



**MINUTES  
TOWN OF STOKESDALE  
SPECIAL CALLED BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING  
8325 ANGEL PARDUE ROAD  
STOKESDALE, NC 27357  
May 5, 2022 AT 7:00 PM**

Member's present were: Mayor Mike Crawford, Mayor Pro-Tem Derek Foy, Council Members: Jimmy Landreth, Tim Jones, Finance and Budget Officer Kim Thacker, and Town Clerk Dale Martin. Absent: Councilman Jim Rigsbee

**1. Call To Order**

Mayor Mike Crawford called the meeting to order.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.**

Mayor Crawford led the Pledge of Allegiance and Councilman Tim Jones delivered the invocation.

**3. Review and Adopt the Agenda.**

Mayor Pro Tem Derek Foy requested item 5b be added to discuss the Schedule of Fees. Councilman Jones reminded Council that this is a special called meeting and only items listed on the agenda are permitted. Mayor Pro Tem Foy agreed.

Councilman Jimmy Landreth made a **Motion** to adopt the agenda as presented. Councilman Jones seconded the motion.

<b>Mayor Crawford</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mayor Pro Foy</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Landreth</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Councilman Jones</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Rigsbee</b>	<b>Aye</b>		

**Motion carried.**

**4. Citizen Comments.**

None presented.

**5. Review and Approve Resident's Letter from GFL regarding Solid Waste/Recycling Service.**

Councilman Jimmy Landreth made a **Motion** to approve the letter from GFL as written regarding the Solid Waste/Recycling Services. Councilman Jones seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy recommended that the letter be dated.

Councilman Landreth amended his motion to add a date to the letter. and Councilman Jones agreed to the amendment.

<b>Mayor Crawford</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mayor Pro Foy</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Landreth</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Councilman Jones</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Rigsbee</b>	<b>Aye</b>		

**Motion carried.**

**6. Discussion on 2022-2023 Annual Budget.**

Mayor Pro Tem Foy stated that he believes Council has all the issues ironed out and asked how Council would like to proceed with discussing the budget. Council did not want to go line item by line item again but opened it up for questions or discussion on a particular line item.

Mrs. Kim Thacker stated that she also feels good about the budget and noted changes to the contingency appropriations line item. She stated that we currently have a balanced budget and explained the minor adjustments made to accommodate a surplus in both the general fund and water fund.

Councilman Jones expressed a concern with having a narrow history when comparing line items. He was also concerned with the large property tax increase being imposed on Stokesdale residents this year and while we can't worry about a few dollars we need to be able to compare the budget to previous years.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy explained the change in line-item titles and the number of line items that was made a few years ago and noted some of the titles that were changed. He noted a change in some line items that were combined and the challenge they may pose in comparing line item to line item. He also noted the HVAC system expenditure that is included in this year's budget but may not be spent prior to June 30 but will be spent next year. That expenditure is not included in next year's budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy then noted that the Town received some Covid money which was spent on technology used here in the council chambers, he noted an increase in maintenance costs due to having to replace HVAC units in Town Hall. He noted that more units are on order and may not be spent out of the current year's budget. He noted that we have used past history and the current contracts we have in place to make this year's projections.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy acknowledged challenges in the past when it came to the Town's finances. He stated that he has full confidence that what we have now is accurate and noted the low number of budget amendments as evidence of that. He again stated that he feels good about the budget that the Council has put together.

Councilman Jones stated that he has looked at this several time and doesn't have any huge issues but is still nervous with our short budget history.

Councilman Landreth stated that he also feels good about the information we have put together. He noted that Council went line item by line item to come up with this budget.

Council then discussed the Engineer and Consulting line item at \$15,000 and the repairs and maintenance line item at \$35,000 in the water fund. Council felt that \$35,000 was sufficient for maintenance and repair but not comfortable with Engineering line item.

Council discussed the expenses included in the water line/meter installation/general repair category. It was then suggested that the title for water line/meter installation/general repair be changed to water general repairs.

Council discussed the amount needed for Engineering Services and \$20,000 was a comfortable number.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy made a **Motion** to decrease line item 13008 water line/meter installation/general repair line item to \$15,000 and increase line item 12003 Engineering and Infrastructure to \$35,000 and to change the name of water line/meter installation/general repair to Water General Repair.

Councilman Jones seconded the motion.

<b>Mayor Crawford</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Mayor Pro Foy</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Landreth</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Councilman Jones</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Rigsbee</b>	<b>Aye</b>		

**Motion carried.**

Mayor Pro Tem Foy then asked Mrs. Thacker to give the exact amount the Town will receive through the American Rescue Funds (ARP). Mrs. Thacker stated that the town received \$362,737.50 in July and a total \$725,479.00 will be received after the second distribution is sent out. Mayor Pro Tem Foy stated that these funds are to be used for specific uses such as sewer, water, or broadband infrastructure. He noted challenges by small towns that didn't have water or sewer but had this chunk of money but no way to spend it. The Federal Government implemented some changes to allow these funds to be spent on park improvements. He stated that he would like to use this money to make capital improvements in the town park. He recommended these funds be placed in the budget under capital improvements for the town park and how these funds are to be spent will be discussed by Council at a later time. He stated that these funds should be shown in the budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy stated that he could recommend in good faith that this full amount be spent on the park since we have the \$1.14 million dollars available to use from the other grant money received. He stated that we have a lot of citizens not on our water system and that all citizens would benefit from park improvements. It is rare that we have this much money that must be spent or sent back to federal government. The deadline to encumber these funds is December of 2024 and spent by December 2026.

Councilman Landreth asked if we have to spend the funds? He expressed concern that if something big were to happen with the water system for example and we needed to spend those funds on repairs. Mayor Pro Tem Foy stated that he could be wrong but believes these funds have to be spend on capital projects and could not be used for an emergency situation. Councilman Landreth wanted to clarify that we are not voting tonight to spend this money. It was stated that this is not a vote on spending this money but to simply get these funds in the budget.

Councilman Jones stated that he understands his enthusiasm about our park; however, our highest priority is the Town's water system and noted some ways these funds could be used to improve and expand the water system. He added that he would be ok with spending money on the park but would want a plan and a goal in place.

Councilman Jones mentioned a grant received by the Town to address some contaminated area in town but was not comfortable that it had been taken care of in the past. He suggested that this be looked at again and possibly placed on a future regular agenda for Council. Councilman Landreth stated that he would like to know if we still have a problem. Mayor Pro Tem Foy stated that this was well communicated in the past and that many may be hearing this for the first time.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy again stated that he would like to see the Town spend the ARP funds on the town park and the \$1.1 grant money on the water system. Several Council members wanted to have a wish list and a plan in place on how these funds would be spent. It was noted that the town needs a capital improvement plan for the Town in addition to the one done by Hazen and Sawyer for the water system.

Mayor Pro Tem Foy made a **Motion** to include the \$362,737.50 American Rescue Plan funds in the budget, s separate line item for ARP grant funds, to increase park investment by that amount to stay in balance.

He suggested the Town explore the best ways this money could be spent.

Councilman Jones seconded the motion.

<b>Mayor Crawford</b>	<b>Aye</b>		<b>Mayor Pro Foy</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Landreth</b>	<b>Aye</b>		<b>Councilman Jones</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Rigsbee</b>	<b>Aye</b>			

**Motion** by Councilman Jones to amend the budget message to include a limited services government and a council-mayor form of government, not manager-council form of government, to add that citizens are served by the Town of Stokesdale Fire Department. He added a statement that the Town of Stokesdale has not received sales tax money since (staff to fill in year).

Mayor Pro Tem Foy seconded the motion.

<b>Mayor Crawford</b>	<b>Aye</b>		<b>Mayor Pro Foy</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Landreth</b>	<b>Aye</b>		<b>Councilman Jones</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Rigsbee</b>	<b>Aye</b>			

**Motion carried.**

Mrs. Thacker asked if Council would consider noting the ARP funds in the budget message. By consensus it was agreed to include in the message.

**7. Citizen Comments.**

**Council Comments:**

Mayor Pro Tem Foy wished everyone a great weekend and a Happy Mother's Day.

Councilmember Landreth reminded everyone of the importance of an upcoming vote on sales tax and bonds.

Councilman Jones expressed appreciation for all mothers and wished them a Happy Mother's Day and thanked the one citizen for staying at the meeting.

Mayor Crawford also wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day wished the Town's Deputy Clerk Robin Yount well as she leaves employment with the Town.

**8. Adjournment.**

Councilman Jones made a **Motion** to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Landreth seconded the motion.

<b>Mayor Crawford</b>	<b>Aye</b>		<b>Mayor Pro Foy</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Landreth</b>	<b>Aye</b>		<b>Councilman Jones</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Councilman Rigsbee</b>	<b>Aye</b>			

**Motion carried.**

Being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Approved: Approved February 2, 2023.

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Michael E. Crawford, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Dale F. Martin, Town Clerk

