

Town of New London
Board of Commissioner's Meeting
December 6, 2022

Mayor Tate Daniels welcomed everyone and opened the Commissioner's Meeting. Present for the meeting were Mayor Daniels, Commissioners Bill Peak, Richard Kimmer and Town Manager Susan Almond. Visitors present at the meeting were John Kimmer, Cathy Kimmer, Mitzie Lanier, Kelih Collins, Bill Rogers, Mary Ellen Higgins, Tim Higgins, Karen Peak, Derek Starnes, Jason Stiller and Mallory Smith. Commissioners Johnny Chestnut, Christy Starnes and Marcus Mullis were absent from the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Peak. Mayor Daniels thanked the outgoing Commissioners Christy Starnes and Marcus Mullis for their service on the Town Board for the past nine years.

Town Manager Susan Almond administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected officials Sid Lanier and Timothy Higgins as Commissioners and the re-elected official Tate Daniels as Mayor. The newly elected and re-elected board members were seated and assumed their duties.

Mayor Daniels asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Mayor Daniels added an office item to the agenda. Commissioner Kimmer made a motion to approve the agenda with the change, seconded by Commissioner Lanier. Motion carried.

Mayor Daniels asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes from the November meeting. There being no corrections, Commissioner Peak made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Kimmer. Motion carried.

Elect Mayor Pro-Tem- Commissioner Kimmer made a motion to elect Commissioner Bill Peak as Mayor Pro-tem, seconded by Commissioner Lanier. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Commissioner's Duties- The Town Board agreed to the following appointment of duties: Commissioner Peak: Sewer operations, Commissioner Kimmer: Town streets and streetlights, Commissioner Chestnut: Zoning, Commissioner Lanier: Museum, Commissioner Higgins: Sheriff's Department Liaison, Mayor Daniels: Cemetery.

Confirm Board Meeting Date & Time- Commissioner Peak made a motion to continue meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm, seconded by Commissioner Higgins. Motion carried unanimously.

Carolina Thread Trail- Mr. Calvin Gaddy, Vice Chairman of the Friends of North Stanly Trails and Parks, gave an update on the progress of the Falcon Trail in Northern Stanly County. He requested Mrs. Susan Almond be allowed to continue serving as Secretary/Treasurer for a 3-year term for the Friends Group. Commissioner Higgins made a motion to allow Mrs. Almond to serve a 3-year term, seconded by Commissioner Kimmer. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Daniels noted that we are grateful for the work the Friends Group has done. He noted that we support the Carolina Thread Trail and its connectivity to New London Memorial Park.

Sewer Report- Commissioner Peak reported that NCDENR is scheduled to perform an inspection of the sewer stations the first week in January. He noted that everything is up to date and ready to go.

Christmas Decorations- The Board is considering purchasing more outdoor Christmas Decorations and will bring ideas back in the next few months.

Code Enforcement- No changes to report regarding the existing code report.

Mrs. Almond reported on the following:

- Ethics Training- Under North Carolina law, newly elected or re-elected officials are required to receive at least 2 hours of ethics training within twelve months after each election. The UNC School of Government offers an on-demand webinar that we will purchase for the officials to satisfy this requirement.
- TCC & TAC Representatives- Commissioner Kimmer made a motion for Commissioner Peak to be the TAC Representative and for Mrs. Almond to be the TCC Representative, seconded by Commissioner Higgins. Motion carried. Alternate members will be elected at the next meeting.
- Live Nativity sponsored by citizens and local churches will at the New London Memorial Park at 6:00 pm on Saturday, December 24th.
- Bagged Leaves Pick-up- Saturday, January 7th

Mayor Daniels gave an update on the following:

- Park Update- Swings are completed and Mr. Danny Russell will stain them. Electricity for the new shelter will be installed in the next few weeks. Santa in the Park was successful with at least 75 children in attendance.
- Parker Mine- the State Mining Department issued the permit for Parker Mine. Our zoning ordinance has regulations they have to abide by.
- Asbestos Report- Still waiting on another quote for asbestos removal at the Coggins properties.
- Donations Received from Ruth Coggin's Estate- We greatly appreciate the donation of \$1,000 for the Museum, \$1,000 for the Park and \$1,000 for the Town Hall from Mrs. Coggin's Estate.
- Efird Farms Annexation Request into Albemarle- Efird Farms (parcel id 7061) has requested to be annexed into the City of Albemarle. However, annexation laws require New London to relinquish our intent to annex that property given its close proximity to our city limits before they can be annexed into Albemarle. Following discussion, the Town Board's consensus was that they were not interested in annexing Efird Farms into New London. We need to establish a "Sphere of Influence" with the City of Albemarle to set boundary lines for future annexations.
- Office Update- Fiber was recently installed at the Town Hall which included a new phone system.

A closed session was called with the Economic Development Commission to discuss a tax incentive for a new project in New London. The Commissioner's Meeting reconvened.

The agenda being accomplished, the meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Minutes submitted by Susan Almond, Town Manager.