

October 12, 2020  
Town Hall Meeting

1. The meeting started at 6:00 pm at the East Bend Public Library due to COVID-19 and the size restrictions at Town Hall. Mayor Archie B. Hicks, Jr. was present along with the following Commissioners: Larry W. Adams, Neal Nichols, Mae Luffman and Wanda S. Johnson. George W. Burns was absent.
2. The September 14, 2020 minutes were approved as written.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT: Ben Peacock gave an update on the Solar Farm that someone is wanting to build off Smithtown Road. He said that Mrs. Peacock and a neighbor was attending a meeting in Yadkinville on Oct. 12, 2020 about the opposition to building a solar farm. They may vote on it tonight.
4. Janice Hicks gave a report on the Planning/Zoning meeting on Oct. 1, 2020. After working with the Shelton and Poindexter property the committee found a need for a section on subdivisions and they are now working on a draft for a subdivision and will keep the board informed. Commissioner Johnson wanted to thank Mrs. Hicks for all of her hard work. Mrs. Hicks also asked that the board consider getting Municipal Code to work on our Zoning Ordinances book to get it up to date so it would be easier to locate what someone was looking for.
5. Janice Hicks reported that the town received the NC PARTF Grant for \$200,000.00 and she gave a report on town expenditures of \$87,254, local fundraising is \$96,601.00 and in-kind donations is \$45,000.00. The total received/pledged is \$428,855.00 with the remaining funds needed of \$71,145.00 to cover the \$500,000.00 cost for the Town Square. Some of the grants that the committee has applied for you need a 501C-3. That is something that the committee may look into applying for.
6. Mayor Hicks stated that Tammy Taylor had retired, and Ben Kirby was taking over for her and that Mr. Kirby had come up and done a review on our water system and said that everything looked good and that the wells were in good condition and everything was well managed and well maintained.
7. Mayor Hicks talked with Darren Hennings after a letter was sent to Hennings Construction Company about their trucks being too heavy for the Salem Trail Road. Mr. Hennings said that he assumes no liability for the road and that his trucks are legal. The road is the problem. Mayor Hicks after looking at the road stated that the town in the long term may need to put in a better road.
8. Commissioner Luffman made a motion to do a budget amendment of \$33,631.00 for the Cares Grant. Commissioner Johnson seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
9. Mr. Ramirez at 208 East Main Street had asked if he could put in a sidewalk in front of his house. Mayor Hicks talked with Curtis Riggans from NC DOT and was told that the NCDOT policy is that NCDOT can issue an encroachment agreement to a municipality for a sidewalk but only when there have been drainage improvements to the roadway (i.e. curb and gutter). The reason is that a sidewalk alone becomes a maintenance issue for NCDOT because it creates drainage issues if there are no positive drainage improvements (i.e. curb & gutter) to control runoff water from the roadway. The

reason only municipalities can enter into an encroachment agreement for sidewalks is that municipalities are continuing entity, and the municipality owns and maintains all sidewalks. There is no continuity for the maintenance of the sidewalk by private individuals and sidewalks are defined as transportation systems (pedestrians); and the owner of transportation systems is responsible for the safety of the public. Therefore, individual property owners cannot install sidewalks just across their property frontage since sidewalks are considered a transportation system. So, Mr. Ramirez will not be able to put in a sidewalk.

10. Brandon Doub had expressed an interest in the Old Mill building. He checked into the price of moving it to his property and it would cost about \$80,000.00 to move it so Mr. Doub is not interested in it. He talked with Forsyth Preservation and Martha Canipe called Mayor Hicks and said that she would put a picture of the Old Mill on their Website and Facebook page to see if anyone was interested in it to move it or preserve it.
11. Chief Shore gave a police report. Everything is going well.
12. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve all bills and any that comes in until the next meeting. Commissioner Luffman seconded. The motion carried 4-0.
13. Commissioner Luffman made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nichols seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

Nov. 9, 2020  
Date

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

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