

Town of Pink Hill
Board of Commissioners Meeting
May 9, 2023

Minutes

The Town of Pink Hill Board meeting was held May 9, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Police Bay. Present at the meeting were: Mayor Yvonne Deatherage, Commissioner Penny Murphy, Commissioner James Quinn, Commissioner Pete Fantini, Town Attorney Will Gray, Jr, Town Clerk Lisa McGee, Public Works Supervisor Timmy Kennedy, Public Works Assistant Phillip Swinson, Police Chief Michael Hoffman, and Office John Weaver.

Visitors present were: Kevin McGee, Carolyn Whitfield, Trina Patrick, Richard Goldsby, Wendy J Jones, Cheri Grady, Robin King, Anne Skinner, Clay Howard, Chelsea Malpass, Michael Whitfield, Rhiley Marshburn, Brandon Marshburn, Jolene Hoffman, Joe Baker, Maranda Heath, Cierra Dunham, Joshua Dunham, Kristin Fantini, Jayne Zesiger, Rod Howard, Ronnie Murphy, Debbie Heath, Jack Jones, Darnell Jones, Louis Tyndall, Sam Dunham, Sherri Casias, Daniel White, Kelsy Ramsey, Carmen Fernandez, Tammy Gray, Brett Smith, Mike Horne, Teresa Horne, Josa Eing, Penny Harper and Freddie Harper.

Mayor Yvonne Deatherage called the meeting to order. Mayor Deatherage asked everyone to join in the pledge of allegiance. Everyone stood and said the pledge of allegiance. Lisa McGee, Town Clerk, gave roll call: Mayor Deatherage, Commissioner Murphy, Commissioner Quinn, Commissioner Fantini, Attorney Gray and Town Clerk Lisa McGee, all were present at the meeting.

Michael Hoffman, Chief of Police, made a statement addressing everyone:

“Cut off all mobile devices as the meeting is being recorded. Please refrain from speaking unless you have the floor. Any outburst could be the cause for you being asked to leave the meeting. Be it noted that our meetings are being recorded. Let’s conduct ourselves in a professional manner. Thank you!

Town Clerk, Lisa McGee, administered the Oath of Office for the Town Attorney, Will Gray, Jr.

Public Comments:

Richard Goldsby:

Good evening, everyone, I want to thank my Lord Jesus Christ for being here. I go to Smith Chapel Ministries the church across the road over here, my Pastor is Pastor

Linda Dixon, and I am her assistant Pastor. I have a concern about the back road over here behind the church. I've talked to people and at the last meeting about that road being open. It's always on the radar and the engineers; but I never get any come back from the meetings. What's the updates? What do we need to do? Trash is being built up back there. We have ditches and drainage that needs to be dug out so, out water can flow right. But I'm telling you I have been here for over 20 years now, I retired from the Marine Corp. I see ditches dug out across town but no on our side. My concern is as a church goer over here at Smith Chapel church Ministries we need the same thing. That's my concern that is all of our concern from that area. We need the same amount done over there as it is done in other places. I hope we all agree. We stood out here Sunday and prayed around this flag pole for unity and to come together that would equally together not one side but all sides to come together, that is what Pink Hill needs. We need to come in prayer and come together in unity. And the scripture says "How good and pleasant for brotherhood and unity". Are we all brothers and sisters? So, we are supposed to be joined together and doing what thus saith the Lord. Helping one another and not dividing one another. So, my concern is that back road opening up and drainage, on both sides of the road need to be dug out and drained and trash removed. Trash is building up back there. And that is all.

Trinia Patrick:

Good evening, everyone. To our Mayor Deatherage and our Commissioners of the Town of Pink Hill; the African American Heritage Commission of Kinston and Lenoir County and our group Pink Hill Village Committee would like pleasure of presenting to you a plan for a Historical Marker project for the Town of Pink Hill. This marker project is a vision formulated by the African American people of Pink Hill. We the group are deeply rooted to the history of the original church Smith Chapel Church founded in 1920 by Rev. Billy Smith and a 1 room school, that some of you don't even know that it existed in Pink Hill. The school was built by Lenoir County between 1940 and 1952, when it was moved away. We are in the process to try and find where that building is, who has it who redid it. So, if you have any information, share it with our group and please let us know. This historical marker will be located at Smith Chapel Church 413 Eva Mae Jones Rd, Pink Hill adjacent to Hwy 241. Some of the students that went to this school are still with us today, they are in their 70's, 80's and 90's. we would be honored to receive the town's support in this unique endeavor project and we are committed to a Class 1 Act in the presentation of this history of the black community in Pink Hill. Please look forward to a second letter in the near future working toward the effort in completing this project. We also ask for any information you may have to contribute to this project. Thank you kindly for your help in advance. Sincerely the AAHC and the Pink Hill Village Committee.

Anne Skinner:

I'm with Community Connection of Pink Hill and I would like to invite all of you to our next community event. It's our Juneteenth Potluck on Sunday June 18, 2023. There will be music, children's activities and a bit of history. If you are familiar with what Juneteenth is come and find out and bring a dish to share if you can if not come anyway. It will be at the Pink Hill Event Center next to Library at 5:00pm hosted by

Community Connections and our vision is “To Connect with Cross Lines that Keep Us Divided”

Chelsea Malpass:

I have lived in Pink Hill all my life, and I am married to Sam Malpass, who has lived in Pink Hill all his life. We have 3 children that we would like to see come back and live in Pink Hill when they get older. I would like to see it be a place that they would want to come home to and want to stay here. With the things happening this may not be a place where they want to stay. We are all neighbors all of us here tonight are neighbors. God tells us to love our neighbors and I'm not seeing a whole lot of that and I would really like see more of that. I would like to see the leaders have more support and unity in our community. I also wanted to talk about my personal experience at the Event Space. My birthday party was the first event out there and we had over 80 people there on a Saturday night and there were no parking issues at all, of course all the businesses were closed at that time. I have had 2 birthday parties on Sunday afternoons and there were no parking issues. However, if there is a parking issue that can easily be resolved with a conversation or a sign that states don't park here. I am praying for the town and I would like to see it grow.

Mayor Deatherage read the Conflict-of-Interest Statement.

Mayor Deatherage asked for a motion to amend the Agenda, Commissioner Quinn made the motion to amend the agenda and seconded by Commissioner Murphy. Amend was for resolutions from Water Department and moving the agenda around. Vote was 2 to 1 (Yay was Commissioners Quinn and Murphy and Nay, Commissioner Fantini).

Planning Chair, Daniel White, talked about the Planning Board's recommendation adding Event Venues to the Development Ordinances. Downtown Commercial definition started in 2008 and give guidance to the Downtown Commercial area. All of the Planning Board agreed that this is a good thing for this business to be added to the town. And we are trying to get that approved. The parking was pulled word for word from the 2008 Development Ordinances, we did not create any new parking ordinances. Try to use the side and back of your business first. We make recommendations the board discusses and can make changes once done it goes to the Zoning Administrator and go from there.

Ms. Barbara Grady has stepped down from the Planning Board. The Planning Board is proposing Joshua Eing as the new member for the Planning Board. Commissioner Quinn made a motion to accept Joshua Eing seconded by Commissioner Murphy. Discussion made by commissioner Fantini wants Brandon Marshburn or Mr. Ledford. Vote was 2 to 1 (yay-Commissioner Quinn and Murphy / nay-Commissioner Fantini).

Recommendation to add the Event Venue to the Development Ordinance Mayor Deatherage asked for a motion to add Event Venue. Commissioner Fantini made a motion to table it for further discuss the Event Venue and seconded by Commissioner

Quinn. Attorney Gray told the Board of Commissioner that they would need to set a time limit to address it by the next meeting and/or get this settled. Vote 2 to 1 (yay-Commissioner Quinn and Murphy / nay-Commissioner Fantini).

Mayor Deatherage asked for the approval of the April 11, 2023 and the April 19, 2023 minutes. Motion made by Commissioner Quinn and seconded by Commissioner Murphy. There was no discussion vote was 2 to 1 (yay-Commissioner Quinn and Murphy / nay-Commissioner Fantini).

Mayor Deatherage asked for a motion to approve the financial reports. Motion made by Commissioner Quinn and seconded by Commissioner Murphy. No discussion. Vote was 3-0.

Department Reports:

Public Works Director, Timothy Kennedy gave the water update. Discussed the Resolution for Local Water Supply Plan. Motion made by Commissioner Quinn to revise the Water Supply Plan and seconded by Commissioner Murphy. Vote was 3-0. Public Works Director, Timothy Kennedy discussed the Resolution for Local Water Shortage Response Plan. Motion made by Commissioner Quinn to revise the Water Shortage Response Plan and seconded by Commissioner Murphy. Vote was 3-0.

Fire Department and Police Department reports were read.

Chief Hoffman asked for another Part-time officer. Commissioner Fantini made a motion to hire a Part-time officer seconded by Commissioner Quinn. No discussion. Vote 3-0. Chief Hoffman also stated it would take about \$2,000.00 to fix the patrol car. Commissioner Fantini made a motion to fix patrol car seconded by Commissioner Murphy. Vote 3-0.

Chief Hoffman presented the Board of Commissioners with 3 quotes to fix the Police Bay Floors. Commissioner Fantini made a motion to accept Liberty Concrete Coatings to redo bay floors seconded by Commissioner Quinn. Vote 3-0.

Chief Hoffman read an email from our inter that road with the Pink Hill PD.

Budget Amendments:

Budget Amends Mayor asked for a motion to approve the Budget Amendments. Commissioner Quinn made a motion a approve all Budget Amendments and seconded by Commissioner Murphy. Vote 3-0.

Comments by Attorney:

Attorney Gray spoke on "Robets Rules"

Comments by Commissioners:

Commissioner Fantini asked the mayor 3 questions, and Mayor Deatherage answered the questions.

Adjourn:

Mayor Deatherage adjourned the meeting