

Minutes for Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting
Pikeville Town Hall
6:00 pm, Monday, August 14, 2023

Present: Mayor Johnston, Commissioner Hooks, Commissioner Galloway, Commissioner West, Commissioner Thomas, Commissioner Katsenios

Absent: None

Staff Present: Tim Biggerstaff, Town Manager, Harry Lorello, Town Attorney, Rodney Jarman, Police Chief, Wendy Holland, Town Clerk/Finance Officer

Mayor Johnston called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Mayor Johnston gave the invocation.

Mayor Johnston led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing:

In this packet of information, you will find a request letter from Mr. Omar Ewais asking for a variance to the town's ordinance that prevents a sweepstakes type business in the Pikeville Downtown Business District as specified in 110.04 (also included). A copy of the map is included in the packet as well.

Mr. Ewais' lawyer came before the Planning Board two months ago making his case for the variance as stated in the letter. The planning board listened, asked lots of questions, and voted as to what decision they will present at the meeting. Mr. Ewais and most likely his lawyer will be present to speak and answer questions. The public will be allowed to express any opinions they have on the matter. After everyone has spoken, the board will vote on the variance.

Sean P. Keenan w/Strickland Agner Pittman, 127 S. Queen Street, Kinston, NC representing Mr. Ewais addressed the board. Attorney Keenan does not feel the property in question falls within the town's business district. If allowed, the business would have somewhere between 30 and 40 machines which would generate income of approximately 6-8K yearly for the town. If it is determined the business falls within the town's business district, a variance will be requested to operate the business. Harry Lorello, Town Attorney feels the property is within the town's business district and requested documentation stating a sweepstakes business is legal. No decision will be made until additional research is conducted.

Agenda Adoption: Commissioner Katsenios made a motion to adopt the Agenda. Commissioner Thomas seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Johnston requested a motion to approve minutes omitting the Ordinance Minutes from July 18, 2023. Commissioner Galloway made a motion to approve the regular session minutes for July 10, closed minutes for July 10, 2023. Commissioner Hooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Old Business:

Mayor Garrett Johnston brought up the following issues:

Land Use
DEQ Water Quality Report
Backhoe
Town cleanliness
Flagpole
Fire Hydrant
Nuisance letters
Soccer Field
Handicap Signage
Pedestrian Crossing

Commissioner West made a motion for a schedule to be completed for street cleanup. Commissioner Katsenios seconded. Motion carried 4-1. Commissioner Galloway opposed.

New Business:

State Statute Chapter 160D

The Eastern Carolina Council submitted a proposal to the Town of Pikeville for review of its development ordinances for 160-D compliance. The town board made the decision to request a scope of work before making a motion to accept the proposal.

Resolution to accept Water System Improvement Grant

Commissioner Katsenios made a motion to accept the Water System Improvement Grant in the amount of \$4,100,000. Commissioner Thomas seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Administrative Reports:

Town Manger

- Audit for FY22 has begun and the initial work by the auditor is nearing completion. Once she completes that work, Anthony and Tabb Accounting will complete the audit report which will catch us up for now. From there, work will begin immediately in preparation for our FY23 audit. We have contracted Ryan Marlar who is an accountant from Cary who comes very highly recommended from people at the state level as well as our current auditor. He will do the year-end adjustments and prepare the financial statements. He will also offer any audit assistance we may need. The auditor is prepared to begin FY23's audit as soon as Mr. Marlar has completed his work.

- Sewer AIA Project – Camera and cleanout work of the sewer lines is wrapping up and we should be getting those reports in the coming weeks.
- Regionalization – Meeting was held several weeks ago in which 10 possible regionalization options were presented. The group voted for their top 2 or 3 that they would like to have more details about. Now the engineering group is collecting information on various systems in order to present the findings including the various potential benefits for each municipality involved at a meeting scheduled for October.
- We had two dead trees removed from town property at the end of Musgrave St. The trees were in danger of falling onto the home on the adjacent property.
- No update on the status of the library in Pikeville, but this is a good time to mention that there is an upcoming meeting of the Northern Wayne Friends of the Library on Monday, Aug. 28th here in Town Hall for anyone interested. We had the carpet professionally cleaned this past week. We are also looking into some electrical needs they have for the lighting.
- Mr. Lyman and I attended the Electricities Board of Commissioners meeting a couple of weeks ago in Wilson. Mr. Lyman introduced me to Kathy Moyer, COO, as well as Roy Jones, CEO. They agreed to come back to Pikeville to speak at a future board meeting to make sure we understand our relationship as well as answer any questions.
- Utility Pole Testing – We are doing more research, but we don't think our utility poles have been tested in a number of years and they are supposed to be tested every 10 years or so. It seems we did get 40 replaced a number of years ago, but not sure that a system wide testing was done. We have a quote from a company that does the testing all over the country for approximately \$15,000 which includes ultrasound for each pole. More research is needed to make sure that service is needed at this time, but Southern Electric has mentioned that we have some poles that may need replacing in their opinion. If it's determined that it is a need, we will figure out possible ways to pay for the service.
- New website – We have found a company that can provide a brand new town website for a very reasonable price. Their pricing is based on number of residents in the town which is an interesting approach, but they are used all over the country by small towns. Their sites are not extremely fancy or over the top, but they look nice, easy to navigate, offer the ability to pay bills online, offer text messaging service for alerts, and 24-hour customer support. I have had our IT person look it over and he fully approves. I am waiting to hear back from Mount Olive because that's who they use for their site.
- We are reaching out to companies for options on how to fix the sidewalk issue in front of the Old Town Cuts (old pharmacy). There is a current design problem with the way the sidewalks slope down from front to back and it may be the cause of numerous falls and injuries. We feel the current design was done so to make sure water drains down the street to the storm drain but looking for options to improve safety.

- Trash Update – Issues continue with our current service and poor management response back; Clarified current contract terms and determined contract ends July 31, 2024; GFL gave new quote based on no recycling but would extend the contract another year; Waiting to hear back on quote from NC Waste and Recycling which should be this week.
- Public Works Update – Cemetery – headstone placement, 4 grave locates, and 2 burials; responded to 2 sewer backups. Follow up is needed at Ham St. location following sewer line camera report from that area; assisted McDavid/Duke's Root Control at each lift station; Did a trash can audit with GFL representative; Assisted representative from NC Rural Water for energy audit at treatment plant and lift stations; collected large limbs after recent storm; had 5 cut offs this month; Attended virtual meeting with utility pole inspection company; replaced water line and fitting at 303 West Main Street because of a water leak; coordinated with Southern Electric regarding lights out at a couple of locations; coordinated with local company to replace manhole cover at Main and Parks; helped police department install speed signs on Main St and Goldsboro St.; performed regular routine meter reading, grass, yard trash, cleaning park bathrooms, and equipment maintenance.

Wendy Holland: Finance

The final audit for 21-22 has not been completed. Investments with NC Capital Management and Southern Bank yielded earnings of \$7,153.45 for the month of July 2023. The service workorder module in Black Mountain is now active. Tracy Chestnut with the NCLM is assisting with the implementation of the credit card interface.

Police Report: Chief Rodney Jarman: See Attached

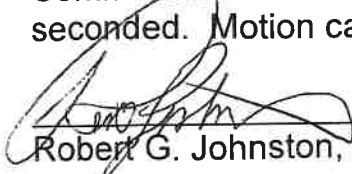
Committee Reports: None


Public Comments: None

Commissioners Comments: None

Adjournment:

Commissioner Galloway made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hooks seconded. Motion carried 5-0.


Robert G. Johnston, Mayor


Wendy Holland, Town Clerk