



**Town of Micro
Board of Commissioners Meeting MINUTES
Tuesday –June 11, 2024
7:00 p.m.
Micro Town Hall**

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Marty Parnell, Mayor
Kevin Worley*, Mayor Pro Tem
Tim Earp, Commissioner
Katy Garcia, Commissioner
*Arrived at 7:23 p.m.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lee Worsley, Central Pines COG
Tyler Queen, Central Pines COG
Lisa Lee, Deputy Town Clerk
Yiecenia Joyner, Deputy Town Clerk
Kimberly Moffett, Interim Town Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Invocation

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Becky Phillips, resident, was present and requested the board consider turning the current tennis court into a pickleball court. She stated there were many residents who would enjoy this. The mayor stated that Jerome Park was the next project to be undertaken for revitalization and they would definitely consider the request.

Another resident addressed her concerns regarding the lack of a police department. Mayor Parnell stated the board completely understood the concerns and advised the decision to do without a police department at this time was not an easy decision. He stated they looked at every possible scenario but the budget, at this time, does not allow for a police department. He stated the town is still trying to get caught up with previous year audits that were never completed. Annual audits are required by NCGS. He further stated that as much as everyone wants a police department, the funding is just not available right now. It is the hope of the board that we will be able to bring back the PD in the next two years. He stated the town does have police protection through the Johnston County Sheriffs Office and will continue to have that. Should anyone need law enforcement, they simply have to call 911.

Resident, John Schullery, was in attendance and offered his thanks and appreciation to Lenny for the great job he had done with the yard refuge.

There was a question asked regarding Wellons Park and clean fill. Mayor Parnell explained the situation and that it was hoped the dirt would meet compaction and project would begin in September.

3. ADJUSTMENT/ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- a. Adjustments to the Agenda
- b. Adoption of the Agenda

ACTION:

Adoption of Agenda as Presented

Motion:

Commissioner Earp

Second:

Commissioner Garcia

Vote:

Unanimous

4. CONSENT AGENDA

(Items on the consent agenda are considered routine in nature or have been thoroughly discussed at previous meetings. Any member of the Board may request to have an item removed from the consent agenda for further discussion.)

a. Draft Minutes

- *May 14, 2024 – Regular Meeting*
- *May 14, 2024 – Special Meeting*
- *May 14, 2024 – Closed Session*
- *May 23, 2024 – Special Meeting*

ACTION: Adoption of Consent Agenda as Presented

Motion: Commissioner Earp
 Second: Commissioner Garcia
 Vote: Unanimous

5. SPECIAL PRESENTATION/INTRODUCTIONS

a. Introduction of New Employee & Issuance of Oath of Office

Presenter: Marty Parnell, Mayor

- *Yiecenia Joyner – Deputy Town Clerk*

Mayor Parnell introduced Yiecenia Joyner as the new Deputy Town Clerk. Ms. Joyner started with the town on May 22, 2024. The mayor issued the Oath of Office to Ms. Joyner.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

7. PLANNING BOARD REPORT

a. Planning Board/BOA Report

Presenter: Garrett Mitchell, Planning Board Chair

Mr. Mitchell provided a report of the May 28, 2024 Planning Board meeting. He stated the Planning Board approved minutes from previous minutes and heard report on 2024-17-OA. He stated the text amendment was in reference to updating the Zoning Ordinance Use Table. Amendment would include allowing all town owned facilities to operate within all zoning districts. He stated it was the unanimous decision of the Planning Board to recommend approval of the text amendment to the Board of Commissioners.

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. FY 2024-2025 Budget

Presenter: Lee Worsley, Central Pines COG

Mayor Parnell noted this as a public hearing and opened it at 7:20 p.m.

Mr. Worsley presented information about the proposed budget and provided a Power Point presentation. He stated this was a tough budget and very difficult decisions

needed to be made. He spoke about statutory mandates that need to be met. He shared information about the Local Government Commission (LGC) and their powers. He stated Micro was 4 years behind in audits and that bank reconciliations had not been completed for 3 years. He stated at this time we were close to being caught up. He further stated that at this time there is not enough revenue coming into support services. He further advised that the town is still under an agreement with the LGC and all budgets are required to be reviewed and signed off by the LGC. He added the town has made great strides and progress but cautioned there is still work to be done.

He shared details about the budget process and added the board had met several times about the budget creation and process. The board met on April 18, May 14 and May 23 as well as holding the public hearing this evening. He stated a budget must be adopted by June 30 of each year.

He shared details about the two main funds: the General Fund and the Water Sewer Fund. He stated the Water Sewer Fund, also known as an enterprise fund, must be able to stand on its own. He further stated there have been many required repairs this year and this has caused the reserves to drop. He reminded us we are still facing significant financial challenges and services cannot be supported with current revenues.

A graph was shared that showed fund balances of municipalities across the state. He stated that currently Micro is way under the average fund balance. He further stated the ARPA funds helped to maintain the balance. A 50/50 budget for both General and Water Sewer is required to stabilize the fund balance. He added if the town continued without making necessary cuts the town would be bankrupt within 4 years.

Also addressed were opportunities to build the fund balance, which require tough decisions. It was also stated that there is money in the contingency fund for the first time in years and added the town is well on its way to getting to the average fund balance.

He stated for the first time the town was going to offer health benefits to employees. He stated there were no pay raises and no tax rate increase included. There is a 15% increase in water sewer costs as well as a 10% increase in solid waste. The solid waste is simply a pass through of what increase the town is seeing.

Resident, Byron Smith, was present and asked when the last time there a tax increase was. Mayor Parnell stated he believed the last increase was in 2021. It was stated an increase was looked at as a possibility to retain the Police Department. Unfortunately, the tax increase would have had to be quite significant. Mr. Worsley stated a 1 cent tax increase would only equate to \$2,500. It was stated again that the hope is to be able to build back a police department in two years.

It was stated it was important to get the message out about how far we have come. The mayor stated that he recently had to attend a hearing by the LGC with reference to the town's financial situation and past due audits. He stated that the State Treasurer was in attendance and questioned if Micro needed to still be a town. Mayor Parnell stated the town was trying desperately to fix a situation that was created prior to the current board. He further stated we would not give up. The mayor added that he and Mr.

Worsley had submitted all requested documentation and answered all questions asked at the hearing and stated they both felt good following the hearing.

With there being nothing further, the hearing was closed at 7:53 p.m. and the item was turned over to the board for their deliberation.

ACTION: Adoption of Ordinance #2024-06-01

Motion: Commissioner Earp
Second: Mayor Pro Tem Worley
Vote: Unanimous

2024-17-OA – Text Amendment Section 3-103-3(c)

b. *Presenter:* Kimberly Moffett, Interim Town Clerk

Ms. Moffett provided details about the proposed text amendment. The proposed amendment to the Zoning Code Use Table would amend the code to allow any town owned facility to be in all zoning districts. During the process of the refurbishing of the Community Center, it was determined that community center is in a R-10 zoning, which current use table would not allow for a community center to be located. It was stated there were two different ways to handle this situation, one being going through a Special Use Permit Process and the other requesting a rezone. This item was discussed at length and after realizing several town facilities would not be following the current zoning use table, it was agreed that it would be a cleaner option to amend the code to ensure that town owned facilities/buildings be allowed in all zoning districts. This would clean up the current situation as well as any future development/refurbishing of town owned buildings/facilities.

Members of the Planning Board heard and discussed this item at their last meeting, and it was the decision of the board to recommend approval of the text amendment.

Commissioner Garcia asked about current zoning of other town facilities and it was stated that Jerome Park is currently zoned R-15, Police Department is zoned CD, and the Public Works/Business Center is currently zoned LI.

ACTION: Adoption of Ordinance #2024-06-02

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Worley
Second: Commissioner Earp
Vote: Unanimous

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

a. Special Events Report
Presenter: Katy Garcia, Commissioner

Commissioner Garcia stated the Endless Yard Sale was coming up this weekend. She stated the town would be hosting tables in the parking lot of the Public Works/Business Center Building on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

She added the next Movie in the Park would be on June 29, 2024, at 8:00 p.m. She stated it would be Taylor Swift and the movie was 3 hours in length.

12. CLOSED SESSION

13. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Adjourn the Meeting

With there being nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

ACTION: Motion to Adjourn

Motion: Commissioner Garcia

Second: Commissioner Earp

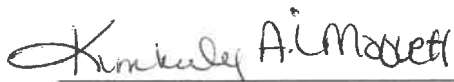
Vote: Unanimous

Duly adopted this the 9th day of July, 2024 while in regular session.



Marty Parnell
Mayor

ATTEST:



Kimberly A. Moffett, CMC, NCCMC
Interim Town Clerk

