

MILTON NORTH CAROLINA TOWN HALL/TDH

TUESDAY May 11, 2021---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

This meeting is being recorded and I (Mayor Patricia Williams) would like to remind if you would like to speak at **Public Comments**, please call Town Hall at 336-234-0030 by 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday the day of the Town Meeting and leave your name, address, and your reason for Public Comments.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

- **Mayor Patricia Williams** asked everyone to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ABSENT:

- **APPROVALS: Mayor Patricia Williams** called for approval of the **May 11, 2021**, Agenda. **Mayor Patricia Williams** made changes to the Agenda inserting under New Business: **Cost of Copies; Budget Consideration-Town of Milton Website; ARP (American Rescue Plan Funding**. It was motioned to approve the Agenda with the amendments for May 11, **2021**, by **Commissioner Lisa Brandon**. Second by **Commissioner Valerie Sottile**. All members were in favor. **Mayor Patricia Williams** asked for the approval of the **April 13, 2021**, Minutes. Commissioner Valerie Sottile asked for a change in the spelling of Blaine. Commissioner Valerie Sottile motioned to approve the **April 13, 2021**, Minutes with the change of spelling Blaine and second by Commissioner Cathia Stewart. All members were in favor of the Agenda and Minutes by stating (I).
- **Green Space Committee: Roxanne Palmer:** Discussed and defined greenway project and how the green space could be an asset to the town of Milton. Roxanne presented a Project Overview; Benefits; Location; and History.
- **Defined:** what a Greenway is and who uses Greenways.
- **The Benefits of Greenways Trails:** greenways provide a variety of benefits that ultimately affect the sustainability of a region's economic, environmental, and social health.
- **Creating Value and Generating Economic Activity:** There are many examples, both nationally and locally, that affirm the positive connection between green space and property values
- **Trails and Greenways:** Increases Real Property Values
- **Trail Tourism Creates Economic Impacts:** Trails and greenways create opportunities in construction and maintenance, recreation rentals, recreation services, historic preservation, restaurants, and lodging.
- **Improving Health through Active Living:** Trails contribute to the overall health of residents by offering people attractive, safe, accessible places to bike, walk, hike, and jog.
- **Clear Skies, Clean Rivers, and Protected Wildlife:** There are a multitude of environmental benefits from trails, greenways, and open spaces that help to protect the essential functions

performed by natural ecosystems. Greenways protect and link fragmented habitat and provide opportunities for protecting plant and animal species.

- **Protecting People and Property from Flood Damage:**
- **Enhancing Cultural Awareness and Community Identity:**
- **Phase One:** Utilizing Crop Street and Lea Street (extension) to open up town owned streets to create a walk able space. Crop Street runs west to East between Liberty Street and Bridge Street. Lea Street (extension) runs North to South from Crop Street to Broad Street.
- **A Vision:** Keeping the space as natural as possible but accessible to all.
- **A copy of the detailed presentation will be attached to May 11, 2021, Minutes in the Town Hall.**
- **Mayor Patricia Williams:** stated I appreciate your presentation. I think the Council will need to discuss it as to the liability of the town and that is the biggest thing that I have is how the town will be held liable if some sort of accident took place on the streets or the alley ways, they say the town owns. The second concern is ADA would be making sure the trails are handicap accessible. (Canes, Walkers, Wheelchairs) The Department of Transportation has monies that are available for Trails and Pedestrians Walkways. This could be something else I could investigate for your group if there are any monies now or in the future. Measure whether is a mile or a quarter mile. Explained Will put on the Agenda to discuss with Commissioners at the June meeting.

MAYORS REPORT: Mayor Patricia Williams

- **Update on Milton Post Office:** The Milton Post Office is scheduled for 3-4 months with final completion date being September 28, 2021.
- **High Street Baptist Church Crosswalk Funding** has come through to the DOT at this time. DOT is working on the Historical part which will take some time to do. The Crosswalk Project is moving forward. (Good News)
- **The 25 M.P.H. Speed Limit Signs:** for Holder Street and Palmers Alley has been submitted for Regional and State approval. The State has approved and now DOT is waiting for Regional approval. As soon as the approval comes in installation will move forward.
- **COVID 19 Update: Caswell County** now has 177 confirmed cases up from 159 reported last month; **Milton Zip Code** has 157 confirmed cases up from 154 reported in April with (1) death in our zip code.
- **Maderno Vaccine** is being given out. You can call the Caswell Health Department at 336 -694-4129 to put your name on a list to be contacted when you qualify for a vaccine. Please be diligent in practicing wearing a face covering, social distancing, and washing your hands. If you have any flu like symptoms you need to go and get tested to rule out COVID-19.
- Everyone should have received the **2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report and Care for the Water System Pamphlet in April's Water Billing.** If you did not receive a copy, please stop by Town Hall, and pick one up.
- **The Schedule for Flushing Water Pipes and Fire Hydrants** will be mailed out with the May Water Bills. Please put the schedules on your calendars so that you will know that the water pressure may be down some when flushing is taking place.
- **The 2021/2022 Milton Town Budget** has been submitted to the Governing Board tonight and is available for **Public Inspection in the Milton Town Hall on Thursdays 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.** The public will have an opportunity to **provide input on Tuesday June 08, 2021, at the Milton Town Meeting regarding the 2021/2022 Milton Town Budget.**

STAFF REPORTS:

Sharon Williams: Presented the **General Fund:** Year to date: **The Revenue through April 2021 \$73,410.00 94%; Expenditures \$48,896.00 plus another \$20,000.00 bringing it to \$68,896.00 (Fire Hydrants) 85%. Everything is within budget. Water/Sewer Fund** our Revenue at the end of April is at **\$118,840.00 at 90%. Expenditures at the end of April is \$90,296.00 at 68%. The bill on the Water Tank has been paid.** Today May 11, 2021, I paid the debt on the USDA loan.

Bank Reconciliations: General Fund Bank Account: Updated through April 2021 --\$37,215.00. As of last week, we had \$35587.00. **Water Sewer Fund** we have \$31,979.00 as of last week, \$27,370.00. Our North Carolina Capital Management Trust is **\$78,409.08. You have a copy of each Bank Statement to verify this information. No Water Relief Applications. I would like to bring to the Council that we have the funds now to transfer the funds back to the Capital Management Trust. I would like your approval to transfer the monies (\$20,000.00) from the General Funds back into the Capital Management Trust that was used for the Fire Hydrants. I would also need permission to transfer \$1600.00 out of the General Funds which would bring us up to \$100,000.00 with the Councils approval. Mayor Patricia Williams stated to go ahead and sign off so the monies can be transferred.**

Sharon Williams: Presented the 2021/2022 Budget (General Fund and Water Fund) Copies were given to all Council Members to review. (Explained) **More discussion on Budget on June 08, 2021, meeting.**

OLD BUSINESS: Mayor Patricia Williams: Discussion of another Pump Replacement. This Pump has been replaced multiple times. This is the second pump that has fallen into that category. This situation has been discussed previously. Charging a fee or a percentage of the cost or full cost of the pump. This will be a cost to the homeowner/renter. We need to make a decision on who is responsible in this type of situation. Not abiding by the rules to what should and should not be placed in the pump. (2nd time this has happened-same type of issue-Grease has been placed in this particular pump) This resident has had **7(seven)** different pump replacements) Picture shows everything. New pumps are **costing \$1000.00** per pump. This is a **detriment** to our Water Fund. We are going to be faced with those pumps where the life expectancy has reached capacity. There are two different settings here (1) **Pump has been Abused** (2) **Life Expectancy since 2006: Have the Water Maintenance person come up with a list of the residents where pumps have been replaced several times. Discussion: Decided that owner and renter to receive a warning notice and ****Create an Ordinance or Policy stating that after 2 pumps you are responsible for the pump cost. Next month Agenda (June 2021)**

Commissioner John Wallace: Update on Privatizing the Milton Water/Sewer System

Commissioner John Wallace stated Sharon has made contact with Aqua North Carolina and it seems that they may be a reliable business partner on this **Privatizing the Milton Water/Sewer System, and they have given us a questionnaire that has to be executed before they can give us a proposal and they get several opinions on the value of the system. We received an inventory of all the pieces of the water system from the Auditor. She has been able to fill a number of the financial questions but most of the questions Mike Behler must answer. Mayor Patricia Williams stated the Commissioners need to talk about this idea because we do not need to put a lot of work and money into it, if we cannot move forward. (Discussion-Explained) Ask Mike how much he will charge for filling the questionnaire out. (Technical Questions) Sharon will print out the questionnaire. Long-Term Opportunity—The Town needs to be conscience of rising cost to residents.**

Mayor Patricia Williams: Discussion of the change on the Water Policy. (New Water Customer) Policy change will be attached to May 08, 2021, Minutes. Make more substantial. **#2 Property owner must fill out the application and pay \$100.00 deposit. Change to \$136.00. #3 Statement added: THE**

OUTSTANDING BALANCE MUST BE PAID IN FULL. After full payment and the **\$50.00 reconnect fee, the Water will be reconnected within 24 hours. #8** There will be no impeding of Milton Water Department from accessing the water meter.)

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Valerie Sottile: Accountability for Town Ordinances

I brought forward last month enforcing the **Town Ordinances**. It was forwarded to me the **North Carolina General Statutes Article 15. The Administration Enforcement and Penalties pages 93-101. The Statute give authority to NC towns and municipalities to legally enforce violations of its Ordinances.** Violation should be a Misdemeanor or Infraction Statute 14-4 Explained each step that the Planning Board will oversee. (Non-Compliance and will talk to Thomas Bernard.

- ✚ **Mayor Patricia Williams: The Cost of Copies: Explained. \$.10 per copy Black and White one-sided Single Copy and Color Copy \$.30 per copy one sided Single Copy. Town Business Only (Explained)**
- ✚ **Mayor Patricia Williams: Budget Consideration: Explained: Computer Department. Net \$90.00 per month Website. Discussion: EDC the launch for the County Website will be June 2021. Mayor Patricia Williams: will send Corey an email.**
- ✚ **Mayor Patricia Williams: Explained the American Rescue Plan. It was passed today May 11, 2021. Recover and thrive over the next years. Estimated \$40,000.00 will be allotted to Milton NC, based on Budget January 2020 and Population of the town of Milton. In 2021 1st half of monies will be sent and 2nd half of monies will come in 2022. Help with Water-Sewer-Broad Band Council will have to approve and accept this fund. To be spent by 2024 December.**

Commissioner Valerie Sottile stated that at the EDC meeting on Monday May 10, 2021 **The ETJ is looking to put a cell tower on the ETJ Property in Milton.** Mayor Patricia will contact Matthew Hoagland.

It was motioned by Commissioner Lisa Brandon and 2nd by Commissioner Cathia Stewart to accept the External Funds ARP 2021

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Tracy Blaine: I am tag teaming with Samantha and Steve and he is a Representative for the Computer Company, and he can give you more information on that. It is not just a website. **Mayor Patricia Williams: asked Tracy to forward Steve's full name and information and she would contact him. This is not up for discussion right now. Explained why. (Another site will be launched in June 2021)**

Tracy Blaine: I am the ETJ Representative so if there is stuff going on I need to know about it. I would like to be in the loop on that. I have the Ordinances done and they are digitized. Mayor Patricia Williams ask if anyone that wants them to bring flash drive to copy the Ordinances to it.

Mayor Patricia Williams We are going to go into a Closed Meeting and according to Statutes 143-38 and #6 Consider performance of an employee. Motioned by Commissioner Valerie Sottile and second by Commissioner Lisa Brandon. All in Favor Commissioner Valarie Sottile, Commissioner Lisa Brandon, and Commissioner John Wallace. Opposed: Commissioner Cathia Stewart **Ended the Zoom.**

Approval for accepting CLOSE OF MEETING: Mayor Patricia Williams asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Commissioner Cathia Stewart** motioned to adjourn the meeting and second by **Commissioner John Wallace**. All members were in favor. Time: