

**MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 2, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Ron Niland, Commissioners Jon Cawley, Tom Koch, Marie Wood and Steve Yokeley

Mayor Niland welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. He recognized Michael Young. Mr. Young will be setting up in Walmart's parking lot this weekend and every afternoon next week to collect donations for those affected by Hurricane Ida.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

On motion by Commissioner Wood, the agenda was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

On motion by Commissioner Koch and passed unanimously, the following items were approved by way of the consent agenda:

- **APPROVAL OF AUGUST 19, 2021 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:** _____
- **RESOLUTION 2022-012-MAKING LIBRARY BOARD REAPPOINTMENTS:** _____

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2022-012

RESOLUTION MAKING LIBRARY BOARD REAPPOINTMENTS

WHEREAS, four members of the Library Board's appointments have expired; and

WHEREAS, Steve Scott, Becky Keesler, and Jane Tesh have expressed interest in being reappointed and Marie Caesar has elected not to seek reappointment; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that Steve Scott, Becky Keesler, and Jane Tesh be reappointed to the Library Board for another three-year term; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that Cathy Akers be appointed to the Library Board for a three-year term:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING IN OPEN SESSION THAT:

- Section 1. Steve Scott is hereby reappointed to the Library Board for another three-year term expiring July 31, 2024.
- Section 2. Becky Keesler is hereby reappointed to the Library Board for another three-year term expiring July 31, 2024.

Section 3. Jane Tesh is hereby reappointed to the Library Board for another three-year term expiring July 31, 2024.

Section 4. Cathy Akers is hereby appointed to the Library Board for a three-year term expiring July 31, 2024.

Section 5. This resolution shall become effective upon approval.

Approved and adopted this the 2nd day of September, 2021.

(end of consent agenda)

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

a) Commissioner at-Large Candidate Speeches:

Mayor Niland welcomed all candidates to come to the podium to speak with a 10 minute time limit. All five candidates were present and spoke to the Mayor, Board of Commissioners, and audience as to why they should be considered to fill the vacant Commissioner At Large seat formerly occupied by Mayor Ron Niland. Those who spoke were: Mark Brown, Len Fawcett, Teresa Lewis, John Pritchard, and Joseph Zalescik.

Mayor Pro Tem Wood made a motion to place the decision on appointing someone to the vacant Commissioner at-Large seat on the next board meeting agenda (September 16, 2021) and it was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Mayor Niland declared the public forum open for comments. There were no speakers; therefore, Mayor Niland declared the public forum closed.

NEW BUSINESS:

a) Resolution 2022-013-Authorizing City Staff to Advertise Bidding for Willow Street Infrastructure:

Commissioner Yokeley made a motion to approve resolution 2022-013 and it was approved unanimously:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2022-013

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING STAFF TO ADVERTISE BIDS FOR WILLOW STREET INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City of Mount Airy Board of Commissioners has determined the City of Mount Airy advertise for bids for the Willow Street Infrastructure Project; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners desires to authorize City Staff to advertise for bids for said project:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF MOUNT AIRY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING IN OPEN SESSION THAT:

Section 1. The Board of Commissioners does hereby authorize City Staff to advertise for bids for the Willow Street Infrastructure Project.

Section 2. This resolution shall become effective upon approval.

Approved and adopted this the 2nd day of September, 2021.

b) Vision Committee Recommendation Report:

Barbara Jones and staff reviewed the priorities listed during the Vision Committee Roundtable Session and tallied the top three priorities:

1. Update and implement Master Plans to include Downtown (4 out of 5)
2. Create and implement Upper Floor Residential Grant Program (3 out of 5)
3. Four way tie:
 - a. Farmers Market (2 out of 5)
 - b. Franklin Street Parking Lot Improvements (2 out of 5)
 - c. Wayfinding Signage and Gateways (2 out of 5)
 - d. Optimize Housing/Real Estate (2 out of 5)

The City Manager's recommendation for implementation is as follows:

1. Develop a request for proposals for an Updated Master Plan-

The existing Benchmark Contract includes the update of our Comprehensive Plan. If we do something different, we should develop a request for proposals.

How to fund: General Fund

2. Create and implement Upper Floor Residential Grant Program-

Board to appoint a committee to work with staff and evaluate elements necessary to be eligible for a Grant. Will also work with the School of Government on necessary documents to properly account for grant dollars.

3. Farmers Market-Estimated cost of \$250,000

How to fund: ARP dollars

Franklin/Willow Street Parking Lot improvements-Estimated cost of \$1,000,000

How to fund: To be determined

Wayfinding Signage/Gateways-

How to fund: Work with TDA for implementation

Optimize Housing/Real Estate-

Board to appoint a City Economic Development Committee to work with City Staff and SCEDP to develop a plan of action.

REMARKS BY OFFICIALS:

Commissioner Yokeley: Thanked the five candidates who spoke tonight. Good luck to all five candidates and he hopes all will run in the 2022 election.

Commissioner Wood: Went to Raleigh to advocate for the extension of the historic tax credits. Spoke with several representatives who were very positive and polite.

Commissioner Cawley: Appreciates the candidates who applied for Commissioner at-Large and feels comfortable with working with any one of the five. Great to live in a city where people want to visit.

Commissioner Koch: Thanked the candidates who applied for the Commissioner at-Large seat. Asked everyone to keep those involved with the tragedy that occurred at Mount Tabor High School in their prayers as well as those affected by Hurricane Ida. Commended Michael Young on his efforts to collect donations for those affected by the hurricane. Thankful to be living in Mount Airy.

Barbara Jones: Informed the Board that she and staff will be implementing a Vehicle Take Home Program at the Police Department. Criteria for this program is the Officers must be working with the City for at least one year; officers must live within a 25-mile radius. She feels this will also help with recruitment and be more competitive.

Chief Watson stated there will be costs associated with doing this, but the vehicles will last longer. Most of the officers live within a 12-mile radius.

Commissioner Koch would like to see estimated costs over the next 10 years.

Hugh Campbell: No comments.

Mayor Niland: Thanked the candidates who applied for the vacant Commissioner at-Large seat.

CLOSED SESSION:

Commissioner Koch made a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) Economic Development with the addition of NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel and it was approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

Commissioner Koch made a motion to enter back into open session and it was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Yokeley made a motion to adjourn and it was approved unanimously.

Approved and adopted this the 7th day of October, 2021.

Ronald M. Niland, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa N. Brame, City Clerk