

Town of New London  
Board of Commissioner's Meeting  
June 21, 2022

Mayor Tate Daniels welcomed everyone and opened the Public Hearing. Present for the meeting were Mayor Tate Daniels, Commissioners Bill Peak, Richard Kimmer, Christy Starnes, Johnny Chestnut and Town Administrator Susan Almond. Commissioner Mullis was absent. Visitors present at the meeting were Michael Sandy, Mark LeBlanc, Calvin LeBlanc, Gail & Bill Hampsmire, Paul Childress, Candice Lowder, and Tim Swaringen.

The purpose of the first Public Hearing was to review a request from Mr. Paul Childress to re-zone his property located at 946 US Hwy 52 N, tax record 37678 from HB (Highway Business) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing). The Planning Board reviewed this topic at their meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> and set this Public Hearing.

Mr. Michael Sandy spoke on behalf of Mr. Childress and explained the reason for re-zoning is for a business (HD Switch) to use the building for assembling and packaging of PTO switches and ignition switches. He noted that they are working with NCDOT regarding upgrades to the driveway.

Mr. LeBlanc, owner of HD Switch, gave an overview of the company and the switches they assemble. His potential plans include assembling switches at the 946 US Hwy 52 location for approximately 3 years. Mr. LeBlanc would then like to move the entire company to a 25,000 square ft. building in Stanly County.

Following public comments and discussion, Mayor Daniels closed the first Public Hearing and opened the second Public Hearing.

The purpose of the second Public Hearing was to hear the second reading of the proposed 2022-2023 budget. The only changes from the first reading to the second reading were regarding how a portion of the ARP funds were used for salaries for 2021-2022. Therefore, the Appropriated Fund Balance was reduced to \$0.00. Capital Improvement reduced to \$135,000. Salary Regular Hours- ARP Funds increased to \$115,368.48 and Salary Regular Hours reduced to \$30,000.

Following discussion, the Public Hearing was closed and the Commissioner's Meeting was opened. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Chestnut. Mayor Daniels asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Mrs. Almond added Sheriff's Agreement to the agenda. Commissioner Kimmer made a motion to approve the meeting agenda with the addition, seconded by Commissioner Peak. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**Decision Regarding Re-zoning Request-** Commissioner Chestnut made a motion to approve the request to rezone the property at 946 US Hwy 52 N, tax record 37678 from HB (Highway Business) to M-1 (Light Manufacturing), seconded by Commissioner Starnes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Decision Regarding Proposed 2022-2023 Budget-** Commissioner Kimmer made a motion to adopt the proposed 2022-2023 budget, seconded by Commissioner Starnes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Budget Ordinance & Tax Rate 2022-2023-** Mrs. Almond presented the 2022-2023 Budget Ordinance. Commissioner Chestnut made a motion to approve the Budget Ordinance for 2022-2023, seconded by Commissioner Peak. Motion carried unanimously. This Budget Ordinance states the tax rate for New London would remain at \$0.16 per \$100 valuation of property.

**Personnel Policy-** The draft of the personnel policy had been distributed to the Board Members for their review. Following discussion, Commissioner Chestnut made a motion to adopt the Personnel Policy, seconded by Commissioner Kimmer. Motion carried unanimously.

**Sewer Report-** Commissioner Peak reported that lightning hit the 3 phase transformers at the pump stations and new transfer switches will be ordered. He noted that the 4 residential pumps have been delivered and are in storage.

**Code Enforcement-** Mr. Swaringen gave an update on the code enforcement cases.

**Ordinance Update-** Commissioner Chestnut recommended we review and update the restrictions for the ordinance regarding the control of farm animals and fowl.

**Admin Update:** Commissioner Chestnut made a motion to change Mrs. Almond's title from Town Administrator to Town Manager, seconded by Commissioner Starnes. Motion carried unanimously.

**New Maintenance Employee-** Mr. Avery Mauldin has accepted the maintenance position for the town and will start Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Museum Update-** Plans are underway to open the museum on the first Sunday of each month from 2:00-4:00pm, beginning in August. Commissioner Starnes recommended putting a note on the back of the bill to ask for volunteers to work at the museum.

**Street Upkeep-** Commissioner Kimmer reported that a new heavy duty storm drain is needed near the corner of Spring Street and Depot Street.

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

- **Adjustments to the 2021-2022 Budget-** Following review of the proposed adjustments, Commissioner Kimmer made a motion to approve the adjustments to the 2021-2022 Budget, seconded by Commissioner Peak. Motion carried unanimously.
- **ARP Funding- Grant Project Ordinance-** The School of Government confirmed that we can allocate the ARP funds for salaries for the 2021-2022 budget year we are finishing up as well as the 2022-2023 budget year. Therefore, we need to amend the Grant Project Ordinance to correct the dates. Commissioner Chestnut made a motion to approve the revised grant project ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Starnes. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Municipal Filing Period:** July 1<sup>st</sup> – July 15<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Daniels, Commissioner Starnes and Commissioner Mullis are up for re-election this year.
- **Supplemental Law Enforcement Agreement with Stanly County Sheriff's Office-** The Board agreed to keep the compensation not to exceed \$17,000 for 40 hours of supplemental law enforcement per month. The contract will be presented at the next meeting.

**Mayor Daniels reported on the following:**

- **Park Update-** Permits have been issued and Mr. Danny Russell will begin the construction of the rustic shelter in the next few weeks.
- **Storage Building Update-** The remodeling project is complete. Plans are to store the gator, mower and other town equipment in that building.
- **Water-Sewer Rate Increase-** Due to increased rates from the City of Albemarle, the proposed water-sewer rates will increase to \$21.00 for water and \$28.25 for sewer. Commissioner Chestnut made a motion to approve the new rates, seconded by Commissioner Starnes. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Request from Mrs. Tonya Chandler-** The Chandlers live at 110 Vine Street and are interested in purchasing 10-15 feet of the town's property to give them more room for their storage building and parking. The Board would like to hold off on this topic until they decide how the town's property will be used.

The agenda being accomplished, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Minutes submitted by Susan Almond, Town Administrator