

BADIN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – REGULAR MEETING

May 14, 2024

BADIN TOWN HALL

VISITORS

Gary Rife, Sarah Allen, Mike Edgerton, Georgette Edgerton, Jody Hopper, Joe Crapster, Dave Andrews

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

Opening prayer by Deloris Chambers.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag recited.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Duke Energy Government & Community Relations Manager Joe Crapster, new manager for six counties including Stanly, introduced himself to council. Duke contracted Carolina Power for grid upgrades in town June to November. Residents will be notified of project related power interruptions. Ward asked about repairs Duke hasn't completed, and limbs from tree trimming. He requested crews not work around churches on Sundays. Lowder said Project Manager, Rex Keener told him Duke will repair/ replace affected sidewalks. Crapster said a challenge will be getting phone, internet, and cable companies to move their equipment to the new poles. Ward wants to invite phone/ cable companies to a meeting, and suggested Duke complete Boyden, Henderson, and Nantahala streets before school starts in fall.

Georgette Edgerton thanked council for saving the third weekend in June as a Juneteenth Celebration. She requested to be contacted about changes on the event applications. Lowder said the plan is fillable event applications online in the near future. Edgerton asked council to count the Easter Egg Hunt as a non-event, and requested town clean and mow the park Friday before the event. Lowder agreed. Mike Edgerton mentioned furrows dug in the park. Lowder said they are for bathroom construction and Garmon Electrical assured him it will be complete before June 15th. Georgette asked for the gate to be unlocked and requested use of town trash cans. C. Council said council wants people to use the park but needs notice if a lot of people plan to be there.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lowder called the meeting to order.

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE AGENDA

Motion to add 8(a) – Resolution to declare May 2024 as Lupus Awareness Month: Huntley

Second: C. Council

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve April 9, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes: Chambers

Second: Huntley

Discussion: Ward asked for updates: 1. Waiting on conference center bid list. Almond will ask Grey London again. 2. Does triathlon have current insurance? Yes. 3. When will welder return boom deck? Unknown. 4. Do we have Sherman/Spruce street estimates? 5. Asset List incomplete.

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Motion to approve April 16, 2024 Special Called Meeting minutes: Huntley

Second: C. Council

Discussion: Ward asked for completed storm water project list. Almond will ask Terry. Ward asked about updates from Cliff Marshall. Lowder said he is waiting.

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Motion to approve April 24-25, 2024 Budget Retreat minutes: Chambers

Second: Huntley

Discussion: Ward asked about moving storm water fund into separate account. Almond is in conversation with the auditor. C. Council noted a balanced budget with no tax increase.

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

BUSINESS

Almond read a Resolution Designating May 2024 as Lupus Awareness Month.

Motion to adopt Resolution Designating May 2024 as Lupus Awareness Month: Ward

Second: Huntley

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Council discussed the Juneteenth Celebration event application. Lowder said the application is complete, with certificate of insurance, paid permit fee, and deposit.

Motion to approve the Juneteenth Celebration event application: C. Council

Second: Chambers

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Council considered parking restriction on Spruce Street from Cedar to Pine streets due to blocked emergency egress. Ward said two feet of street pavement was lost during town work on the ditch, and suggested gravel now, pave later. Lowder said to roll it into the paving project. C. Council said the paving won't be soon, so why not allow parking on town property for now.

Motion to table discussion on Spruce St. parking restriction until talking to a contractor: Huntley

Second: C. Council

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

A Town Hall air conditioning unit stopped working. Maintenance indicated a failed compressor, and replacement is \$3,359.80. Full HVAC replacement would be approximately \$8,000. The unit is 6 years old. A budget amendment is needed for either. Staff recommends repair.

Motion to repair HVAC system: Huntley

Second: C. Council

Discussion: Huntley asked about a compressor warranty. Likely one year, but Almond will ask.

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

PUBLIC WORKS:

Almond reported the following:

- Next limb/brush collection June 4, 2024.
- Spring Town Cleanup: 47,760 lbs. (23 truckloads taken to landfill for \$1,096.75 in tipping fees, 920 lbs. of tires taken for \$46, and received \$81.90 for recycled metal.

Ward mentioned the trees and bamboo at Spruce St. ditch need cutting before repairs. Almond said they are waiting on an estimate from HPC Land Clearing. C. Council recommended spraying the bamboo after it is cut. Ward said there are limbs hanging low on Dogwood St.

POLICE REPORT:

- Chief Smith reported 2,372 calls for service in April.
- Chief Smith reported the following:
 - Two patrol vehicles sustained body damage and will undergo repair. One was hit by a deer and the other hit a bridge rail on Spruce St.

C. Council asked about code enforcement officer progress. Chief is waiting on paperwork.

Council revisited a previously tabled discussion on magnetic markings for the Ram. Ward asked about closed session to discuss. Lowder said closed session is limited to certain items (legal, economic development, personnel matters). Ward said the decision have the Ram marked with magnets was approved by council. C. Council clarified, the discussion was about permanent markings vs magnet use. Council continued discussing whether or not magnets should be used.

Motion to let police run their department, whether they want magnets on cars or not: Lowder
C. Council said that is repealing a policy. Ward said it is a snub. Discussion followed.

Second: Huntley

Discussion: Chambers asked for a recess. Lowder called for a 10 minute recess. Council returned from recess and continued discussion. Chambers requested changing “let the department” to “allow the department.” The council agreed to compromise with the added amendment “to use professional discretion on when to run the magnets.”

Lowder withdrew his motion with Council agreement.

Motion to allow police to run their department and use professional discretion on when to run magnets: Lowder

Second: Huntley

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Almond presented financial report ending May 8, 2024. April revenue from property tax, sales & use tax, occupancy tax.

Almond presented proposed FY25 Budget Ordinance and line item financial report.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

Almond reported the following:

1. Estimates for repair and maintenance of Spruce and Sherman streets pending. Castleberry and J.T. Russel submitted estimates. Awaiting third bid.

2. A Pine St. speed calming device was removed to facilitate SC Utilities line work. Poor Street patching requires redress. Speed calming, whether in previous or revised form, is expected to be delayed until after street repairs are completed.
3. Aged park signage at West Badin Park and Pine Street Park is being replaced. New signs are decorative, and retain original posting of acceptable use.
4. Badin Town Hall will be closed Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day.
5. Stanfield will host Stanly County COG meeting 6:30 p.m., May 28 in Pete Henkel Park.
6. Council to set public hearing for 6:45 p.m., June 11 on proposed FY25 town budget.
7. Next Regular Council Meeting is 7 p.m. Tues., June 11, 2024 in Badin Town Hall.

Motion to set public hearing for 6:45 p.m., June 11, 2024 on proposed FY25 budget: C. Council

Second: Huntley

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Lowder mentioned the email council received from Local Government Commission about audit not being turned in on time by the auditor. Lowder recommended Almond look for a new auditor.

Lowder said Matt Salyer of The Silverado Group assessed: library doors, one facing the parking lot and one facing Pine St., repainting bathroom and replacing lighting, and connecting hot water to new bathroom. They are awaiting estimates. Ward is looking into rekeying all locks to one key.

C. Council is seeking a vendor to auction surplus items. Contractor repairing walls in the Spruce St. ditch would like to bring in more workers but will need a \$3,000 advance to do so. It is not additional cost to the job. C. Council will serve as chairman to the RRRPO board.

Huntley asked if Candice Lowder leaving her Stanly County Economic Development position would affect Trident or future business placement in Badin. Almond believes what is underway will continue, whether or not that includes Trident or other businesses locating in Badin.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn May 14, 2024 Regular Meeting: Huntley

Second: C. Council

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Minutes approved June 11, 2024.

Minutes prepared by Amanda Bowers.