

TOWN OF HUDSON REGULAR MEETING

July 16, 2019

In Attendance:

Members Present: Mayor Janet Winkler, **Commissioners:** Jonathan Greer, Barry Mitchell, Rick Shew, Ann Smith and Bill Warren

Members Absent: Commissioner Larry Chapman

Others Present: Town Manager, Rebecca Bentley, Chief of Police, Richard Blevins, Assistant Finance Officer, Michelle Coffey, Town Planner, Teresa Kinney, Town Clerk, Tammy Swanson, and Town Attorney, Carroll Tuttle, **Police Officers:** Jesse White, Taylor Welborn, Brandon Nelson, Nick Hudson and Jeff Drum

Call to Order:

Mayor Janet Winkler called the July meeting to order, and welcomed the audience to the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem, Bill Warren, led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer.

Discuss/Adjust Agenda:

Janet presented the July agenda, and there were no additions or changes requested.

Motion: (Bill Warren/Rick Shew) to approve the agenda as presented. Unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: (Rick Shew/Jonathan Greer) to approve the minutes, as presented, for the June 18, 2019 Regular Meeting. Unanimously approved.

Police Department Staff Changes:

Police Chief, Richard Blevins, addressed the Board to introduced our new officer, Jesse White. Chief Blevins stated that Jesse is a "local" – he lives off Grace Chapel Road. He graduated with the most recent graduating BLET class from Caldwell Community College, and he was considered a class leader in his class. Currently, Jesse is going through training with our Police Department.

Chief Blevins stated that Jesse was sworn in on June 28th, and although we typically like to swear in officers at a Board meeting, this time we just couldn't wait. Jesse is going to be serving as the School Resource Officer for Hudson Middle School, and we needed to start his training. Chief Blevins introduced Jesse's parents and fiancé who were here to support him.

Jesse expressed gratitude for being given an opportunity to work with the Hudson Police Department.

Budget Revisions:

Rebecca presented budget revisions for the Board to review, and she explained that the revisions were just a continuation of the "year end clean-up."

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Rebecca also presented a correction amendment – we had yearbook sales for the HUB Station fundraiser, and did not have an account for the yearbooks. She presented a revision/correction for the yearbook sales.

Motion: (Jonathan Greer/Barry Mitchell) to approve the Budget revisions and corrections as presented. Unanimously approved.

The revisions were approved as follows:

**Budget Revision #19-23
FY 2018-2019**

		Budget 18-19	Budget Revision	Revised 18-19 Budget
Governing Board				
10-410-2330	Supplies	500	75	575
10-410-2570	Miscellaneous	5,000	-75	4,925
	Total Govn Board	31,375	0	31,375
Administration				
10-420-1020	Salaries	86,222	455	86,677
10-420-1050	FICA Taxes	7,038	-400	6,638
10-420-1070	Retirement	7,104	-55	7,049
10-420-1090	Other Fringe Benefits	29,805	-3,940	25,865
	Total Administration	184,922	-3,940	180,982
Finance				
10-440-1025	Salary OT	1,000	50	1,050
10-440-1030	401k Contributions	3,273	-50	3,223
10-440-2160	Mtce/Rep - Equip	200	-105	95
10-440-2220	Equip Lease Purchase	2,375	105	2,480
	Total Finance	199,997	0	199,997
Tax Collection				
10-460-1020	Salary & Wages	52,617	510	53,127
10-460-1030	401k Contribution	1,608	100	1,708
10-460-1050	FICA	4,106	175	4,281
10-460-1060	Group Ins	7,061	20	7,081
10-460-1070	NC Retirement	4,155	250	4,405
10-460-2110	Postage	1,000	-150	850
10-460-2120	Printing	500	-300	200
10-460-2130	Utilities - Elect	1,275	-150	1,125
10-460-2160	Mtce/Rep Equip	250	-150	100
10-460-2260	Advertising	1,000	-1,000	0
10-460-2330	Dept Supplies	3,950	1,860	5,810
10-460-2450	Contracted Services	2,700	200	2,900
10-460-2540	Workers Comp Prem	100	-40	60

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10-460-2550	Ins & Bonds	700	-75	625
10-460-2580	Motor Vehicle Tax	4,750	410	5,160
10-460-3740	Capital Outlay Equip	605	-605	0

Total Tax Collection		91,172	1,055	92,227
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Law Enforcement

10-510-1022	LEO Separation	29,869	950	30,819
10-510-1050	FICA	35,143	1,400	36,543
10-510-1055	Medicare Taxes	5,751	-2,350	3,401
10-510-2310	Auto Supplies	2,000	-730	1,270
10-510-2336	Community Res Supplies	500	180	680
10-510-2450	Contracted Services	12,800	550	13,350

Total Law Enforcement		1,071,302	0	1,071,302
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Public Works

10-550-1060	Group Ins	6,233	-5	6,228
10-550-1070	NC Retirement	3,515	5	3,520
10-550-2330	Dept Supplies	5,500	86	5,586
10-550-2360	Uniforms	600	-86	514

Total Public Works		111,557	0	111,557
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Street Dept

10-560-1020	Salaries & Wages	120,810	990	121,800
10-560-1030	401k Contributions	3,585	145	3,730
10-560-1050	FICA Taxes	9,145	145	9,290
10-560-1070	NC Retirement	9,262	450	9,712
10-560-2160	Mtce/ Rep Equip	4,150	-1,010	3,140
10-560-2180	Mtce/Rep Auto	7,000	185	7,185
10-560-2330	Dept Supplies	4,300	75	4,375
10-560-2450	Contracted Services	1,500	750	2,250

Total Street Dept		270,756	1,730	272,486
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Powell Bill Funds

10-570-1020	Salary	26,712	20	26,732
10-570-1030	401k Contributions	819	20	839
10-570-1060	Group Ins	5,051	-50	5,001
10-570-1070	NC Retirement	2,115	10	2,125
10-570-2160	Mtce/Rep Equip	5,250	600	5,850
10-570-2170	Mtce/Rep Street	145,000	-600	144,400

Total Powell Bill Funds		222,846	0	222,846
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Landscaping

10-600-1060	Group Ins	6,173	55	6,228
10-600-1070	NC Retirement	2,734	-55	2,679
	Total Landscaping	57,945	0	57,945

Recreation

10-620-1020	Salaries & Wages	109,714	600	110,314
10-620-1025	Salary OT	47,000	-1,650	45,350
10-620-1050	FICA Taxes	10,647	950	11,597
10-620-2100	Telephone	2,500	100	2,600
10-620-2370	Sales Tax	800	60	860
10-620-2481	Purchased for Resale	3,000	-60	2,940
	Total Recreation	368,271	0	368,271

Rec Aquatics

10-622-2100	Telephone	1,000	200	1,200
10-622-2130	Utilities Elect	9,500	-200	9,300
	Total Rec Aquatics	56,127	0	56,127

HUB

10-630-1020	Salaries	43,335	850	44,185
10-630-1021	Salaries PT	30,500	650	
10-630-1025	Salaries OT	1,500	-650	
10-630-1030	401K Cont	1,313	50	
10-630-1050	FICA Taxes	5,682	60	5,742
10-630-1060	Group Ins	7,027	20	7,047
10-630-1070	NC Retirement	3,382	175	
10-630-2330	Supplies	7,950	450	8,400
10-630-2450	Contracted Services	4,000	-450	3,550
	Total HUB	273,799	1,155	274,954

FUND 10				
TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET	3,592,164	0	3,592,164	

**Budget Revision #19-24
FY 2018-2019**

		Budget 18-19	Budget Revision	Revised 18-19 Budget
FUND 49				
REVENUES				
49-350-3342	Donations - CPC HUB Station	722,800	-4,800	718,000
49-350-3344	Yearbook Sales	-4,800	9,600	4,800
	Revenues	718,000	4,800	722,800
EXPENDITURES				
49-632-2121	Yearbook Printing	0	4,800	4,800
	Expenditures	0	4,800	4,800
	TOTAL FUND 49	795,000	0	795,000

CORRECTION BD#19-22

Public Comments & Informal Discussion:

Upcoming Events:

- **Hometown Concert Series - Windmill Park – 7pm – 9pm**
July 19th - Buck Austin Band
August 2nd – Fractured

- **Art & Wine Festival –**
August 16th – 5:00 p.m. Downtown
August 17th – 10:00 am – 4:00 pm HUB Station

- **Sturdy/More Permanent Barriers Purchased for Damaged Streets** - Rebecca reported that some sturdier and more permanent barriers have been purchased to keep people out of the damaged areas of Holly Hill Street and Hickman Avenue. Chief Blevins has stayed in contact with State officials about whether or not the Town would be eligible for assistance repairing the streets, and it appears that we should qualify. Estimates for the work need to be for putting everything back just like it was prior to the storm. If we need more updated replacements, that cost would also be covered.

Rebecca discussed a resident on Hickman Avenue who is very upset about the delay in the repairs. He wants the Town to go ahead and pull some of the debris and concrete from the damaged area to help prevent future flooding until the repairs can be done. The engineer has suggested, however, that we not touch anything around the damaged area due to gas lines, water lines, etc., being located in the area. The Board agreed that we should not put our employees in danger.

Rick Shew commented that residents in the neighborhoods of the damaged streets are very anxious to get the streets repaired and reopened.

- **Stormwater Draft Signed** - Rebecca stated that she signed the Stormwater Agreement draft, which has now been sent to Raleigh. She commented that to the best of her knowledge we have conformed to all deadlines as this point.
- **Capital Bank to Close Hudson Branch** - Rebecca commented that we have received word that the Hudson Branch of Capital Bank will be closing in September. She stated that we have a Cash Investment policy stating that the Town is to use a bank with a branch located within the Town Limits. The LGC has an approved list of banks that can be used. Rebecca added that Jim Engelman, an Edward Jones investor in Town, is interested in Edward Jones being considered to handle the Town's banking. Edward Jones, however, is not on the LGC's list of approved banks.

Rebecca commented that we have a First Citizens Bank branch in Town, and since the Capital Bank branch will be closing in September, we will need to make a decision soon about our banking.

Michelle Coffey presented a monthly financial report to the Board.

- **Tree Down in Right-of-Way** - Rebecca mentioned that Billy Berry, a resident at 200 Walnut Avenue, had a limb from a tree fall from his property onto his neighbor, Mr. Killian's, property. According to Billy, the tree is now top heavy, and he would like for the Town to cut down the tree since it is located within the Town's right-of-way. Rebecca confirmed that the Town does own the right-of-way but not the tree. The property belongs to Billy along with the tree. If the tree falls on Billy's house, it is still his tree – even if it is on our right of way. Rebecca stated that the Town will be clearing for the Dogwood Street extension soon, and the tree may be taken down at that time.

Carroll Tuttle stated that if the tree is rotting and falls on Mr. Killian's house, Mr. Berry would be responsible for the damages and not the Town.

- **Bain Hickman Property Sale Complete** - Carroll stated that the Bain Hickman property foreclosure is complete and the property has been sold. He commented that service for this account was very difficult with Mr. Hickman. We were never able to locate Bain Hickman, Jr. Mr. Hickman was on the voter registration roll in Carteret County, North Carolina; however, he could not be located there. Carroll reported that there were 18 upset bids for the property with Homes 4 You eventually getting the property.

Carroll reported that almost \$70,000 was paid into the Clerk of Court's office for Mr. Hickman that will probably eventually escheat to the State since no other heirs could be found. There is a 5-year time limit for the Clerk to hold the money, and then it will go to the State.

Carroll also discussed the J. C. Faw delinquent tax account. Mr. Faw has passed away, and there has been a receivership set up for him for the taxes that he owes. Carroll stated that he has filed a claim for the Town, and he commented that in talking with the attorney working with the case, he was sure we would get the money we are owed for the taxes.

- **Anderson Property Update** – Rebecca reported that work is continuing to be done to clear the Anderson Property site. The material is being held in a frack tank, and the frack tank is testing positive for the hazardous material. Rebecca commented that because the material is being held in a tank, not every tote is having to be tested, which is greatly reducing the cost of removal. Rebecca stated that the goal is to have clean up done by the end of the year.
- **Additional Code Enforcement Officer hired by the COG** – Rebecca stated that the WPCOG has hired an additional Code Enforcement Officer. She commented that one of the Town's goals in contracting with the COG for Code Enforcement was to have a 3rd party to handle the delicate issues of dilapidated homes, cars, grass, etc. However, we need to let the COG know that we want them to focus on a few major issues at a time instead of focusing on so many lesser issues that can wait. We have several houses across Town that are in need of a lot of attention, and some of them are in desperate need.

Janet stated that she wants to see results with problems in our community. She added that it is hard to tell what areas the Code Enforcement Officer is working on based on the reports that are given to the Board.

- **Update on Issues at Twisted Vine Winery** – Teresa stated that there are certain things in addressing issues at Twisted Vine Winery that are exempt and some are not, and she is in the process of preparing a letter for the Winery. She commented that the Owner will have 4 options to address the issues with the Winery: (1) appeal the Planner's decision to the Board of Adjustment (2) request a text amendment for the RA-15 Zoning District to allow for special events, hours of operation, tree buffer system; all of this may be done as a conditional use. (3) Cease operation of the outdoor events, use of food trucks, and additional off-street parking or (4) apply for non-contiguous satellite annexation into the Town of Hudson.

Teresa commented that the Ann's Way development has deed restrictions in place. She stated that her main concern is that the Winery is located in an urban-type area. She added that regardless of how many complaints have been received, if it is a violation, it is a violation.

Janet asked if the owner obtained all the proper permits to operate the winery.

Teresa stated that there are some bathroom violations, and the patio is not in compliance. There are also some stormwater issues that have been created with the additional parking. Teresa stated that she is going to suggest a text amendment option, which would allow the winery to continue to operate until a decision is made. The growing of the grapes, the processing and the tasting are all exempt.

Bill Warren stated that according to the owner, he has closed off the back parking lot. He is trying to conform with what needs to be done to remain open. Bill stated that he does not want the owner to think the Town does not want him to be successful in his business.

Teresa stated that he does not have a lot of room to grow where the winery is located, and he needs to consider how he intends to cap the growth. He does have food trucks, which are not allowed in RA-15.

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Rebecca commented that we are reactive in our zoning and not proactive.

It was suggested that the owner might want to look at other places to locate the winery - possibly to one of the vacant buildings downtown.

- **Smith Auto Property Sold** – Teresa reported that Mr. Mark Stitt, owner of Stitt’s Tree Service, purchased the former Smith Auto property located 732 Main Street, and he is aware that he cannot process and store logs on the property.

Teresa stated that she understands he has applied for a dealer’s license so he can sell equipment. She stated that she reminded him that he cannot have outdoor storage.

Adjournment:

Motion: (Bill Warren/Jonathan Greer) to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously approved.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tamra T. Swanson", written over a horizontal line.

Tamra T. Swanson, Town Clerk

