Commissioner Murphy. Discussion made by Commissioner Fantini; he is requesting to discuss the agenda protocols. Mayor Deatherage said we will discuss at the end as soon as we finish the business on listed on the agenda. Mayor Deatherage said you would have to put it in a motion. Commissioner Fantini said I make a motion to amend the motion and amend the agenda. Commissioner Murphy made a first and seconded by Commissioner Quinn. The vote was unanimous.

### **Community Connection:**

Carmen Fernandez, spoke about the organization of Community Connection, who they are, and what they are planning for the year. Community Connection plans to have a Potluck Dinner on March 19, 2023 and everyone is invited to come. Then it will be quarterly after March 19, 2023. Join us on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at Two Dogs Pizza at 6:00pm.

### **WASA Board Appointment:**

Mayor Deatherage asks for a motion for Timmy C Kennedy as Director and Commissioner James Quinn as the Alternate. Motion made Commissioner Fantini and seconded by Commissioner Quinn. The vote was unanimous.

### **David Bone – ECC:**

David Bone, spoke about the Eastern Carolina Council (ECC) and suggested appointing a board member to their board to represent the Town of Pink Hill. Commissioner Fantini made a motion the table appointing a member seconded by Commissioner Quinn. The vote was unanimously. Discussion was to talk about appointing a member and appointing that member at a later date.

### **Development of Ordinance Contract:**

Mayor Deatherage read the NC Statue 160-D and the Interlocal Agreement with Lenoir County, NC.

Commissioner Quinn made a motion to go into closed session and seconded by Commissioner Murphy. The vote was 2 to 1. Discussion: Commissioner Fantini wanted to know why we had to have closed session. Attorney Jenkins stated due to contract negotiations. The Mayor, The Board of Commissioners, the Attorney and Town Clerk, went into close session to discuss the contract for Comprehensive Land Use Plan Chapter 160D. After discussion of the contract in closed session, a motion was made to come out of closed session by Commissioner Murphy and seconded by Commissioner Quinn. There was no discussion and the vote was unanimous. The board came out of closed session.

Mayor Deatherage called the meeting back to order. Commissioner Quinn made a motion to go with ECC seconded by Commissioner Murphy. Mayor Deatherage asks if there was any discussion, Commissioner Fantini ask for it to broke down in an explanation – David Bone explained 160D and SB300. The vote was unanimous.

### **Fire Department Contract:**

Mayor Deatherage explained that a contract between the town and the fire department has to be done once a year.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Mayor Deatherage asks the Board of Commissioners to approve the minutes for January 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Fantini. The vote was unanimous.

### **Financial Reports:**

Financial report breakdown from July 2022 to February 2023.

### **Budget Amendments:**

Mayor Deatherage asks for a motion to amend the budget to include ECC for \$35750.00 and \$3000.00 for Codification discussed in last meeting. Commissioner Quinn made a motion seconded by Commissioner Murphy. The vote was unanimous.

**Department Reports:**

In Binders includes the following

- Timmy Kennedy Public Works Supervisor
- Brett Smith Fire Chief
- Mike Hoffman Police Chief

**Alcohol Ordinance Update:**

Mayor Deatherage contacted the ABC Board of Commission and they told her that the Town of Pink Hill did not meet the requirements under 18B-600 E1 of North Carolina Law and the ABC Board has informed permit staff that no mixed beverage permits may be issued for business inside Pink Hill's boundary, despite the elections results. Therefore, the town will not accept any applications for mixed beverage permits since the state does not recognize the election results of the mixed beverage referendum.

**Commissioner Fantini agenda protocols:**

Discussion was made about the streets being painted, and what kind of paint was used to mark the streets for the festival. Discussion was made about the \$2000.00 for the Spring Festival. Mayor Deatherage stated we needed paid invoices from the festival committee.

**Old Business:**

Commissioner Fantini spoke on Public Comment Policy that was changed. Commissioner Murphy asked Attorney Jenkins if it was wrongful for them voting to change the Public Comment Policy. Attorney Jenkins stated yes it was wrong, and apologized for not telling them at that time.

Commissioner Fantini made a motion to add a Venue Event space to Town Ordinance and Zoning to the Downtown District and seconded by Commissioner Quinn. Discussion was made by Commissioner Murphy; asked Attorney Jenkins should it go before the Planning Committee? Attorney Jenkins said yes it should go before the Planning Board. Commissioner Fantini made a motion to amend the first and to have the Planning Board Committee consider an Event space for Downtown District and seconded by Commissioner Quinn. The vote was unanimous. Attorney Jenkins stated to instruct the Planning Board to meet and to report back to the Board of Commissioners by the meeting to be held on March 14, 2023.

**Comments by the Attorney:**

Attorney Jenkins had no comments

**Comments by the Commissioners:**

The Commissioners had no comments

Meeting Adjourned by Mayor Deatherage