

# MOUNT PLEASANT

EST. 1859

NORTH CAROLINA

**Board of Commissioners  
Town Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, December 9, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.**

**Attendance:** Mayor Tony Lapish  
Mayor Pro-Tem/Commissioner Lori Furr  
Commissioner Chris Carter (absent, excused)  
Commissioner Steven Dixon  
Commissioner William Meadows  
Commissioner Justin Simpson  
Town Administrator Randy Holloway  
Town Attorney John Scarbrough  
Town Clerk Amy Schueneman

**Also Present:** Erin Burris, Crystal Smith, Jim Sells, Ally Schueneman, Rodney Schueneman, Captain C Camille, Pastor Nick Newman, Tony Brewer, and Bill & Meredith Weidman.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Tony Lapish called the meeting to order.

## **INVOCATION**

Pastor Nick Newman of Propel Church led the Board in prayer.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Lapish led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to excuse Commissioner Carter from the Board Meeting was made by Commissioner Furr with a second by Commissioner Simpson. (4-0, Commissioner Carter absent)

### **1. Public Forum**

No one spoke.

### **2. Conflict of Interest**

*The Mayor and Commissioners are asked at this time to reveal if they have a Conflict of Interest with any item on the Agenda in order to be recused for that item.*

(No member shall be excused from voting except upon matters involving the consideration of the member's own financial interest or official conduct or on matters on which the member is prohibited from voting under G.S. 14-234 or 160D-109(a). NC State Statute 160A-75 and no public official shall knowingly participate in making or administering a contract, including the award of money in the form of a grant, loan, or other appropriation, with any nonprofit with which that public official is associated. NC State Statute 14-234.3)

No one had a conflict of interest.

## **TOWN OF MOUNT PLEASANT**

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Mayor Lapish informed everyone that starting in January 2025 Town Board meetings will move to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

### 3. Approve Agenda

A motion to approve the Agenda as submitted was made by Commissioner Furr with a second by Commissioner Meadows. All Board Members were in favor. (4-0, Commissioner Carter absent)

### 4. Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes November 12, 2024

Commissioner Simpson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted with a second by Commissioner Furr. All Board Members were in favor. (4-0, Commissioner Carter absent)

### 5. Staff Reports

- A. Town Manager-Randy Holloway
- B. Town Asst. Manager- Planning & Economic Development Director - Erin Burriss
- C. Town Clerk/Finance Officer - Amy Schueneman
- D. Human Resources/Events- Crystal Smith

Ms. Smith thanked everyone for the success of the Christmas parade this year and Michael Anderson for all the beautiful pictures he took of the parade. The winners of the Business Decorating Contest were:

- First Place-Well Doctor's Gum Drop Lane
- Second Place- The Bakery of Mount Pleasant's Main Street Sweet Memories
- Third Place-Uwharrie Bank's He Sees You When You're Banking

The Residential Contest winners were:

- First Place-Ashby Family
- Second Place-Straits Family
- Third Place-Wiedman Family
- Fourth Place-Harwood Family

- E. Code Enforcement/Grant Writer- Jim Sells
- F. Public Works- Daniel Crowell
- G. Fire Department-Dustin Sneed
- H. Cabarrus County Sheriff's Department

### 6. Presentation

#### A. Tony Brewer, CPA presented the FY23/24 Audit

Mr. Brewer handed out a breakdown of the audit to the Board and reviewed his findings and indicators for FY23/24. Overall, the audit was clean with no issues. Fund Balances are healthy in both the General Fund and the Water/Sewer Fund.

*Copies of the talking points, handout, and audit are included in the Minute Book.*

### 7. Old Business

#### A. Receive update on the status of funding the Water & Sewer Projects

Randy Holloway reminded the Board that bids exceeded estimates for the water and sewer projects. The Town of Midland had \$3million that they were releasing back to DEQ and was agreeable to direct the funds to the Town of Mount Pleasant, if the Town could get the funds transferred. Erin Burriss reached out to our State Representatives and talked with them about

getting this done. They agreed to include a technical correction in Senate Bill 382. Senate Bill 382 originally passed in the Senate and House but was vetoed by the Governor. The Senate then overrode the Governor's veto, and it is currently awaiting a vote in the House which is now scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup>.

If the Town receives the \$3million from Senate Bill 382, it will still leave the project budget short by \$700,000. To bring the project within budget, the N. Skyland Drive waterline will be removed from the project, saving \$500,000 and NC DOT has agreed to adjust the amount of flowable fill required to reduce the paving cost by around \$400,000. This means the water project could be completed at 90% and the sewer project could be 100% completed.

If the Town does not receive the funds from Senate Bill 382, the sewer project funds would be shifted over to the water project and the sewer project would be put on hold until more funding could be found. The water project is the number one priority and needs to be completed in its entirety to avoid tearing up roads that DOT has been waiting to pave for the last two years at our request. Also, Staff would reach out to DEQ to move funds allotted to the sewer project to the water project. With all the ARPA funds that are being returned by other Towns to the State, Town Staff will continue to seek more funding from DEQ to complete the sewer project. However, with all the needs in Western North Carolina after Hurricane Helene, the amount of funds available is not known.

Mr. Holloway and Ms. Schueneman asked the Board if they would be willing to meet either December 23<sup>rd</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> for a Special Called Meeting if needed for paperwork related to these projects. Based on responses by Board members a quorum would be available for December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm, if needed. The meeting may be necessary because the Town is receiving conflicting information about the funds. UNC-School of Government is stating that the money must be under contract by December 31<sup>st</sup>. LKC Engineering reached out to DEQ, and they said DEQ was not enforcing the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. Ultimately, the Town does not want to lose any of the funds that have been allotted by missing a deadline.

A quick update on the water system was given by Mr. Holloway. He reached out to a company named Pure Aqua to get a quote for a smaller treatment system bring water quality into compliance. The quote for just the equipment was \$275,000. With engineering costs and installation, the cost could be covered with the \$985,000 provided by the State. This information will be provided to the engineering firms working on the issues.

## **8. New Business**

### **A. Consider the 2025 appointments to the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) of the Cabarrus-Rowan Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.**

Phil Conrad of Cabarrus Rowan MPO is requesting the names for the TAC and TCC appointments by January 1, 2025. The MPO would like to know who will serve in 2025 as our designated appointees to the TAC (elected officials only), as well as the TCC (staff) appointee and alternate.

#### **2 motions were made:**

1. A motion to reappoint Erin Burriss as TCC representative with Crystal Smith as alternate was made by Commissioner Furr with a second by Commissioner Meadows. (4-0, Commissioner Carter absent)

2. A motion to reappoint Commissioner Simpson as TAC representative with Commissioner Furr as the TAC alternate was made by Commissioner Dixon with a second by Commissioner Meadows. (4-0, Commissioner Carter absent)

**B. Consider approving a Resolution Prohibiting Viewing of Pornography on Town Networks and Devices, the amended Technology & Social Media Policy, and the amended Personnel Policy.**

North Carolina General Statute §143-805 requires all public agencies to adopt a Pornography Policy by December 31, 2024. The policy prohibits the viewing of pornography by its employees, appointees, and elected officials on the Town's network or devices owned or maintained by the Town. After adoption of this policy, it will be included as part of the Personnel Policy.

The Social Media Policy was adopted by the Board on February 14, 2022. This policy has been amended to include the wording in the Resolution, as well as including a technology component to the policy. The amended policy will now be called the Technology & Social Media Policy, if adopted by the Board.

The Personnel Policy has been amended to reflect the Resolution and other updates in terms, definitions, and titles for clarifications to current areas of the policy. New items included in the policy are Career Development Plan, Travel Policy, and Transfer of Vacation Leave from Previous Employer.

*A copy of the Resolution and State Statute, the amended Technology & Social Media Policy and the amended Personnel Policy are included in the Minute Book.*

3 motions were made:

1. A motion to approve the Resolution Prohibiting Viewing of Pornography on Town Networks and Devices was made by Commissioner Simpson with a second by Commissioner Furr. (4-0, Commissioner Carter absent)
2. A motion to approve the Technology & Social Media Policy as amended was made by Commissioner Simpson with a second by Commissioner Furr. (4-0, Commissioner Carter absent)
3. A motion to approve the Personnel Policy as amended was made by Commissioner Simpson with a second by Commissioner Furr. (4-0, Commissioner Carter absent)

**C. Consider approving the Mitigation Plan Update.**

Jim Sells stated that the Town of Mount Pleasant is part of a regional mitigation plan; however, items in the plan were outdated or irrelevant. Mitigation planning is a process used by governments and local leaders to understand the risks from natural hazards and develop long-term strategies that will reduce the impacts of these disasters on people, property and the environment. Several years ago, multiple mitigation plans from Cabarrus, Stanly, and Union counties were combined into a single document with each local government maintaining its own mitigation goals. These jurisdictions work together in the planning process to develop a mitigation strategy based on their similar hazards. No local control though is compromised or lost. All participants have a right to apply to North Carolina Emergency Management

for FEMA funding. The current plan is due to be updated prior to June 2025. This plan is updated every five (5) years.

A mitigation plan is required for all forms of compensatory mitigation or simply when applying for certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 amended the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act creating the framework for local governments to meet grant eligibility requirements. Once the plan has approval from our Board it will be incorporated into the Cabarrus, Stanly, and Union counties plan and will come back to the Board around June 2025 for final approval.

*A copy of the Town of Mount Pleasant Mitigation Plan Update 2024 is included in the Minute book.*

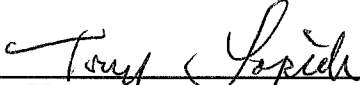
A motion to approve the Town of Mount Pleasant Mitigation Plan Update 2024 was made by Commissioner Simpson with a second by Commissioner Meadows. (4-0, Commissioner Carter absent)

### **9. Adjournment**

With nothing else to come before the Board, Commissioner Furr made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Meadows seconded the motion. All Board Members were in favor. (4-0, Commissioner Carter absent)

By our signatures, the following minutes were approved as submitted on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 in the Regular Meeting.

  
Town Clerk Amy Schueneman

  
Mayor Tony Lapish

