

**Town Council Meeting Minutes**  
**North Town Hall**  
**November 11, 2019**  
**Revised: 01/09/2020**

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

- Mayor Carson led Council and visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Mayor Carson declared a quorum and welcomed visitors.
- Mayor Carson inquired if there were any questions or discussions needed on the October 14, 2019 meeting minutes, and if not, requested approval of the Council meeting minutes. Councilmember Cook motions to accept and Councilmember Jones seconded the motion and upon vote, the minutes were approved unanimously.

**POLICE REPORT:**

- Chief Shirer provided the incident report for the Police Department for October 2019. Each Councilmember received a copy of the report. There were 60 cases for the month, 6 arrest warrants, 21 bench warrants, 44 incident reports entered, responded to 31 calls for service. Arrests were made for the following charges: possession of stolen vehicle, assault and battery high and aggravated, failure to stop for blue lights, burglary 3<sup>rd</sup> two times, breach of trust and fraudulent intent, shoplifting 3 times, trespassing and petty larceny.
- SRO had 7 incidents that were written up at the school with arrests. Two for weapon on school property, assault and battery 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, student threats toward a teacher over social media, and possession of tobacco under age eighteen, three times. There were 4 traffic accidents. Checkpoints will be conducted in the Town over the next 30 days.
- Chief Shirer briefed that an armed robbery had occurred at the Dollar General where the assailant took the till, forced the employees into a room, and took the employees personal belongings.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Carson stated that we are in conversation with the Elevated Tank Maintenance company (tank fee that's charged to customers) for the tank to be painted. This will help preserve the tank into the future. The antennas that are on top of the tank are not OSHA compliant and we will be building a corral to move the antennas to for making them OSHA compliant. The color scheme has been selected. The bowl will be white and the structure legs will be a medium color. That will happen either this fall or spring.
- Mayor Carson completed the complexity of paperwork to apply for a police car grant and Mayor Carson thanked Chief Shirer for his hard work on the grant. We've received acknowledgement from the State Budget Office and they will complete an intergovernmental review of that paperwork and provide us with their response by 11/23/19, and then the next step is to go through the USDA. The arduous process has begun.
- Mayor Carson presented that we did not receive the hometown economic grant that Councilmember Cook had applied for. This was our second application and our second time being turned down for the grant.
- Town Clerk, Beverly McCormick, is now a Notary and will be offering services in the front office, the fee will be \$5.
- Next month, the audit firm will present the physical year 2018/19 audit findings. The town's preliminary review appeared that the town received a very clean audit with revenue's exceeding expenses and assets exceeding liability all due to strong financial management practices.

- Mayor Carson pointed out the print displayed on the wall in the Courtroom. The document is the Article of Incorporation from 1892. This was important to preserve and was framed.
- Mayor Carson thanked everyone who supported the Veteran's Memorial Park initiative and those who attended the dedication ceremony. The heartfelt event included a 21-gun salute and the sounding of Taps. Additionally, thanks to our team of Law Enforcement, office personnel, and public works employees for their support and professionalism, work ethic, and integrity.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Mayor Carson states that all have a copy of the account statement for the month of October. Mayor Carson inquires of council if there are any questions regarding the account statement from September to October? Councilmember Jones questions the account balance of checking reduced from September 2019 to October 2019. Mayor Carson explains that once every year, the bank accounts are trued-up and that was recently completed. Mayor Carson explained that water/sewer revenue can only be used for water/sewer expenses according to GAP Accounting Principles. The Town CPA informed Mayor Carson that she had to move \$173,000 from operating account (checking) to a water/sewer account. ~~The transfer of \$120,000 from the LGIP Savings (top line of the statement) was reduced by \$53,000, that was moved to water/sewer LGIP.~~ The transfer of \$120,000 from was moved from the General Operating Account into the Water/Sewer (depreciation) account. \$53,000 was moved from the LGIP Savings to LGIP Water/Sewer Reserve. Mayor Carson also reported that the two water leaks on Highway 178 were \$27,000 and a check was written from the operating account to cover that cost. Mayor Carson asks if there are any other questions on October account statement. Councilmember Williams asked how long the water leak had been going on? Mayor Carson advised that the \$27,000 didn't have anything to do with how long they were out there, a contractor from Columbia had to dig under the highway and Christopher Livingston did not have the equipment to repair the issue. Mayor Carson mentioned to Councilmember Williams, the duration didn't have anything to do with the cost of the expense to repair. Mayor Carson asks if she answered Councilmember Williams's question? Councilmember Williams replied "yes".
- Mayor Carson mentioned an attachment to the agenda that on October 1, 2015 it was reported by the Town Clerk, Carrie Garrick, the town had \$197,000 in the bank. As of the end of Mayor Carson's term, the town has \$789,000 in the bank which represents a 298% increase in revenue during Mayor Carson's term in office. Mayor Carson asks if there were any questions on this?
- Mayor Carson reminds everyone that the funds in the bank need care in spending, for instance the North Arbor Day Foundation was established as a 501C3 organization, and money can only be used for beautification purposes, and any other use would be illegal.
- Mayor Carson asks Debra and Daniel to step down and Julius, Jeff, and Tonya (absent) to be sworn in. Tonya is absent and will have to be sworn in next month.
- Mayor Carson positions the new members in front of the audience and informs them as elected officials and elected Municipal officials, according to the Municipal Association, two oaths of office are required, and she will read to them requesting to repeat after her.
  - I do solemnly swear, that I am dually qualified, according to the constitution of this state, to exercise the duties of the office to which I have been elected and that I will to the best of my ability discharge the duties thereof and preserve, protect, and defend the constitution of this state and of the United States, so help me God.
  - As Mayor and Councilmember of the Municipality of North, I will equally, fairly and impartially, to the best of my ability and skill, exercise the trust reposed in me and I will use my best endeavors to preserve the peace and carry into effect according to the law the purposes for which I have been elected. I will also uphold the ordinances of this town and the laws of this state, so help me God.
- Mayor Carson congratulates the new officials, and steps down.
- Mayor Julius Jones and Councilmember Washington take their new positions in front of the audience, and Mayor Jones proceeds with council reports.

2018 COUNCIL PROJECTS:

- Mayor Jones asked for updates on Council's Projects.
- Councilmember Williams mentions that she did apply for an opportunity zoning, but she was refused for that. Councilmember Williams doesn't know if it was because the application was not filled out correctly, so Representative Ott is going to help and follow-through to help get some funds for the City of North. Councilmember Williams will have an update at the next council meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS per sign-in sheet (3 minutes)

- Mayor Jones asked if there were any public comments, one person requested to speak on the sign in sheet. Patty Carson mentioned that they were not in alignment with the agenda so they are not permissible.
- An attendee inquires if anyone is allowed to speak in public, or if the Mayor is asking for public comments. Mayor Jones states, public comments as far as written requests on the sheet.
- An attendee inquires if the public comments have to be pre-authorized? Mayor Jones refers the attendee to the guidelines for public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

- Mayor Jones asks if there are no more items for discussion, requests a motion for adjournment. Councilmember Washington motions to adjourn, Councilmember Williams seconds the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Beverly McCormick*

Beverly McCormick  
Town Clerk

Mayor Julius Jones

Council Members:

Jeff Washington:

Jennifer Williams: