

Town of Pink Hill Board of Commissioners Meeting January 10, 2023

Minutes

The Town of Pink Hill Board meeting was held January 10, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Robert Elmore board room. 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, Fire Chief Brett Smith, Deputy Fire Chief Morgan Heath, Police Chief Michael Hoffman, Public Works Supervisor Timmy Kennedy and Public Works Assistant Phillip Swinson.

Visitors present were Kevin McGee, Willie Dixon, Linda Dixon, Robin King, Rhiley Marshburn, Cierra Dunhan, Sheree Casias, Lexi Casias, Joseph Fatini, Daniel Hines, Michael Whitfield, Jennifer Murphy, Kelsey Ramsey, Brandon Marshburn, Joshua Dunham and Joe Baker.

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, Mrs. McGee, called out board member's name for roll call; present were Mayor Yvonne Deatherage, Commissioner Penny Murphy, Commissioner James Quinn, Commissioner Pete Fantini, and Attorney George Jenkins.

Mayor Deatherage asked for a motion to adopt the agenda-due to a correction on the agenda. The agenda had November 2022 Financials that was available when the agenda was printed, but by the board meeting the July 2022 through December 2022 for both the General Fund and the Water Fund were available. It passed with a vote 2 to 1, with Commissioner Fantini voting against. The amended agenda passed.

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

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:

3 citizens signed up for public comments

- Sheree Casias
- Michael Whitfield
- Jennifer Murphy

- Sheree Casias declined to talk; said she would talk at the next meeting.
- Michael Whitfield talked about Brewer Park. He asks if we had a plan to get it opened back up and how could they help with that? Mayor Deatherage stated that we were working with the County and several civic groups and that something would be coming out to the public soon.

Commissioner Fantini, made an appoint of order: to move to amend the agenda to resend the vote of the public comments. Commissioner Fantini, stated that we were led astray. Commissioner Fantini, made a motion to amend the agenda to put public comments back at the end of the BOCC meetings on the agenda. Mayor Deatherage, ask for a second. There was no second. Mayor Deatherage moved on with the meeting.

Approval of the December 13, 2022 Minutes:

Attorney George Jenkins asked to speak. He stated that in the December meeting he was instructed to cancel a Deed of Trust, it has been cancelled, and a photocopy is filed with the town clerk, he suggested that a copy of the Deed of Trust be attached to the December minutes, Mayor Deatherage, stated it's already attached to the December 13, 2022 minutes. Attorney George Jenkins stated it needed to be attached to January 10, 2023 minutes. Mayor Deatherage asks for a motion to add filed copy to the minutes. Commissioner Quinn made a motion, and it was seconded by Commissioner Murphy. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Financial Report:

Mayor Deatherage discussed the Financial Report. Stated the agenda was amended to included July 2022 through December 2022 which everyone is looking at half of the year. The number you're looking for is 50%.

Mayor Deatherage stated that the CPA had her hands full trying to get the October 2022 through December 2022 reconciled.

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to accept the financial statement, seconded by Commissioner Quinn.

Passed 2 to 1 with Commissioner Fantini opposed.

Department Reports:

In Binders includes the following

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

Old Business:***CDBG Block Grant****Neighborhood Revitalization Update**

I've spoken with Ben Jones with the Adams Company. He's having to resubmit the environmental reports because there's someone new in the office and he's got to present a few things in a different reporting way to this individual; therefore, he will be working on that this week and next week. Afterwards they'll be proceeding to the next phases of the process. Everything is running smoothly and on target. It's projected the building will start about the end of spring/first of summer. Commissioner Fantini ask if these were the ones from last November. Mayor Deatherage replied, yes, Mr. Jones told Mayor Deatherage it normally takes 3 years from the start to complete the homes. This is just an update.

To Update you on the Pink Hill Public Library's Roof: the roof approved by the board at the December meeting to be repaired has been completed.

At Brewer Park, the signs indicating closed for renovations came in and are up at the park. Pink Hill Officers will be patrolling the area on their shifts in case we have trespassers.

The Lenoir County Parks and Recreation put up a new sign with hours of operation outside the gym.

The ETJ Appointment on the zoning committee by the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners is Tony Kopanski. The BOCC approved this on November 21st.

Now that the group is complete, they will soon start meeting quarterly, hoping to start by the first of March.

Application of member is in your binder.

Codification:

Mayor Deatherage, stated this was something that the former mayor started and had gotten a quote for it. Mayor Deatherage stated National Legal is a League of Municipality approved company, that puts order to our Ordinances, and they have legal teams to make sure they are written out according to North Carolina state law.

Including any state law changes that have occurred after the town has passed an ordinance which supersedes the ordinance at hand. Mayor Deatherage stated she had checked with Richard Frommeyer, Codification Consultant, to see if the proposed contract was still valid and the only difference now is the cost of the contract has gone up by \$200.00 since September. Commissioner Fantini moved to table this decision to vote on the codification contract until the next board meeting. The mayor asks for a second and there was no second. Commissioner Quinn, ask if Connie the CPA was on board with this, the mayor said yes. Attorney George Jenkins stated that he had several problems with the contract and Commissioner Fantini stated he could not vote on it in good faith. Attorney Jenkins stated it would be good to go into closed session to discuss the contract, but he could not make a motion to do that.

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to go into closed session and seconded by Commissioner Quinn.

Passed 2 to 1 with Commissioner Fantini with the dissenting vote. Mayor Deatherage asks everyone to leave the boardroom.

Commissioner Fantini commented with the public had option to come back in after closed session.

The Mayor, The Board of Commissioners, the Attorney and Town Clerk, went into close session to discuss the contract for codification. After discussion of the contract in closed session, the board came out of closed session.

Mayor Deatherage called the meeting back to order and ask for a motion to table this contract until the correct contract comes in and Attorney Jenkins can look over the contract. Commissioner Fantini made a motion to table it until January 17, 2023 and seconded by Commissioner Murphy. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Fantini made a motion to have a Special meeting on January 17, 2023 at 7:00pm and seconded by Commissioner Quinn. The contract of codification will be the only thing discussed in the meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

New Business:

Mayor Deatherage, read off the new Fire Department Officers, and thanked them for their services that they provide to the Town of Pink Hill and surrounding areas.

Mayor Deatherage asked if we could have a motion to accept the new officers.

Commissioner Murphy made a motion and seconded by Commissioner Fantini. The motion passed unanimously.

A list of the new Fire Department Officers are in the binders.

Festival:

Commissioner Fantini stated that the last two festivals were great for the town.

Commissioner Fantini stated that Jennifer Murphy was going to head up the festival this year. Jennifer Murphy asked the Board if they would approve closing Carol St on April 8th from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, for the Pink Hill Easter Egg Hunt and Festival. A list of reasons why the Egg Hunt was moved to a new location and a map of location are in the binder. Commissioner Fantini made a motion to close Carol St on April 8, 2023 from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm for the Easter Egg Hunt and Festival and seconded by Commissioner Murphy. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Remarks by Attorney George Jenkins:

Attorney Jenkins ask for everyone to pray for Attorney Nick Harvey. He was in a bad car crash on January 09, 2023 and had been taken to Vidant in Greenville. Attorney Jenkins said he thought he was going to be ok. But just say a prayer for him.

Remarks by the Board of Commissioners:

Commissioner Fantini stated that he wanted to make a point that we are going to revisit the policy on Public Comments. He wants it put on the agenda to revisit next meeting.

He stated that they had been misled from the Old Charter to the New Charter. Mayor Deatherage asks if anybody else had any comments. Commissioner Fantini stated that they are not the same but we were led to believe they were and that you said they were the same in the last meeting. That's why I ask for these things ahead of time before the meeting it gives us all time to read these things without having to do it all right then and there. If you require 2 weeks' notice to be on the agenda then you should give us the information ahead of the meeting for us to review, so we are setting in a meeting and reviewing them right then and there. Mayor Deatherage said really the only thing to review was the Codification the other stuff were just reminders. Mayor Deatherage asks if anybody else had any comments. Commissioner Fantini asked, are you just going to ignore that? Mayor Deatherage stated she was not ignoring, Commissioner Fantini asked again, are we going to revisit this at the next meeting and put this on the agenda to resend the vote and look at this to see that it is not like the other one like we were led? Mayor Deatherage said we will look into it. Commissioner Fantini said looking into it-I want an answer. Are we going to put this on the agenda? Mayor Deatherage stated if you send it in within two weeks, we will look at it but that's up to you. If you send it in then it will be on the agenda. Commissioners Fantini asked the Town Clerk to put him on the agenda. Mayor Deatherage stated you will need to send to the clerk's email. Mayor Deatherage asked if anyone else had any comments? There were no comments. She stated the meeting was adjourned.