

TOWN OF BAILEY MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING – 1/16/2024

The Regular Meeting of the Bailey Town Board was held in the Bailey Town Hall on January 16, 2024, at 7 PM.

The following members of the Bailey Town Board were present: Mayor Owen H. Strickland II, Mayor Pro Temp/Commissioner Walter Wells, and Commissioners Richard Wilson, Dillon Bissette Ervin Powell, and David Evans.

Also in attendance: Town Administrator Joel Killion and Town Attorney Ryan King.

Called the meeting to order and welcomed guests:

Mayor Strickland called the meeting to order and welcomed the guests.

Commissioner Powell delivered the invocation.

Mayor Strickland led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing(s):

None

Approval of meeting minutes and financials:

Commissioner Powell made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, and Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioners Powell: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Bissette: Aye, Evans: Aye, Wells, Aye.

Agenda:

Planning Board: Zoning Administrator Shawn Lucas deferred to Chairman Mark Boykin to present updates to the Board.

Chairman Boykin shared that during the last Planning Board meeting, the Town Attorney provided training and literature from the UNC School of Government to aid the Board in their work. He also said he hopes the Attorney can come to the meetings more often since he is a great resource.

He mentioned that a Board member, Mrs. Tammy Bissette, resigned and thanked her for her service and work for the Town.

He then said that the Planning Board election left everything the same, with him as the Chairman and Diane Melton as Vice Chairman.

After that, he said that they approved auto leasing in the Town Center.

He mentioned that some work has had to be tabled due to being short on help. He said that Mr. Cecil Hawley applied to serve on the Board and recommended that he be considered. He also recommended that the Commissioners change Lisa Matthews from an alternate and make her a regular.

Mayor Pro Tem/Commissioner Wells commented that there are five members on the Planning Board that are active members and there are alternates for both the ETJ and the Town. If a regular ETJ or Town Planning Board member cannot attend a meeting, an alternate ETJ or Town member fills the seat for that meeting. For years, Lisa has been the in-Town alternate and now, since one of the Planning Board members (Mrs. Tammy Bisette) resigned, this has opened up a seat that needs to be filled for the remainder of the term until 2026.

Commissioner Evans asked Chairman Boykin if he was asking the Board of Commissioner to approve Lisa Matthew as the regular member to fill this open seat and Chairman Boykin confirmed this.

Mayor Strickland asked Commissioner Powell if he had anything to add, since he is the Regulatory Commissioner.

Commissioner Powell said he is fine with having Mr. Hawley fill the alternate position.

Mayor Pro Tem/Commissioner Wells then recommended that the Town solicit the community for additional applications to fill this position in an effort to be fair and prudent to all who may want to volunteer, since the opening on the Planning Board was so sudden. He also clarified that if Mrs. Matthews moves up to the regular member's seat, this will open an alternate seat that can either be filled by Mr. Hawley or another applicant.

Commissioner Powell made a motion to approve Mrs. Lisa Matthews for the regular in-Town seat on the Planning Board, and Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioners Powell: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Wells: Aye, Bisette: Aye, Evans: Aye.

Then, regarding filling the alternate in-Town seat, Commissioner Powell said he was ready to move now on filling it with Mr. Hawley. And so he made a motion to approve Mr. Hawley for the alternate seat, and Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioners Powell: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Wells: Aye, Bisette: Nay, Evans: Aye.

Then, as a point of personal privilege, Mayor Strickland asked the Board to please review and vote on the financials, since it was overlooked earlier.

Mayor Pro Tem/Commissioner Wells made a motion to accept the financials, and Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioners Wells: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Powell: Aye, Evans: Aye, Bissette: Aye.

EnviroLink: Mr. Andrew White (the Director of Operations) reviewed the monthly report for December 2023.

Top Notch Lawn Care: Mr. John Thompson (Owner/Operator) provided an update on the sewer easements that have been cleared and on where they are on yard waste removal this time of year. Other than that, he said everything is going well.

Old Business:

RR Bridge/Sandford Street Issue – Mayor Strickland shared that, just before Christmas, Mayor Pro Tem/Commissioner Wells asked him to make some phone calls on this matter. Since that time, he has made phone calls, as has Mayor Pro Tem/Commissioner Wells.

Mayor Pro Tem/Commissioner Wells then shared that he spoke with the Railroad and provided an update on what he had learned.

New Business:

Bailey/Middlesex Park – Mayor Strickland referred the Board to a report he prepared for them on what he had learned so far during his interactions with the County and Middlesex on this matter. He then read his report to the Board.

Afterwards, he asked the Board for feedback on the report he provided.

Mayor Pro Tem/Commissioner Wells said he would like to review the original agreement the Town entered into with the County and Middlesex.

Mayor Strickland asked the Board what they thought of his report that is a template of what he would like to use as a format for all future reports/presentations to the Board.

Commissioner Evans asked the Mayor to clarify that what he was needing was feedback on the gathering/collecting of information that would then be presented to the Board via these types

of reports for the Commissioner to take action on, and he further asked the Mayor if he was wanting to know if this is appropriate. The Mayor confirmed this.

Commissioner Evans said that as long as this does not legally overstep or violate the Town Charter, he finds this kind of information gathering and reporting to be helpful.

Town Attorney Ryan King said that as long as the Mayor is not stepping outside the duties of the Mayor/Council form of government, it is fine; what the Mayor has provided by way of non-actionable items to provide information to the Board is fine.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to allow the Mayor to continue in his ability to gather information and present it to the Commissioners from there for actionable items going forward. approve the gift cards, and Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioners Evans: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Bissette: Aye, Powell: Aye, Wells: Aye.

Public Comments:

Michelle Martinez (6303 Main Street) – She spoke on behalf of her mother, Ms. Vera, who has applied for a zoning permit but was denied because, as she was told, she needs to come to terms with the neighbor. She was told by the judge that she needed to either work things out with the neighbor or go to civil court. With that said, she said her mom does not understand why the county isn't approving her zoning permit. She is asking that the Town allow her to continue building.

Department Head Comments:

Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcer, Shawn Lucas: Zoning Administrator Shawn Lucas stated that five code enforcement letters have been mailed in the last month and then he provided a few other updates.

He also presented Bailey Tobacco & Grill's request for a beer and liquor license and asked the Board to discuss it and vote on it as it sees fit.

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve the license, and Commissioner Powell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioners Wilson: Aye, Powell: Aye, Bissette: Aye, Evans: Aye, Wells: Aye.

Bailey Police Department: Chief Adam Gelo provided a few updates and requested that the Board of Commissioners review the documentation in their packets regarding upgrades needed for the department's radio system. He said that this is the greatest need they have at this time.

After questions from the Board were answered regarding the radios, Commissioner Bissette made a motion to purchase two new hand-held radios, as recommended by the Chief, for a total of \$4,112.90. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioners Bissette: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Evans: Aye, Powell: Aye, Wells: Aye.

Town Administrator, Joel Killion: No comment.

Commissioner Comments:

Dillon Bissette: He thanked the Chief for gathering the information on the radios and provided a brief update on his Police Advisory Committee.

David Evans: Commissioner Evans stated that he is still working on the Economic Development & Planning Advisory Committee.

Ervin Powell: No comment.

Richard Wilson: He stated that he has been informed of a mole problem at the Cemetery. He is open to suggestions on how to resolve this problem.

Walter Wells: He gave a brief update on what the Town is working on related to its Water and Sewer systems. He also spoke to the repair of two pot holes.

Mayor's Remarks:

Mayor Strickland stated that we are now halfway through the public comment portion of our work on our Town's mission statement. He encouraged the public to submit written comments. He then shared that the mission statement will be before the Board during the next monthly meeting for their comments and review, for them to act on as they see fit.

He then shared that he will be attending tomorrow a mobile office hours get-together with Congressman Don Davis and said no more than two Commissioners are welcome to join him at the Nash County Administrative Building in Nashville.

He also shared that he will soon be rolling out his plans for how he will start and maintain an advisory group, though it will be different from how the Commissioners are facilitating their Advisory Committees.

He finally asked for a motion to move into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) Attorney/Client Privilege.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Wilson seconded. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioners Evans: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Bissette: Aye, Wells: Aye, Powell: Aye.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to reconvene from closed session. Commissioner Wells seconded. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioners Evans: Aye, Wells: Aye, Bissette: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Powell: Aye.

Commissioner Wells made a motion to engage PoynerSpruill attorney Mr. Richard Rose to help us from a legal standpoint on negotiating the contract for the sewer line to the City of Wilson to make sure Bailey is taking the right step at no more than \$300/hr. Commissioner Wilson seconded. Motion carried.


Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioners Wells: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Bissette: Aye, Evans: Aye, Powell: Aye.

Commissioner Powell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Wilson seconded. Motion carried.

Vote: Mayor Strickland: N/A, Commissioners Powell: Aye, Wilson: Aye, Evans: Aye, Wells: Aye, Bissette: Aye.

Meeting adjourned.


Owen H. Strickland II, Mayor


Joel Killian, Town Administrator