

TOWN OF BROADWAY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES

MAY 22, 2023

A scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, May 22, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 103 N. Main Street, Broadway, North Carolina.

Board members present were Mayor Donald Andrews, Commissioners Tommy Beal, April Collins, Lynne Green, and Jim Paschal. Also, Town Counsel Jimmy Love, Town Manager John Godfrey, and Town Clerk Laura Duval were present. Commissioner Kelly was visiting family in Alabama and was unable to attend the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Andrews. Mayor Pro Tem Beal gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Andrews requested an addition to the agenda. Under New Business, Item F. Lee County Transportation Prioritization List will be added. Commissioner Paschal made the motion to accept the Agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Beal. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda – April Board Meeting Minutes and April financial statements. Commissioner Green made the motion to accept the consent agenda as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment – John McDonald, 107 East Harrington Avenue, Broadway, NC, voiced complaints to the Town Board. Mr. McDonald advised he has put up signs in his yard expressing his displeasure with BPD and various government officials. Mr. McDonald thinks the Town should have complaint forms to make formal complaints against police officers. He feels that he is a victim of racist hate crimes and is upset that the SBI and FBI have not been contacted. Mr. McDonald made references to the death of his wife and wants justice for her. He demanded that the FBI be contacted.

New Business – Town Manager Godfrey read his budget message for FY 2023-2024. There are challenges to ensure the Town continues to provide needed services to its citizens in public safety, maintenance of equipment and vehicles, upkeep of facilities, and public utilities. Costs for goods and services have increased across the board, and adjustments have been made for that.

Since a property revaluation was completed in 2023, the projected revenue neutral rate was calculated at \$.41 per \$100 valuation. In order to meet the 2023-2024 budget, there is a proposed \$.03 increase in the property tax rate. If approved, the tax rate will change to \$.44 per \$100 valuation. This change is necessary to maintain our

current level of services and provide a 5% COLA for Town employees. The increase will also cover the cost of employee benefits and contracted professional services. Since the Town struggles to match surrounding municipalities and counties in pay for law enforcement officers, Mr. Godfrey is requesting a \$3,000 increase in the starting salary, which will also effectively adjust the salaries of our current officers. This budget also addresses the purchase of new equipment for the police department, building maintenance projects needed, and increases in electrical utility rates

In the Water & Sewer Fund, the Town has moved to a CPI to adjust rates. The recommendation is for a 7% increase in water and sewer rates. Even with the increase, there are challenges ahead due to an aging WWTP, increasing costs of repair and maintenance for the plant as well as the lift stations and water system.

Total budget for General Fund	\$1,248,565
Total budget for Utility Fund	<u>\$ 467,829</u>
Total budget for all funds	\$1,716,394

Mayor Andrews opened the public hearing. No one spoke in favor of or against the proposed budget for 2023-2024. The Mayor closed the public hearing.

Mayor Andrews presented a budget amendment for adoption, which appropriates \$50,000 to Capital Outlay Police from General Fund. The Ford Interceptor is at end of life, so the police department is down to two vehicles. The Town has been working with the sheriff to find another vehicle. A Dodge Durango has been found with the vendor the county uses. The cost of the 2023 Dodge Durango plus upfit is \$50,000. The vehicle will be purchased for \$42,000 rather than financed due to the cost of interest. Dana Performance of Clinton will do the upfit for \$8,000. The Durango will be the Chief's vehicle. His current car will be placed in the patrol rotation. Commissioner Paschal made the motion to adopt the budget amendment appropriating \$50,000 for the purchase of a police vehicle. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Beal. Motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor presented a Resolution Requesting NCDOT to Consider a Speed Limit Reduction on S. Main Street. Mayor Andrews, Town Manager Godfrey, and Chief Gunter have been discussing ways to slow traffic on S. Main Street. The resolution requests a speed limit reduction study conducted by NCDOT from East Harrington Avenue to Thelma Sloan Drive. A speed limit reduction is requested from 35 mph to 25 mph through the downtown area. There is a lot of traffic in the evenings as well as pedestrians. Commissioner Green made the motion to adopt the NCDOT resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins. Motion carried unanimously.

A Resolution Ratifying, Accepting and Approving the Amended Charter Resolution of Central Pines Regional Council of Governments (formerly Triangle J Council of Governments) was presented for adoption. It is simply a name change. Mayor Pro Tem Beal made the motion to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Paschal. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Andrews advised the Lee County Transportation Committee has been meeting since pre-COVID and working on a list of aviation, bike and ped, and highway projects. Aviation projects pertain to Raleigh Exec Jetport, bike and ped includes the sidewalk from Stevens Drive to the NCVM, and highway projects are all across the County. The Mayor presented the Lee County Transportation Prioritization 6.0 Scores List for approval. It will also go before the County and the City for approval. Commissioner Green made the motion to approve the transportation prioritization 6.0 list. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins. Motion carried unanimously.

Manager's Report – Town Manager Godfrey reported he attended the SAGA All Boards Meeting with Broadway officials.

On May 4 Mr. Godfrey and staff met with Mayor Andrews for a budget session.

The budget work session was held on May 9 with Town officials.

Broadway PD attended and participated in Rapid Deployment/Active Shooter training at CCCC on May 12.

The Town Manager and Mayor met with Town Attorney Jimmy Love to discuss matters of public information requests and Town ordinances.

Mr. Godfrey attended the monthly Manager's Coffee meeting with city, county, and SAGA officials at the Raleigh Exec Jetport.

On May 19 Mayor Andrews, Public Works Director Craig Buchanan, and Town Manager Godfrey met with Withers-Ravenel Engineer, Steve Marks, in reference to a proposal for an engineering report as it relates to Prince Street.

Town staff continue to work hard and efficiently even in the midst of daily challenges. Mr. Godfrey is grateful for their contributions to our Town, and everyone works well together as a team.

Commissioner Comments – Commissioner Green offered her thanks to the Town Manager, Mayor, and staff for their work on the budget. She realizes it was very challenging and will continue to be challenging to meet it. Commissioner Green also mentioned she was disappointed in the lack of citizen interest regarding the proposed budget. She expressed the Town Board will back the staff as much as they can in carrying it out.

Mayor Pro Tem Beal has seen foxes on Beale Drive. There are two grown foxes and two little ones. With all the building taking place, animals are being forced to relocate. Other commissioners have seen geese, raccoons, coyotes, and groundhogs in Town. The Mayor Pro Tem stated leftover food should not be thrown outside to attract animals. Mr. Beal was advised that animal control will not catch wildlife unless the animals are rabid.

Commissioner Collins echoed Commissioner Green's comments. She appreciates all the hard work staff put into the upcoming fiscal year budget. Commissioner Collins realizes it is a very challenging task, and she appreciates all the time spent in preparation.

Mayor Comments – The Mayor advised there are vacancies on the Broadway Planning Board. One representative is needed from the Lee County ETJ (Sion Kelly Road, Bradley Road to address 6565, Broadway Road to Woodland Trails over to Longstreet and back to Berke Thomas Road, Dixie Farm Road over to Swann Station Road out to 421) and one representative is needed from the Harnett County ETJ (Seminole Road, Seminole Fields, and Green Acres). He plans to post the vacancies on the Town's Facebook page. He encouraged the Town Board to speak with people who may be interested in serving. Applications may be picked up at Town Hall for the planning board vacancies.

On June 1 the pre-bid meeting will be held for the EB-5870 sidewalk project from Mansfield Drive to Hollywood Pizza on South Main Street. Hopefully, the bid can be awarded at the June 26 Town Board meeting. The project should start three to four months after awarding the bid.

Mayor Andrews thanked the Town Manager, Finance Officer, and Town Clerk for their work on the proposed budget for 2023-2024. The budget is tight and still has challenges especially in the Water & Sewer Fund. Broadway is lagging behind compared to other municipalities its size. The increase according to the CPI was necessary. Cost of repairs to our system continue to outpace revenue.

Pipe continues to be added to the roadside for the road widening project. It sounds as though the project will still begin at Avents Ferry Road and work its way down to Broadway. Once the bid is awarded for the Broadway side, the project should begin in four to five months.

Commissioner Paschal mentioned how pretty the NC DAV Monument looks especially at night with the lights. Mayor Andrews remarked they are getting ready to put down the sod.

The Mayor announced the Memorial Day Service will be held at the NCVM Park at 10:00 a.m. on May 29.

Mayor Andrews entertained a motion to go into closed session per G.S.143-318(a)(3) to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body. Commissioner Paschal made the motion to go into closed session. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Beal. Motion carried unanimously.

After returning to regular session, there was no further business to come before the Town Board, Mayor Pro Tem Beal made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Paschal. Motion carried unanimously to adjourn.

Donald F. Andrews
Mayor

Laura K. Duval, Town Clerk