

MILTON NORTH CAROLINA TOWN HALL/TDH

TUESDAY: June 08, 2021----7:00 PM. Minutes

Town Hall Hours: Tuesdays 9:00 am.-5:00 pm.

Thursdays- 4:00 pm.-7:00 pm. Payments Only

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Patricia Williams called meeting to order at 7:00 pm

This meeting is being recorded and I (Mayor Patricia Williams) would like to remind you for **Public Comments** please call Town Hall at 336-234-0030 by 2:00 p.m. on the Tuesday the day of the Town Meeting and leave your name, address, and your reason for Public Comments.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

- **Mayor Patricia Williams** asked everyone to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Mayor Patricia Williams, Commissioner Lisa Brandon, Shirley Wilson, Town Clerk, Sharon Williams, Finance Officer, Commissioner Cathia Stewart, Commissioner Valerie Sottile, **Zoom:** Commissioner John Wallace Jr.,

ABSENT:

- **APPROVALS: Mayor Patricia Williams** called for approval of the: **June 08, 2021**, Agenda. **Commissioner Cathia Stewart** made a change under Council Members Report to the agenda inserting EDC report for May 2021 and June will be reported in July: **Commissioner Lisa Brandon** want to add under New Business staggering of Terms. **Mayor Patricia Williams** wants to add under New Business discussion on **COVID 19 Rules** that have been put out by **Governor Cooper**. It was motioned to approve the agenda with the amendments for **June 08, 2021**, by **Commissioner Valerie Sottile**. Second by **Commissioner Cathia Stewart**. All members were in favor. **Mayor Patricia Williams** asked for the approval of the **May 11, 2021**, Minutes. **Commissioner Valerie Sottile** motioned to approve the **May 11, 2021**, second by **Commissioner Lisa Brandon**. All members were in favor of the Agenda and Minutes by stating (I). **Patricia Williams** asked for the approval of the **May 11, 2021, Closed Meeting**, Minutes. **Commissioner Lisa Brandon** motioned to approve the **May 11, 2021, Closed Meeting Minutes**. Second by **Commissioner Cathia Stewart**. All members were in favor of the **May 11, 2021**, Closed Meeting Minutes by stating (I). No Opposed.

MAYORS REPORT: Mayor Patricia Williams

- **Update on Milton Post Office:** The Milton Post Office update: the prefabricated Modular Post Office has hit construction delay due to COVID shutdowns and will not be completed as originally planned. The final completion date of September 28, 2021, may change.
- **High Street Baptist Church Crosswalk Update:** the North Carolina Department of Transportation said the Cultural Resource Department is still in the Design and Historical Review of High Street Baptist Church Crosswalk/Sidewalk Project and are hoping for them to sign off on the project soon. The Crosswalk Project is still moving forward.
- **The 25 M.P.H. Speed Limit Signs Project:** for Holder Street and Palmers Alley is still waiting for approval. As soon as the approval comes in installation will move forward.

- **The Schedule for Flushing Water Pipes and Fire Hydrants: Everyone should have received the schedule 2021/2022 for flushing water pipes and fire hydrants in your May Billing.** The first flushing will be June 25, 2021, starting around 10:00 a.m. If you did not receive a copy of the Water Flushing schedule, please stop by Town Hall to pick one up. Please put the schedule on your calendar. Also included in your mailing was the Wastewater Compliance Requirement.
- The American Rescue Plan Application was submitted for the Municipal Funding passed by the Federal Government. There are strict guidelines and restrictions that have to be followed with monies. The Town of Milton is waiting to hear back from the application.
- **The Public Notice of the Public Hearing:** For the discussion of the 2021-2022 Budget was put in the Caswell Messenger following the North Carolina General Statute 159-12.
- **The Verizon Cell Tower:** located in the ETJ of Milton is still under review.
- **The Caswell County Website:** that will include the **Town of Milton** and the **Town of Yanceyville** is scheduled to launch in **June**. Milton has submitted items to be placed on the **Town of Milton's Page** and we are waiting for the announcement of the launch.

STAFF REPORTS: Budget Officer John Wallace and Finance Officer Sharon Williams: Discussion on the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

Sharon Williams stated that everyone received a copy last month and if you have questions we will answer. **Commissioner John Wallace and I (Sharon Williams)** have been working with **Mark Baker** from the **State of North Carolina** on our Budget as well. **Mark Baker** wanted us to change our language from **Miscellaneous to a Fund Balance Reserve**. We will change that wording on it as for the numbers they are all the same. If anyone have any questions about anything our **General Fund Budget did increase \$4300.00 based on Revenue we expected to get in and our Water Fund Budget went down \$200.00 from this current year. Does anyone have questions?** Mayor Patricia asked for any questions concerning the FY22 Budget. There were no public questions or questions by the Town Commissioners concerning the FY22 Budget. Mayor Patricia Williams stated everyone here agrees with the Budget as it stands. There are no questions. Sharon Williams stated she has a copy of the Budget Ordinance that the Council needs to sign. Passed around and Commissioner John Wallace has already signed it. Mayor Patricia Williams: Asked for a Motion to pass the Budget for 2022 as it stands. Commissioner Lisa Brandon made a motion to pass the Budget as it stands and Commissioner Valerie Sottile second the motion.

Sharon Williams: Monthly Report starting with the **General Fund:** May target is **92%** and our Revenue through May 2021 is **98%**; Expenditures are at **80%** our Revenue is well above our Expenditures through the month of May 2021. We should have normal recurring Invoices for June 2021. I moved the Funds back from the **General Fund Checking Account to the Reserve Account** for the purchase of Fire Hydrants. Any Questions?

Water/Sewer Fund: our Revenue at the end of May is at **99%** and Target is at **92%**. Expenditures at the end of May is at **89%**. Any Questions? We paid our **USDA Loan in May 2021 (16,000.00)**. It should be normal expenses and looking to see if there is any repairs or maintenance items for the Water Sewer System. Any Questions? Commissioner Valerie Sottile asked about the May pipes and leaks, how many there were? Sharon stated **\$1600.00** pipes repaired across the street at the bank.

Bank Reconciliations: General Fund Bank Account: Updated through May 2021 --**\$15529.00.00**. As of last Tuesday, we had **\$14,039.00**. **Water Sewer Fund** we have **\$33,933.00** as of last Tuesday, **\$15,075.00**. You can see where I transferred the monies **(\$20,000.00) from the General Funds back into the Capital Management Trust**. Our North Carolina Capital Management Trust is back to

\$100,010.00. You have a copy of each Bank Statement to verify this information. Commissioner John Wallace asked if there was enough money in General Fund to transfer more money into the Capital Management Account. Sharon Williams stated if the Council approves a transfer could be made to the Saving in the amount of \$5,000.00 at the end of June 2021. Discussion on will we be able to transfer funds out if needed. (Yes) Commissioner Valerie Sottile made a motion that \$5000.00 be transferred out of the General Fund into the Reserved Saving Account. Commissioner Lisa Brandon second the motion.

Sharon Williams stated that Mike Behler found someone else to check the Control Panel Computer at the Water Plant, but it will cost more. The Council had previously approved \$600.00 the new company is charging \$1,259.65. It is close to \$10,000.00 to purchase a new one. It is something that is needed with Council's approval to up the funds to have this company come look at it. Mayor Patricia Williams explained further the cost and discussed the companies plan of action, **with one engineer on site for 8 hrs. to trouble shoot and make a diagnostic repair if possible, during the one-day visit. Quote is not guaranteed for any specific item.** Mayor Patricia Williams read the dos and don'ts of the company. (A copy will be on file) This company Customs Controls Unlimited out of Raleigh was recommended to Mike Behler. Mayor Patricia Williams asked for a motion to proceed with this trouble shooting and repair if they can. This system has been in since 2006. It was motioned to move forward with this project by Commissioner Valerie Sottile and second by Commissioner John Wallace.

- ✚ **OLD BUSINESS: Mayor Patricia Williams:** Charging customers for noncompliant repeated replaced Pumps. This situation has been discussed previously and last month. (Two Residents) repeatedly replaced pumps due to grease basically. Pictures were taken, and out of compliance letters were mailed. **Mayor Patricia Williams: reviewed the actual dates and times of replacements, and the life expectancy.** Charging a fee or a percentage of the cost or full cost of the pump. (Discussion) **Mayor Patricia Williams asked for a motion to approve the following changes.**
- ✚ On June 8, 2021, the Milton Town Board voted to hold water customers out of compliance of their wastewater system responsible for full cost of replacing the pump including labor.
- ✚ The first offense of noncompliance will result in a warning letter describing and showing the issues of noncompliance.
- ✚ The second offense of noncompliance will result in the full cost of replacing pump plus labor, (of approximately \$1000.00 per pump plus the labor) charged to the water customer. Please review "Care for Your Water System" notification mailed out in the April 20, 2021, water billing.

Commissioner John Wallace: Update on Privatizing the Milton Water/Sewer System

Commissioner John Wallace stated last month our number one prospect was Aqua North Carolina and unfortunately, they wrote us and said they were not interested. Said we had a limited number of customers, high debt, and they did not like our rate schedule either. (Explained) They made two recommendations: one in Danville-Infra Mark. Enviro Link out of Raleigh N.C. is interested in talking with us to give us a proposal. I emailed Commissioner Lisa Brandon the information for the one in Danville Virginia.

Commissioner Valerie Sottile: Compliance and Accountability for Town Ordinances

Per last month's meeting the Town of Milton is qualified and legally able to enforce what we want as Fines for not following the Town's Ordinances as per the North Carolina General Statute: Article 15 violation should be a Misdemeanor or Infraction Statute 14-4. § 160A-175. Enforcement of ordinances.

(a) A city shall have power to impose fines and penalties for violation of its ordinances and may secure injunctions and abatement orders to further ensure compliance with its ordinances as provided by this section.

(b) Unless the Council shall otherwise provide, violation of a city ordinance is a misdemeanor or infraction as provided by G.S. 14-4. An ordinance may provide by express statement that the maximum fine, term of imprisonment, or infraction penalty to be imposed for a violation is some amount of money or number of days less than the maximum imposed by G.S. 14-4.

I did call Thomas Bernard and talked to him about one of the forms that was sent out in an earlier administration for the Town of Milton listing the violations that were sent out in a letter to individual residents as to what the violation was and it could have been a **Yard/Porch maintenance, General Property maintenance, Dog Nuisance**, however we do now have our own **Dog Leach Law, Noise Ordinance and others**. Valerie read the information on the bottom of the form. **Discussed will all Ordinance carry the same fines. Mayor Patricia Williams** stated each individual Ordinance should be reviewed if the Planning Board feel that different Ordinances will have severe or less severe fines. **Attached 160A-175.**

Commissioner Valerie Sottile: Greenspace in Milton: The Commissioners were given a wonderful proposal by Roxanne Palmer for moving forward on the Greenspace in Milton recommending that we do have trail walking greenspace in Milton. I (Valerie Sottile) asked Roxanne to be here tonight to answer questions. Is your Town Council or Mayor committed to this? I (Roxanne Palmer) have nothing stating that they are. I (Roxanne Palmer) asked Mayor Patricia if there could be a vote tonight but there was additional questions and concerns. Someone will donate \$250.00 towards the trail if the Town would match it. People are expecting support from the Town because it is an asset. We get taxes and get very little for the taxes. Liability for Property Owners or the Town. I (Roxanne Palmer) do not think it would be a liability to the town or property owners. As far as cost I do not know. How long or how wide is the trail? I (Roxanne Palmer) have no idea. I have been told that DOT may work with us on that. It does require excavation and an engineer. Trash Bins and Benches will be put along the trail. Again, I do not know who will pay for those. I want to work with Preservation and Beautification. What time does the Greenspace Committee meet so the public can attend? We are not a committee yet. Six or eight people thought this would be a good idea and I am just the spokesperson ((Roxanne Palmer). I do not want to formulate an official committee if we do not have the Town's commitment to the project. Liability was brought up and Patricia said she would contact an attorney. I am open for questions but do not want to move forward if it is a waste of time. Any questions? Commissioner John Wallace commented by saying he talked to Bray about the insurance about our liability if we open the trails, we would be covered by a liability clause, the Town is liable for the things that happen on the sidewalks and if an incident happens on the abandon streets the Town will be liable but covered under the existing policy a second policy won't be necessary. Commissioner Valerie Sottile stated that part of what Roxanne and others interested in the trails need to know if the Town is interested enough in the **Greenspace Walking Trail**. If so, do they have the Town's backing of the **Greenspace Walking Trail**, so they can move forward with finding out all the answers to the questions asked. If the State comes here as a State Historic Site with Thomas Day, this may be something that they would love to already have here and maybe they would be interested in helping to maintain the trails. This would be something the people could use that come to visit the State Historic Site. It would be an Economic Development for Milton. **Mayor Patricia Williams** stated I do believe that no one is opposed to the **Greenspace Walking Trail**. **Mayor Patricia Williams** asked **Commissioner Cathia Stewart** and she stated I am not opposed to the **Greenspace**. **Mayor Patricia Williams** further stated that **Commissioner John Wallace, Commissioner Valerie Sottile and Commissioner Lisa Brandon** stated their concerns and were not opposed to the **Greenspace Walking**

Trail. There is not anyone opposed from the Town about the trail. I think it would be a real asset to the Town to have this in place for the visitors to be able to go through. Roxanne presented last month in her presentation, showing having signs where the existing buildings use to be and what the town looked like back in the 1800s. It is a real Historical asset along with our already Historical Town. The only thing about voting on something I do not want to put Milton at risk of being always having to pay for something because this Town Board said OKAY Milton will support this without knowing any cost that we are supporting. We all are in support that the trail is a fabulous idea. To jeopardize our Town by saying we are going to vote, and you have unlimited revenue to do whatever you want to do is unrealistic for the Town. We cannot put our town in jeopardy. Like now Milton is faced with an ongoing loan of \$450,000.00. that must be paid back in forty years. (Explained) This Town Board cannot add additional expense to the Town in the future. I (Mayor Patricia Williams) did contact a lawyer about it and just as Commissioner John Wallace had found out about it the Town is liable for the trail and the ADA. We do have to make it ADA Accessible. We cannot have a sign saying Non-ADA Accessible. This is illegal on Town property. We do have to make this ADA Compliant. One of the questions the lawyer brought up was what kind of surface is going to be there, where are you going to place a handicap parking place, in conjunction to the trail (Discussion with lawyer) The Town will have to know up front the cost before we vote. Explained to Roxanne and the members. Phase I of what you presented with no cost to the Town. The Town is in support of the trail project moving forward with Phase I. Think about and discuss with the public about donating money to this project. (Discussion) Everybody needs to be aware of the donation. We can get a motion and approve for the Town Board being in full support of the Greenspace Phase I with **No** cost to the Town. It was motioned by Commissioner Lisa Brandon and second by Commissioner Valerie Sottile that the Town is in support of the Greenspace Trail with no cost to the Town.

NEW BUSINESS: Mayor Patricia Williams stated that there was another claim that was made against the Town from someone that fell down some steps. I submitted that to all of you in your packets and I wanted you to look at Business Row and see if you had any ideas on how we can make Business Row safer for our visitors, our residents. What I had experienced seeing, was someone walking on the Business Row sidewalk getting ready to cross over, stepping off not at the steps, but off the high part of the sidewalk. I thought to myself this is unsafe. I want everyone to look at Business Row and come up with suggestions that will make it safer. (Discussed) Make sure we are Historically correct. Suggestions: Rout Iron fence, or a flowerpot planter wide and tall enough like a trough to keep people from crossing. **Explained (Mayor Patricia Williams)** We need to act on something. Steps that are unlevel, uneven, some are huge, some are small and needs to be blocked off. The Town is held responsible for any incidents. Should we confer with Preservations? Mayor Patricia asked for a motion to place handrails in front of the Town Hall for safety purposes because the ramp has been put on hold. It was motioned by Commissioner John Wallace and second by Commissioner Cathia Stewart that handrails will be placed by the steps in front of Town Hall. Commissioner Lisa Brandon will talk to the Business Owners to come up with more suggestions to make Business Row safer.

STAGGERING OF ELECTED OFFICIAL'S TERMS: Commissioner Lisa Brandon

We had talked about it before COVID getting the new people that come into the community to come in and try their hand at being on the Town Board. They may have better ideas. **Mayor Patricia Williams** stated she had asked that question to a lawyer and he will get back with me on it. It must go in front of the General Assembly because it is by Charter. Charter that was established back in 1796 when the Town was Incorporated that would have to be changed. It was changed because it was a two-year term and they made it a four-year term in 1963. Explained it could be a whole new turnover of new people that are

unaware as to how the Town runs. Commissioner Cathia Stewart will be asking Mayor Foster because they just did it. Ask about the cost for every two years versus every four years. The last cost was \$3000.00. Because of the importance of the Town, we need to have staggered elected Officials. When all the Officials decide to go out at the same time there is no continuity to that. **Mayor Patricia Williams** will look into the cost because cost is another factor.

- ✚ **Mayor Patricia Williams: COVID 19 Rules (Explained)** Governor Cooper has now lifted he mask wearing. I wanted to bring that up to the Commissioners because you can leave as is or change it. Governor Cooper has been following the CDC Guidelines. **Mayor Patricia Williams:** Read the rules. **Copy will be attached to Minutes. Discussion: Mayor Patricia Williams: Asked each Commissioner if they wanted to continue with what we have in place here at the Town Hall: Commissioner John Wallace** said he wanted to **continue with what we have in place, Commissioner Cathia Stewart** said to **continue with what we have in place, Commissioner Lisa Brandon** your preference, **Commissioner Valerie Sottile** like with Town's people being a part of the Town Meeting. **Shirley Wilson**, Town Clerk feels everyone should wear their mask. **Sharon Williams** states she feels more protected when she wears her mask and has been vaccinated and want everyone around her to wear a mask. **Mayor Patricia Williams** asked for a motion to keep the signage as is: 10 people in Town meetings, wear Mask, Social Distance, and if we feel more comfortable, we can revisit the signage. The majority wants to keep signage as is. It was motioned by Commissioner Cathia Stewart and second by Commissioner John Wallace. Everyone was in favor.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS: Commissioner Cathia Stewart read report from **Pamela Senegal PCC for May 11, 2021. Report attached to Minutes.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Gwen McGuire: Verizon Cell Tower --- I live next to the property where they want to put the tower on. It has not been enough research on the 5D tower for the people to know what it does to the people that live right there on top of it. It may be good for the Town but not the people living next to it. Mr. Barker helped us get the **ETJ** and he is opposed to the tower also. I hope that our thoughts and feelings will be considered. **Gwen McGuire** asked if there will be a Public Hearing. **Mayor Patricia Williams** stated she had brought up the Public Hearing issue with a lawyer and is waiting for his response. **Gwen McGuire** asked is the mask just for Town Council Meeting and not Town wide? (**Town Council Meeting**) **Gwen McGuire, I agree with Lisa Brandon and Valerie about the mask, I think it should be personal choice not a forced choice. Samantha McGraw:**

- ✚ I did not get on until after the meeting had started about 20 minutes.
- ✚ Trouble shooting about the screen the company. Steve offered to check the control panel and help with the website.
- ✚ Refurbishing the pumps Mike Behler can talk about that.
- ✚ Are you going to turn the water off they do not pay for the pump? Patricia explained not in compliance.
- ✚ Ordinances states fines for different things the Planning Board will look into the different Ordinances.
- ✚ The trail we talked about that and will be through tax dollars. Information will be put in the Water bill going out.

Town Commissioners make motions and votes on multiple things to keep the Town running. We do not have to ask the public to keep the town running, the Town Commissioners are here to do that. The Public

elected the Town Commissioners. If you have questions or comments this is the time at Public Comments to do so. If you have something that we talked about and put off to the next meeting please call and put your name down for Public Comments. We like to hear from the residents.

Samantha McGraw asked if she could schedule a meeting with **Mayor Patricia Williams**. **Mayor Patricia Williams** stated she will call her.

CLOSE OF MEETING: **Mayor Patricia Williams** asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Commissioner Lisa Brandon** motioned to adjourn the meeting and second by **Commissioner Cathia Stewart**. All members were in favor. Time: 9:10 p.m.