

Town Council Meeting Minutes
North Town Hall
August 12, 2019

Mayor Carson called the regular meeting of Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Councilmembers Cook, Jones, and Williams

- Mayor Carson declared a quorum and welcomed visitors.
- Mayor Carson then led Council and visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Mayor Carson requested approval of the July 8, 2019 Council meeting minutes. Councilmember Cook motions to accept and Councilmember Williams seconded the motion and upon vote, the minutes were approved unanimously.

POLICE REPORT:

- Chief Lin Shirer was not able to be present to provide the incident report for the Police Department for July 2019. Each Councilmember received a copy of the report. Mayor Carson provided the details of the report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Account Statement for July, 2019. Mayor Carson asked if Council had any questions or concerns. Councilmember Cook inquired about the decrease of the checking account. Mayor Carson stated there was a DHEC Inspection for annual drinking water and some of the Veteran's Memorial Park fees were paid. The Veteran's Memorial Park fees paid, will be reimbursed by Grants. Mayor Carson advised that accounts at First Citizens had been moved to the LGIP for better interest performance.
- Mayor Carson updated that Beverly McCormick had completed the 90-day probationary period and motioned to appoint her as Town Clerk, seconded by Cook, and upon vote, was approved unanimously.
- Suzanne Reed, Events Committee, discussed that the festival is moving right along with the fish fry ticket sale and the other events scheduled. Deadline for the pageant registration is August 23rd, and all other event deadlines are September 7th. Forms are available on the Facebook Page – Christmas@Northpole. Councilmember Williams asked Ms. Reed to share the goal of the town fundraiser. Ms. Reed shared that the first goal of the committee was to purchase new Christmas lights which they did this summer, the desire to purchase a digital sign for the town and have a mural painted on the old drugstore building.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Carson mentioned that we had passed our DHEC Sanitation Inspection. DHEC is recommending a generator for the well. SCRWAR has grant money that can be applied for that.
- Mayor Carson stated that the filing deadline for Mayor/Councilmember is noon on August 15th.
- Carson applied for and received a \$1500 grant from CSX Transportation for further beautification of the Veteran's Memorial park.

2018 COUNCIL PROJECTS:

- Councilmember Cook has made no progress regarding the clean-up of the RR tracks for no volunteers have come forward. She mentioned that the town may have to hire someone. Carson stated that there is no money in the budget to hire anyone.

- Cook will apply for the MASC Economic Development Grant. Carson mentioned that Main Street SC also has grant money available for fixing up downtown areas; there is also an Abandoned Buildings Credit that can be used as an economic stimulator and that all of this information is in the MASC magazine that all councilmembers receive.
- Councilmember Jones has found more signs to replace and is working to get them replaced.
- Councilmember Williams updated Council that we aren't on the list for the zone tax breaks. She was advised to speak with the Mayor to discuss things locally. Carson has no information on the opportunity zone project and advised Williams to research further.
- Councilmember Cook updated that the Alzheimer's Ride to Remember is was a huge success.

PUBLIC COMMENTS per sign-in sheet (3 minutes)

- One person had signed in to speak but the topic was not in accordance with the Guidelines for Citizen Participation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (written request)

- There was 1 written request to speak publicly from Beth Ulmer. Mayor Carson read the following Guidelines for Citizen Participation which were effective 3.14.2016: "Comments made during the public comment period of the meeting will be taken as information by Council. The Council and/or staff may follow up with you as needed to address your issues or concerns in a timely manner. Anyone violating the guidelines and disrupting the meeting may be asked to leave and, if necessary, removed from the meeting."
- Ms. Beth Ulmer read a letter regarding "water bill service charges and the disconnect policy." Carson thanked Ulmer for her comments. Councilmember Williams motions to refund Ms. Ulmer's \$7.75 and Councilmember Jones seconds the motion. Mayor Carson states that she will not entertain Williams' motion and further states that it is inappropriate to discuss a personal scenario in a public forum. Councilmember Williams announces that this is unacceptable and needs to be discussed tonight. Carson calls Williams out of order and makes a motion to adjourn. The motion is not seconded. Carson reminds the audience that Council is still in session and asks them to refrain from disrupting the meeting. Jones makes a motion to adjourn, seconded by Cook, and upon vote, the meeting is adjourned at 8:42 pm.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, September 9, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly McCormick
Town Clerk

Mayor Patty Carson: *Patty Carson*

Council Members:

Julius Jones: *ABSENT*

Daniel Jackson: *N/A*

Deborah Cook: *Deborah Cook*

Jennifer Williams: *Jennifer Williams*