



Locust City Council Meeting Minutes Joel Huneycutt Community Room

7:00 PM

November 9, 2023

**Mayor
Council Members**

Mayor Steve Huber
Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Baucom, Mandy
Watson, Roger Hypes, Harry Fletcher, Mike
Haigler, Barry Sims, and Rusty Efird

1. Call to Order

Mayor Huber called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

2. Presentation of Colors, Prayer

Mayor Huber led in the Pledge of Alligence and Scott Efird gave the invocation

3. Adopt Agenda

M/S/A Council Members Harry Fletcher and Roger Hypes (7-0)
Motion to adopt the agenda as presented

4. Minutes - adopt (October 12th and October 24th Special Meeting)

M/S/A Council Members Harry Fletcher and Roger Hypes (7-0)
Motion to adopt minutes from October 12th and Special Meeting October 24th

October 12, 2023

October 24, 2023 - Special Meeting

5. Financial Reports

We expect our new auditors to present the 6/30/2023 audit during the December 14th meeting. General Fund revenues exceed expenditures by \$1,134,012.54. Wastewater fund revenues exceed expenditures by \$558,361.22. Our latest sales tax distribution that we received was \$141,641.90.

Financial Summary - October 31, 2023.

Purchase Orders

Budget Amendments

6. Mayor's Report

City Hall is lit up green in honor of the veterans and Veteran's Day. Mayor Huber recognized Representative Wayne Sasser and Cody Huneycutt who presented Mayor Huber, the Council, and the City of Locust with a check for 10 million dollars for water and sewer. Christmas Tree lighting is next Thursday at 6:00pm. Parade is December 2nd.

7. Manager's Report

Thank you Rep. Wayne Sasser and Cody Huneycutt for their hard work and dedication to Stanly County and all that they have done. Purchase orders and budget amendments were reviewed. The North Carolina League of Municipalities received \$25M from American Rescue Plan funds that they are using to assist communities in the State. Locust qualifies for several of their services, and in order to proceed we need to adopt an interlocal agreement. All these services will not cost Locust anything. Here is a summary of the services we'll be pursuing. Thanks to the entire staff, it has been a busy month. Thank you to all of the veterans for their service.

- **Cybersecurity:** The League will provide a comprehensive cybersecurity assessment of our infrastructure.
- **MAS:** Municipal Accounting Services. If we decide to pursue this service, the League will pay for the transfer of our accounting software and 3 years of the licensing fee. Our staff is exploring this platform to see if it's advantageous to our operations.
- **Planning & Engineering Services:** This group provides assistance, of up to \$50,000, for planning and engineering services. I spoke to them last week, and it appears our update to the 2014 Land Use Plan will qualify for this benefit.
- **Grant Writing:** This group will seek, write, and apply for grants that can benefit Locust. This call is yet to be scheduled to determine if we can take advantage of this service.

The public works department finished removing the existing trees from Locust Town Center today. You may recall we decided to remove them in order to repair the damaged sidewalks, and to replant trees later on. City Manager, Cesar Correa recommended that we do not replace the trees. The public works department will have a tree stump removal company out in the next few weeks to clean it up, and sidewalks will be replaced sometime in December.

M/S/A Council Members Harry Fletcher and Roger Hypes (7-0)

Motion to adopt a resolution for a Memorandum of Understanding with the NC League of Municipalities for use of their services and assistance

M/S/A Council Members Harry Fletcher and Larry Baucom (7-0)

Motion to approve purchase orders

M/S/A Council Members Harry Fletcher and Larry Baucom (7-0)
Motion to approve budget amendments

M/S/A Council Members Larry Baucom and Roger Hypes (7-0)
Motion to not to replant trees in Town Center

North Carolina League of Municipalities - MOU

Town Center Street Trees

8. Administration/HR

Nothing to report at this time

9. Parks

Gratitude graffiti is going on now in Town Center. Take the time to stop by a business and write on a window with your thankfulness. Christmas Tree Lighting next Thursday, 6:00pm there will be vendors and the Grinch. The parade will be December 2nd.

10. Facilities

City Manager Cesar Correa attended a kickoff meeting with CPL, the selected architects for the project. We also met yesterday with the stakeholders (Stanly Senior Services, YMCA, West Stanly Senior Foundation, Stanly Library) to discuss needs/wants for the space. We will then drop off materials to the seniors on November 27th and allow them to participate in a public input session on Wednesday, December 6th. We are actively working on transferring the green space behind City Hall to Locust, and you'll see surveying and geotech taking place over the next few days/weeks. Rep. Sasser stated that he will be back to the City to present \$500,000 for the senior center

Senior Center Update

11. Public Works

Flow report is great. Thanks to the department for all their hard work taking the trees down in Town Center and putting up the new Christmas decorations.

Wastewater Flow Report - October 31, 2023.

12. ABC, Economic Development & Small Business Support

Following the resignation of ABC Board Chairperson Joe Bishop, the City advertised and received 4 applications to fill his vacancy. One of the applications was turned away, because the individual did not live within our city limits. Council appointed Margaret Peacock to replace Joe Bishop as chairperson given her tenure and experience, and then appointed Mr. Rex Barbee to fill the vacant seat. He has been very active at the council meetings and applied to serve on the ABC Board before and reaffirmed his interest.

M/S/A Council Members Rusty Efird and Harry Fletcher (7-0)
Motion to appoint Margaret Peacock as chairperson of the ABC Board for the remainder of the term until

12/2024

M/S/A Council Members Rusty Efird and Michael Haigler (7-0)
Motion to appoint Rex Barbee to the ABC Board for a 3 year term to expire 12/2026

ABC Appointments

13. Public Safety

Monthly report was reviewed by Council Member Roger Hypes. Thank you to the police department for their participation at the fall festival. The departments dedication to the safety of Locust is top notch and does not go unappreciated or unnoticed.

Public Safety Report - October 2023.

14. Planning & Zoning

Planning and zoning report was reviewed by Council Member Michael Haigler. Presentation was given for proposed conditional rezoning request project on James Ave by James Schad for a new 2 story shopping plaza with a connected atrium. Retail space on the bottom floor and office space on the top floor.
Public Hearing was opened for comments on the conditional rezoning - no one spoke for or against

Council was asked to please schedule public hearings for QT and Taylor Morrison during the December 14th Council meeting.

M/A Council Member Michael Haigler (no second needed) (7-0)
Motion to approve the conditional rezoning request designating the subject property as Highway Commercial – Conditional (HC-C) for James Schad with the associated site plan and proposed elevations, to be consistent with the 2014 Land Use Plan

M/S/A Council Members Michael Haigler and Harry Fletcher (7-0)
Motion to schedule public hearings for QuikTrip and Taylor Morrison for the December 14, 2023 Meeting

Planning & Zoning Report - October 31, 2023.

Conditional Rezoning - James Schad

Schedule Public Hearings

15. Public Comment Period:

Ms. Judy Godwin signed up to speak about all of the growth that Locust has seen and that she loves to see it all.

16. Board Closing Comments

Glad to see all of those who came out to the meeting tonight. Thank you to Ms. Godwin for her comments. Thank you to Rep. Sasser and Mr. Huneycutt for all their hard work at the state level. Thank you to Mr. Rex

Barbee for your willingness to serve on the ABC Board. Thank you to Mr. James Schad for continuing to invest in the City of Locust. Thank you to the veterans.

17. Adjourn

M/S/A Council Members Harry Fletcher and Larry Baucom (7-0)

Motion to adjourn at 8:10pm

Amy Furr, City Clerk

Stephen Huber, Mayor