
MAYOR:
KIM E. WILEY



COUNCIL:
DWANDA BOLDEN
ALFONIA "AL" GREEN
JOE N. HADWIN, JR.
TAMMY SOLOMON

Town of Estill
Council Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2024

The Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor K. Wiley at 6:00 pm.

Invocation

Mayor K. Wiley requested, "A Moment of Silence."

Present

Mayor K. Wiley, Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon, Councilman J. Hadwin, Councilman A. Green, Town Administrator T. Cooks, Clerk Treasurer E. O'Banner and Attorney K. Davis,

Absent: Councilwoman D. Bolden.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Council stands and recites the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve December 13, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes

Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to approve December 13, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes. Mayor K. Wiley recognized Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon. The motion was offered by Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon; with a second by Councilman A. Green. The council voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Approve December 28, 2023, Special Called Council Meeting Minutes

Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to approve December 28, 2023, Council Meeting Minutes. Mayor K. Wiley recognized Councilman A. Green. The motion was offered by Councilman A. Green; with a second by Councilman J. Hadwin. The council voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Approve January 10, 2024, Council Meeting Agenda

Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to approve January 10, 2024, Council Meeting Agenda. Mayor K. Wiley recognized Councilman J. Hadwin. The motion was offered by Councilman J. Hadwin; with a second by Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon. The council voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Old Business

2nd Reading of Ordinance 2023-11-Lease of Sprayfield Property with SC Solar Energy, Inc.

Councilman J. Hadwin asked when is the anticipated start date for construction? A representative from SC Solar Energy William Wilson stated June 1st is the preliminary date.

Councilman J. Hadwin asked how many employees they are looking to utilize parttime and how many permanent positions will be created for this project. William Wilson stated the temporary positions to start the process will be twenty and the permanent positions as it stands today will be five. Councilman J. Hadwin asked when do they anticipate completion of the project and when will permanent positions start? William Wilson stated he has seen it take up to 12 months to 20 months depending on many variables. The full-time positions will more than likely be about 12 months out. Mayor K. Wiley asked what are the qualifications for potential employees? The representative stated they will look for anyone who has general labor experience. Anyone on the professional side who has an electrical license. Councilman A. Green asked the representative did we have a preliminary approval from Dominion? Mr. Wilson stated we did have approval for the project to move forward. Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to approve 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2023-11-Lease of Sprayfield Property with SC Solar Energy, Inc. Mayor K. Wiley recognized Councilman J. Hadwin. The motion was offered by Councilman J. Hadwin; with a second by Councilman A. Green. The council voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

New Business

A. Department Reports

Police Report- Chief Solomon- Taken as info only. Mr. Bryant Brown came to answer any questions from Council. Mr. Bryant Brown stated about two years ago he was asked to come do a study on the existing building for the police department. About 10 months ago an RFQ was submitted. He stated the building the police department is occupying has code issues and ADA issues that need to be addressed. He stated there are safety issues as well as the need to separate staff and protect the public. Mr. Brown stated, the new police department will be around 4,500 square feet right next to the existing Town Hall Building. Mr. Brown stated there would be an open Bull Pen for officers to work in, a training room, and an area in the back for prisoners to be interviewed. There will be an area for staff to come and switch shifts where there are showers, and restrooms. Chief Solomon addressed the issue within the town with stray dogs. They have been trying to produce solutions to fix the issue, since the alternative to call Hampton County and take them to the pound is not an option, because they do not have an officer. Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon thanked the department for their efforts over the holiday season. Dr. Cooks stated they have reached out to Jasper County to get their assistance with stray animals. She stated Hampton County will store the animals at a cost, but we must find someone who will catch the animals. Mayor Wiley asked if we have thought about getting with the County to see if we can compensate them to cover our area. Dr. Cooks stated the County is in limbo with the Sheriff's department at this time. Dr. Cooks stated the issue is getting worse. Mayor Wiley stated we will have to cover the costs for a truck, and insurance.

Safety and Recreation Report- Documents Only - Read by Mrs. O'Banner - Taken as info only.

Fire Department Report- Chief Toone- Taken as info only.

Public Works, Water & Wastewater Report- Mr. Hamilton- Taken as info only. Mr. Hamilton stated on January 17, 2024, in Bamberg is a preconstruction meeting for the sidewalk from Parrish Greene up to Nixville Road to Railroad Ave. Mayor K. Wiley thanked Mr. Hamilton for their hard work. Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon also thanked Mr. Hamilton for their hard work during the holiday season. Councilman J. Hadwin thanked Mr. Hamilton for their hard work last month.

Administration Report & Safety and Recreation- Ms. Cooks- Taken as info only.

- Dr. Cooks stated she would like to propose March Madness for Council members. It is a 4-day planning session to review the budget, look at project initiatives, and procedure revisions. She would like to do it sometime in March as a retreat if the Council is interested once they get an official cost.
- Budget revisions are taking place to get revenue in as far as with the police department and a few other changes that were made.
- Dr. Cooks thanked Miriam Burgess from the Beautification committee that helped put up decorations for the Christmas holiday.
- Attorney Davis helped draft a letter so that now the Town of Estill will be the receiver of USDA funding. They will be applying for the Bull Durham as well as for updates to the Town Hall. The grants are 25/75 split, and it is usually less competitive. It will help with police cars, radios for the fire department, and upgrades.
- Dr. Cooks stated there is a citizen interested in conducting a Black History program for the Town of Estill and would like to use the Bull Durham at no cost. The event will be free to the public and will have different skits that will last about an hour and a half. Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to approve a Black History Program to be held during the month of February for 1.5 hours at no cost at the Bull Durham. Mayor K. Wiley recognized Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon. The motion was offered by Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon; with a second by Councilman J. Hadwin. The council voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.
- Dr. Cooks stated a citizen is interested in doing a food truck festival on March 9, 2024, from 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm.

B. December 2023 Income Statement

Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to approve December 2023 Income Statement as Information Only. Mayor K. Wiley recognized Councilman A. Green. The motion was offered by Councilman A. Green; with a second by Councilman J. Hadwin. The council voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

C. Public Comment

Teresa Grimes - Ms. Grimes directed her comments to Council. Ms. Grimes congratulated the Police Department on a 20% plus reduction in crime. Ms. Grimes encouraged everyone who is voting for the new police department to not focus on the

current population or reduction in crime, but to think bigger. Ms. Grimes stated, in reference to FOIA, she wants to formally request the minutes for the town meetings. Ms. Grimes wants to be aware of the voting's that happens after the executive sessions. Ms. Grimes is requesting the public be given information on what has been happening over the last 6 months on votes and projects that are taking place.

Eric Grimes - Mr. Grimes directed his comments to the Council. Mr. Grimes thanked everyone for all they did. Mr. Grimes thanked Dr. Cooks for all she did. He congratulated the Town of Estill for their efforts. He stated the reduction in crime speaks volumes. Mr. Grimes thanked Public Works for their efforts. Mr. Grimes stated in the future they want to start a project that is twenty acres, they want to divide into six parcels for six development opportunities. They would like to do real housing, commercial industries, and bring development onto 321. Two of the parcels is the 20,000 square feet warehouse they own which will be a sort of joint project that will bring in around 50-100 jobs to the area. Mr. Grimes stated with Council approval they are looking to bring this idea into fruition this year.

Mayor Exited Regular Session and Entered Executive Session at 7:20 pm

Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to exit regular session and enter into executive session for a discussion related to i. Personnel: Personnel Matter Concerning Clerk of Council regarding salary clarification. ii. Contract: Contract of Sale of New Police Department. iii. Legal: None. Mayor K. Wiley recognized Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon. The motion was offered by Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon; with a second by Councilman J. Hadwin. The council voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Mayor Exited Executive Session and Entered Regular Session at 7:35 pm

Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to exit regular session and enter into executive session for a discussion related to i. Personnel: Personnel Matter Concerning Clerk of Council regarding salary clarification. ii. Contract: Contract of Sale of New Police Department. iii. Legal: None. Mayor K. Wiley recognized Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon. The motion was offered by Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon; with a second by Councilman A. Green. The council voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Personnel: Personnel Matter Concerning Clerk of Council regarding salary clarification.

Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to approve the Personnel Matter Concerning Clerk of Council regarding salary clarification. Mayor K. Wiley recognized Councilman A. Green. The motion was offered by Councilman A. Green; with a second by Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon. The council voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Contract: Contract of Sale of New Police Department.

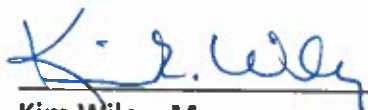
Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to approve the Contract of Sale for the New Police Department for the amount discussed in Executive Session. Mayor K. Wiley recognized Councilman A. Green. The motion was offered by Councilman A. Green; with a second by Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon. The council voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Adjourn

Mayor K. Wiley asked for a motion to adjourn. Mayor K. Wiley recognized Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon. The motion was offered by Mayor Pro-Tem T. Solomon; with a second by Councilman J. Hadwin. The council Voted 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Mayor K. Wiley adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm.

ADOPTED this 10th Day of January

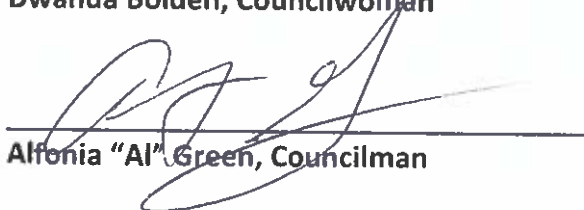


Kim Wiley, Mayor



Tammy Solomon, Mayor Pro Tem

Dwanda Bolden, Councilwoman



Alfonia "Al" Green, Councilman



Joe Hadwin Jr., Councilman

ATTEST:



Edna O'Banner, Clerk Treasurer