

July 12, 2016  
7:00 p.m.

The Town of Pink Hill held its monthly board meeting on Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the town hall board room. Present for the meeting were Mayor Carol Sykes, Commissioners Mike Hill and James Quinn, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Public Works Director Timmy Kennedy, Police Chief Joey Thigpen, and Town Clerk Kimberly Mitchell. Commissioner Debra Grady was not present at this meeting.

Visitors present at the meeting were Susan G. Myers, Donald King, Michael Best, and Bill Turner.

Town Clerk Kimberly Mitchell administered the oath of office to newly appointed Commissioner James Quinn.

Mayor Sykes called the meeting to order and requested for all cell phones to be turned off please. Mayor Sykes welcomed everyone to the meeting. Commissioner Hill then led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Sykes stated she would like to welcome our new commissioner on board Mr. James Quinn and that she is so happy to have him and that he will be a big asset to the board and the Town of Pink Hill. She said he has been living here for 20 years and he works for CenturyLink. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the agenda and amendments if needed. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the consent agenda with Public Hearing FY 16-17 Budget Meeting Minutes and regular board meeting minutes from June 14, 2016. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was Ridgewood Apartment residents wanting to speak to the board about placing a bench on town property for a smoking area. Kim informed the board that Jeremy Rogers and Jessica Batts called to say that they no longer wanted to come and speak and asked to be removed from the agenda.

The next item on the agenda was discuss Rose Festival & master plan for downtown Pink Hill. Susan presented to the board a survey that was done after the RoseFest. It tells you about some of the things that they are looking at for next year and they have had 71 responses. She said she thinks it went really good this year and they had a really huge turnout for Brian Mayer also John Currin and Scarlett Howard were a big hit and we got front page coverage in the newspaper because those were all big things. Susan said to do those things we had to spend more money and we had to hire professional stages and we didn't get all the sponsorships that we really needed to make it. She said they learned a lot this year because of the rain and they didn't have a rain plan and there were parts of the street full of water. They also had some vendors that didn't show up because of the rain. Susan said all of their partners showed up and they have exclusivity. She said they need more sponsors and we need to work on further trying to bring the community together. She stated her goal in doing this is to really lay the foundation for a sustainable festival for downtown Pink Hill to benefit many organizations in the greater Pink Hill which helps market the future of our community and to bring communities together to work for a common goal. Susan said the first thing they did this year was we took it away from just being

beneficial for the Preservation to being beneficial for more and that was a bit stout. She said next year they have to look at furthering that and she will be doing it for 2 more years and she wants to lay the groundwork so that it can have a life of its own. Susan said it is a lot of her volunteer time and a lot of Pink Hill Pharmacy money but it is going to take it 2 more years to get it. She asked everyone to look on page 2 of the survey which asked which locations did you prefer - Central and Broadway or all on Central and that was half and half. The music was all over the place. She said next year they want to have two big entertainers. Susan said to thank Dean Rouse when you see him because he paid for Brian Mayer to come this year so we need to get two Dean Rouse's and two Brian Mayer's. She said they tried a lot of low paid entertainers during the day that cost around \$100 to \$200 but they didn't really bring in the people and so it was really kind of a waste of money. She said they need to save up that money and have another big entertainer. The pet parade, she said she thinks they are going to offer it for free. It is something different. We have all these different festivals around. Susan said we can't just do what Kinston does, or just what the pickle festival does or what the strawberry festival does. We've got to make ourselves different. The pet parade makes ourselves different. She said the same with the beer. They had what would be called craft beer and it was too expensive, and people didn't like it and people brought in their own beer. So she asked on the survey and maybe they would have both next year - craft beer and Budweiser. She said some people have been asking for them to have carnival rides and she put it on the survey but the key is we have to have the inflatables which is a free event for the kids. She stated she is afraid of carnival rides and the liability. Susan said they have good liability insurance from Scott Insurance. Also they had bottled water for \$1 and she doesn't think that was properly advertised. Susan said they are starting to work on next year. We already have some art work and we are starting to sit down and figure out what went good and what can we do better. How can we make it sustainable? We can't just depend on more grants and more sponsors and bigger sponsors every year because what happens when it is a recession. Susan asked the board if they had any comments. Mayor Sykes said to let us kind of look over these and give us time to look and see what the percentages of each thing are. She said her first thing on the bands and the entertainment part is that you are right, not having so many local acts but to have a good MC and two good bands will keep the crowd alive better than all these little bands that nobody knows anything about. Mayor Sykes thanked Susan for all of her hard work and all of your volunteers, she said my hats off to you because it is not an easy job and it is a thankless job and anybody that has ever done anything like this can certainly agree with that. Mayor Sykes said thank you so much for everything that you have done in Pink Hill. Commissioner Hill said his church Christian Chapel sold ice cream and they had a good steady flow of people all day until he left about 2 or 3 o'clock. He said there was a good steady flow of people coming through even though some of them didn't buy ice cream. Mayor Sykes stated she thought more local vendors would have helped also. Susan explained about Christian Chapel because she said there was many people confused about it. They are a partner. She said Christian Chapel has got to raise money over the next 10 years for their plans for the building so they need a long term fundraiser. She said that they have a great thing with the John Deere Tractor. When they go to the BBQ Festival there are three or four vendors there selling ice cream. She said so here is what we did, we gave them a prime location, we advertised for them, we promoted them on stage, and they were the only ice cream vendor so they were a partner and they raised money and it helped us pay for part of the festival. Susan said the festival is very expensive. She said just the stage and the lighting was \$5,000 and that was a whole new expense.

The next item on the agenda was the WASA Report. Timmy stated that Commissioner Hill was out of town so he attended the meeting for him. He said the only thing that he saw that stood out was the lawyer at the last part of the meeting mentioned that the General Assembly in May just passed a farm bill. The capacity use as you know is the reason why we buy water from Neuse Regional and that is the reason why Pink Hill residents pay very high water bills because we have to purchase and then we have to resale. The reason we have to do that is because we were pulling over at that particular time that this rule came into effect in 2002. Timmy said we were pulling out of the ground in our wells more than 100,000 gallons a day and that threw us in that bracket for capacity use. He said with this new farm bill that would allow the farmers if they are strawberry farmers or trees or whatever, that they can have a deep well and use for ever how much they want to out of the ground. Timmy said he voted yes and everyone else there did also to send an amendment to that farm bill that is already passed to make them fall under some type of regulation and be accountable for how many gallons they are pulling out of the ground. One of the things that the capacity use rule has done to our aquafer around here has made them rise back up because they are pulling water from surface water now. So we are not pulling out of the ground and all the well waters are rising back up to where they are supposed to be and he wants them to stay that way. If the farmers start putting wells in the ground and not having any regulations holding them back then there is no limit. Timmy said everyone in the room did not have anything bad to say about the farmers but they need to be regulated in some form or fashion. Mayor Sykes asked if a farmer could come in Pink Hill. Timmy said there is actually a farmer's bill and if she would like to read the bill it is Senate Bill 770. He said one he wrote down was proposal to allow farmers to be exempt from permits on capacity use and no reporting or how much they pump. Timmy said he realizes that the water that we pump people are consuming and that makes sense to him that we are selling and what a farmer uses is going right back into the ground. George said if it is going to go into the ground then it is not going into our aquafer. He said our aquafer is fed from Johnson County and west. Commissioner Hill said he doesn't think that you can come into town and build a well. Timmy said he thought that this topic was worth bringing up. Mayor Sykes thanked Timmy.

The Police Updates was next on the agenda. Chief Thigpen said since the last meeting on June 14, 2016 they have had a total of 4 reported incidents, 1 arrest, issued 17 citations with a total of 19 charges and issued 15 warning citations. He stated the day after the last meeting the charger that we have had all the trouble with threw the fans through the radiator while Mike was sitting still at Woodrow's. He said they had to have all that replaced and it was like \$600.00. Mayor Sykes asked if that was on the town's bill and he replied yes because that car was not under warranty. Chief Thigpen said they had a recall on that type of stuff but it was from 2000, 2008, and 2009 but the 2010's they had supposedly corrected and didn't have a recall. He said he called the Dodge Company to ask if there was a recall and they stated no. Commissioner Hill asked if everything else has been going good. Chief Thigpen stated yes. Mayor Sykes thanked Chief Thigpen and his guys.

The next item on the agenda was the Fire Department Report. Timmy said since our last meeting they have had 1 vehicle fire, 2 structure fires, 2 automatic alarms, 4 vehicle accidents, 4 EMS calls, 1 explosion, and 2 brush fires.

The next item on the agenda was Water/Sewer Report. Timmy stated over the last month we have had some issues with some pumps at the old plant. He said they have one of them back and it is in the ground and it is going well. Timmy said they do not have a spare pump right now for the old plant but it is at the shop to be reworked and it will be a whole lot cheaper to rework it than to buy a new one.

He said they have found out through troubleshooting and talking with several people what our problem is with our chlorine feed system at the sewer plant. Timmy said he has pinpointed it and he has gotten some prices. He said he forgot to bring them with him to the meeting tonight. Timmy stated we do have enough money in the budget to handle it if that is okay because you are talking about probably \$4,500 to put a dual head system in there so we can meet more of our demand for chlorine. He said they are feeding as much as they can. Timmy said he has had Public Water Supply to come from Washington to do some troubleshooting. He has also had a couple of techs which are salesman to come out and take a look at stuff and he and his guys have done a whole bunch of troubleshooting their selves and this is what they have come up with.

Timmy stated that Alex did pass his Collection I test so he is certified. Mayor Sykes asked what does that certify him to do. Timmy said it takes care of the sewer systems and lift stations. He said both of the guys need to get at least one more which is Collection II to be backup operators. Mayor Sykes stated she was proud of the guys. Commissioner Hill stated he appreciated the work that they do.

The next item on the agenda was Budget Amendments if needed. Kim stated there were no budget amendments at this time but only transfers.

Remarks by Town Attorney was next on the agenda. George said he wanted to welcome Mr. Quinn to the board.

The next item on the agenda was Comments by the Board. Mayor Sykes said she would like to appoint Commissioner Quinn if he would accept it to be the Police Commissioner. Commissioner Quinn accepted and appreciated it. Mayor Sykes told him welcome to the board.

The next item on the agenda was Public Comment Period if needed. There were no public comments at this time.

The next item on the agenda was Closed Session if needed. There was no need for a closed session at this time.

With there being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned.