

Town of Grantsboro
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Town Council
March 7, 2023

Minutes

The Grantsboro Town Council met on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall. Attending were: Mayor Pro-tem Tom Newman, Ray Poole, Kristie Mitchell, Evelyn Paul, and Ray Lewis, Clerk. Mayor Julia Lee and TW Harris were absent. There were 3 visitors present.

Lewis offered the invocation, and Mayor Pro-tem Newman opened the public hearing. The hearing was for the purpose of receiving public comments for proposed amendments to the Town zoning ordinance to bring it in compliance with new state statutes 160-D. There were no comments, and the public hearing was closed.

Mayor Pro-tem Newman then called the meeting to order. A quorum was established. The agenda for the meeting was approved upon a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Paul and carried. The minutes from the February meeting were approved upon a motion by Mitchell, seconded by Paul and carried.

Lewis presented the finance report for the month of February, which reflected \$7629.32 in revenues, and expenses of \$5751.66. Total funds were reported at \$274,879.41, plus \$51,675.00 in ARP Funds. A motion to approve the finance report as presented was made by Paul, seconded by Poole and carried.

Old Business

There was no old business

New Business

Reid Parker from CRI was present to give an audit report for fiscal year 2021-22. Mr. Parker reported that the Town had a clean audit report, with 0 findings. Mr. Parker also added that the Town was in a very strong position financially. He remarked that CRI looks forward to continuing to work with the Town in the future.

Grantsboro resident and former Council member George Peacock was present to share information concerning the sections of right of way along Hwy 55 owned by Norfolk Southern Railroad. The Company is demanding prices that far exceed market value, and some are unable to afford it. Not being able to acquire the land can also lead to a lack of access for the landowners behind the right of way. Mr. Peacock is asking local governments to appeal to our state representatives to see if something could be done to get Norfolk Southern to sell the properties at more reasonable prices.

Following tonight's public hearing, Lewis shared a copy of the proposed resolution to adopt the required 160-D updates for the Town zoning ordinance. The Planning Board has reviewed and recommended the changes to the Council. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Poole, seconded by Mitchell and carried.

Mayor Pro-tem Newman shared information from the recent county wide Mayors and County elected officials meeting held at the courthouse. These meetings had not been taking place since the pandemic. The plan is to resume these meetings on a regular basis.

Lewis shared that Becca Eversole, who is the senior transportation planner with the Eastern Carolina Council, would like to visit with the Town Council to have discussion about future transportation needs. It was decided to invite her to the April meeting if schedules permit.

Lewis shared that he had received the engagement letter and audit contract form CRI for fiscal year 2022-23. The quoted cost is \$6800. A motion to approve the contract was made by Mitchell, seconded by Paul and carried.

During the comment period, Chief Mike Grose with the Grantsboro/Silverhill VFD shared that the department had undergone a recent inspection, and that their rating had improved from a 6 to a 5. This improved rating should help with lower insurance costs for residents within the district.

Lewis reminded the Council that all of them would be up for re-election in 2023. Following the comment period, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Poole, seconded by Mitchell and carried.

The next regular meeting of the Town Council is scheduled for April 4, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Newman, Mayor Pro-tem

Ray Lewis, Clerk