

Town of New London  
Board of Commissioner's Meeting  
January 4, 2022

Mayor Tate Daniels welcomed everyone and opened the Commissioner's Meeting. Present for the meeting were Mayor Tate Daniels, Commissioners Bill Peak, Richard Kimmer, Johnny Chestnut, Christy Starnes, and Town Administrator Susan Almond. Commissioner Marcus Mullis was absent from the meeting. Visitors present at the meeting were Elizabeth Chestnut, Tim Swaringen, Mary & Gary Robinson, Derek Starnes and Joey Calloway.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Johnny Chestnut. Mayor Daniels opened the first Public Hearing. The purpose of the hearing was to review a request from Mr. Joey Calloway & Roge Brafford to re-zone approximately 15 acres on Hwy 52 (tax record 20385 & tax record 31813) from R-20 to H-B. The Planning Board met in November and made a recommendation to proceed with this re-zoning request and send it to the Town Board for review. Mayor Daniels asked if anyone from the public wanted to speak about the matter. Mr. Starnes asked if a dump or land fill was planned for that property. Mr. Calloway replied that he purchased the property and is considering a telecommunications tower or mini warehouses. Other discussion topics included traffic pattern and telecommunications tower guidelines.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Daniels closed the first Public Hearing and opened the second Public Hearing.

The purpose of the second Public Hearing is to review the Text Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance: Legislature has amended the General Statutes to remove the misdemeanor and criminal penalties for land use violations. Commissioner Chestnut explained that land use violations will be enforced in a civil manner rather than criminally. This affects two sections in our Zoning Ordinance that need to be changed: 1. Section 12.5.4 delete the criminal penalties paragraph. 2. Section 16-24 delete the wording "shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor" and add "shall be found in violation and subject to civil penalties pursuant to section 12.5.3." There being no further discussion, Mayor Daniels closed the second Public Hearing and the Commissioner's Meeting reconvened.

Mayor Daniels asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Commissioner Chestnut made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, seconded by Commissioner Kimmer. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Daniels asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes from the December meeting. There being no corrections, Commissioner Chestnut made a motion to approve the minutes from December, seconded by Commissioner Peak. Motion carried.

**Decision Regarding the Re-Zoning Request-** Commissioner Peak made a motion to approve the request from Mr. Joey Calloway to re-zone the property on Hwy 52 (tax record 20385 & tax record 31813) from R-20 to H-B, seconded by Commissioner Chestnut. Motion carried unanimously.

**Decision Regarding the Text Amendment-** Commissioner Chestnut made a motion to approve the text amendments removing criminal penalties per General Statutes, seconded by Commissioner Starnes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Sewer Report-** Commissioner Peak noted that heavy rains have caused the pump stations to go into alarm but the sewer system is operating as it should.

**Code Enforcement-** Mr. Swaringen gave an overview of the code enforcement report. The Board agreed for Mr. Swaringen to pursue action on Case Number HC 21-03-NL.

**Christmas Decorations-** Commissioner Chestnut made a motion to authorize Mrs. Almond to order new Christmas wreaths to replace the damaged ones, seconded by Commissioner Kimmer. Motion carried unanimously.

**Mrs. Almond reported on the following:**

- Audit Update- The audit was completed and submitted to the LGC. The report should be presented at the February Board Meeting. We are sending out request for proposals to compare services and cost for next year's audit.
- Filing Fee for 2022 Municipal Election- Commissioner Chestnut made a motion to keep the filing fee at \$10.00, seconded by Commissioner Kimmer. Motion carried unanimously.

**Mayor Daniels reported on the following:**

- Park Update- the Memorial Brick Project is winding down and we are asking everyone to get their orders turned in within the next week.
- Stanly County Park Grant- Opportunity for up to a \$10,000 grant received from the county that would be matched by the town. An example of the proposed picnic shelter was presented to the Town Board, and all were in favor of the rustic style. Mayor Daniels will be presenting the grant application to the Stanly County Board of Commissioners at their January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Fire Protection Agreement- Commissioner Chestnut made a motion to adopt the Fire Protection and Emergency Services Agreement between the Town of New London and the New London Fire Department for 2022, seconded by Commissioner Starnes. Motion carried unanimously.
- Coggins Property Purchase- The town purchased the property located at 130 W. Gold Street and 106 Vine Street at a recent auction. The town took ownership on December 27<sup>th</sup> and the property was added to the town's insurance. The Town Board will be in discussions for future plans for the property.

The agenda being accomplished, the meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Minutes submitted by Susan Almond, Town Administrator