## TOWN OF BRIDGETON BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES JUNE 11, 2024 AT 7:00 PM

## CALL PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER

DISCUSS BUDGET CONCERNS –COM. ALEXANDER DISPUTED BUDGET AS PRESENTED DUE TO DELETION OF PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS' SALARY TO BALANCE BUDGET. MAYOR PRESENTS TWO OPTIONS: POSTPONE ACCEPTANCE OF BUDGET OR ACCEPT BUDGET AS IS AND AMEND TO FIT NEEDS. COM. ALEXANDER WOULD RATHER POSTPONE AND REANALYZE BUDGET. COM. TYNDALL AGREES. WILL BE VOTED ON AT CONTINUED MEETING. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING – MOTION FROM COM. TYNDALL TO CLOSE 2<sup>ND</sup>: COM. WILSON MOTION PASSED. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN DURING PUBLIC HEARING

CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER ROLL CALL OF TOWN OFFICIALS: MAYOR CHITTICK, COMMS' TYNDALL, TREMBLAY, ALEXANDER, TREY FERGUSON, TONYA WHITLEY BELL, SUSAN LUPER, SEVEN VISITORS INVOCATION – COMMISSIONER TYNDALL PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE – LED BY MAYOR CHITTICK

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED: Motion: TYNDALL Second: WILSON MOTION CARRIED

Consider approval of the meeting minutes for the following Meetings: May 14, 2024 May 28, 2024 Motion: TYNDALL Second: ALEXANDER MOTION CARRIED

Police Report: Chief Barney read the attached report

Financial Report: Clerk Whitley Bell- as per included reports.

Com. Tyndall makes motion to appoint Capt. Katie Johnson to replace Rick Barney as police chief upon his retirement effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Motion: Tyndall Second: Tremblay - Carried

Mayor's Report – No discussion

Billing, Planning and Zoning Report: Chair Chittick and Admin Howard - Utility billing average about \$23,000. Sewer expenses minus major repairs is around \$19,000. Abatement on 1308 N B Street Garage has been handled. Rocky Carter's swearing in for planning board will be in July. O'Reilly auto parts const. Is ahead of schedule. July meeting needs public hearing for rezoning request for 106 N B Street.

Motion: Tyndall Second: Wilson - Carried

Administrative Report: Clerk Whitley-Bell - \$73,628.90 spent last month. Ending bank balance as of May 31<sup>st</sup> is \$649,918.73 Next training session will be continued on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Cruddy Cans will be presenting services to residents. We are all excited for the blueberry festival.

Grant audit findings update will proceed upon receiving some needed info. Carl Doolin continues to receive compliments on his work in our garden here at Town Hall

Attorney's Report: Trey will Cover this meeting Summer Associate from Campbell University attending to observe

OLD BUSINESS:

Any new information on the renaming of A, B and C Streets: Keith Tyndall - No new information

Approve Bills against the Town - Paid fuel bill so as not to gain any late fees. Lowe's invoice-Confirmed that tools are being used on the property for sewer treatment maintenanceMotion: TyndallSeconded: Alexander

Commissioner Tyndall has contracted for the installation of the utility pole in Blades Park. We have run into some technical difficulties regarding the install as previously proposed. Duke Energy has redirected the electrical lines and increased the cost. The mayor has secured a grant from Craven County to assist with this cost.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consideration to approve the Budget and Budget Ordinance for fiscal year 07/01/2024-06/30/2025 Motion: Tyndall Second: Alexander Motion - TABLED Consideration to approve the Tax Rate for fiscal year 07/01/2024-06/30/2025 Motion: Tyndall Second: Tremblay Motion - Passed Consideration to approve the Grant Ordinance Approval for the Period of the Grant Execution Second: Wilson Motion: Tyndall Motion - Passed Consideration to approve the Powers to the Clerk to execute the duties and directives of the Town. Motion: Tyndall Second: Alexander Motion – Passed – Discussion: Commissioner Tyndall asked the clerk about the Hierarchy of power in the office. Her reply was that we all answer to the mayor. If one of us is late or absent we put it in the group text. If we leave early, we let each other know as needed. We will come up with a better protocol for rearranging hours. Commissioner Tyndall proceeded to fuss at the Clerk about leaving early. The Clerk had been working with a fever in the back office to avoid everyone in the case of possible contagions, but had to get work done that was on a time table and deadline. The Mayor told her to go home both days and she finally came to a point that she could and left at 3:30 that Friday. Cheyanne had a toothache and Tyndall told her to go home and then fussed at the Clerk because the office was untended for an hour. The Clerk had no knowledge of the incident nor of the office being unattended. This was not of her doing. Consideration of the updated hours in the payroll program from the handbook. Sick leave went from 7 hours to 8. Motion: Not necessary to vote Consideration to sign the contract for the Auditor/Carr, Riggs and Ingram LLC Motion: Tyndall Second: Tremblay Consideration of the Line-Item Transfers as listed on the following page.

Motion: Alexander Second: Tyndall

Consider the Swearing in of Rocky Carter to the Planning Board. This will be done when Mr. Carter returns to town.

There will be a training meeting June 26, 2024. This will be a Question and Answer forum directed by Cruddy Cans. Donnie is in the forum this evening if there are any questions, but we hope the residents will be in attendance of this meeting EOM for more information regarding Cruddy Cans and all the services they offer.

Closed session for Personnel and Attorney Client Privilege

Citizen Input: Damage to seawall at end of Bridge Street. Luper reminds of the festival, kudos to all those who've put it together.

Com. Alexander brings attention to maintenance needs of the sewer treatment. Sandblasting,

painting, etc. Work will require a budget of potentially thousands.

Motion to accept quote for this work

Motion: Chittick Second: Tyndall Motion Passed

Continuation of this meeting will Continue June 26, 2024, at 7:00 here at the Town Hall. Motion: Tyndall Second: Wilson

Time: 8:37 PM

Accepted: Mayor John Chittick

Clerk Tonya Whitley Bell

Date: June 11, 2024