

**Town of Mocksville  
Regular Board Meeting  
September 3, 2019**

The Town of Mocksville Board of Commissioners met for the Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mocksville Town Hall.

<b>Present:</b>	Mayor, Will Marklin	<b>Absent:</b>
<b>Commissioners Present:</b>	Eric Southern	
	Brent S.Ward	
	Rob Taylor	
	Brian Williams	
	Amy Vaughan-Jones	

**Others Present:**

Matt Settlemyer, Town Manager  
Lynn Trivette, Town Clerk  
Al Benschhoff, Town Attorney  
Pat Reagan, Police Chief  
Brian Moore, Public Services Director  
Rustin Harpe, Parks and Grounds Director  
Tami Langdon, Community Development  
Ray Moore, Assistant Fire Chief

Mayor Marklin called the meeting to order welcoming everyone in attendance.

The Town of Mocksville Board paused for a moment of silence.

Josh and Caleb McBride led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Adoption of Agenda**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to adopt the agenda with one correction being change the word ten to five under the public hearing section 8. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams which carried by a unanimous vote 5-0.*

**Citizen Comments**

Mayor reads; Under GS 160-81.1, the Board shall provide one period for public comment per month. Public comments are a valued part of the Board meeting but we also have to handle monthly business items. If your public comment is not heard this month we provide the same opportunity at each month's Board meeting. Public comments are limited to 3 minutes per comment. The Mayor asks that groups appoint spokespersons for groups supporting the same position, especially when the number of people wishing to attend the meeting exceeds the capacity of Town Hall. When the comments become repetitive and no longer provide new information then discussion for this meeting may be stopped. As a reminder, the comment period is not a question and answer session.

As always, the Mayor shall provide for the maintenance of order and decorum in the conduct of the comment period.

**Alan Bagshaw** addressed the Board concerning their silence and putting out different stories.

**Susan Whitner** addressed the Board concerning no clear explanation why Sarge Butters was evicted and the public plans to be at every meeting.

**Kim Silvers** addressed the Board concerned that all this is a vendetta against the police department.

**Justin Vocke** addressed the Board saying the group trying to save Sarge Butters is just a fraction of the voter population and believes this is being used for political purposes.

**Greg Bagshaw** addressed the Board saying this is not the first time the idea of dissolving the PD and turning law enforcement over to Davie Sheriff's Office has been made. Chief Raegan is one of the most progressive Chief's I have ever seen.

**Brad Battle** addressed the Board asking them what inspired them to run for office? He discussed the roll of the PD and their services to the Town. If Chief Raegan can service the ugliness of this world and still find time to service someone or something in need isn't this what it is all about?

**Carol Yow** addressed the Board saying Sarge Butters needs to be reunited with the PD. The PD has improved community relations especially with the senior citizen population.

**Penny Young** addressed the Board and wanted to know who was in charge, two members of the Board and the Town Manager or the full Board? Silence is a concern and not all super heroes wear capes but some wear badges and collars.

**Will Vaughan-Jones** addressed the Board saying that Commissioner Vaughan-Jones (his mom) and Commissioner Ward love animals. It is very unfair for both to be judged like this. She also loves law enforcement and the focus is on this cat so much that the blind eye is not seeing the corruption that has been going on in the PD for a long time. The two Commissioners Vaughan-Jones and Ward are silent until the facts come out. The Board members are doing a great job so stop the harassment and let them sort it all out.

**Jennifer Jackson** addressed the Board saying Chief Raegan went out of his way to help her with an identity theft issue before he was Chief. She believes Mocksville has one of the best Police Departments and now we have the Grinch that stole the joy out of our Town.

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## **Communications from Boards, Commissions and Agencies**

### Recognition of Employee

Lynn Trivette, Finance Director for the Town recognized Emily Quance for completing 8 of the 14 modules for Local Government Finance. Lynn is excited that Emily has taken a liking to finance and hoping she gets to complete the other 6 modules in the future. It is an excellent opportunity through the SOG for only \$125.00 and it gives a complete reflection on the world of government finance. Lynn also comments on the HR classes Emily has been attending which are a definite need in the Administration Department because the laws are forever changing. Lynn thanks Emily for having the ambition to continue her education because she has shown to be a true asset for the Town. Lynn also thanks Town Manager for encouraging the department to stay educated.

### Recognition Key to the City

Mayor Marklin presented the Key to the City to Jonathan Raegan. Commissioner Ward states this is the highest citizen's award the Town presents but Jonathan is deserving of it and can be our youth ambassador since he is the youngest to ever receive the Key to the City. After having a conversation with Chief Raegan about his son Jonathan, Commissioner Ward felt winning three national championships in trampoline, knowing how hard it is to even sit on one was deserving of this award. Commissioner Ward is proud of Jonathan and his accomplishments and feels they are inspiring to others. Commissioner Ward is also proud of the Raegan family and feels they set a good example for the Town of Mocksville.

### **Mayor addressed the following Proclamations:**

Constitution Week – September 17 – 23  
Family Promise Week – October 21 – 27  
United Way Month of October  
Domestic Violence Awareness Month of October

### **Consent Agenda**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to adopt the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Southern which carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0. Items approved were: (A) August 20, 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes (B) August 20, 2019 Executive Session Minutes (C) Monthly Financials (D) Tax Releases.*

### **Consider Mocksville Comprehensive Plan**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Williams to approve the Mocksville Comprehension Plan as presented in July. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Taylor which carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.*

### **Consider Re-Allocation of Funds to the NC Capital Management Trust**

The Town is currently earning 1/2% on their BB'T accounts and the average annualized monthly NCCMT rates are over 2%. The banks have not kept pace with the federal funds rate and this move would be good for the Town.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to approve moving funds into new NC Capital Management Trust accounts to earn better a market rate of return on our saving accounts. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams which carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.*

### **Communication from Town Staff**

Town Manager stated the staffing and performance assessment for the Mocksville Police Department will be completed by Developmental Associates, LLC; prepared by Thomas Moss a retired Police Chief. It was the consensus of the Board and the report will be completed at a later date.

Town Attorney

### **Communication from Mayor and Town Board**

Commissioner Williams appreciated the two young men brave enough to stand and lead the Town in the Pledge of Allegiance tonight. He also thanked the people who came out to speak on either side of the issues because most people are not trained public speakers and it is much appreciated that you voiced your opinions. To Chief Reagan and his police department, I want to make it crystal clear that I stand firm with you and behind you. I saw where Chief Reagan had achieved his Master's in Public Administration and even though it took him three years most people wouldn't even know that he is qualified to be a Town Manager. We have a highly educated Chief that is dedicated to the Town and he goes above and beyond in all he does.

Commissioner Taylor stated that the Chief has our full support. He knows that. The detectives know that. The officers know that. That education is amazing and a Master's in Public Administration is an incredible amount of skill and knowledge to professionalize the police department and really make good decisions for them. I have been a supporter of Chief Reagan from the beginning and being the Assistant District Attorney I see the reports and other items related to the PD. I work with Koula Black all the time and the reports are amazing and the officers are getting better educated. I look forward to seeing how the education will allow the PD to improve. Congratulations to Johnathan, I have followed you on your mother's Instagram watching you defy gravity in many different ways and I am glad you're here and appreciate all your accomplishments.

Commissioner Southern thanked the general public for being here tonight speaking on both sides of the issues. Congratulations to Johnathan on a job well done. McBride guys good job. Emily thank you for all you do and department heads thanks for all you do. Tami great job and good luck in September because it looks like lots of events going on.

Commissioner Ward thanked the four departments; Parks and Grounds that keep our town beautiful, Public Works that keeps our water safe to drink and the streets clean and the PD and FD that keeps our community safe. Thanks to the Town Hall staff for doing a remarkable job and service to the public. Tami thank you for all you do and the upcoming events for the Town. Thanks to all who came out this evening and showing interest in the Town.

Commissioner Vaughan-Jones "stated she would like to take the time now to address some information that was offered to the citizens of Mocksville that do not reflect factual events," said Amy Vaughan-Jones at the start of her speech. "With respect to my role as a town board member, I fully understand my role having been elected in 2013 and again in 2017. I have served with honesty, integrity, transparency -- representing the citizens of Mocksville over the years. I was voted by the people to represent their interest for the town and to voice their concerns." "Per the school of government publication, 'County and Municipal Government in North Carolina, Second Edition,' these are a few highlighted areas that (are) essential to governing as a town board member in the state of NC. Mocksville is a council-manager form of government with five board members elected at-large. Decisions of the board must be made in an open forum and votes recorded for the public unless the matter at hand is one that should be moved into an executive session -- issues such as personnel or legal issues.

"Per the school of government, the roles of a town board member include:

- Expectation 1 - The governing board sets direction by routinely monitoring and evaluating local government's ability to administer and provide efficient and effective public services. The police department is in fact a public service.
- Expectation 2 - The governing board acts as a body by making clear to the public that the decision power rests with the majority, not with an individual board member.
- Expectation 7 - The board freely gives and seeks feedback by regularly reviewing and monitoring the local government's finances, programs, and services. This would include all departments within the town government. Additionally, the manager shall be the chief administrator of the city. The manager is responsible for the hiring, disciplining, and removal of all administrative personnel," explained Vaughan-Jones.

"Further, I would like to share at our last board meeting, all five board members agreed to an outside agency of doing an evaluation of the police department to make sure that we are listening to the complaints of the officers and citizens to determine if the department was operating effectively and efficiently.

"Regarding my position as a Mocksville town board member, the residents of Mocksville are encouraged to share the concerns with respect to the operations of any department within the town.

"Numerous complaints were shared with me regarding the fatality on North Main Street in April. With the complaints that came out of the Sgt. Butters Facebook page, I contacted the town manager to share the concerns of the citizens as to the insensitivity to the issue and whether this was the correct form for this information to be shared. In addition to the comments that were posted under the Facebook thread, (there were) comments about the police department not enforcing the speed limit through the section of town. My concern, expressed to the town manager, noted that the town certainly did not need to draw attention to the fact that many were seeing police in a negative light considering we had just settled a 4.1 million dollar lawsuit within the police department.

"In late June, additional complaints were voiced to me concerning a photo that was again posted on Sgt. Butters' Facebook page that showed Butters on top of a warrant with the name of the person being served the warrant, their address and social security number. Many were shocked to see this type of information that was being shared on the social media site.

"Again, I expressed my concerns with the town manager with regards to the page and appropriateness. On August 10, there was another Facebook post that was of Jeffery Epstein and the caption below the photo said " Clintons win again!" Clearly, it is very offensive and very inappropriate. The town manager was notified by many board members of complaints. He removed the Facebook page of Sgt. Butters due to problems of controlling the Facebook page within the department. Ultimately, this responsibility was that of the chief to know what information was being shared from his department to the public in a social media forum.

"Also, during the past few months, several officers within the department had approached several board members with complaints that involved hostile work environments to them, bullying, unfair write-ups, the health and welfare of all officers and the work environment, as well as officers leaving the department for other employment or other law enforcement agencies. Additionally, there have been, in the past four months, four officers have resigned and left the Mocksville Police Department. Questions have been raised by citizens (about) patrol hours, lack of officers patrolling, and the number of officers that worked daily and their responsibilities. A, I would like to mention, that at our last town board meeting, all five board members agreed to this outside evaluation to determine future needs for our police department going forward. I would like to publicly state that I am not in favor of dissolving the Mocksville Police Department, but I am open to hearing the results of the evaluation and I am ready to make changes that will help us have an effective and efficient police department. My text message to the town manager reflecting dissolving the police department was made at a time of tremendous frustration --- considering I had approached the manager for many months to address the issues within the department. The town's continuing to field the complaints from citizens and many of these issues should've been addressed once prior.

"In the past week, I have been called out for micromanaging and not knowing or understanding my role on the board. I can assure re you, based on facts presented, I followed my role as offered by the UNC School of Government with degrees in psychology, political science, as well as a master's in education. I have followed the recommended best practices of a town board member as set forth by the School of government. I was born and raised in Mocksville and am a supporter of rescue animals and have four rescue dogs at home. My family did have a rescue cat, but unfortunate he was an outside cat and I do believe the coyotes got him. I am a teacher and I have a wonderful teaching moment to share with my middle school students concerning the effects of cyber-bullying and how that does not work. I teach my

students that words that are shared on social media may be deleted, but they can always be found in cyberspace. They should be very conscious of harassment and cyberbullying. Prosecution can be a byproduct of their actions which is a lesson I think we all need to adhere and abide by.

"Finally, I would like to close by saying there has been a great deal of misinformation that has been offered to the public that is not based on facts and has been driven, by many reasons, but mostly of hate, anger and political gain. I would have appreciated the opportunity to share the facts with our editor of our local paper, prior to the editorial being written, so he could've heard two sides of the story. I am asking you to stop with the false facts, rumors, and innuendos. We should treat each other with respect and kindness as we look for answers for the best interests of our town moving forward."

Mayor Marklin appreciates everyone coming out this evening. The next meeting will be October 1<sup>st</sup> so you're welcome to join us. Tami has lots of great events going on throughout the fall and winter (bed races) so make sure you look on the Town's website or Facebook page to look at schedules. Thank you Chief Reagan so much for what you do. Johnathan great job and thanks McBride boys for coming out tonight.

### **Adjourn**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Williams to adjourn the September 3, 2019 Regular Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Taylor which carried by a unanimous vote 5-0.*

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William J. Marklin, Mayor

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Lynn Trivette, Town Clerk, NCCMC