

December 10, 2013

December 10, 2013
Tuesday, 10:00 A.M.
Regular Meeting

(a)

The Ahoskie Town Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, December 12, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Room at the New Fire Station. Mayor Brien Lassiter called the meeting to order. Mayor Pro-Tem Elaine Myers administered the Invocation.

Roll Call by Town Clerk Joleatha Chestnutt confirmed Council Member Winfred Hardy, Jr., Linda Blackburn, Malcolm Copeland, Elaine Myers, and Maurice Vann to be present.

Town Officials present were: Town Manager Tony Hammond, Town Clerk Joleatha Chestnutt, and Town Attorney Buddy Jones.

Department Heads present were: Police Chief Troy Fitzhugh, Fire Chief, Ken Dilday, Mayor Jimmy Asbell, and Keith Truman Code Enforcement Officer

Swearing in of New Elected Officials

Re

Mayor Brien Lassiter administered the Oath of Office to Charles Freeman; in which, Town Clerk Joleatha Chestnutt administered the Oath of Office to Linda L. Blackburn and C. David Stackhouse. (*Copy of Oaths are attached*)

Election of Mayor Pro Tempore

Council Member Maurice Vann made a motion that Linda Blackburn will serve as the Mayor Pro Tempore. Council Member Elaine Myers seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

2014 Meeting Schedule (Adoption):

Re

2012 Meeting Dates

Town Council Meetings	Planning Board and Board of Adjustment Meetings	
January 14	January 8	January 8
February 12	February 5	February 5
March 11	March 5	March 5
April 8	April 2	April 2
May 13	May 7	May 7
June 10	June 4	June 4
July 8	July 2	July 2
August 12	August 6	August 6
September 9	September 3	September 3
October 14	October 1	October 1
November 11	November 5	November 5
December 9	December 3	December 3

Council Member Elaine Myers made a motion to approve 2014 Meeting Dates as amended. Council Member Linda Blackburn seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Organizational Chart

APPENDIX 1
ORGANIZATION CHART

Council Member Linda Blackburn made a motion to approve Organizational Chart. Council Member C. David Stackhouse seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Organizational Matters (Oath of Office)

Public Input Period (Limited 3 Minutes)

Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:

When the Mayor asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda there was none.

Public Input Period (limited to 3 minutes): *Comments came at the end of the meeting.*

When the Mayor asked if there was anyone requesting to address Council during “Public Input Period”, there was none.

Request to Address Board (limited to 3 minutes):

When the Mayor Pro-Tem asked if there was anyone requesting to address Council during, “Request to Address to Governing Board” period, there was none.

Introduction of “New Hire(s)”:

There was One New Hire to be introduced to Council Samuel (Bruce) Farmer.

There was one New Hire(s) to be introduced, Mr. Samuel (Bruce) Farmer in the Police Department as a Police Officer. The Mayor read the following comments about Employee Sam (Bruce) Farmer as follows:

Samuel (Bruce) Farmer is a native of Ahoskie, North Carolina. He moved away and lived in Dare County for the last thirty (30) years. He is married to Kathy Farmer and they have two children, a son Devon and a daughter Martina.

Bruce Farmer has worked in Law Enforcement for over twenty (20) years and has acquired over 3500 hours of law enforcement training. Bruce also holds a Commercial Pilots license.

In addition to working in law enforcement, Bruce has worked as a security contractor in the Middle East for eight (8) years for the security firm known as Black Water USA.

Bruce is looking forward to serving the Town of Ahoskie and doing his part to keep it a safe place for the citizens to live and work.

Recognition of Employee of the Quarter:

There was no Employee of the Quarter to be introduced to Council.

Special Recognition:

Mayor Brien Lassiter presented Resolutions to Councilman Malcom Copeland and Councilman Winfred Hardy, Jr. presented as follows:

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR
MALCOLM COPELAND, COUNCIL MEMBER WARD A

WHEREAS, it is fit and proper to recognize the service of Malcolm Copeland, Council Member Ward A, to his town and to the community at large; and

WHEREAS, Malcolm Copeland has served the Town of Ahoskie as Council Member of Ward A from December 11, 2001 until December 10, 2013 under the following:

- Town Mayor's: Arthur L. Wiggins; Linda L. Blackburn; G. Brien Lassiter
- Town Council Member's: Andrew Hunter; Elaine Myers; Angela Early; O.S. Suiter, Jr.; Ronald Gatling; Larry Vann; Carl Askew; Maurice Vann; Winfred Hardy Jr.
- Town Manager's: Russell Overman; Charles A. (Tony) Hammond

WHEREAS, Malcolm Copeland has served with diligence and with the best interest for all of the citizens of the Town of Ahoskie and of Ward A and because of his great service, the Town Council of the Town of Ahoskie wishes to show appreciation of the citizens of this town for this service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in honor of the service of Malcolm Copeland the Ahoskie Town Council does hereby present him with this Resolution of Appreciation and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each member of the Ahoskie Town Council does hereby express his or her gratitude to Malcolm Copeland for his faithful service over the years and does further authorize the Clerk of this body to spread this Resolution upon the minutes of the Ahoskie Town Council and to present a formal executed copy of the same to Malcolm Copeland upon the completion of his term of office.

This 10th day of December 2013.

RESOLUTION NO.:2013-2014-7

RESOLUTION HONORING

1.

WINFRED HARDY, JR.

WHEREAS, **Winfred Hardy, Jr.**, has served faithfully and diligently as a Council Member for the Town of Ahoskie beginning November 2009 through November 2013 and;

WHEREAS, as an elected official, **Winfred Hardy, Jr.** has devoted his time, energy and talents to this Town and provided experience and sound judgment and ardent support; and

WHEREAS, *Winfred Hardy, Jr.*, has reviewed and deliberated all matters, facts, and proposals presented before the Council in a fair and sound manner, at all times keeping the best interest of the citizens as a first priority; and

WHEREAS, *Winfred Hardy, Jr.* has worked constantly to further Ahoskie's economic, cultural and aesthetic development, as evidenced by the many successful projects accomplished under his excellent leadership as Councilman;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ahoskie Town Council hereby expresses sincere appreciation to our friend and colleague, who through his leadership and dedicated service to this Town has earned respect and has made lasting contributions for the betterment of the Town,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, I, Mayor G. Brien Lassiter, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the Town of Ahoskie, North Carolina, and on behalf of the Town Council and all the citizens, do hereby extend our deepest gratitude and highest commendation to *Winfred Hardy Jr.* for his devoted and outstanding service.

This the 10th day of December, 2013.

Council Member C. David Stackhouse made a motion to approve **Resolution No.:2013-2014-6** and **Resolution No.: 2013-2014-7**. Council Member Elaine Myers seconded the motion which was passed by a unanimous vote.

Item #1-New Business-Consent Agenda

Special Recognition: Tyrone Ruffin – Rico (K-9)

• Approval of Minutes

Council Member Linda Blackburn made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2013 as presented by Town Clerk Joleatha Chestnutt. Council Member C. David Stackhouse seconded the motion which was passed by a unanimous vote.

- **Tax Release Document**

Council Member Linda Blackburn made a motion to approve November 2013 Tax Release for month ending November 27, 2013. Council Member C. David Stackhouse seconded the motion which was passed by a unanimous vote.

MONTH: November 27, 2013

TOWN: Ahoskie

NAME	BILL#	ACCOUNT#	REASON	AMOUNT
Piedmont Coca Cola Bottling Partnership	13A31208.10	31208	Amended listing provided by Piedmont Coca Cola Bottling Partnership	\$1.55

- **Annual Fire Fighter Certification Report**

Council Member Linda Blackburn made a motion to approve the Fire Fighter certification Report. Council Member C. David Stackhouse seconded the motion which was passed by a unanimous vote.

- **Mid-East Commission Certificate of Appointment**

Council Member Linda Blackburn made a motion to approve the appointment of Town Manager Tony Hammond as the Town's representative MEC Certificate of Appointment. Council Member C. David Stackhouse seconded the motion which was passed by a unanimous vote.

- **Ahoskie Housing Authority Appointment**

Council Member Linda Blackburn made a motion to approve the appointment of Ronald Gatling to the Ahoskie Housing Authority. Council Member C. David Stackhouse seconded the motion which was passed by a unanimous vote.

- **Department Head Reports**

Council Member Linda Blackburn made a motion to approve the department head reports for the month of November. Council Member C. David Stackhouse seconded the motion which was passed by a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item #2: Façade Improvement Program

(i)

Town Manager Tony Hammond informed Council that Council budgeted \$15,000 for the Façade Improvement Program to entice Main Street Business owners to fix up the front of their buildings. Carol White is requesting a Façade Improvement Grant in the amount of \$1,100 (50% of total project amount of \$2,200). Carol White is replacing the single entrance door with a double entrance door at 230 East Main Street. This is being done to aid in the transition of the printing business

moving from Aulander to Ahoskie. Mr. White will be presenting another Façade Grant application for awnings and building front improvements

Council Member C. David Stackhouse made a motion to approve the request for \$1,100 in Façade Grant Funds to Carol White. Council Member Linda L. Blackburn seconded the motion which was passed by a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item #3: Request to Purchase Property

Town Manager informed Council the Town has owned parcel 5993-58-1583 since 2004. This property is adjacent to a parcel of property Carol White has recently purchased from Hertford County. It is his intentions to place a multifamily duplex building on the property once the lots are purchased and recombined. The current tax value is \$8,083 of which we collect no taxes because the Town owns it. Carol White is offering \$2,000 for the property, if Council sells the property it will be placed back on the tax records at the tax value and increase significantly once the multifamily building is constructed. The NC GS 160A-266 permits the sale of Real Property under 160A-269 Negotiated Offer, advertisement and upset bid.

Under GS 160A-269; A city may receive, solicit, or negotiate an offer to purchase property and advertise it for upset bids. When an offer is made and the council proposes to accept it, the council shall require the offer or to deposit five percent (5%) of his bid with the city clerk, and shall publish a notice of the offer. The notice shall contain a general description of the property, the amount and terms of the offer, and a notice that within 10 days any person may raise the bid by not less than ten percent (10%) of the first one thousand dollars (\$1,000) and five percent (5%) of the remainder. When a bid is raised, the bidder shall deposit with the city clerk five percent (5%) of the increased bid, and the clerk shall re-advertise the offer at the increased bid. This procedure shall be repeated until no further qualifying upset bids are received, at which time the council may accept the offer and sell the property to the highest bidder. The council may at any time reject any and all offers.

Council Member Elaine Myers made a motion to approve the offer to purchase and authorize the Town Clerk to advertise for upset bids. Once no upset bid is received during the allotted time, authorize the Manager and Town Attorney to dispose of the property to the highest bidder. Council Member Linda L. Blackburn seconded the motion which was passed by a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item #4: Request to Utilize Old Fire Station

Town Manager Tony Hammond informed Council that the Town has received a request from First Sergeant Warren, North Carolina Highway Patrol to allow two incoming Patrol Officers (in

transition) to stay at the Old fire Station. Sergeant Shadday stayed in the building for a short time during his transition and took care of the facilities. With the way the Highway Patrol is moving some of its officers pending permanent assignment they may be assigned to areas for short term assignments. The facility is not being utilized and they would offer additional in town security with visible patrol cars.

Council Member C. David Stackhouse made a motion to approve the request. Council Member Linda L. Blackburn seconded the motion which was passed by a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item #5: Reversion of National Guard Building

Town Manager Tony Hammond informed Council in August 1953; the Ahoskie Town Council conveyed a parcel of property identified as PIN 5992-46-6710 to the State of North Carolina for construction of a National Guard Building. Enclosed for review:

- Message from Elizabeth Chestnut, Master Planner, Joint Force Headquarters, NC National Guard
- Transfer Documents/Deed dated August 10. 1953
- Google Map showing property layout
- Hertford County Property Record Card
- Photographs of the property and buildings

As Town Manager, I have been in discussions with Senator Jenkins, Representative Mobley and Colonel Toni Coats, North Carolina National Guard about the possible reversion of this building back to the Town of Ahoskie. The building has been abandon/vacated for more than 2 years with little to no activity. Our Public Works Department has been maintaining the grounds of this facility for almost 2 years. If you will note in the deed dated August 1953 there is a reversion clause.

Per Elizabeth Chestnut, the North Carolina National Guard is prepared to revert the building back to the Town of Ahoskie for its use. One of the requirements for the reversion is minutes from a regular council meeting agreeing to accept the building as is.

It is staff recommendation to accept this building as is. Once the Town is in possession of the property, there are several State Grants including PARTF that can be used to improve the facilities. It is also staff intentions (with council approval) to develop this building as a Community Center with indoor activities for the community and children.

Council Member Maurice Vann made a motion to approve the staff recommendation and accept this building as is, with no exceptions. Council Member Elaine Myers seconded the motion which was passed by a unanimous vote

Mayor/Council Comments:

Re

Closed Session: NCGS 143.318.11(a) (5) Contract Negotiations

Mayor Brien Lassiter:

Mayor Lassiter wished everyone “A Merry Christmas”. He reminded everyone of Saturday’s Christmas Parade and he thanked everyone for being there.

Mrs. Elaine Myers:

Mrs. Myers asked the Town Manager for an update on the Apartment Project behind Piggly Wiggly. The Town Manager informed Council that the Town has not heard anything from the developer.

Ms. Linda Blackburn:

Ms. Blackburn wished everyone “A Merry Christmas”. She commented on how beautiful the Tree Lighting was on Saturday.

Mr. Stackhouse:

Mr. Stackhouse wanted to take a moment to retrospect how the children of his church love the community here in Ahoskie. He actually had a child to prophesy into his life of him becoming a Councilman. He stated, “He is really humble and a team player. He stated how much he and his wife enjoy living in Ahoskie. He wished everyone “A Merry Christmas”.

Mr. Freeman:

Mr. Freeman response was “Clean in 2014”! He spoke about how he wants to see Main Street cleaned. The buildings on Main Street cleaned up and in 2015 celebrating accomplishing this goal.

Mr. Maurice Vann:

Mr. Vann wished everyone “A Merry Christmas”.

Town Attorney Comments:

Town Attorney had no comments.

Town Clerk Comments:

Town Clerk had no comments

Manager’s Update:

Manager’s Update:

Town Manager Comments:

Town Manager Tony Hammond reminded Council of the Farewell Luncheon 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at Tavern 125.

Town Manager asked that Council will consider a Retreat date and location in March 2014 as listed. He asked that at the January meeting they could make a decision on a date; so that, he can contact the facilitator.

Town Manager distributed a copy of the Manager's Annual Evaluation. He informed Council that the evaluation needs to be returned to the Mayor by January 8, 2014. The evaluation will be discussed in closed session January 14, 2014.

Mayor Lassiter asked Council to return the evaluation to the Town Clerk; in which, he will retain the information from the Clerk no later than January 8, 2014.

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Brien Lassiter declared the meeting adjourned.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:
Joleatha Chestnutt, Town Clerk

