

**Town of Mocksville
Regular Board Meeting
August 4, 2020**

The Town of Mocksville Board of Commissioners met for the Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Energy United Building located at 182 South Salisbury Street Mocksville, NC.

Present:

Commissioners Present:

Mayor, Will Marklin
Amy Vaughan-Jones
Rob Taylor
Justin Draughn
Brian Williams
Eric Southern

Absent:

Others Present:

Matt Settlemyer, Town Manager
Lynn Trivette, Town Clerk
Pat Reagan, Police Chief
Al Benschhoff, Town Attorney

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

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

Mayor Marklin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to adopt the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Draughn which carried by a unanimous vote 5-0.

Citizen Comments

Mayor reads; Under GS section 160A-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.

Andrew Doss addressed the Board concerning the Internal Affair Investigation with the Mocksville Police Department. Andrew requested the investigation report from the Mocksville PD and has not heard from no one. The request was made July 20, 2020 at the meeting with the Magistrates.

Ashley Lambeth an employee at the Mocksville Police Department addressed the Board stating she loves her job and her work family. This year has been hard for herself and her co-workers and what is taking place is causing a hostile, traumatizing work environment. Making herself clear the issues are not being caused by Chief Reagan or Major Black. The fake social media account is not sharing full truthful information and they are trying to destroy the Mocksville Police Department. She asked the Board and the Mayor to please stand up for the employees at the Mocksville PD.

Alan Bagshaw addressed the Board concerned about Mocksville's reputation and how juvenile it is setting up false social media accounts and falsely accusing people of wrong doing when all the facts are not being shown. Alan plans to keep documenting the facts.

Communications from Boards, Commissions and Agencies

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Southern to adopt the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Taylor which carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0. Items approved were: (A) July 7, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes (B) July 7, 2020 Closed Session Minutes (C) Monthly Financials (D) Tax Releases.

Consider Early Retirement Incentive Plan

Town Manager: In an effort to restructure the Town workforce, a retirement incentive package is proposed to create some open positions within the workforce. The retirement incentive would be available only to those employees in the General Fund who currently meet or will meet by their anticipated retirement date, eligibility requirements for reduced or unreduced retirement as established by the North Carolina Local Government Employees' Retirement System.

A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to adopt the early retirement incentive policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Southern which carried by a unanimous vote 5-0.

Consider Adopting Northern Piedmont Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution

Town Manager: It is the intent of the Town of Mocksville Board of Commissioners to protect its citizens and property from the effects of natural hazards by preparing and maintaining a local hazard mitigation plan.

It is also the intent of the Town of Mocksville Board of Commissioners to fulfill its obligation under North Carolina General Statutes, Chapter 166A: North Carolina Emergency Management Act and Section 322: Mitigation Planning, of the U.S. Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to remain eligible to receive state and federal assistance in the event of a declared disaster affecting the (Town of Mocksville).

Town of Mocksville, in coordination with Caswell, Davie, Forsyth, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry and Yadkin Counties and the participating municipalities within those Counties has prepared a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan with input from the appropriate local and state officials.

The North Carolina Division of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency are reviewing the Northern Piedmont Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for legislative compliance and will approve the plan pending the completion of local adoption procedures.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams to adopt the northern piedmont regional hazard mitigation plan resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Draughn which carried by a unanimous vote 5-0.

Communication from Town Staff

Town Attorney: none

Town Manager: none

Communication from Mayor and Town Board

Commissioner Vaughan-Jones: I am extremely concerned. I had a report that the State Highway Patrol is no longer assisting Mocksville. I spoke to Sgt. Howell and they will no longer assist us unless it's imminent danger of an officer's life. I am concerned about the number of occurrences that we have had with conversations with Magistrates, with traditional folks that are upset with PD policies and procedures. I am upset that it looks like you are going to try to do another report when we already have an assessment that has not been followed. I asked Matt to bring up that report that was put in the paper on January 30, 2020 that says we are embracing an assessment, but Magistrates are concerned about all kinds of issues such as Fourth Amendment polices that our Officers are breaking. I send Matt an email, I get back something that's completely different from what Officer Howell tells me. I am not sure who we are trusting and what we are doing? Our citizens deserve better. We are in another lawsuit and just got out of one. I spoke to Matt in March of 2019 concerning the insensitive post for the couple in the crosswalk, because the woman was hit in the crosswalk, the conversation revolved around 'we need to be more careful when in the crosswalk'. My conversation with Matt determined you should be more sensitive and from there we went to a post about Epstein. I'm not sure if we have a social media policy anymore because we have lots of people breaking the policy. Town employees have Tik Toc videos with some appalling language, in police officer uniforms that citizens have seen. We have gone to pull the policy of the completed assessment and we ask what has been completed? The report tells us about glowing reports but yet our Magistrates sit back and have the meeting with Officer Doss. I apologize for that, because your supervisor said you were interrogated and felt intimidated. My understanding was that two different stories came out and that is why your Officers said we are done. At what point do we cross the line that we break the laws to make it right. I don't know what else to try, seems like we are sitting on deaf ears. (To Mr. Doss) Your supervisor spoke highly of you and how this had shaken you up. I apologize to you. Seems like some folks tried to make calls to Raleigh to jump over other people. How do you think folks feel that in that department, employees as you say, about those intimidations and those hostile bullying incidents? We have Officers now suing us because of that. The report was blatant and clear we have those problems within our department. Yet Officers are leaving and suing us. We just got out of a \$4.1 million law suit. Officer Hill has every right to file that lawsuit. Eric Southern and I went and tried to speak to Matt about targeting employees. They took his dog, saying it was for vacation, but he was gone for 10 days before the dog went to the kennel. I don't know who has the dog now but he's not trainable. I'm here as an elected official trying to do what the people here have elected me to do, speak for them. We have a Police Department that we cannot get right and is 22% of our budget; at what point, does something have to happen that we fix it? I implore this Board to stand up and do what is right. My conversation with

Howell today revolved around Giglio impairment. It means that if the Officers of the MPD are caught lying; and/or Howell's officers if they helped with a stop could be caught up in the drama and it totally would throw everything out. That is why he will not assist the Mocksville PD. I am sorry; you (Mr. Doss) should have been given what they told you they would give. And, for Mr. Bagshaw seems like it works fine when it is the cat people and you have all kinds of issues that are blessed to heart. **Mr. Alan Bagshaw interjected:** Are you attacking me? I just want to make that clear real quick. Are you actually attacking me publicly? **Commissioner Vaughan-Jones:** It is a public statement. **Mr. Alan Bagshaw:** Because I have been here and I have, been watching many conversations I just want to make it clear, are you actually, are you attacking me? **Commissioner Vaughan-Jones:** You asked me the question. Bless your heart, you're commenting that (cannot hear over Mayor) **Mayor Marklin:** I have to call the meeting back into order Amy don't, please don't refer to anybody in the audience. Ok? Please finish with your statement. **Commissioner Vaughan-Jones:** The people of Mocksville deserve better. It is time for this Board to do something to make a change. We have two attorneys on this Board and if the Giglo impairment did not kind of frighten me, because I have no traditional abilities, it frightened me. That State Highway Patrol Trooper's (Doss) would love for this Police Department and the State Highway Patrol to mirror, and come up with a meeting to go over traffic accidents and other things that would be done collaboratively. People deserve better.

Commissioner Southern: Commissioner Vaughan-Jones Amen! I agree with you 100%. Mr. Doss my apology on behalf of the Town. Thank you for your service and for being here tonight. I would like to give a thank you to Joey Reynolds for 25 plus years of law enforcement service a lot of it with the Town. He is a fine officer that served with dedication, honor and class and we need more like him. He will be sorely missed I think. Matt I want to thank you for working with the youth baseball league and helping out at least 55 kids that consisted of three teams. It went great and Will and I attended some of the games. As far as the PD I will be short and sweet. The one word I have heard a lot in the last few weeks is a "mess". I think that might be the understatement of the century. Matt, Chief Reagan but Matt the buck stops with you. I expect better leadership in this Town and the Town deserves better leadership and that's all I have to say.

Commissioner Taylor: I appreciate all the comments tonight; Amy, Eric and Brian. My job is built on facts and that is all I do every day. I read files, assess facts, decide on what needs to happen and how the law applies to it. I have a lot of questions that need answers. I don't like to look at Facebook and base my decisions on what I see on there. I know Facebook does not carry sometimes any of the truth or very little of the truth and even twisted versions of the truth. But at the same time I cannot continue to look at smoke and not believe that something is not going the way it should. Hearing from Ms. Lambeth's comments; is it the leadership or people outside the department attacking it? We need to get to the bottom of all of these questions and find out what the truth is or we are never going to be pushing in the right direction. Can we get it? I don't know but that is what this Board has to do.

Commissioner Williams: Trooper Doss you and I have been friends since you became a Trooper and I appreciate your service to our County and State. You reached out to me and professionally voiced what happened to you and I deeply apologize to you and that it was defiantly uncalled for. I made an effort to reach out to the Town Manager and Sgt. Hal with your concerns and again I apologize.

Commissioner Draughn: none

Mayor Marklin: I appreciate the Boards comments and I know we have some work to do. Matt has some plans moving forward and we will get on top of this.

Motion to enter closed session per NC GS 143-318.11 (a) (3) and (6), to preserve the attorney-client privilege, and to discuss judicial action and personnel.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams to enter into close session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Taylor and approved by a unanimous vote 5-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Williams to re-enter into open session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Taylor and approved by a unanimous vote 5-0.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to adjourn the August 4, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams which carried by a unanimous vote 5-0.

The attached documents are incorporated herewith and are hereby made a part of these minutes.

William J. Marklin, Mayor

Lynn Trivette, NCCMC