

Town of Pink Hill  
Town Board Meeting  
7:00 PM

The Town of Pink Hill Board meeting was held on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in the town hall board room. Present for this meeting were Mayor Mike Hill, Commissioner Penny Murphy, Commissioner James Quinn, Commissioner Pete Fantini, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Town Clerk Crystal Heath, Police Chief Michael Hoffman, Public Works Supervisor Timmy Kennedy, and Public Works Assistant Phillip Swinson.

Visitors present were Joe Baker, Robin King, Daniel White, Sheree Casias, Rhiley Marshburn, Brandon Marshburn, Daniel Hines, Brett Smith, Denny Burd, Josh Dunham, JW Stallings, Bonnie Murphy, Kristen Fantini, Jolene Hoffman, Wendy Jones, Yvonne Deatherage, Jaiden Turner, Sabrina Ham, and Cierra Dunham.

Mayor Mike Hill said I would like to call this meeting to order and I welcome everyone to the August 9, 2022 meeting. I would like to ask everyone to please turn your cell phones off. Mayor Hill asked everyone to join in the pledge of allegiance. Everyone stood and said the pledge of allegiance. Town clerk, Mrs. Heath, called out each name for roll call, present were Mayor Hill, Commissioner Penny Murphy, Commissioner James Quinn, Commissioner Pete Fantini, and attorney George Jenkins.

Mayor Hill asked for a motion to approve minutes from the previous meeting in July. Commissioner Fantini made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Mayor Hill said any discussion, all in favor say “aye”, motion carried unanimously. Mayor Hill asked for a motion to approve the agenda and the consent agenda. Commissioner Fantini made a motion to approve the agenda and the consent agenda. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Hill said any discussion, all in favor say “aye”, motion carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was WASA board and who to appoint. Mayor Hill said I serve on the WASA board which is the Neuse Regional Water and Sewer Authority. Every three years I have to be re-appointed or somebody else. I am willing to serve again if you see it fit. I need a motion to either make somebody else or re-appoint me. Commissioner Murphy said I make a motion to re-appoint you, Mayor Hill, to be on the board. Commissioner Quinn seconded the motion. Mayor Hill said any discussion. He said also Timmy is there if I am not able to make the meetings. Commissioner Fantini said he also said anybody can go so if Phillip wanted to go to learn that stuff he can go. Mayor Hill said yes sir. All in favor I continue serving in the WASA board say “aye”, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hill said a date needs to be set for the ARP money. We have to set up a date to do the budget everybody look at the calendar. This is the money from the American Relief. If everybody is available we can do it August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Commissioner Murphy said can it be a night? Mayor Hill said yes at night. Okay it will be August 23<sup>rd</sup> special meeting call at 7:00 PM.

The next item on the agenda was discussion on the library parking lot. Mayor Hill said last Saturday we had our back to school bash and when I drove up that morning to get out I almost fell out the truck there was a hole where I parked. The ARP that we just talked about we can use that money to pay that parking lot. There is more than just that hole and that parking lot is in bad shape. As many people go in and out I don't want anybody to get hurt. Commissioner Quinn said everything on that far side right there? Mayor Hill said right beside the library. It will probably have to be ground because of the tree that was cut and rotted away. We will discuss that later, but just wanted to bring that to everyone's attention.

Chief Tony Heath provided the fire report. Chief Heath said my report should be in your package copy in front of you. There was an increase in call volumes from last month we were at 15 last month as opposed to 30 this month. Mayor Hill thanked him and his department for their service.

Chief Hoffman provided the police report. Chief Hoffman said everything was pretty much as usual. We did see a spike in accidents and we also saw a spike in larcenies. Other than that everything else went well as planned. Caseload has been solved, we have caught up on all the cases that we had on the books. Also last week we recovered a stolen firearm out of Kinston. It was actually held by a gang member, but we got it back. The speed limit signs have been placed and they are working as they should. Other than that everything else is like it should be. We continued our house checks we are just going to continue doing what we are doing. We got the new patrol car striped. Just waiting on to get the equipment put on it and we have purchased another one so we'll wait to get them in service. Mayor Hill said I appreciate it have you talked to the guy about the cages to go in the cars? Chief Hoffman said yes sir they mentioned that they might just bring them to us and it will be something we never had. We saved a gracious amount we got them for \$450 when they were \$1700 apiece. Mayor Hill thanked him for his job. Chief Hoffman said also in the ordinance for golf cart we need to revisit. So that we can turn around and make a few stipulations to it as far as the issuance to the permits. So we can address that issue about them being town ordinance permits. Mayor Hill said okay we will talk about that. Chief Hoffman said we need to get that done quick, Mayor Hill said alright thank you.

The next item was public works provided by Water Supervisor Timmy Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy said since our last meeting Jason Heath put in his two week notice and as of July 28<sup>th</sup> no longer works for the town. We do have two applications that I would like to look at with closed session with everybody. So far we are keeping up with the grass cutting, but we can get behind real quick. A couple weeks ago we had a fire hydrant hit right in front of the Family Dollar and we already have it back in service. It was knocked over and it broke away like it was supposed to and we put a breakaway key in it and put it back in service. The lady's insurance should pick up the tab and I was going to send her a bill for \$300 that is what it cost us. The equipment that we budgeted for hopefully by the next meeting we will have all of the equipment in the station or in the shop down there and our tractor should be here by then also. That is all I have until closed session. Mayor Hill said thank you, you are shorthanded I've been there.

The next item was any attorney comments. Mr. Jenkins said the proposed strap agreement is in your package you all will look at it and we will go into closed session for

contract negotiations at the next meeting. If you have any questions we can talk about it then, bring it back out and vote as to whether or not accept that money. It is earmarked money. Mayor Hill said the grant was put in to clean the blue line stream out dig them out we didn't get enough money so we got money to go in and clean the debris out the stream. Hopefully to get the water flowing better because one stream has actually changed. It's running into the top of our sewer lines and not in the streams. I think we can get that started this fall. Any board members? We talked about updating our ordinance book I talked to the North Carolina League Municipality Mrs. Anne White and she referred us to a Richard Frommeyer. He works for a company and that is what they do and he's going to look at it and going to get back with us on a price and I think he told us it could be two different. Mrs. Heath, town clerk, said for two fiscal years if you want to because it could cost \$15,000 to \$20,000. Commissioner Fantini said so whenever he does that is he going to be able to make it digital to put it online. Mayor Hill said yes sir that is what we are looking at. Also I have been talking to Mr. David Bone with East Carolina Council Government that's why we don't have anything about the planning board because he still has not given me all the information back that I need. So I am waiting on Mr. Bone and his team of people. As soon as I find out where we stand we can do a review. Also when I talked to him I asked him about if we could go to Duplin County. He said if Duplin County does not have zoning we can do one mile ETJ for Duplin County. We'd have to have hearings and all the map he said it would take about three years, if we can get more information on that we can start thinking about it see if we can do it, but starting off we have to have a public hearing. Everybody one mile ETJ has to approve it. Commissioner Fantini said you are talking about people living within Duplin County—Mayor Hill said serve on the board that would put another member on the board we would have one from Duplin and one from Lenoir. Commissioner Fantini said we could reach out to the county manager of Duplin if they don't mind as long as they are okay. Mayor Hill said just to give the people that right.

The next item were public comments. The first visitor was Mrs. Cierra Dunham who came to speak on the tennis courts. She said as of right now they are planning to start as of next Wednesday they got pushed back because of all the rain. I have about \$4,941.89 in expenses and I have received almost all of that. We paid the balance and I just want to publicly thank Michael and Rachel Whitfield, Eastern Carolina Insurance, Horne's Outdoor Equipment, Fantini family, Kornegay Insurance, Black Dog Market, Hatch family, Tyndall Service Station, Stark Law Office, Pink Hill Ruritan Club, Heath Grass Sprigging, and H&H Farm Supply. I have all the posts and nets and all that we ordered we are just waiting on him to get started. I did look up the benches so if anybody has a better source for benches the ones we were looking at is going to range from 750-1,000 dollars depending on which one you do and they were from the company that Lenoir County uses. I don't know if that was reasonable to ask or not because I kinda thought it was high to ask for a thousand dollars. That was the composite with it engraved in the back so if anybody or wants to use wood or know anything let me know and we can look into that.

The next visitor was Mrs. Tina Patrick. She said I wanted to come to the board this afternoon and ask if the board has any plans with the Smith Chapel community. You know with the monies that you receive for the Town of Pink Hill our community needs help also and that is

why I am here this afternoon. I have Janice here from our church and Lisa is here from our community too. I live on Pineview there is a house there that's been there for years now foreclosed on, it looks like a jungle are we going to do something about that. Are we just going to leave it like that? There's a house beside it that squatters are using are we going to do something about that. We need to do something about these house squatters are using it. It is on Pineview that is where I live. Also on Hunter Street we need—I heard road repair we need road repair too. You all know where Smith Chapel Church is you got to go right by it to go Beulaville 241 you can't miss it. Our community needs help too. So I wanted to ask the board whatever your plan is to help us in our community. One last thing I want to say that road on Pineview is a dead end are there any plans to open that up for EMS, fire truck, the police man that has to come down. He has to turn around on somebody's yard or on somebody's property. That road needs to be opened up not only that but the garbage truck has to back out. Mr. Timmy Kennedy said can I answer that? We tried to back when we had the water project we tried to run the water line to the old hog market property and we couldn't. Mr. Jackie Graham owned the property at that time and he wouldn't allow it. We were going to give access for a road and go all the way out and put a road at the end also. I just wanted to let you know that we tried. Mrs. Patrick said is he still the owner now? Mr. Kennedy said we have a new owner now so maybe it can be revisited. Commissioner Fantini said Susan Myers owns that block that connects the two roads she has said she is willing to just give a section of that just for road access to the town. The only thing she wasn't going to do was pay for the surveying and the road to get done. Maybe we can revisit that with her on that part. Back to the white house that is in foreclosure that started in January, probably should have started a long time ago, by the laws the county should take care of it. If we can do something with it I am sure the Mayor and everybody here will take care of it. The other house is Marion's he still owns it and we've tried to talk to him various times and I know he's been sick. I have been back there and I know what you are talking about, but we just need to get with him and maybe he could work something out with us. We will work on that. Mrs. Patrick said I appreciate that thank you all for listening.

The next visitor was Mrs. Carolyn Whitfield. She said I want to ask a question that I don't really know is appropriate. When you were talking about the Blue-line streams and that there wasn't enough money to do that and now they're trying to do something I thought that was a done deal. Mayor Hill said no the Blue-line stream was a totally different part of money and we put in for 4.2 million dollars we got 487,000. Mrs. Whitfield said now is the blue-line goes through the town or coming in? Mayor Hill said Cherry Tree Branch and Mill Creek, we leave Cherry Tree at Highway 11 it goes back up towards Bill Sutton right AC Turner Road they are considered blue-line. What I don't see is why all streams of Pink Hill aren't blue line streams because all of them feed into cherry tree. We have got some money to work on the storm water and hopefully the start. We finally got some confirmation on it yesterday so hopefully we are going to start on that and a couple other places. We got money and I hope we can work on as much as the drainage problems. Mrs. Whitfield said I thought they were really going come in and really fix the creeks, but they are not. Mayor Hill said that is what I put in for, but we didn't really get it. Mrs. Whitfield said I thought there were two different things, but the ultimate goal was for the creeks to be fixed, but that's gone away. Mayor Hill said that is gone away. Another visitor, Mrs. Lisa Jones, said I just want to say the vacant houses again beside the church they are

using it for drug activities. They are vacant it's just a bad area that needs to be repaired. I think we have revisited that question before, but it's still the same activities going on that's not good. Mayor Hill said thank you. We need a motion to go into closed session do I have a motion. Commissioner Quinn made a motion to go into closed session for personnel matters. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Hill said any discussion, all in favor say "aye", motion carried unanimously.

The board came back from closed session. Mayor Hill called the meeting back to order. Mayor Hill said the lady from the state came a couple days ago. She told us about a grant for downtown revitalization and we filled the application out and send it back to them. We just talked about hiring a new employee. I need a motion to hire the new employee. Commissioner Quinn said I make a motion to hire Zach seems like he was the most qualified candidate. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Hill said any discussion, all in favor say "aye", motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

*Typed by Diana Rodriguez, Assistant Town Clerk*

*Approved by Town Clerk, Crystal Heath*