

February 14, 2022
Town Hall Meeting

1. The meeting started at 6:00 pm. Mayor Archie B. Hicks, Jr. was present along with the following Commissioners: Larry W. Adams, Neal Nichols, Edward G. Venable, Wanda S. Johnson. George W. Burns was unable to attend.
2. The January 10, 2022, minutes were approved as written.
3. The January 10, 2022, Executive Session minutes were approved as written.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT: Ben Peacock reported that the God & Country Committee is planning to have the parade on July 2, 2022, on Main Street. Craft and Food Vendors will be at the East Bend School grounds and the fireworks will be behind the Senior Center. They also need volunteers to help keep this going in the future. Ronnie Fletcher wanted to thank Gavin Brannon for working to keep the streets clear in the snow and Chief Shore for all of his work. Mr. Fletcher also thanked Lee Zachary for taking the time to come and talk to us.
5. Mayor Hicks welcomed Representative Lee Zachary and thanked him for coming to talk to us and for getting the town a \$150,000.00 grant for the East Bend Town Square. Mr. Zachary said that the park was looking good and that he was glad that he could help us. This coming term will be a short session and it will start in the middle of May and there should be some money for water and sewer, and he would be glad to help us in any way. Mr. Zachary will be running for the senate in the primary a new district that has been set up.
6. James Dunn from the Planning Board asked that a second person be appointed to do Zoning Permits if the Zoning Administrator is out of the office. Also, they would like to allow ten days to get the permit so that the board could look over the request if needed. Attorney Price stated that the Zoning Administrator already could appoint in writing for someone to be her back up and there is no action to be taken. If we put in a grace period that would require an amendment of the ordinance and require a public hearing. As the ordinance reads now, we could take as long as needed to issue the zoning permit or to give them an answer.
7. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to have a Conflict-of-Interest Policy for the board and staff to sign. Commissioner Venable seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
8. Karen Matthews explained about the Summer Literacy Program and what they did for the children that were at a low reading level. They have a reading camp starting June 22, 2022, for four weeks and serve up to 36 children. They receive some money from a Duke Grant but not enough to do all they need to do. Commissioner Venable made a motion to put this request in for the new budget year. Commissioner Nichols seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
9. Attorney Price explained about the Criminal Enforcement of Town Ordinances and the state law changes. This was tabled until next month.
10. Mayor Hicks explained about the SCIF Status, which is the \$150,000.00 money from the state grant. They have said we should receive it soon.
11. Chief Shore gave a police update. He also stated that Officer Mickey has started working nighttime as of Feb. 1, 2022.

12. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the bills and any that comes in until the next meeting. Commissioner Johnson seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
13. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Nichols seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
14. After coming out of Executive Session Commissioner Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nichols seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

March 14, 2022
Date

Archie B. Hicks, Jr.
Archie B. Hicks, Jr. Mayor

Vickie J. Matthews
Vickie J. Matthews, Town Clerk/Administrator