

MINUTES OF MIDWAY TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 4, 2023, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT MIDWAY TOWN HALL, 426 GUMTREE ROAD, MIDWAY, NORTH CAROLINA

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLGIANCE (Councilor Keith Leonard)

Keith Leonard gave the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance prior to the opening gavel.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor John Byrum called the meeting to order.

Councilors present were: Mayor John Byrum, Mike McAlpine, Robin Moon, Keith Leonard, Jackie Edwards and Berkley Alcorn. Absent: None. Town Manager Tammy Michael, Town Clerk Linda Hunt, and Deputy Clerk Ree Smith were present. Town Attorney Jim Lanik was absent.

Each Councilor had been furnished an agenda prior to the meeting.

There were no members of the press in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Councilor Mike McAlpine, seconded by Councilor Jackie Edwards, Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2023, regular meeting as presented.

PUBLIC ADDRESS

Mr. Blake Zobrist, 1355 Country Lane in Midway, read the following statement.

A year and a half ago I started to come to the town hall meetings to express my concern about speeding on the street in front of my house. For more than 8 months I contacted many depts of state and talked to many different depts of law enforcement. Collaborating with Davidson County sheriff's office I brought possible solutions to the town council to combat the speeding issue. Unfortunately, we have not seen any changes.

Since my first meeting I attended I have spoken with many fellow residents of Midway and Davidson County. I have informed anybody that wanted to talk about the topic about what I was trying to do. I learned speeding was not a problem in front of my house but a town wide problem. Through these conversations, people started to tell me about other issues. I soon learned the lack of police presence in our town was the problem.

The last time I spoke at a town meeting I brought that issue to the town council. I learned that only 8 sheriff deputies patrol the entire county at one time, and this has been that way since the mid 80's. No wonder we hardly see deputies in our town.

I was told by town council members that tax revenue barely covers our trash pickup. However, after reviewing the town budget for fiscal year 2023-2024, it shows almost two (2) million to fund the town park, but no increase in the budget for public safety. This budget line remains unchanged since fiscal year 2021-2022 with a total of \$80,000 budgeted towards public safety.

As a result, the prostitute still offers sexual acts around our local businesses and we recently had 2 armed robberies in our town, by a 17-year-old kid. Luckily, he did not meet a citizen that takes personal protection very seriously, but we came close to having blood on all our hands. We all know the lack of police presence is a problem and it is time we stopped blaming others and fixed it ourselves before it is too late.

So, I ask you, what are the priorities for our tax dollars?

Maybe we shouldn't focus so much time and taxpayer money only on making a park look nice and safe and focus instead on making the community nice and safe.

Finally, I ask again for community safety updates to be added to the monthly town agenda.

Richard Walburn, 232 Meadow Trail in Midway, asked the Council if there was any way to get DOT to put reflectors on the trailers out in front of the Town Hall. Mr. Walburn said it is a dangerous situation.

ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Councilor Robin Moon, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mike McAlpine, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

INAUGURATION AND ORGANIZATION OF TOWN COUNCIL

OATH OF OFFICE – MAYOR JOHN BYRUM

Former Mayor and Retired Navy Chaplain George Byrum administered the oath of office to Town Mayor John Byrum for a four-year term expiring in December 2027.

OATH OF OFFICE – TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Former Mayor and Retired Navy Chaplain George Byrum administered the oath of office to Councilors Mike McAlpine and Berkley Alcorn for four-year terms expiring in December 2027.

SEATING OF TOWN COUNCIL

Town Council was seated according to length of service.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM AND OATH OF OFFICE

According to N.C.G.S. 160A-70, a Mayor Pro Tem shall be elected by the Town Council and shall have all the power and authority of the Mayor during his absence or inability to perform the duties of his office.

Mayor Byrum called for nominations. Nominations do not need a second.

Councilor Keith Leonard nominated Mike McAlpine.

There being no further nominations, Mayor Byrum closed nominations.

On motion by Councilor Keith Leonard and seconded by Councilor Jackie Edwards, Council voted unanimously to elect Councilor Mike McAlpine as Mayor Pro Tem.

Former Mayor and Retired Navy Chaplain George Byrum administered the oath of office to Mayor Pro Tem Mike McAlpine.

REGULAR BUSINESS

PRESENTATION – AUDIT REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023 – EDDIE CARRICK, CPA, PC.

Auditor Tony Brewer of Eddie Carrick CPA, PC presented the audit report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. Mr. Brewer reported the Town received an “unqualified opinion.” An unqualified opinion is an independent auditor’s judgement that the Town’s financial statements are fairly and appropriately presented, without any identified exceptions, and in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

Mr. Brewer stated the audit report is a public document and pointed out that pages four to eleven (4-11) provide a narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Town of Midway for fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. Mr. Brewer stated these pages are written in layman's terms and encouraged readers to read the information presented in conjunction with additional information that has been furnished in the town's financial statements.

Financial Highlights

- The assets and deferred outflows of resources of the Town of Midway exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources at the close of the fiscal year by \$13,225,318 (*net position*).
- The government's total net position increased by \$2,821,098, due to increases in the governmental type activities net position.
- As of the close of the current fiscal year, the Town of Midway's governmental fund reported an ending fund balance of \$7,895,348 with a net increase of \$1,045,907 in fund balance. Approximately 20 percent of this total amount, or \$1,550,695, is restricted.
- At the end of the current fiscal year, unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was \$6,344,653, or 221 percent of the total General Fund expenditures for the fiscal year.
- The debt for the Town increased by \$15,858 due to a decrease in accrued vacation of \$1,499, and an increase in net pension liability of \$17,357.

Mr. Brewer referenced highlights from page 34 as follows:

- Ad valorem tax collections were down \$1,000.
- Grants were down by \$225,000.
- Local Option Sales Tax was up \$151,000.
- Interest Increase was up \$36,000.
- Expenses were up approximately \$1,100,000.
- Transfer from ARPA fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$1,600,000.
- Revenues were over expenditures of \$1,050,000 versus \$637,000 in 2022.

Mr. Brewer stated that most of the expenditures were consistent with the prior year with the exception for expenditures with the park. Park operation expenses increased to \$70,000. Park development expenditures increased by \$1,000,000 and the Town spent \$33,000 more on park equipment than in 2022.

Other highlights pointed out were as follows:

- Available Fund Balance on June 30, 2023 = 221% of General Fund expenditures compared to 217% in 2022.
- On June 30, 2023, the Town's cash and cash equivalents equaled about 7.7 million.
- Collection rate is still strong at 98.36% compared to the state average of 97%.
- The Town of Midway still boasts the lowest tax rate by law at .05.

Mr. Brewer reminded Council of the changes and requirements that were issued by the Local Government Commission (LGC) regarding response to the Independent Auditor's Findings, Recommendations, and Fiscal Matters. The LGC no longer issues unit letters notifying a governing body of deficiencies in an audit. Governing bodies are now required to submit responses to the LGC if it has determined by the auditor that there are areas of concern. No deficiencies were found in the audit for the Town of Midway for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

A complete copy of the Audit Report for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023 is on file at Town Hall and on the Town's website at www.midway-nc.gov for public inspection.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORTS

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Town Manager Tammy Michael provided Council with monthly financial reports for November 2023 as follows:

| NOVEMBER, 2023 | | |
|----------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Total Income | \$839,883 | 44.4% of overall budget |
| Total Expenses | \$486,559 | 15.5% of overall budget |

Ms. Michael stated that we are doing very well with our interest income, and it is continuing to grow.

TOWN PARK UPDATE

Town Manager Tammy Michael gave the following updates on the Town Park.

- Working with plumber to get booster pump for the bathrooms.
- Ready to launch reservation software on Town's website. Once link is added to the website, the software will be up and running.

Ms. Michael asked for approval from Council to proceed with launching the reservation software on the Town's website. It was the consensus of Council for staff to move forward with implementation of the reservation software program on the Town's website.

OTHER REPORTS

Town Manager Tammy Michael reminded Council that the Town Hall will be closed in observance for Christmas on Monday through Wednesday, December 25th - 27th. Town Hall will also be closed for New Year's on Monday January 1st.

The next Town Council meeting will be on Tuesday January 2, 2024.

Mayor Byrum said he spoke with DOT regarding the bridge construction on Gumtree Road and they informed him that they are ahead of schedule as far as having the bridge complete.

Mayor Byrum also wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

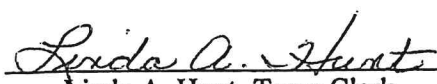
For information only

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilor Mike McAlpine, seconded by Councilor Keith Leonard, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.



John Byrum, Mayor



Linda A. Hunt, Town Clerk