

**TOWN OF HOPE MILLS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2022, 7:00 P.M.
BILL LUTHER BOARD MEETING ROOM**

Mayor Jackie Warner called the regular meeting of the Hope Mills Board of Commissioners to order on Monday, January 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Jackie Warner, Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Kenjuana McCray, Commissioners Jerry Legge, Bryan Marley, Grilley Mitchell and Joanna Scarola.

STAFF PRESENT

Town Manager Scott Meszaros, Town Clerk Jane Starling, Finance Director Drew Holland, Police Chief Stephen Dollinger, Deputy Public Works Director Bruce Clark, Planning & Economic Development Director Chancer McLaughlin. Also present was Town Attorney Dan Hartzog, Jr.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGINACE

The invocation was led by Pastor Ellen McCubbin, Hope Mills United Methodist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Jackie Warner.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS.

Motion made by Commissioner Marley, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and carried unanimously, to approve the agenda as presented.

2. OFFICIAL COMMENTS.

Commissioner Legge expressed his gratitude for all in attendance and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Mitchell wished everyone a happy new year and expressed his hope that the new year will be positive and beneficial for all.

Commissioner Marley echoed the comments of his fellow Board members and expressed his eagerness to get to work.

Commissioner Scarola wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray looking forward to a productive new year.

3. PRESENTATIONS:

- a. Introduction and Ceremonial Swearing in of New Hope Mills Police Chief, Stephen F. Dollinger.

Mayor Jackie Warner administered the Oath of Office to Police Chief Stephen F. Dollinger.

Police Chief Dollinger thanked the Board, Town Manager Meszaros, and his family and expressed his commitment to the Hope Mills Police Department.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Jeff Sports, 1449 Thoroughbred Trail, Parkton, NC. Mr. Sports recently retired from the Hope Mills Police department after 23 years of service. Mr. Sports spoke in reference to the discrepancies in pay and training budgets in the Police department.

Mr. Bill McQueen, 5903 Hunting Ridge Road, Hope Mills, NC. Mr. McQueen spoke in reference to the Town's lack of a newspaper or other printed publications to inform that public that is not on social media, and his willingness to provide one.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Consideration of Approval of Draft Minutes from the December 20, 2021, Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting.

“END OF CONSENT AGENDA”

Motion made by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Legge and carried unanimously, to approve the consent agenda as read.

7. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Consideration of Board, Committee, and Commission Nominations.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray reviewed the recommendations of the Nominating Committee as included in the agenda packet.

Motion made by Commissioner Scarola, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and carried unanimously, to approve the nominations for the Appearance, Parks & Recreation Advisory, Prime Movers and Veterans Affairs Committees.

Commissioner Legge remarked he was against the split opinion for the Historic Preservation Committee as that volunteer had resigned on more than one occasion and served as Chair.

Commissioner Scarola inquired if the Town has anything in place in the Rules of Procedure for Boards and Committees regarding an applicant's eligibility to serve after a specified number of resignations.

Commissioner Mitchell requested the Board move forward with the Nominating Committees recommendations and work on a new policy to address Committee resignations.

Motion made by Commissioner Marley to approve the Historic Preservation Committee full slate and the motion carried 4 to 1, with Commissioner Legge voting against.

Discussion ensued regarding language for the Committee resignation policy, addressing decorum on social media and attendance.

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray suggested the Board meet with all Committees in March to review committee guidelines, so all members are provided the same information at the same time.

9. REPORTS AND INFORMATION ITEMS:

a. Manager's Report.

Town Manager Meszaros provided a report included in the agenda packet. Town Manager Meszaros remarked the Town will begin lowering the lake level on January 10th and a level gauge flow meter will be installed between January 18-January 20.

b. Reminders.

- Thursday, January 06, 2022 at 6:00 pm **Prime Movers** meeting via zoom.
- Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 6:00 pm **Historic Preservation Committee** meeting in the recreation center.
- Thursday and Friday, January 13-14, 2022, **BOC Essentials of Municipal Government conference** in Wilmington, NC.
- Thursday, January 13, 2022, at 7:00 pm **Budget Goals Dinner** at the Embassy Suites, Wilmington Riverfront at 9 Estelle Lee Place.
- Monday, January 17, 2022, **MLK HOLIDAY** Town offices closed.
- Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 7:00 pm **BOC Regular Meeting** in Town Hall, Luther Board Room.
- Monday, January 24, 2022 at 6:30 pm **Parks and Recreation** meeting in the recreation center.

- Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 6:30 pm **Appearance Commission** meeting in the recreation center.
- Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 6:00 pm **Veterans Affairs Committee** meeting in the recreation center.

c. Liaisons Update on Committee Activities.

- Commissioner Bryan Marley - Historic Preservation Committee
- Commissioner Grilley Mitchell - Appearance Commission, RLUAC (Regional Land Use Advisory Commission)
- Commissioner Joanne Scarola – Veterans Affairs Committee, Cumberland County Air Quality Stakeholders Committee
- Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray - Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, Prime Movers

Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray commented the Prime Movers discussed a highway cleanup and attending MLK Prayer Break at the Crown Coliseum.

- Mayor Jackie Warner- Mayor’s Youth Leadership Committee, Mid-Carolina Council of Governments, FAMPO TPB (Transportation Policy Board), FCEDC Municipal Advisory Meeting Liaison.

Mayor Warner remarked the Mayor’s Youth Leadership Committee met virtually this evening with a total of 23 participants and looks to have another successful year.

The Mid-Carolina Council of Governments met to review the monies received from the state.

10. STAFF COMMENTS.

11. CLOSED SESSION.

- a. Closed Session called pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6) to discuss a personnel matter and NCGS 143-318.11 (A) (3) Attorney Client Privilege.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray, seconded by Commissioner Legge and carried unanimously, to conduct a closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(6) to discuss a personnel matter and NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(3) to consult with the Town Attorney on matters within the Attorney-Client privilege.

Mayor Warner instructed the Board to assemble in the front conference room at 7:36 p.m.

At 8:20 p.m. Mayor Warner called the regular meeting back to order.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Dr. McCray, seconded by Commissioner Legge and carried unanimously, to seal the minutes of the closed session until such time as the release of the information would no longer frustrate the purpose of the closed session and further no action was taken.

12. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made by Commissioner Legge, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and carried unanimously, to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Warner adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.