

TOWN OF MCADENVILLE MINUTES MARCH 9, 2021

The McAdenville Town Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 6:00 PM in a virtual format via a webinar hosted on zoom. The webinar was available live, and the link was distributed to the Sunshine List and made available on the Town's website.

PRESENT:

Mayor Jim Robinette and Mayor Pro-tem Jay McCosh; Council Members: Reid Washam, Carrie Bailey, Greg Richardson, and Joe Rankin. Also, present: Attorney Jim Windham, Chief Adams, and Town Administrator/Clerk Lesley Dellinger.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Robinette called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

ADJUSTMENT & APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The March Agenda was approved as submitted by motion of Mayor Pro-tem McCosh, second by Joe Rankin with unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes from the Regular Meeting of February 9, 2021 were approved by motion of Reid Washam, second by Mayor Pro-tem McCosh with unanimous vote.

REQUEST TO SPEAK:

Gaston County Community Vision 2040 Project

David Williams, Gina Shell, and Matt Blackwell of the Gaston County Manager's Office presented information on the Gaston 2040 Vision Project. The goal of this project is to bring together the entire Gaston County Community and focus on a common goal. The effort will involve conversations with residents, business leaders, faith organizations, and government from across the county and will result in the creation of a Shared Vision of Success for the county in the year 2040. Additionally, the project will create a dynamic community dashboard product that will be a valuable tool for both public and private entities. A public/private funding model for the vision process is begin developed and McAdenville's participation is encouraged.

Catawba Riverkeeper

Executive Director of the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation, John Searby, spoke to Council about the organization. The Riverkeeper is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on education and protection of the 8,900 miles of waterways in the Catawba-Wateree River Basin. They will be moving their organizational headquarters from Charlotte to McAdenville in the fall of 2021. Mr. Searby stated that the Riverkeeper will be the anchor tenant at 102 Main Street and presented drawings of the planned warehouse renovation which will include multiple offices, a workroom/laboratory, a 40-person classroom/lecture hall, along with a retail store all on the main floor. The Riverkeeper is also renovating the greenhouse on Willow Drive to serve as a boat house for their marine equipment and hosting facility for afterschool and camp programs beginning in April of this year.

NC Rural Water Association

The Town of McAdenville participated in the Acquisitions, Mergers, & Partnerships case study funded through the USDA and conducted by the NC Rural Water Association. The purpose of this study was to develop a road map for municipalities with populations under 1000 who are considering regionalization of their water and/or sewer systems. Alicia Melton, Rural Water Programs Administrator, conducted the case study on the South Fork Sewer Project between McAdenville and the City of Gastonia. The completed study will be provided to the Town once final approval is received from the USDA. Alicia stated that the study provides a description of the Town's collection system, reviews the technical and financial decision factors leading up to the SFS project, details the procedural process of the partnership with the City of Gastonia, and reviews the final outcomes including benefits and drawbacks of the elimination of the Towns wastewater treatment facility. She added that the analysis of the projected versus actual flows detailed in the report will be an immensely helpful tool with budgeting for next year and moving forward. Alicia thanked the Board for agreeing to participate in the program and for the staff's assistance and input with compiling the data needed for the study.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

Duke Energy Street Lighting Agreement – Lesley Dellinger reviewed the 3-year Duke Energy agreement for installation of 33 streetlights along Main Street and Wesleyan Drive totaling \$11,900.52. She stated that 31 light fixtures would be added to existing utility polls and 2 light fixtures would require installation of new utility poles with overhead wiring. The new poles would be located at the McAdenville Elementary crosswalk and the traffic circle at the corner of Wesleyan Drive and Academy Street. Following discussion, Council decided to eliminate the two light fixtures requiring new poles and overhead wiring from the project. Mayor Pro-tem McCosh motioned to approve the Duke Energy Street Lighting Agreement including 31 new light fixtures to be installed on existing utility poles along Main Street and Wesleyan Drive. The project terms would include 36 payments of \$301.55 for a total project costs of \$10,855.80. The motion was seconded by Joe Rankin and approved unanimously.

Catawba Riverkeeper Agreement – Greg Richardson stated that the Catawba Riverkeeper has requested the Town's consideration for an agreement which would provide them exclusive rights for operation of a public kayak rental program within the Town limits. He added that the agreement had been structured with a rolling sixty (60) day termination option for either party. Reid Washam asked if the new launch planned for the greenway would still be available for personal use if the agreement was approved. Greg Richardson stated that the agreement would not restrict personal use at either launch in Town. The Mayor asked if the Town Attorney had reviewed the agreement and was comfortable with the new wording. Attorney Jim Windham stated that the changes made to the agreement offered additional protection to the Town related to liability and that he was okay with Council moving forward. Upon motion by Joe Rankin, second by Reid Washam with unanimous vote, the Catawba Riverkeeper Operating Agreement was approved.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Chief Adams stated that the CPD monthly report was included in the agenda packet and offered to answer questions or address any concerns of Council. No additional comments were received from Council.

COUNCIL GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The Mayor stated that with the COVID case numbers declining and State restrictions being relaxed that the Board may resume in person meetings beginning May 11, 2021. He added that elected officials and government staff are now eligible for the COVID vaccine and he hopes that all will take advantage of the opportunity.

Reid Washam asked if Rural Water had been contacted to assist with an I&I investigation. Staff replied that an initial meeting had occurred and that the field work had already begun. Rural Water staff will perform a visual inspection of the collection system and utilize video and flow meter testing when applicable. Smoke testing will also be performed in the warmer months when the ground water levels are reduced. Once the review of the collection system is complete, Rural Water staff will assist the Town with developing a multi-year capital improvement plan focused on reducing I&I. Lesley Dellinger added that this service from Rural Water was a benefit included with the Town's membership and would not be an additional expense.

Greg Richardson stated that he had completed the foam installation in the void areas along the pinch point of the greenway. He is very happy with the product and expects it to hold up well during any future flooding events. The Mayor thanked Greg for all the manhours he has put into repairing flood damaged along the greenway and for greatly reducing the Town's expense.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

William Clark, 136 Church Street, submitted a comment asking that Council consider continuing the Zoom webinar viewing option once in person meetings resume. Council was not opposed to the idea and asked Staff to investigate available options.

Ashley Hannah, 329 Church Street, submitted a comment opposing street lighting that would require new wooden utility poles and overhead wiring near the traffic circle.

CLOSED SESSION:

A Closed Session was held for discussion of a personnel matter as allowed under **GS 143-318-11(a)(6)** by motion of Joe Rankin, second by Greg Richardson and unanimous vote at 7:25 PM.

Upon return from Closed Session at 7:47 PM, Mayor Robinette reported that the Board conducted a favorable annual review of the Town Administrator/Clerk. Motion was made by Joe Rankin for a 4.5% salary increase and cell phone allowance for the Town Administrator/Clerk effective PPE March 21, 2021. Motion was seconded by Reid Washam and passed unanimously.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM upon motion of Greg Richardson, second by Carrie Bailey and unanimous vote.

Jim Robinette, Mayor

Lesley Dellinger, Town Clerk