

# Town Council Regular Meeting

Green Level Municipal Building

Thursday, October 12, 2023

## MINUTES

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Town of Green Level Council was held on Thursday, October 12th, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the Green Level Municipal Building located at 2510 Green Level Church Road.

**Governing Body Members Present:** Mayor Sandra McCollum, Mayor Pro-Tem Remonia Enoch, Councilmember Patricia Jones, Councilmember Theodore Howard, Councilmember Jose McBroom

**Governing Body Members Not Present:** None.

**Green Level Officials Present:** Town Administrator Barrett Brown, Town Clerk Taylor Prince, Town Attorney Eugene Russell.

**Also in Attendance:** Public Works Director AJ Simmons, Alamance County Sgt. Danotric Nash

**Mayor McCollum called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.**

Councilmember Jones made a motion to go into closed session in accordance with NC General Statute Article 33 C. 143-318.11 (a3). Mayor Pro-Tem Enoch seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

### **CLOSED SESSION**

*Regular Session Resumes*

**Roll Call:** Town Clerk Taylor Prince conducted a roll call of the Town Council. All council members were present.

**Invocation:** Mayor Pro-Tem Remonia Enoch

**Approval of Agenda:** Mayor McCollum inquired if there were any amendments for the October 12, 2023, drafted agenda and all council members stated “No”. Mayor McCollum stated that with no amendments there was no need for a vote and the agenda would proceed as drafted.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mayor McCollum inquired if there were any amendments for the September 14, 2023, regular minutes and all council members stated “No”. Councilmember Jones made a motion to approve the September 14, 2023, regular minutes. Councilmember McBroom seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

**Public Comments:** There was one public comment. Tyrone Whitfield requested information on the moratorium in place, and the plan to improve the water pressure. Mayor McCollum stated that while the council does not normally reply, she would like Town Administrator Barrett Brown to provide this information. Mr. Brown explained that a pump station is being completed, which will help relieve pressure from the water system. Mr. Brown stated that there has been an assessment of the water system, along with applications for grants to create a new water line from Burlington to increase water pressure.

**Code Enforcement Report:** Code Enforcement Officer Tristian Smith reported on highlights from the previous month. He reported three homes that have been out of compliance with brush ordinances, stating each have been fined. Mr. Smith reported a reinspection was done on the tire shop on Highway-49, stating they had removed the used tires from the back of the building. He stated they expressed intentions to erect a shelter to house all used tires, to prevent wildlife from occupying the tires. Mr. Smith reported there are eleven properties currently with water services shut off, each of which has received notice of hearings scheduled throughout the next two weeks. Mr. Smith reported 32 interviews done in the field, 13 hearings upcoming, and 3 properties that had violated the burn ordinance. There were no questions from the council.

**Public Works:** Public Works Director A.J. Simmons provided a monthly report, showing the work completed by the department during the month. He stated that the department is still working on capturing all the work, and he was hopeful each report would show this more. Mr. Simmons reported a sink hole had appeared on Basil Holt Road. He stated the hole was inspected and a contractor was contacted for a second opinion and quote for repair. Mr. Simmons stated the quote was provided in the report. He stated that the department was able to pack the sink hole in, and it was no longer a safety issue. Mr. Simmons stated that there was currently still a slight hump where the sink hole was, but it would be the next priority of the department. He reported the department was able to patch a pothole on Carter Road. Mr. Simmons stated the department’s goal before the next meeting was to address the trash issue, stating that a lot of trash is being tossed along Highway 49.

Mayor McCollum inquired if Mr. Simmons had received at least three quotes for street paving. Mr. Simmons stated he reached out to five different contractors, but only received a quote from one company, Fred Smith, who had previously provided a quote. He stated he had made at least three attempts to contact the other companies. Mayor McCollum stated this is an issue facing the town, as some companies do not respond to quote requests. Mayor McCollum stated the priority is to move forward, even if three quotes are not provided.

**Parks & Recreation Report:** Mayor McCollum stated that the Parks & Recreation Director, Brandon Enoch, was not present. Town Administrator Barrett Brown stated that each council member received a copy of the report, and he would address any comments or concerns. Mr. Brown stated the Fall Festival was being held on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 5 pm – 10 pm. He stated the Trojan Strong Invitational Breast Cancer Awareness game was scheduled for Sunday, October 29 at 10 am. Mr. Brown stated Santa's Story Time is set to be held in December in the Community Center, which will be a passive event with a photo opportunity for children and families with Santa. Mr. Brown reported that the Trojans had an outstanding football season, with their last home game the previous Saturday. He stated there was a large crowd, cheerleaders, banners, a theme song and a full concession stand, and expressed excitement for the future of the football program. Mr. Brown thanked all the parents, grandparents, council members and everyone that showed up to support the team. He thanked the Public Works staff for helping to park cars on the weekends, and the Parks & Recreation staff for maintaining the beautiful park.

**Safety Report:** Alamance County Sergeant Danotric Nash reported that he has been working diligently and is patrolling the streets and issuing tickets. He stated that he has not received any court dates and presumed all tickets had been paid. Sgt Nash reported that Green Level does not have the same call volume seen in other areas of the county, with speeding and loud music complaints being the main issues. He stated while he always answers his work phone while on shift, any resident with concern should call 911 first, to improve documentation. Sgt Nash reported that while he had charged several juveniles regarding dirt bikes, the Department of Juvenile Justice does not proceed with the charges.

## Town Administrator Updates

- 1. Vehicle:** Town Administrator Barrett Brown reported the Alamance County Sheriff's Department had donated a 2010 Chevrolet Tahoe to the town. Mr. Brown stated that there should be another vehicle donation coming soon. Mayor Pro-Tem Enoch made a motion to accept the 2010 Chevrolet Tahoe donated from the Alamance County Sheriff's Department. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- 2. Park Fountain:** Mr. Brown stated that, as the water fountain in the park was in disrepair, he authorized some repairs to begin, up to his authorized allowance. He stated that the liner was installed incorrectly, leading to leaks, and any cracks had been glued, an insufficient fix. Mr. Brown reported the electrical box was prone to flooding, short circuiting at least twice a year. He stated that the fountain was now operational, and had the potential to be healthier, and more sustainable. Mr. Brown reported that as the fountain was functioning, it could be put back together, or the project could continue, to ensure longevity. He requested the authorization of \$13,000 to finish the fountain, as an investment into the signature piece of the park. Councilmember Jones made the motion to approve the \$13,665.40 to complete the renovation of the park water fountain. Mayor Sandra McCollum seconded the motion.

Councilmember Howard inquired if any other bids had been received for this project. Mr. Brown stated there were two bids, the other estimated about \$50,000 and included a complete renovation. He stated the priority was to get the fountain functioning, as it had not been working at all. Mr. Brown stated that if the council does not authorize the funding for the completion of the project, the rocks and features will be put back into the original position and the fountain will run as before. Councilmember Howard inquired what the original price was at the beginning of the project. Mr. Brown stated that the original demo was estimated at \$6,000 but, due to the discovery of more extensive damage, ended closer to \$8,000.

The motion passed (4-1). Councilmember Howard voted against the motion.

- 3. Yates Construction:** Mr. Brown shared the proposed schedule from Yates Construction, estimating 95% completion by Thanksgiving. He reported that there would be additional testing once everything is in the ground, which should take a few additional weeks. Mr. Brown reported that Yates Construction had not asked for another payment yet, as payment would only be issued once the work was completed and inspected. Mayor McCollum inquired if anyone had been taking

pictures of the progress. Mr. Brown stated that Dexter Leath, Public Works Specialist, had been documenting the progress, as well as engineers who check twice daily. He stated that the work is expected to really begin the following week, as they are currently coding and clearing the area.

- 4. General Administration:** Mr. Brown stated that the monthly Burlington Animal Services Report was attached. There were no questions from the council. Mr. Brown shared the NC Tax Distribution. There were no questions from the council. Mr. Brown thanked Rene' Gattis for her diligent work to have all the photos of the town's mayor's framed and hung within the council meeting room. He stated that among municipalities, where people are still trying to break through the glass ceiling, he was proud that Green Level had three successive women mayors. Mr. Brown reported Animal Service is hosting a clinic on October 20<sup>th</sup> at Green Level Christian Church. Mr. Brown stated a Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the Community Center is schedule before the next council meeting. He reported that programming should begin in the center come the first of the year, if not sooner. Mr. Brown stated that the Parks & Recreation department had already moved into the Community Center, and space will be available for events and rentals.

**Town Attorney Updates:** No updates from Attorney Eugene Russell.

**Town Council Comments:**

Councilmember Howard had no comment.

Councilmember McBroom thanked the staff for their initiative and drive for improvements.

Mayor Pro-Tem Enoch stated she was happy to have a full staff and appreciated all their work. She thanked everyone for coming out.

Councilmember Jones thanked the Green Level team for a job well done. She thanked all the residents for coming out and stated that all residents have a voice.

Mayor McCollum stated that anyone can come to the Town Hall and request a copy of the town budget, free of charge. She stated that the council, administration, and the accountant had worked diligently to balance previous late budgets, and the town was in good standing with the audit. She stated this term comes from the audit, and the town is in good reports with the NC Treasury. She reported hearing of misuse of town funds and stated that all transactions of the town are approved and documented. Mayor McCollum stated all reports are sent to the accountant monthly to reconcile, making sure every penny is accounted for. She stated she had not taken any money, nor misused any money, and anyone who continued this rumor would be met with a lawsuit.

Mayor Pro-Tem Enoch made a motion to go into a closed session in accordance with NC General Statute Article 33 C. 143-318.11 (a3) to discuss personnel matters. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

**CLOSED SESSION**

*Regular Session Resumes*

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor Prince

*Town Clerk*

*Town of Green Level*