



TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023, AT 6:30 PM

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jack Edwards called the meeting to order @ 6:32 pm.

Mayor: Jack Edwards
Mayor Pro Tem: Ed Samaha
Council Members: Amelia Stinson-Wesley, Chris McDonough, Les Gladden
Town Manager: Ryan Spitzer
Town Clerk: Lisa Snyder

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Pro Tem Ed Samaha led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Jack Edwards asked for a moment of silence for our first responders, fireman, police officers and our military.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Council Member Amelia Stinson-Wesley made a motion to accept the agenda with a second made by Council Member Chris McDonough. All ayes. (**Approved 4-0**).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting on February 14, 2023, the Work Session on February 27, 2023, were submitted for approval. Council Member Les Gladden moved to approve the minutes with a second made by Council Member Chris McDonough. All Ayes. (**Approved 4-0**)

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Stinson-Wesley moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with a second made by Mayor Pro Tem Samaha. (**Approved 4-0**)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jane Shutt, Pineville Neighbors Place. Ms. Shutt thanked the students and families at Pineville Elementary for their generous contributions to their food pantry in February. The Smilers put empathy into action with their donations. Recently, they fed over 150 families at a mobile food pantry at Sterling Elementary. We hold these drive-through pantries about six times during the school year in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank. Tickets are now available for the 5th Annual Fundraiser Dinner on Thursday, April 20th at 6:30 pm, at Pineville United Methodist Church. Half of the tickets have already been sold, so please don't delay in getting your tickets! Staci McBride started s the new Executive Director of PNP and she is here tonight. Residents are being connected with resources for help as needed.

Sara Longstreet, Carolina Scoops. Sara is the owner of Carolina Scoops Ice Cream, located on Dover Street and a resident of Pineville. She read her report of what she's doing in Downtown Pineville. She stated that a concern for the downtown area is that parking is limited, there isn't enough parking, and it may be a bigger issue as the Town's population continues to rise and construction begins on the area streets.

Her 2nd concern is the significant increase in rent. Some of the local landlords are requesting a 300% increase imposed by their landlords. Sara stated she doesn't want downtown to turn into another strip mall.

Lastly, a suggestion to revitalize and reconnect business owners with an advertising proposal, with a tourism budget amendment to fund and secure a billboard advertisement by Miller Farm, at the North and South Carolina border. A one-year contract with Adams Outdoor would cost \$12,120.00. A billboard gets over 50,000 impressions each week. It will bring attention to our Town and small business community.

Pineville Resident Melissa Davis spoke regarding a post on Pineville Chamber's Facebook page that states US Development has plans for the Cone Mill property with a pedestrian bridge to Jack Hughes. Mrs. Davis said Pam Fender, a real estate agent, posted the information. Who is paying for the bridge, the developer, or the taxpayers? Mrs. Davis asked when did the sale of this property to US Developments take place? IF not, why is it being advertised on the Chamber site? It implies that it has been sold. Mrs. Davis pulled up the minutes from the February 27, 2023 Work Session for reference to her comments. She thinks they were all misled. People are upset and they want transparency. She then asked why Council was not being transparent about the Mill property.

John Holibinko from the Pineville Chamber. Mr. Holobinko first commented on Mrs. Davis comments and stated the purpose of the Pineville Chamber is to create transparency and visibility. One proposal that's been made by one company, that has put it out there, is US Development. They posted it for public service and informational purposes. It is a little unfair to kill the messenger. They do not endorse it and they will put out less information. He apologized if it's misleading.

He reminded Council of the upcoming Pineville Business Exposition, put on by the Chamber, without any outside funding, at the BJCC from 1-5 p.m. on Friday, March 24th. Tickets for the event are \$10 but there's over \$30 in benefits to each person that comes in, in terms of giveaways. He invited everyone to attend.

Arts & Science Council-Krista Terrell, President. ASC serves Pineville and Mecklenburg County by local & state government support. For the Fiscal Year 2024, they are requesting \$15,000 of funding for sponsorship. In the last 3 years they received \$20,000 in combined investment from Pineville, which bolstered activities and great programs in Pineville and Mecklenburg County. In the same period, ASC has invested \$11,250 directly into Pineville with grants and fellowships and \$24,917 in County funds to support Culture Blocks programs in Pineville. Programs include individual artists fellowships, artist support grants, cultured vision grants and culture blocks. She thanked Council for their thoughtful appointments of Victoria DeShazer and Claire Jenkins, to represent Pineville. They help us to understand the will of the Town of Pineville and keep the lines of communication open.

NEW BUSINESS

Adoption of Filing fees prior to candidates filing to run for Elections. Town Manager Ryan Spitzer discussed the current schedule for Mayor and Town Council, typically \$5 or \$6, but this can be up to 1% of their salary. Pro Tem Samaha moved to accept the filing fees schedule with a second made by Council Member Stinson-Wesley. **(Approved 4-0)**

Purchase of new Pierce Fire Engine. Town Manager Spitzer said that previously, the two fire engines were purchased at the same time. Council decided to purchase one fire engine in March 2022 and at the time, to stagger the purchase of the second replacement engine. Pierce is changing the engine of their fire trucks beginning in July 2022, due to EPA standards. These new engines will be diesel with a propane component. The Town has the option to go ahead and order a fire engine with the current all-diesel engine and pay for it in the next FY budget, similar to the way we structured the deal in 2022.

Pierce can only guarantee discounts for so long. Warranty work is a big issue. BMP program, if approved early, we could get in the slot for an earlier time. If not, it puts us in the window for more price increases. Mayor Pro Tem Samaha asked if this would be an addition or replacement. Mr. Hermanns answered that this truck will replace engine #73. Town Manager Spitzer said we will wait until we get the truck to buy any additional add-ons. Council Member Les Gladden made a motion to approve the purchase with Council Member Stinson-Wesley seconding the motion. **(Approved 4-0)**

Manager's Report. Mr. Spitzer said we did get confirmation from NCDOT that we can use both monies for the Johnston Drive project. Lynwood/Lakeview project will be discussed in the April meeting to approve that contract.

We had a vehicle that drove onto the front lawn recently and the damage will be covered by insurance.

We are working on a spring timeline for the start of the Greenway project and that's being paid by ARPA funds. It will take about six months. Staff is currently working with the district on putting in a crosswalk from Cranford to Town Hall.

Mayor Edwards announced a 5-minute break before the closed sessions.

Council Member Gladden moved to go into the first Closed Session with a second made by Council Member Stinson-Wesley. All ayes. **(Approved 4-0)**

Council Member Gladden made a motion to leave the first closed session with a second made by Council Member McDonough. All ayes. **(Approved 4-0)**

Council Member Gladden made a motion to go back into closed session #2 followed by a second made by Council Member McDonough. All ayes. **(Approved 4-0)**

Council Member Gladden made a motion to leave the second closed session with a second made by Council Member McDonough. All ayes. **(Approved 4-0)**

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Stinson-Wesley made a motion to adjourn followed by a second made by Council Member Gladden. All ayes. **(Approved 4-0)** The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Jack Edwards

ATTEST: _____

Lisa Snyder, Town Clerk