

MILTON NORTH CAROLINA TOWN HALL/TDH

TUESDAY: August 10, 2021----7:00 PM. Minutes

Town Hall Hours: Tuesdays 9:00 am.-5:00 pm.

Thursdays- 4:00 pm.-7:00 pm. Payments Only

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Patricia Williams called meeting to order at 7:00 pm

This meeting is being recorded and I (Mayor Patricia Williams) would like to remind you for **Public Comments** please call Town Hall at 336-234-0030 by 2:00 p.m. on the Tuesday the day of the Town Meeting and leave your name, address, and your reason for Public Comments.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

- **Mayor Patricia Williams** asked everyone to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Mayor Patricia Williams, Shirley Wilson, Town Clerk, Sharon Williams, Finance Officer, Commissioner Cathia Stewart, Commissioner Lisa Brandon, Commissioner Valerie Sottile, **Zoom:** Commissioner John Wallace Jr.

ABSENT:

APPROVALS: **Mayor Patricia Williams** called for approval of the: **August 10, 2021**, Agenda. **Commissioner Cathia Stewart** made a change under Council Members Report to the agenda inserting EDC report for **August 09, 2021**, will be presented by Milton's Town Clerk Shirley Wilson. Mayor Patricia Williams stated she had several additions: First under **New Business:** Planning Board Attendance Policy, Planning Board Contact Information, Resolution in support of Dr. Pamela Senegal, Resolution for the Town of Milton accepting the American Rescue Plan Act Funds. It was motioned to approve the agenda with the changes for **August 10, 2021**, by **Commissioner Valerie Sottile**. Second by **Commissioner Lisa Brandon**. All members were in favor. **Mayor Patricia Williams** asked for the approval of the **July 13, 2021**, Minutes. **Commissioner Lisa Brandon** motioned to approve the **July 13, 2021, minutes as they stand**, second by **Commissioner Valerie Sottile**. All members were in favor of the approval of the agenda with changes and Minutes as they stand by stating (I).

- **MAYORS REPORT: Mayor Patricia Williams**
- **Update on Milton Post Office:** The Milton Post Office update: There is a good possibility the prefabricated Modular Post Office will be ordered in the next 2 to 3 weeks. USPS is waiting on the final Design changes. Due to COVID many manufacturing plants throughout the world shut down. This has caused a tremendous wait time for parts. The final completion date of September 28, 2021 has not changed yet.
- **High Street Baptist Church Crosswalk Update:** the North Carolina Department of Transportation has met with members of the High Street Baptist Church to get permission for them to sign off, all paperwork was signed, and the Crosswalk Project is still moving forward.
- **The 25 M.P.H. Speed Limit Signs Project:** for Holder Street and Palmers Alley have been installed.
- **No contact has been made concerning the Verizon cell tower**

- **The American Rescue Plan Federal monies have been disbursed. The first allotment was disbursed in the Town of Milton's General Funds account on August 05, 2021.** There are strict guidelines and restrictions that must be followed with the monies and the Commissioners will be meeting to discuss the guidelines and restrictions at the September 14, 2021, Town Meeting.
- **Mayor Patricia Williams recognized the Milton Planning Board** who have worked so diligently with the Milton Town Ordinances. Everyone on the board has dug in to get the work done. Compliance with the North Carolina General Statute 160D which will be an ongoing research project that will take time. Many thanks to the Planning Board made up of volunteers.
- **Thanks to the TDH Board members for the spectacular clean-up on Friday and Saturday August 6-7, 2021.**
- **Commissioner Valerie Sottile and I (Patricia Williams) met with Dan Pleasant, Bryan Bradner, and Leslie Mantiply on today August 10, 2021, from Dewberry. Mayor Pro-Tem Lisa Brandon was unable to attend.** Topic of discussion was a creation of a preliminary engineering report on the Infrastructure for the Town of Milton. This report will give details of old infrastructure that needs to be replaced in the town there is no cost to Milton at this time.

STAFF REPORTS: Finance Officer Sharon Williams was absent: **Mayor Patricia Williams** asked if everyone would look over and if there are any questions **Commissioner John Wallace** will answer. **Commissioner Valerie Sottile** asked about the **Dues and Permits** we already spent 80% of the Budget. **Mayor Patricia Williams** stated **7809-line** item. **Explained by John Wallace (North Carolina League of Municipality and School of Government).** **Water Sewer- Commissioner Valerie Sottile** asked about the **Repair and Maintenance, (Custom Control Troubleshoot Plant Computer)** **Commissioner John Wallace (\$1260.00 diagnostic charge) (explained) Got an Invoice for that. It has been paid. Computer System at the Plant. \$5000.00 mark to get repaired. We will have to get Council approval on that. We will get the paperwork. Reviewed Bank Reconciliation and Bank Statements.**

Shirley Wilson reported on the new Webpage: Explained. Mayor Foster and Kamara Graves stated that there are two dead links. They are trying to get **Small Town Soul** back for another staff training. **Milton's Page** is up and running and we have one set of **Agenda and Minutes** uploaded. **Shirley will upload all Agendas and Minutes from January 2021- August 2021.** **Shirley Wilson** will attend the session as soon as she is notified.

Mayor Patricia Williams: One Time Relief Application: One time Relief from the Studio behind the State Bank. A letter was written about the running of a toilet when the grit and muddy water clogged the flush valve in the toilet. The grit was collected when they had a big water leak at the meter. The water was turned off for a period and during that period the water was not running therefore grit had accumulated in the flush valve of the toilet and when the toilet was flushed the water continued to run. When it came up that they had a large water bill at that time they wanted the town to be held responsible for that grit in their water vein. **Mayor Patricia Williams** told them about the **One Time Water Relief Application and Water Relief Policy.** **I (Mayor Patricia Williams)** place them in their hands, so they are aware of it. Their question was why this property should have a onetime relief when there are two different buildings on the one meter. They feel it is the town's fault that the grit got into the valve. **I (Mayor Patricia Williams)** contacted the property owner and the two renters to let them know about the one-time relief. They filled the application out and signed for the relief. The extra water amount 6600 gallons over and cost is \$231.00 usually \$68.00. Need to discuss with all the Commissioners. **Commissioners Lisa Brandon** stated per building. The limit is \$750.00. (Discussion: It is one meter.) Following our Policy its **states per property** and if we need to change the policy we need to discuss. **Commissioners Valerie Sottile**

stated per property. Commissioner John Wallace stated the relief policy is more than fair, the property is defined by the water meter and if you have four satellites connected it is one entity and they may want to wait until they have something more serious. Commissioners Cathia Stewart sometimes you can make an exception. The policy does not make exceptions. We must follow the policy. Do we want to accept this application? We can look back at this policy later. I (Mayor Patricia Williams will refer with the resident and explain what was discussed and we must follow the policy.

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner John Wallace the update on Privatizing the Milton Water/Sewer System. Sharon Williams and I (**Commissioner John Wallace**) met with a prospective purchaser since the last meeting. Enviro Link and they came and made a presentation at the Town Hall. They seem */to be interested and will be back with a proposal. We must get three appraisals and they take the average of the three. We must pay for one; the company that is interested pay one and the State pay for the third one, which comes under the Utilities Commission because the State has something to say about the rates.

Mayor Patricia Williams: Compensation for scanning and typing of the Town Ordinances

Mayor Patricia Williams stated that at the last meeting we talked about **Tracy Blaine** scanning and placing the Ordinances on the computers and letterhead and as a Planning Board Member she has spent hours updating Ordinances. We talked about compensation, and I (**Mayor Patricia Williams**) would like discussion on the compensation. We do a Budget Line Item for donations of \$400.00. Sharon Williams and I (**Mayor Patricia Williams**) talked about this, and we don't think we would want to deplete this line item 8600 in the General Fund. Commissioner Valerie Sottile said to not use the whole amount, but maybe \$100.00 or \$200.00. Commissioner John Wallace stated this must be a brand-new Line Item because he had not seen that one before. Mayor Patricia stated yes, it is new. Commissioner John stated do not use the whole amount agree to \$100.00 or \$200.00; Commissioner Cathia Stewart stated \$100.00; Commissioner Lisa Brandon agreed with \$100.00. **Mayor Patricia Williams called for a motion.** It was motioned by Lisa Brandon to compensate Tracy Blaine \$100.00 for scanning and typing the Town's Ordinances and a second by Commissioner Cathia Stewart. All in favor was unanimous.

Mayor Patricia Williams: Suggestions for making Business Row Safe: last month Commissioner Lisa Brandon talked to business owners about their suggestions on what could make business row safer. I (**Mayor Patricia Williams**) visited down there and one of the business owners wants to see steps coming out from between their shop and the next shop because they load and unload large items. (Antique and Vintage Shops) that could be shared between them. Explained Cost. They liked the idea of the rails at Presbyterian Church. Discussed (Color of Décor).

Roxanne Palmer: Discussing the residents' comments about the **Green Space. Explained other places have walking trails. Community Project: Grants** available one is the **Arbor Foundation** and there is a potential for Milton to get this if they would move forward. Explained 80% Cost to Maintain is \$75.00 per acre per year. (Double or triple this because this price was a long time ago.) One phone call to **Mayor Patricia Williams: concerned about raising taxes (No)** Another comment was if the town is going to contribute monies to the Green Space why not contribute to the Mural that looks so bad and unfinished.

Roxanne Palmer: Stated she could follow up a little bit on the Mural, it was not finished and had been paid. Has been contacted multiple times. Talked to someone in town about possibly getting someone from Averitt College to complete the mural. (Explained about Art teachers, Students that need extra credit) **Mayor Patricia Williams stated:** Where are the monies coming from is the Town's biggest concern? Roxanne stated she was not going to push this a lot as far as monies and grants are concerned and spend

weeks and months if the town does not give us permission and agree that we can use the alley ways and the streets. **Mayor Patricia Williams:** stated to **Roxanne** that this had already been voted on month before. You have the Town's agreement the funding was the issue without knowing how much the project was going to cost. Commissioner John Wallace made a suggestion to donate or contribute and you had a citizen or someone that would contribute \$250.00 if the Town would match it. That would be a starting point. Roxanne (Example: a family may want to donate a bench **In Memory Of**) Discussion **Mayor Patricia Williams:** We as a Town are in so much debt that we cannot say we will take on a grant that is 80-20 because we don't have the funding for that. If you are looking at raising monies, we can talk to the Commissioners right now about matching that citizens contribution of \$250.00. That would give you a starting point. (Examples) this would show that the Town is supporting you, but we can't take on the cost of it. Roxanne: Surveyor needs to be called an Engineer, things need to be done before we actually get a backhoe in there and figure out how wide we want this. Do we want asphalt, mulch, or ground up tires? We need money to get started and there might be something where the town can get reimbursed. I (**Roxanne**) just don't know if we can move forward. We can get our committee formalized, encourage more people to join with more ideas. **Commissioner Cathia Stewart** asked the question: If you walk this trail will you have to cross the street? Roxanne stated no. (Explained Phase I) It will be advantageous once the Post Office is finished. **Commissioner Cathia Stewart** (Will it affect anybody's home?) **Roxanne** (Yes) Crop Street edges people's houses and we have to get an attorney to alert these people about what's going on. **Commissioner Cathia Stewart** (Will you contact these residents?) (**Roxanne**) I've already investigated this as step one. Who owns the property? Milton owns the property. Crop Street is owned by Milton. They own it but do not maintain it. **Commissioner Lisa Brandon** (How far down Liberty will you go?) (Are people going to be parking in front of our houses?) This my concern. Milton already has limited parking. **Roxanne** (As far as I know Milton owns Liberty Street) **Cynthia Royster:** Going back to what **Commissioner Cathia** stated about crossing the street on the Bridge Street end up to Aunt Millie's there is no place to go, sidewalk wise, so you will have to use the street to get up to Commercial Row or cross the street. No sidewalk on that side either. **Roxanne** stated that one of the grants is up to \$25000.00 and we can ask for as much as we need. So, I'm thinking we can put in a sidewalk. This is an early planning stage, and these are good questions. If we get the money, we can make it as nice as we want it. People that have done this before advised me to ask for top dollar. Explained **Cynthia Royster:** The terrain of the land is steep up and down and a lot of dirt must be brought in, and a stream runs down to the river. When the river floods it comes up to Crop Street and over and this must be addressed. **Roxanne: That is why we must have an engineer and surveyor. Nothing is in concrete.** The engineer may say we have to take the trail in another direction for it to be more cost effective. **Cynthia Royster: In the proposed area there are deer, foxes right beside the proposed area and there is a fox den where every year there are many beautiful baby foxes. Do they move the habitat?** **Cynthia Royster: This is most important to me. Close Proximity** to my house and I am aware that Milton legally owns Crop Street, but the proposed trail is **less than 50 (fifty yards of my front porch.)** This will invite people that are not using the trail for the right reason. **Roxanne:** This has been addressed in other areas. We could look at fencing or holly trees. **Roxanne explained. Cynthia Royster:** I have Rottweilers in a fence. I can't guarantee that no one will not get bit it is on my property. Back in 2017 Milton Town Council approved an adapted Comprehensive Transportation Plan that was for the town of Yanceyville and Milton which included a bicycle and pedestrian system near the boat landing. I don't know why you can't use that. We could possibly. (**Roxanne**) We have four Phases, and one goes down to the boat landing. I would love to have a trail. Would you consider being a member? Gwen stated she did not know the trail would be so close to the back of Business Row and her dumpster would not be attractive. Discussion Mayor Patricia explained how the proposed area will go by the Milton Eatery and towards the river. Does this bring more liability to the town? **Roxanne:** In a town with close proximity to

a walking trail increases the Property value by 11 %.

Mayor Patricia Williams: Asked the Commissioners if they were interested in matching the citizens \$250.00 matching fund. **Commissioner John Wallace** I think if someone has offered to match the town, we should do it. Show support from the town.

Commissioner Valerie Sottile the citizen that want to start this has done a lot of work and if we don't back them, we will stay stuck. **Commissioner Cathia Stewart** stated the money is fine, but we need consider the negative issues such as close proximity to resident's homes. **Mayor Patricia Williams:** asked for a motion to match the citizens contribution to the Green Space. It was motion by **Commissioner Valerie Sottile** that the Town of Milton match the \$250.00 from the citizen and **Commissioner John Wallace** second the motion. **All was in favor except Commissioner Cathia Stewart.**

NEW BUSINESS: Siren on Water Tower: Fire Chief Steve Harris: The Fire House is in possession of a siren and once upon a time it was mounted on the Fire House. Explained that they do not have any means of disasters notification, alerts and would like to mount the siren on the water tower. Siren will sound for Tornado activity and help notify our people of a structure fire. (Explained) Flexibility in setting it off. Demonstrated the pager. **Noon** on Saturdays for **15 seconds**. They will hang it and Milton's electricity to connect it. Use it for Structure fire or Natural Disaster or Tornado. Structure Fire in the Milton Response District. Commissioner Valerie Sottile asked about maintenance and liability. (Fire Department. **Testing weekly 10 or 15 seconds. High elevation.** **Mayor Patricia:** asked about the Loudness of it, if there is something that may occur at night. Loud enough to awaken a child. **Steve Explained** (2 cylinders) He is available if any questions arise.

Mayor Patricia Williams: Discuss Planning Board Attendance Policy: Read the Policy. **Policy will be attached to Minutes.** **Mayor Patricia Williams:** asked for a motion to approve this policy to become effective immediately. It was motioned by Commissioner Valerie Sottile and second by Commissioner Cathia Stewart that the Planning Board Attendance Policy go into effect immediately, all were in favor.

Residents do not know who are on the Planning Board we will insert a sheet in the next water bill with the Members of the Planning Board and their contact information such as email addresses. It was motioned by Commissioner Lisa Brandon and second by Commissioner Cathia Stewart to insert the contact information into the water bill.

Mayor Patricia Williams:

- ✚ Resolution for Dr. Senegal PCC: **Mayor Patricia Williams** read the Resolution. It was motioned by Commissioner Cathia Stewart and second by Commissioner Valerie Sottile to accept and approve this Resolution in support and appreciation of Dr. Pamela Senegal with the correction that the town of Milton is added. All in favor.
- ✚ **Mayor Patricia Williams: Received ARP Funds: Read and Explained and passed out a copy. Attached to Minutes.**
- ✚ **Resolution for accepting the ARP Act Funds:** It was motioned by Commissioner Lisa Brandon and second by Commissioner Cathia Stewart to **accept the ARP Act Fund (CSLRF)Resolution All in favor. Copy attached to Minutes.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS : Jane McDaniel-Signal failed.

Tracy Blaine: Water meter policy should stay in place. Walking Trail personal or animal safety: Watch out for each other. Siren every city has a warning system. Have the Fire Department to put the siren back up?

Anthony Hearn: Littering Signs on Broad Street

Samantha McGraw: Green Space I hear all the concerns of parking and walking on people's property. It is a really good idea. (Long-term) My husband (Michael) and I are willing to match that \$250.00 donation as well. All about fundraisers. CARES ACT Funding. Let people know what **CSLRF**.

Mayor Patricia Williams Talk on the phone later with Jane McDaniel.

Shirley Wilson stated that Shred Day was sponsored by the SECU, and Amanda Hodges will email the EDC Committee and she will let Milton residents know.

CLOSE OF MEETING: Mayor Patricia Williams asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Commissioner Lisa Brandon** motioned to adjourn the meeting and second by **Commissioner Cathia Stewart** All members were in favor. Time: 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by: Shirley Wilson, Town Clerk