

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 8, 2024  
MINUTES**

The Rural Hall Town Council held their regular council meeting on April 8, 2024, at 7:00 PM in Town Hall Council Chambers. The following members were present: Mayor Terry M. Bennett - presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn; Councilman Mark Lane; Councilman Michael Woodcock; Councilwoman Anita Ring; Interim Town Manager Homer Dearmin; Attorney Hugh Campbell; Town Clerk Lynette E. Hendrick; Finance Clerk Donna Watson; LPA Supervisor Dawn Tysor; PIO Alston Brown; Public Works Director Jason Hill; and Fire Chief Mike Simone.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by the Town Clerk Lynette Hendrick

A moment of silence was held.

**Announcements and Meeting Updates**

- Town Mulch Program – April 15-20, 2024
- 2024 CityVision - April 23-26
- National Day of Prayer – May 2, 2024, 12:00 meet at the flagpole at Town Hall
- Med & Shred/Community Health Fair - May 4, 2024, 9 am – 12 pm
- Town of Rural Hall 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration - May 31 – June 2, 2024
- Flag Purchase by Judy Kiricoples in memory of Glenn Robin Reeves

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Update**

Alston Brown Public Information Officer gave the schedule of events for the RuralFest event. He mentioned the town is still accepting vendors for Saturday, and volunteers are still needed.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Mayor Terry Bennett made recommendations for a few changes to the agenda by moving “Mayors Comments” before Public Comment Period, adding item G-1 Town of Rural Hall Capital Improvement Plan, and removing three closed session meeting minutes to be unsealed (December 12, 2022, July 10, 2022, and November 13, 2023). Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn made the motion, seconded by Councilman Mark Lane to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**Mayor’s Comments**

Mayor Terry Bennett mentioned recently he was told about a post that stated he had fallen asleep in the visioning meeting, so he told an incident that happened to him regarding that post. Being funny he brought in a bottle of NoDoz to help keep him awake.

**Public Comment Period**

Carol Newsome, 8495 Broad Street, Rural Hall signed up to speak with her topic being “moving forward”. June Nelson Koehn, 430 College Street, Rural Hall signed up to speak with her topic being “april fool”. Frank James, 7290 Broad Street, Rural Hall signed up to speak with the topic being “positive”. Abbie Bennett, 267 Spring Ridge Road, Rural Hall signed up to speak with her topic being “The Town”.

Mayor Terry Bennett mentioned this portion of the meeting is not on the agenda. The mayor stated, for the past few months the Council had accepted and reviewed applications for the Town Manager position. He recommended to the Council Homer Dearmin be appointed to serve as Town Manager for the Town of Rural Hall. Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Anita Ring to appoint Homer Dearmin to serve as Town Manager for the Town of Rural Hall and to adopt the Employment Agreement between the parties, to authorize Mayor Terry Bennett to sign the agreement on

behalf of the town and authorize Donna K. Watson to perform the preaudit function. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Terry Bennett introduced Judge Eric Morgan Forsyth County Superior Court and stated he was here to perform the swearing in of Homer Dearmin. Homer introduced his partner Lori Justis, and she assisted him in the swearing ceremony.

### **Proclamation for Senior Services Month**

Mayor Terry Bennett read the Firefighters Appreciation Proclamation and expressed gratitude to all Firefighters for their service. Mayor also read the Municipal Clerks Proclamation declaring May 5-11 as the 55<sup>th</sup> Municipal Clerks Week.

Mayor Terry Bennett mentioned the National Day of Prayer Proclamation will be read May 2 at the event.

### **Consent Agenda**

Councilman Mark Lane made the motion, seconded by Councilman Michael Woodcock to approve the consent agenda.

### **Public Hearing for the Closing of Unnamed Alley off Broad Street**

Mayor Terry Bennett opened the public forum and mentioned no one has signed up to speak. He asked if anyone who may not have had time to sign up wanted to speak. Being there is on comments this public hearing was closed. Councilman Michael Woodcock made the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Edde Horn to adopt the Resolution # 861 and order the closing of the unnamed alley off Broad Street. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Public Hearing for Covington Memorial Park Master Plan and PARTF Grant Application**

Mayor Terry Bennett opened the public hearing for Covington Memorial Park Master Plan. Public Information Officer (PIO) Alston Brown presented the Preliminary PARTF Phase 1 Plan. Detailing the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant and discussing their selection criteria. He then went into Phase 1 of the project which will consist of; relocating and expanding the playground, installing a splash pad, and creating a walking path that circulates the entirety of the park and across the pond via a boardwalk. Alston showed the map of Phase 1, highlighting the areas of the parks in which Phase 1 would consist of. He briefly touched on what Phase 2 would look like moving forward but stressed that this public hearing was focused on Phase 1 funding. The public comment period was opened to the audience. Randy Thomas residing at 521 Academy Street, Rural Hall signed up to speak in support of Phase 1 funding that would help accomplish the construction of relocating/expanding the playground, installing a splash pad, and creating a walking path around the entire pond. He mentioned Phase 1 was imperative for the citizens of Rural Hall because we need this type of recreation for our children, our young adults, and our aging adults. Randy mentioned Alston Brown should be recognized for the work he has done on this project. He encouraged the council to reach out to the Forsyth County Commissioners about connecting the greenway through Rural Hall. In his closing statement he stated, "please do whatever we have to do as a community to get this done for our children, because it's not going to benefit an old man like me for a splash pad but hopefully my grandchildren will enjoy it". James Crawford was present but did not speak. Mayor Terry Bennett closed the public hearing for the PARTF Grant.

### **New Business**

Mayor Terry Bennett recognized May as Historic Preservation Month and asked Manager Homer Dearmin to read the Resolution and present it to Jon Hanna a member of the Forsyth County Historic Resource Commission. Michelle McCullough Historic Resource Officer Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Planning & development Service and college Heather Bratland reported on the progress of the Forsyth County Historic Resource Commission and mentioned Forsyth 250- the official county committee for America 250 NC. Heather invited Rural Hall to appoint a representative to the committee. Jon Hanna mentioned some of the

Historic Landmarks the committee was working on around the County. Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Anita Ring to adopt the resolution declaring May as Historic Preservation Month. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn made the motion, seconded by Councilman Michael Woodcock to adopt the NCDOT mowing and litter pick-up agreement and authorize the Town Manager Homer Dearmin to sign the agreement. Motion passed unanimously.

Town Manager Homer Dearmin stated he has been contacted by Mrs. Coward President of the Rural Hall Library Committee and their desire to have a representative from the Council on the Library Committee. Councilman Mark Lane made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Anita Ring to appoint Councilman Michael Woodcock to represent the Town of Rural Hall on the Rural Hall Library Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Anita Ring made the motion, seconded by Councilman Mark Lane to adopt the unsealing of closed session minutes of the following closed session meetings: February 4, 2013, October 7, 2014, February 22, 2014, February 24, 2014, November 13, 2017, August 10, 2021, December 13, 2021, January 3, 2022, January 27, 2022, April 8, 2022, and June 5, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

Town Manager Homer Dearmin introduced the Town of Rural Hall Capital Improvement Plan. This plan outlines major capital projects and how the town plans to pay or finance for the next ten years. Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn made the motion, seconded by Councilman Michael Woodcock to adopt the Capital Project Plan. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Department Reports**

Interim Town Manager Homer Dearmin stated the department reports are included in the agenda for Council to review.

#### **Council Members Comments**

Mayor Terry Bennett, Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn, Councilwoman Anita Ring, Councilman Mark Lane and Councilman Michael Woodcock congratulated Homer Dearmin as Town Manager and look forward to working with him. All was thankful for those in attendance at the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Horn made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Anita Ring to adjourn the meeting.

Lynette E. Hendrick  
Town Clerk