

MILTON NORTH CAROLINA TOWN HALL/TDH
TUESDAY: October 13, 2020----7:00 PM. Minutes
Town Hall Hours: Tuesdays 9:00 am.-5:00 pm.
Thursdays- 4:00 pm.-7:00 pm. Payments Only

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Patricia Williams called meeting to order at 7:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: **Mayor Patricia Williams** asked for all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Patricia Williams stated **public comments remain at the end of the meeting and is not a question and answer time, no disruptions during this meeting or you will be asked to leave. This meeting is being recorded**

PRESENT: Mayor Patricia Williams, Commissioner Lisa Brandon, Commissioner Cathia Stewart, Shirley Wilson, Town Clerk, Sharon Williams, Finance Officer
Zoom: Commissioner Valerie Sottile, Commissioner John Wallace Jr.,

ABSENT:

APPROVALS:

- **Mayor Patricia Williams** called for approval of the **October 13, 2020** Agenda. Mayor Patricia Williams asked to make a change to the Agenda by placing Commissioner Valerie Sottile's discussion of the **Certificate of Appropriateness** **And the Ordinance Regulating Alcoholic Beverages in the Town be moved under Old Business. Commissioner Cathia Stewart** ask if **Shirley Wilson** attended the **EDC Meeting** will she give the report. **Shirley Wilson** stated yes, I attended but do not have information at hand. Will not give the report. **Mayor Patricia Williams** stated Gwen McGuire will give the EDC Report. It was motioned to approve the Agenda for **October 13, 2020** by Commissioner Valerie Sottile and Commissioner Cathia Stewart second. All members were in favor. **Mayor Patricia Williams** asked for the approval of the **September 8, 2020** Minutes. Commissioner Valerie Sottile motioned to approve the **September 8, 2020** Minutes as they stand and second by Commissioner Lisa Brandon. All members were in favor of the Minutes by stating (I).

MAYOR REPORT: **Mayor Patricia Williams** stated

- ✚ The homes and business in Milton now have a new Smart Meter installed by Duke Energy Progress. The advantages of the new meters will include access to new service and many options such as the ability to see detailed usage daily, options to stop and start the service, remotely improve the response time for outage repairs.
- ✚ The Milton Crosswalk was hit in the middle of the night on September 16, 2020. DOT has ordered the parts for the Signal at no cost to Milton. Repair will be done when the

parts come in.

- ✚ Do not delay in requesting an absentee ballot for the November Election. The mail service is slow due to all the extra mail. To be sure your ballot counts you will need to request your ballot soon. Call the Caswell Board of Elections to request your ballots.
- ✚ **Early Voting starts October 15, 2020 in Yanceyville and will end Saturday October 31, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.**
- ✚ The Laptops from the **CARES Act** monies were received and issued.
- ✚ The last 2 fire hydrants to be replaced are now waiting for to be done. The electrical pole must be removed, and the residence being affected by the replacement of the fire hydrant will be notified prior to the replacement.
- ✚ **USPS** is waiting to hear back from the North Carolina Preservation Office about Milton Post Office being placed on side street (Bridge Street) in the Historic District. As of today October 13, 2020 USPS, have not heard from NCPO. If they do not hear from them USPS will assume that things will begin and be moved along.
- ✚ **The Census 2020** has left messages at individual homes in Milton to get the information needed. The Census 2020 will end October 31,2020. The National response rate at this time is 66.6% for North Carolina response is 63%, Caswell County response 68.3% and Milton has a response rate of 45.1%. If you have not taken the Census or no one has come to your home just go to Census2020 online and it takes no more than 10 min. to fill it out.
- ✚ **COVID 19 Update:** Last month I (**Patricia Williams**) reported there were **261** confirmed cases here in Caswell County. We now have confirmed cases of **515**. A month of increase of 254 people here in Caswell County. Last month I (**Patricia Williams**) reported there were 29 in the Milton zip code area. Today there are **42 confirmed** here in the Milton zip code.
- ✚ **Mayor Patricia Williams** stated I am going to read something from the Caswell County Health Department that was just handed to me. A status update Positivity Rate is 13.9% which is the highest in the state. We have a large outbreak at the Dan River Work Farm, and we have also seen a spike in the number of positive community members. If you attended a private event in Caswell County on October 3, 2020 that had more than 50 people in attendance it is likely you have been exposed. Please self-monitor the symptoms and limit the number of people you are around for the next 14 days. You should consider being tested. You must quarantine for 14 days if you have been in close contact with someone that tested positive. There are local churches that have had 5 or more members confirmed cases. For the next 6 months do not let your guard down, when we are staying inside more, wear face coverings, wash your hands more and say 6 feet apart.

STAFF REPORTS: Sharon Williams documentation through the end of September 2020. Sharon Williams stated the **General Fund** at the end of September target was **17%** our Revenue in August is at **25%**. We start increase in our Revenue next Quarter. Our Expenditures are at **18%** overall for the first Quarter. Our Expenses are under target and do not include the payment for the Fire Hydrants. The normal expenses are at 18%. I have transferred \$12,000.00 out of the Investment Account. We already have pre-approval for the next transfer. Water Sewer Fund Revenue through September is at 26% targeted at **25%**. Our Expenses were at **16%**. Below target in Revenue and above in Expenses. The Bank Reconciliations for General Fund as of the end of September in the General Fund was **\$9400.00**. As of last Thursday, it was **\$9104.00** in the

General Fund. Water Sewer Fund at the end of September we had \$9711.00 and as of last week we had \$13635.00. Our North Carolina Capital Management Trust is \$86,404.00, this reflects the \$12,000.00 transferred from this account. Bank Statements are located behind the Bank Reconciliations. **Mayor Patricia Williams** stated she heard at the Caswell County Commissioners meeting they had not seen a decrease they had projected at the beginning of the Corona Virus. Projected Sales would be down, and Property Tax returns would be down. They are seeing comparing last year to this year they are not seeing the huge decrease they had planned on in their budget.

- **One Time Water Leak Relief Application: Sharon Williams** has received 4. One will be \$2000.00, one for \$400.00, one for \$1200.00, one for \$4000.00 and one approved at the last meeting. **Mayor Patricia Williams** stated it goes with the property because that is what we will be approving. **Sharon** stated **97 Doll Branch Road approximately \$2000.00. (11,180 gallons-20,430-40,130-12,600- 5,720 all at the same residence) Discussed by Council took a long time to repair this leak. Could not get up with the property owner. Revisit the Water Leak Relief Policy again and tweet it.**
- **59 Bridge Street (49, 620 gallons)**
- **\$1236.00**
- **\$410.00**
 - **Mayor Patricia Williams stated that all applications filled out meet all the requirements with all documentation attached within the time frame of the stated policy. Mayor Patricia Williams asked for a motion for these 3 properties to get the One Time Water Leak Relief.** It was motioned to approve the 3 said properties for the one-time **Water Leak Relief** by Commissioner Lisa Brandon and second by Commissioner Cathia Stewart. All were in favor.

Shirley Wilson stated that with letters sent out and all the work put forth to help our Milton residents everything is falling in place pretty much and our Water Sewer Funds are increasing. **Sharon Williams** stated out of the 29 letters sent out we only have 4 residences shut off. **Mayor Patricia Williams** stated we are only trying to help everyone catch up by creating a payment plan that works for the residents.

- **OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner Valerie Sottile** will discuss **Certificate of Appropriateness** the Legislature requires Historic District to have a Certificate of Appropriateness. The Legislature is going to revise some of the wording in the Statue 164 A and it may be July of 2021. We are asking the Town of Milton to keep the Certificate of Appropriateness during the Interim for Statue 164A so there is a document in hand for the Historic District as new businesses come on board and residents make changes to their homes. **Commissioner Valerie Sottile** made the motion to keep the Certificate of Appropriateness during the Interim until the verbiage has been changed. **Mayor Patricia Williams** asked for a second, no response. **Mayor Patricia Williams asked if there was any discussion about the Certificate of Appropriateness. Discussion Mayor Patricia Williams stated that the Statue 160A-429 states that a Certificate of Appropriateness is required and continued to explain what the Planning Board had found out. We have 2 Commissioners that want to table the motion until the November Meeting. We will put it on the November Agenda. Valerie Sottile suggested that if there are more questions the Planning board meets on the 2nd Monday at 6:00 p.m.**

- **Ordinance Regulating Alcoholic Beverages in the Town** was explained by **Commissioner Valerie Sottile**. **Does the town own the sidewalks or do the store owners own the sidewalks? Do we want to change the Ordinance?** **Mayor Patricia Williams** stated this is such unprecedented times, there are limits on how many people can be in a restaurant. Our businesses are limited due to the different Phases our Governor has put us through. We want the businesses to succeed. **Mayor Patricia Williams** continued to explain the options Commissioner Valerie Sottile brought forth. We need to think about who is going to be responsible for the liability. We can amend the Ordinance we have in front of us. Commissioner Lisa Brandon stated the businesses have Liability Insurance to cover accidents. Gwen McGuire stated at Aunt Millie's we only serve up to 4 drinks. (Signage outside side in the windows) Discussion **Mayor Patricia Williams** stated we may need to amend the Ordinance that pertains to everyone down business row. **(Any businesses that open) Commissioner Valerie Sottile and Commissioner Lisa Brandon** will get a draft going **for the Ordinance Regulating Alcoholic Beverages in the Town**. **Commissioner John Wallace** commented they could not only sue Aunt Millie's but the town as well.
- **Gwen McGuire reported on the EDC Meeting:**
 - **Grant Writing and Processing Grants across the County**
 - **Broad Band**
 - Veterans Ceremony on Veteran's Day
 -

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- **Samantha McGraw** asked who verified that the sidewalks were the property of the town? According to survey Dewberry and Davis there was no easement signed by anyone in the town when the sidewalks were put down. When I got my house surveyed my flag is on the other side of the sidewalk. My property card showed the sidewalk on my property, which mean it is mine and if there is a liability issue then my homeowners insurance covers anything that happens alcohol related or not on my property. So, I do not know who verified the sidewalks not just in front of the businesses, personal and residential verified that to be the town's property. Could you put something on the water bill possibly if anyone else has questions about what goes on at a Town Meeting that is going to require longer than 3 min. It is going to have to be a Q&A Who we can talk to, when can we talk to them, set up a meeting because there are people that have questions
- I want to know about Christmas in Milton, I enjoyed the tree thing, call me about decorating, and lighting the tree for the Town.

CLOSE OF MEETING: **Mayor Patricia Williams** asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Commissioner Valerie Sottile** motioned to adjourn the meeting and second by **Commissioner Cathia Stewart**. All members were in favor. Time: 8:25 pm

ZONING PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS: WILL ZOOM 2ND MONDAY IN EACH MONTH AT 6:00 PM.