

BADIN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – REGULAR MEETING
January 16, 2024 (postponed from Jan. 9, 2024)
BADIN TOWN HALL

VISITORS

Gary Rife, Valerie Tyson, Brenda Goode, Sarah Allen, Cliff Marshall

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

None.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lowder called the meeting to order.

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE AGENDA

Ward said he would like to talk about a zoning officer. Lowder said it's already in the agenda and they are trying to get meetings scheduled for a potential code enforcement officer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to disapprove December 12 Regular Meeting draft minutes: Ward

Second: C. Council

Vote: Passed/3-2

Aye – Ward, C. Council, Lowder

Nay – Huntley, Chambers

Lowder said to bring recommended changes to the next meeting. It will be easier to make changes before approval rather than after. Lowder asked Almond, Chambers, and Ward meet 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 22 to listen to the recording and decide if anything should be changed.

BUSINESS

Town Council voted in December to draft a second letter to Eagle Creek Renewable Energy signed by all council members expressing concerns about property maintenance and requesting meetings to jointly develop a path to improvement. Huntley presented the letter to the council. With a few recommendations from the council, Almond will edit the letter. Once photos are available, Lowder will notify town council when it's ready to be signed.

Town Council discussed designating planned trails and greenways/blue ways in town as Carolina Thread Trail (CTT). Almond reached out to CTT staff and is awaiting a call-back to schedule a meeting in Badin. Lowder asked Jay to try to set it for the next council meeting.

Town Council was waiting for information to close several alleys and public ways. Almond reached out to town attorney, Connie Mosher who determined Council's order to close is sufficient to send to the Register of Deeds. Once surveyor finishes plots, and invoices are paid, closure orders can be sent to the Register of Deeds. No Quit Claim Deeds are needed.

Town Council is developing a list of ARPA projects identified as deficient with regard to storm water. Some were deemed addressable by town staff, and others need contract labor. Lowder requested getting quotes from contractors for the ones that would be contracted out. Eudy asked who will be getting the quotes and asked to be kept in the loop. Lowder suggested at least 3 estimates, requested putting these in the Feb. 6 meeting for budget goals and asked Eudy to attend the Feb. 6 meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Eudy reported the following:

- Next limb/brush collection February 6, 2024.
- 3 Loads of Brush collected in November.
- Leaf Collection is back on schedule.
- Ferris motor should be shipped from Yanmar anytime.
- Used leaf truck repair is estimated around \$3,000 - \$4,000. Can't get a definite price.
- Jason Thompson went to Horizons for the CAT boom mower but it wouldn't drive. Transmission fluid was low. C. Council and Ward said transmission fluid was low when they drove it and Malcom had to add fluid.
- Bucket truck is leaking hydraulic fuel so Christmas lights are still up.

POLICE REPORT:

- Chief Smith reported 2,006 calls for service in December.
- Officer Peck started full-time as of Jan. 1.
- Waiting for paperwork from state for 2 other applicants, 1 full-time and 1 part-time.

C. Council asked Chief Smith if he was involved with the pickup truck found in the pond. Chief responded yes.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Almond presented financial report ending Jan. 5, 2024. December revenue from property tax, sales & use tax, occupancy tax. Lowder asked for a detailed report for ARPA funds.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Almond reported the following:

1. Demar Huntley attended the Stanly County CVB meeting 8:30 a.m., Jan. 10.
2. West Badin Park utilities project is underway and will require a revamped plan. The original plan had the restrooms on top of sewer lines. Lowder has the updated plan.

3. Areas of town slated for sidewalk repair and tree maintenance have been delivered to contract teams for completion. Lowder said they plan to start the first week of February. Mark's Stump Grinding will replace the sidewalks.
4. Next Regular Council Meeting is 7 p.m. Tues., Feb. 13, 2023 in Badin Town Hall.
5. Badin Town Council will enter closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)1 to discuss matters pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)4.

Motion to enter closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) to discuss matters pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)4: Chambers

Second: Huntley

Motion rescinded. Council began council comment section of agenda.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

C. Council requested color handouts/packets to correspond with color agenda items, and mentioned displaying the agenda on the screen during meetings.

Ward reported a museum roof leak. Almond called roofer Alec Forte. The library water heater broke, and is running water on the floor. There is a sink leak. Ward left a message with Jason Smith but hasn't heard back. Almond asked Eudy to check the water heater.

Lowder thanked everyone, and said he and Almond are working to set up meetings on code enforcement and grant writing. Lowder also mentioned his appreciation for the late Carl Grier, saying it is evident how much he did for the town, and trash on Wood St. is piling up.

Almond asked everyone to inform people that it is a felony to remove election signs.

Motion to enter closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) to discuss matters pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)4: Huntley

Second: Chambers

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Council re-entered regular session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn January 16, 2024 Regular Meeting: Chambers

Second: Huntley

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Minutes approved February 13, 2024.

Minutes prepared by Amanda Bowers.