

BADIN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – REGULAR MEETING

December 12, 2023
BADIN TOWN HALL

VISITORS

Gary Rife, Lenora Council, Charles Curcio, Tito Thomas, Cliff Marshall, Tammy Marshall, Jenny Henderson, Sarah Allen, Jeremy Honeycutt, Corina McFarland, Christopher Carrothers, Robert D’Agostino, Victoria D’Agostino

Council Members Present:

Gary Lowder, Mayor
Demar Huntley, Mayor Pro Tem
Deloris Chambers
Dale Ward
Charles Council

Staff Present:

Jay Almond, Town Manager
Amanda Bowers, Town Clerk
Stephen Smith, Police Chief
Terry Eudy, Public Works Director

Opening prayer by Deloris Chambers.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag recited.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

Chris Coleman, and Doug Burns of Becker-Morgan and Grey London of Miles-McLellan, gave updates on Badin Waterfront Park and Conference Center projects. Coleman presented a finalized park plan. Grants money will fund replacement of HVAC, moisture control, and wall repair in the conference center. Plans will go to Stanly County Permitting next week.

Construction Manager, London answered questions from the council and public. Estimated timeline for the park is 8-10 months. Bidding should start at the end of January 2024.

Lowder mentioned HVAC will take most of the grant money for the conference center. More funds will be needed to complete all desired work. C. Council said he, Almond, and Lowder met with House of Representative Wayne Sasser about additional project funding.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lowder called to order the recessed special meeting from December 6.

Motion to table special meeting agenda to 7 p.m., Jan. 3, 2023 in Badin Town Hall: Huntley
Second with the addition of when we get additional required information: C. Council
Vote: Passed/Unanimous

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve Nov. 14, 2023 Public Hearing on alley and public way closures: C. Council

Second: Huntley

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Ward asked about sidewalk repairs. Lowder said work is approved. Ward asked if town collected box springs from school property. Eudy asked about item collection throughout town.

Motion to make an exception to collect box spring on school property: C. Council

Huntley said cost is same for box spring as for everything. Lowder said he will collect box spring.

C. Council rescinded motion.

Motion to approve November 14, 2023 Regular Meeting: C. Council

Second: Chambers

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Motion to approve December 6, 2023 Special Called Meeting pending two corrections; 1) add Bob D'Agostino to visitors, and 2) Huntley presented Ernest Peoples' certificate: Ward

Second: Huntley

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

BUSINESS

Conveyance of property forfeited by town after closure of Roosevelt St. alley pending. Lowder said alley is closed but town must Quit Claim deed to property owners hopefully with a paralegal. Lowder and Almond will work on it.

Motion to pursue street name change for Marion Street: Ward

Second: Huntley

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Badin Town Council sent a letter to Eagle Creek Renewable Energy expressing concern about property maintenance and requested meetings to jointly develop a path forward. The letter was sent Aug. 16, 2023 with no response. Ward proposed sending a letter to corporate.

Motion to send letter signed by all council to Eagle Creek Renewable Energy executives: Huntley

Second: C. Council

Discussion: Ward has video of how it used to look. He will try to get photos from the video.

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate 100 years from 5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 16 in Anderson Grove Life Center, and will host a special service Sunday. Lowder would like to adopt a Resolution of Recognition honoring Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church for 100 years of service.

Motion to draft and adopt a Resolution of Recognition to honor Mount Zion Missionary Baptist

Church for 100 year of service: Huntley

Second: C. Council

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Town Council discussed designating trails and greenways in the Town of Badin as Carolina Thread Trail. Lowder would like to discuss trail location and designation. Almond will provide CTT maps.

Town of Badin Planning Board members and alternates are appointed annually by the Badin Town Council. Lowder proposed Sandra Watkins and Detrica Watkins as alternate members, and Anne Faulkenberry and Sue Dalton as sitting members. The board would be Gary Rife as chair, Daisy Washington, Jerry Hudson, Sue Dalton, and Anne Faulkenberry as members, and Sandra Watkins and Detrica Watkins as alternate members.

Motion to make the proposed adjustment and reappointments: Ward
Huntley

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Town of Badin Board of Adjustment members are appointed every 3 years and alternates are appointed annually by Badin Town Council. The current Planning Board members are Gene Carlis, Valerie Tyson, Steve Grey, Dan Dalton, Ted Romain, and alternate members Brian Cribb and Steve Lowder. Jim Miller was unseated after becoming employed by the town.

Motion to reappoint current Board of Adjustment members: Ward

Second: C. Council

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Motion to reappoint C. Council as delegate and remainder of the council members serve as alternates to the Centralina Board of Delegates: Huntley

Second: Ward

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Motion to reappoint Almond to the Rocky River Rural Planning Organization's Technical Coordinating Committee (RRRPO TCC): Huntley

Second: C. Council

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Motion to reappoint C. Council to Rocky River Rural Planning Organization's Technical Advisory committee (RRRPO TAC): Huntley

Second: Chambers

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Motion to reappoint Huntley to the Stanly County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB): C.
Council

Second: Ward

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

PUBLIC WORKS:

Eudy reported the following:

- Next limb/brush collection Jan. 2, 2023.
- 8 Loads of Brush collected in November.
- Leaf collection is on schedule.

- Lost a motor for a mower. Total repair is around \$7,500 to \$8,000. \$1000 core fee is refundable. Albemarle Outdoor Supply has a SCAG mower comparable to the Ferris for around \$14,000. Lowder suggested checking on refurbished mowers.

POLICE REPORT:

- Chief Smith reported 2,217 calls for service in November.
- Part-time Officer Tim Peck has committed to full-time starting January 1st.
- 2 applicants are awaiting Criminal Justice Standards. Turnaround time is 7-8 weeks. There will be 1 full-time and 1 part-time. The department will be fully staffed.

Lowder would like to sit down with Chief Smith and another possible candidate for part-time.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Almond presented financial report ending December 8, 2023. November revenue from property tax, sales & use tax, occupancy tax.

Lowder said the new boom mower should be ready this week. The deck needs welding. C. Council asked if the leaf truck tube arrived. Eudy said they replaced the tube, but the hydraulic arm failed.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

Almond reported the following:

1. Demar Huntley will attend the Stanly County CVB meeting 8:30 a.m., Dec. 13.
2. Almond, Lowder, and C. Council met with NC House Representative Wayne Sasser Dec. 12. They discussed project related needs. Existing projects are more likely to get funded than new ones. Town will submit 1 new and 2 existing requests.
3. Badin Town Hall will be closed Dec. 25 through Dec. 27 in observance of Christmas.
4. Badin Town Hall will be closed Jan. 1 in observance of New Year.
5. Next Regular Council Meeting is 7 p.m. Tues., Jan. 9, 2023 in Badin Town Hall.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Ward asked who is supposed to put everything back on the walls in the town hall since the painting. Lowder has started rehanging some things.

C. Council said we owe Better Badin a big thanks for planning Winterfest even though the weather didn’t cooperate, at least the weather held out for Santa to come.

C. Council said council talked about marking all police vehicles except for undercover. Almond said he thought the discussion called for magnets for the chief vehicle as needed. Chief Smith presented new magnets to council, and said they already used them in a local parade. C. Council asked if the magnets are what we want, and said that he thought all but the undercover vehicle were going to be marked. Ward agreed that was discussed. Huntley recalled council discussing marking all vehicles except the black Durango and the Ram; the magnets would be used for the Ram, and undercover would stay unmarked. Ward said it was decided. C. Council said it was left open, and council discussed the magnets could cause scratches. Lowder said he feels like the police department should decide and Chief Smith doesn’t want to the pickup marked. Lowder questioned whether council should dictate what to do in their department. Ward said it was for closed session, and visibility is a big problem in town. Chief Smith noted there will be even more visibility when fully staffed. C. Council asked if other chiefs have marked vehicles. Chief Smith replied that no chief he knows of

has a marked vehicle. Lowder said what concerns him most is if the council is trying to micromanage departments. C. Council said he respects the mayor's opinion but doesn't see this as micromanagement. Lowder said he is worried neither department can do anything to suit the council and it appears the council is going after the two departments since they sat down. C. Council said he's volunteering to help these people at every opportunity, he hasn't gone after anybody. Lowder said he feels some council members may harbor vendettas against the police department. C. Council asked if they've not given them almost everything they've asked for. Lowder said absolutely, but when does it stop, the telling them what to do and how to do it?

Motion to have all police vehicles clearly marked Town of Badin Police Department except the black Durango: C. Council

Second: Ward

Discussion: Huntley said Chief Smith has two sets of magnets to use, so it seems to be solved. He has them available and that's it. Chambers asked about displaying the magnets while on duty then suggested maybe leaving it to the chief's discretion. Huntley agreed. Ward said it needs to be marked, they all do except the undercover, and that he and others don't see officers enough. Chief Smith said he sees Ward frequently but Ward turns away when officers ride by. Ward said he does not. Lowder reminded there is a motion on the table. C. Council clarified that the motion's intent is for all vehicles to be marked except for undercover, and truck will use magnets while on duty.

Revised motion to have all police vehicles clearly marked Town of Badin Police Department except the undercover, with the truck using magnets while on duty: C. Council

Second: Ward

Vote: Passed/3-2

C. Council - Aye

Ward - Aye

Chambers - Aye

Lowder - Nay

Huntley - Nay

Ward said Library remodeling is finished, and the gutters need attention.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn December 12, 2023 Regular Meeting: Chambers

Second: Council

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Minutes approved January 9, 2023.

Minutes prepared by Amanda Bowers.