

MINUTES OF MIDWAY TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 7, 2024, 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 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: John Byrum, Mike McAlpine, Keith Leonard, Jackie Edwards and Berkley Alcorn. Town Clerk Linda Hunt, Deputy Clerk Ree Goodson and Attorney Jim Lanik were present. Absent: Councilor Robin Moon

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 Jackie Edwards, seconded by Councilor Keith Leonard, Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2024 Special Meeting as presented.

On motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mike McAlpine, seconded by Councilor Jackie Edwards, Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2024 Vision Session Meeting as presented.

On motion by Councilor Keith Leonard, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mike McAlpine, Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2024 Regular Meeting as presented.

PUBLIC ADDRESS

Risa Jarman -141 Williams Meadow Lane Winston Salem. Ms. Jarman stated she is the Davidson County Blue Bird Coordinator. Ms. Jarman showed the Council two different examples of blue bird houses, one of which was constructed by craftsmen at Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group near Warrenton, N.C.

Ms. Jarman presented a flyer with information about blue birds and the houses that Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group builds. Ms. Jarman stated that with the beautiful park that Midway has she feels this would be a wonderful place to have blue bird houses.

Mayor John Byrum said that the Town Council has Vision Sessions each year and the blue bird houses could be on the agenda for the next Vision Session for discussion.

ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Councilor Jackie Edwards, seconded by Councilor Berkley Alcorn, Council voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

REGULAR BUSINESS

ALLIANCE CODE ENFORCEMENT – BRANDON EMORY

Brandon Emory stated he is a code enforcement contractor that owns and operates Alliance Code Enforcement. Mr. Emory said his company is based out of Winston Salem and is currently contracting with close to thirty municipalities throughout North Carolina to provide code enforcement and zoning administration services.

Mr. Emory stated he goes out and knocks on doors and speaks with individuals first rather than sending out a letter. Mr. Emory said this seems to be a quicker turnaround. He said he can work with people if they do not have the resources to get the things done so they are not in a code violation. He said he has resources that will help pay for or fix things that need to be done in special circumstances.

Mayor Byrum asked Mr. Emory if he would provide reports to Council in person or written. Mr. Emory stated he would be giving both and the reports would be on a monthly basis. Mr. Emory said one of his inspectors would check in with the Town staff to get the instructions on where the code violations are and where to begin first.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORTING OPERATION GREENLIGHT FOR ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS IN TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN LIFE (VETERAN STATUS) – RESOLUTION NO. 01-25

Operation Greenlight is a national collaborative initiative to support military veterans, as well as raise awareness about the unique challenges they may face. While studies show the vast majority of Americans support our veterans, too often that support is not seen or felt by service men and women. This support can be shown by lighting our buildings from November 4-11, 2024.

On motion by Councilor Jackie Edwards, seconded by Councilor Keith Leonard, Council voted unanimously to approve the Resolution in Supporting Operation Green Light for active Military Service Members in Transition to Civilian Life.– Resolution No. 01-25.

RESOLUTION 01-25

**SUPPORTING OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS
IN TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN LIFE (VETERAN STATUS)**

WHEREAS, the residents of the Town of Midway have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all of the men and women who have selflessly served their country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Midway seeks to honor these individuals who have paid the high price for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 700,000 veterans in the State of North Carolina, with over 9,000 of them being in Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, Veterans continue to serve their community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, church groups, civil service; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 20% increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44% to 72% of service members experience high levels of stress during the transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, Active Military Service Members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Midway appreciates the sacrifices our United State Military Personnel made while defending freedom and believes specific recognition be accorded them in appreciation of their service and to demonstrate the honor and support they have earned;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Military Service County, the Town of Midway hereby declares from November 4, 2024, through November 11, 2024, a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform transitioning from Active Service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, the Town of Midway encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those whose immeasurable sacrifices helped to preserve freedom by displaying a green light in a window of their place of business or residence.

Adopted this 7th day of October, 2024.

DUKE ENERGY – LIGHTING SERVICE AGREEMENT – HICKORY TREE/FRED SINK ROADS

At the Town Council's Vision Session meeting on Thursday, August 22, 2024 there was a discussion about the dark areas on Hickory Tree Road. Mayor Pro Tem Mike McAlpine said Interim Town Manager Hank Perkins has reached out to Peter Berrios who is a Lighting Engineer with Duke Energy.

Duke Energy cannot place poles in front of guard rails so there will be some areas that are missing lights on Hickory Tree Road. The wattage of the fixtures on the new installs on Old U.S. Hwy 52 adjacent to Hickory Tree Road has 150w LED on the existing poles. Duke Energy could use the same wattage for the new installations.

Town Attorney Jim Lanik has reviewed and approved the lighting service agreement with Duke Energy for additional lighting along Hickory Tree Road/ Fred Sink Road area.

On motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mike McAlpine, seconded by Councilor Berkley Alcorn, Council voted unanimously to approve the Duke Energy Lighting Service Agreement on Hickory Tree/Fred Sink Roads as presented.

POLICY PROHIBITING VIEWING PORNOGRAPHY ON TOWN NETWORKS AND DEVICES AND STORAGE OF PORNOGRAPHY ON THE TOWN'S DEVICES – TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Jim Lanik stated this is the policy he discussed at last month's Council meeting. This is a brand-new policy from state legislators and is something that is required for state and local governments and must be enacted by end of this year.

It was noted that the public does not have access to the Town's internet.

On motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mike McAlpine, seconded by Councilor Berkley Alcorn, Council voted unanimously to approve the Policy Prohibiting Viewing Pornography on Town Networks and Devices and storage of pornography on the Town's Devices as presented.

AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE A PROPOSAL AND CONTRACT WITH METROPOLIS ARCHITECTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A PLAN FOR OPERATIONS AND STORAGE CENTER FACILITY

Mayor Pro Tem Mike McAlpine stated the concept of construction of a new building for the park was discussed at the February 22, 2024 Vision Session. The building would be adjacent to the new parking lot and is needed for office space, bathrooms, and storage.

After discussing the size of building with Morton Buildings, it was determined that architectural services would be needed for the project. Mayor Pro Tem McAlpine said that Metropolis Architecture designed the Pavilion and Gazebo for the park and would seem to be a good fit for the project.

On motion by Councilor Jackie Edwards, seconded by Councilor Keith Leonard, Council voted to move forward with requesting a proposal from Metropolis Architecture as presented.

UPDATE ON NEW TOWN PARKING LOT – TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Jim Lanik advised he has spoken with Attorney Steve Smith concerning the contract with Thomas General Contractors for construction of the new parking lot. Mr. Smith represents Frank Thomas, owner of Thomas General Contractors. Mr. Smith advised that although Mr. Thomas really wants to help the Town with the new parking lot, he has some environmental concerns about doing so. Attorney Lanik seems to think that Mr. Thomas would like to figure out a way to help the Town but Mr. Thomas may have had environmental issues happen before and it just may not be worth it to him.

According to Mr. Smith, Mr. Thomas said he could be the project manager, but the Town would have to release him from any liability.

Mayor Pro Tem Mike McAlpine asked what the Town could do to expedite this process since the Town does not have a Town Manager right now. He said he would like to get something moving on this project.

Attorney Lanik stated that the level of the cost of the project does require a general contractor; however, formal bids are not required so that speeds up the process some.

Mayor Pro Tem McAlpine said the Town could start looking for another grading company that has its own general contractor.

Attorney Lanik stated there will probably need to be a total rebid for the project. The Town would need to get solid numbers from other general contractors. If other bids are received, the Town could have a special-called meeting to discuss the proposals.

Discussion only.

TOWN PARK CHRISTMAS EVENT

Mayor Pro Tem Mike McAlpine stated he would like the Town to have a Christmas tree lighting ceremony, and he would like to get the consensus of the Council about moving forward with this ceremony. Some ideas he has for decorations for the park are: lights on the fence, Christmas trees in Gazebo and Pavilion, and a couple of large wreaths for the Pavilion. He will check with Marty Marion to see what size wreaths he would recommend.

Mayor Pro Tem McAlpine said he was thinking about the night of the Christmas Parade or the weekend after the Christmas Parade for the ceremony and having coffee and refreshments for the ceremony.

On motion made by Councilor Keith Leonard, seconded by Councilor Berkley Alcorn, Council voted unanimously to move forward with the Town Park Christmas event as proposed.

CLINE'S FLOATS – CHRISTMAS PARADE – FLOAT SELECTION

Mayor John Byrum stated the Council needs to look over the Floats from Cline's Floats that Council has in their packets and decide which float the Council would like to ride on for Midway's Christmas Parade.

On motion by Councilor Keith Leonard, seconded by Councilor Berkley Alcorn, Council voted unanimously to choose Cline's Float number three (3) for the Christmas Parade.

CONTRACT RENEWAL – DAVID WILLIAM HEDGECOCK D/B/A DH CLEANING SERVICES – TOWN PARK

The contract for David William Hedgecock D/B/A DH Cleaning Services is up for renewal. The contract and proposal were sent to Town Attorney Jim Lanik for review. Mr. Lanik advised Council he made a couple changes to the renewal contract and a copy of the revised contract was provided to each Councilor for their review.

On motion by Council Keith Leonard, seconded by Councilor Berkley Alcorn, Council voted unanimously to approve the Contract Renewal for David William Hedgecock D/B/A D H Cleaning Services for one (1) year as presented.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORTS

TOWN PARK UPDATE

Mayor Pro Team Mike McAlpine stated there is a need for a table in the Gazebo. Park Superintendent Danny Mizell told him people who have made reservations for the Gazebo are having to bring their own tables and the park staff is helping take those tables to the Gazebo. Mr. Mizell thinks it would be much easier if the Town purchased a table for the Gazebo.

Deputy Clerk Ree Goodson stated the park seems to be running well. She stated there was one incident about someone wanting to have a slushie truck at their party. Ms. Goodson stated Interim Town Manager

Hank Perkins felt this would not be a good idea because of stain issues slushies could make and the lady was told it would not be allowed at the party.

Council Keith Leonard stated at the May 6, 2024 regular Council meeting Kevin Leonard came and spoke to the Council about getting a defibrillator for the Park.

Kevin Leonard is a former Midway Firefighter who is now with Davidson County Emergency Services. Mr. Leonard is a Midway resident and would like to help the Town obtain an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) for the Park.

It was the consensus of Council to have Kevin Leonard come to the November Regular Town Council meeting so that the Council can discuss this with him. Mayor John Byrum asked Deputy Clerk Ree Goodson to reach out to Mr. Leonard to see if he would be available to come to the Council meeting in November.

For Information Only.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Town Clerk Linda Hunt provided Council with monthly financial reports for September 2024 as follows:

September 2024		
Total Income	\$688,054	32.8% of overall budget
Total Expenses	\$256,996	7.2% of overall budget

For Information only.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

On motion by Mayor Pro Tem Mike McAlpine, seconded by Councilor Berkley Alcorn, Council voted unanimously to recess to closed session in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss matters relating to personnel.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

On motion by Councilor Berkley Alcorn, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mike McAlpine, Council voted unanimously to reconvene to open session.

ADJOURNMENT

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

John Byrum, Mayor

Ree Goodson, Deputy Clerk