

**TOWN OF MORNINGSIDE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023**

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00pm pm by Mayor Bennard Cann.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Wade.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Cann – Present

Vice Mayor Wade – Present

Council Member Anthony - Present

Council Member Fowler – Absent

Council Member Mullins – Present

Police Dept – Chief Stevenson – Present

Town Admin – Karen Rooker – Present

Public Works - Michael Johnson - Present

Code Enforcement- Regina Foster - Absent

MVFD – Pete Mellits – Present (Chief McKnight arrived late)

Motion by Council Member Mullins, seconded by Vice Mayor Wade to excuse Council Member Fowler from this meeting. No discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION/ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

- None

INTRODUCTIONS - None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion was made by Council Member Mullins, seconded by Vice Mayor Wade to approve the minutes for the Tax Rate Hearing of April 18, 2023, the Regular Meeting of April 18, 2023 and the Work Session of May 9, 2023. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS/OPEN FORUM - None

REPORT OF OFFICERS/BOARDS/COMMITTEES

- **Public Works** – Michael Johnson gave an oral & written report.
- **Police Dept** – Chief Stevenson gave an oral report. (Written Reports were distributed earlier with the May schedule change.)
- **Admin** – Karen Rooker gave an oral & written report.
- **MVFD** – Both Pete Mellits and Chief McKnight gave orals reports.
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- **Council Member Anthony** – Congratulated the re-elected Council Members. The parking lot lights have been replaced and we received an over \$500 discount due to the job taking so long. The locks are all working in the building for rentals and the staff.
- **Council Member Mullins** – Thanked everyone who voted and thanked the Election Board for their hard work. He also thanked everyone who helped with the Spring Clean-Up. If you see any roads or sidewalks that need repair, let him know so it can be taken care of.
- **Vice Mayor Wade** – Will be coming in on Fridays to help Public Work and Council Member Anthony with any building repairs.
- **Mayor Cann** – Thanked everyone for taking care of business while he was out of Town and also while he was ill. He requested \$46.20 to pay for the Suitland Rd speed camera permit needed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SUITLAND RD SPEED CAMERAS

- Pete Mellits from MVFD gave an update on the Suitland Rd Speed cameras.
- The Town will be responsible for maintenance.
- Need to chose a vendor ASAP (Council decided to meet on 5/25 @ 6:30pm)
- The Mayor will send emails to the 3 vendors to have them come to the special meeting at 6:30-7:00-or 7:30 for a small presentation.
- Pete has forms that need to be signed by the Mayor and uploaded.
- After that, the Chief will need to talk to the County Police.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

- Since Council Member Fowler nor Code Enforcement Officer Foster were not present at this meeting, there is no report.
- The Mayor gave a short report on the Spring Clean-Up. There was \$75 admin fee made from the shot clinic, the vet donated \$100 to the Town as a resident donated \$50.

POLICE GRANTS

- Sgt Szmidt requested that the Town purchase 5 in-car radar units from Raptor for a cost of \$11,025 for all 5.
- There will be a \$200 charge from Ball & Ball Communications to install each unit for a total of \$1,000.

Motion by Council Member Mullins, second by Vice Mayor Wade for a total of \$12,025 to purchase and install 5 in-car radar units for the police cruisers. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

- In order to use all of the money for the FY23 SAPP Grant, Sgt Szmidt asked that the Council pay the remaining amount of \$10,068.95 still due for the guns and tasers that were purchased earlier this year.

Motion by Council Member Mullins, second by Vice Mayor Wade for a total of \$10,684.95 for the final payment due on the guns and Tasers purchased from AXON. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

BURCH TRASH CONTRACT

Burch as submitted their final offer for the 23-24 contract.

It has been determined that the Town contains 450 homes, not 466, so the contract is \$5,070 cheaper than last year's.

Motion by Council Member Mullins, second by Council Member Anthony to accept the contract from Burch for the Trash removal/recycling from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 at a total cost of \$137,520. No further discussion. Roll Call taken – Wade – yea, Mullins – yea, Anthony – yea. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS CALENDAR – FYI. There are several birthdays and workiversaries in the month of May.

NEW BUSINESS

PURPOSE PARTY AGREEMENT

- Clerk-Treasurer Rooker had contact with the organizers of this non-profit and told them they needed to come in with the requested paperwork and a \$300 cash deposit before they could begin using the kitchen on Wednesday evenings.
- They were also informed that this would only be for a month, then it would be revisited.
- The organizers did not come by with the paperwork or the deposit.
- If they provide the required paperwork and deposit by Friday, May 19, then they can start next Wednesday, May 24th,

COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS

After the elections each year, the Mayor assigns each Council Member an area to oversee. These are the assignments for the 23-24 year:

- Council Member Fowler – Town Events/Recreation Committee Liaison
- Council Member Mullins – Streets & Roads
- Council Member Anthony – Municipal Building & Grounds
- Council Member Wade – Vice Mayor

BUDGET MEETINGS

- Clerk-Treasurer Rooker presented the FY 24 budget to the Council.
- There will be a budget meeting on Wednesday, May 24 @ 6:30pm.
- The FY 24 budget must be passed before June 30, 2023.

PAY BILLS

Motion by Council Member Mullins, seconded by Vice Mayor Wade to pay the bills for April 19, 2023 through May 16, 2023 in the amount of \$65,707.23. No further discussion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

OPEN FORUM – There was no one signed up to speak.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen D Rooker
Clerk-Treasurer