

## **Town Board Meeting**

March 9, 2021

The Town of Pink Hill Board meeting was held on March 9, 2021 in the Town Hall Board room. Present for this meeting were Mayor Carol Sykes, Commissioner Mike Hill, Commissioner James Quinn, Commissioner Penny Murphy, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Fire Department Chief Tony Heath, Police Chief Michael Hoffman, Town Clerk Crystal Heath, Public Works Supervisor Timmy Kennedy and Public Works Assistant Phillip Swinson.

Visitors present for the meeting were Norwood Blanchard and Ronnie Quinn from Ridgewood Apartments.

Mayor Sykes said I would like to call this meeting to order and I welcome everyone to the March 9th meeting. I would like to ask everyone to please turn your cell phones off. Mayor Sykes asked Commissioner Mike Hill to lead everyone in saying the pledge of allegiance. Everyone stood and said the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Sykes said I need a motion of the approval of the agenda and any amendments to the consent agenda. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to approve the agenda and any amendments to the consent agenda, and the minutes from the last meeting. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said any discussion, all in favor say "aye", motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Sykes said next item on the agenda is the discussion on the water bill from Ridgewood Apartments. Mr. Norwood Blanchard said he is the owner of Ridgewood Apartments and Ronnie Quinn is the maintenance technician for the apartments. He said Ridgewood Apartments are affordable housing apartments and financed by rural housing. We have very little to do with raising the rent and to sort of summarize between 1/29 and 2/04 we had a vacant apartment, number 12, and we are sort of mystified with the water. Nobody was in the apartment and Ronnie Quinn goes in there, but within that five days the water bill went up to the sky. We did not find any leaks on the ground outside, no spigot running, no commodes flushing just sort of mystified. So we have a bill I think of \$470 from an unoccupied apartment that has not been occupied since December 31<sup>st</sup>. We sort of are asking for some help because this is rural development and they set the rent so it's not as easy as going back and raising the rent on everybody. Mayor Sykes said when you checked your commodes did you put any food coloring or anything in the back of it? Mr. Ronnie Quinn said I do put food coloring. Mr. Blanchard said our bill usually runs about \$70-80 dollars a month. Mayor Sykes said do you cut the water off when people move out? Mr. Quinn said no when they call me that the water bill was high I went in and checked it, the first thing I do is pop lid off of it and check the water meter and check the spinner it was still. I then went in the apartment and there was no water dripping, no toilets running, no water anywhere, they don't have an outside faucet for that apartment so nobody could have gone turn the outside water on. Mayor Sykes said if it was leaking that meter would have been running. They agreed to this. Commissioner Hill said the radio read meters that we have its picks up flow and we get a reading on it, it shows flow every day. It had to have been somebody periodically going off and on. I mean you might have went in there and put your coloring in there, but at that time it might have not been running. The thing is we have to buy our

water if you could prove that it went on the ground we could give you a sewer credit. Mr. Blanchard said well we don't know where it went we are mystified. Mr. Quinn said a lady moved in actually the fourth and looking at the paper the fourth is when it was fixed. Our manager did a walk through with her and did not notice any leaks and I have been back to that apartment at least three times haven't noticed anything. Mayor Sykes said if it starts and stops it sounds like a commode hanging up, I mean if it is not coming up the ground its water in the sewer. I have a question when somebody moves out it will be much safer to have the water cut off and then when somebody moves in, I mean if it was somebody messing with it outside it wouldn't run. Mr. Quinn said well there is no way for actually someone to run it outside. Mayor Sykes said I am just saying, but still if there was a leak you would stop it until somebody got in it I mean that is just my opinion. Mr. Quinn said when there were seal meters when everybody paid their water bill the water was cut off. Mayor Sykes said that is a safety item that you can think of if you want to. Commissioner Hill said the thing is we have a policy we don't forgive leaks and the reason is because we buy water—Mayor Sykes said it is expensive. Commissioner Hill said if you can prove that it went on the ground say we take and average your sewer bill out three months and that would be what you pay for the sewer, but you would have to pay for all the water. But since there is no proof we have to take the meter readings and print this chart out and what water was used. So that is what we have to go by, talking about rural development we also have to load with rural development that we have to pay. We have to treat everybody the same, Timmy do you have anything on it? Mr. Timmy Kennedy said I would recommend before someone moves out especially if there is no one in there after you clean before somebody comes I would recommend you cutting the meters off. I know we did that there for a while and I don't know what kind of change went on. My only question is was there somebody squatting there? Ronnie Quinn said no I don't think so. Town Clerk Crystal Heath said to the board I broke it down for you all to see it each hour that it ran. Mayor Sykes said as Timmy was saying and my suggestion, I mean it is not up to us for you to cut the water off once someone moves out and cut it back on when someone moves in that way you will know. I am sorry this has happen I know it is a big bill, but we can't do one and not the other. Commissioner Quinn said that one lady we had up here she had to pay. Ms. Crystal Heath said to Timmy Kennedy your church had to pay. Mr. Kennedy said my church had a \$1000 leak was under the house either way we had to pay it. Commissioner Murphy said if it makes you feel any better it's the same thing with town board I had a water heater blew up and I had a maximum bill that month. Mr. Blanchard said thank you for giving us the time. Mayor Sykes said I am really sorry, but please I wish you would turn off the water it is none of my business but it is much safer. Commissioner Hill said one thing we recommend since the wires on the meter lid to go and put a cut off behind the meter so yall can control that. Mr. Ronnie Quinn said cut of is on the front right now right? Commissioner Hill said yep cut off is at the meter you have to go in the box and cut it off if you put one behind it where yall can control it and cut it off. I'm sorry this is just part of business, but if you have a problem think you have a leak call Timmy and check. If that was running on the ground we can take the sewer off. The board thanked them for coming.

Mayor Sykes asked for the fire report. Chief Tony Heath provided the report to the board to review. Mayor Sykes asked the board if they had any questions. The board thanked Chief Heath for the Fire Department's service.

Mayor Sykes asked Chief Hoffman to provide the police report. Chief Hoffman said right there in your print out we had several more arrests this month other than that our drug complaints have gone down since our arrests last month. Our calls have been met nothing is outstanding, an officer right now is in the magistrates office several felony warrants our chase that occurred last Saturday. Mayor Sykes said ok what about the police car? Chief Hoffman said this is the quote for the vehicle to replace the one that is lost. Commissioner Hill said how much did the insurance give for what we paid for the car. Chief Hoffman said more than what we paid for. Ms. Heath said the check was \$23,000—Chief Hoffman said \$23,007 I think. Commissioner Hill said so get another one for \$25,000. Chief Hoffman said brand new one that one had roughly 38 to 40 thousand miles to it. Mayor Sykes said what about the grey car I don't know if they know about this or not. Chief Hoffman said three Saturday nights ago when I responded to a call a deer jumped out right in front of me again needless to say this price here there would be an added money because they are going to get the right parts. The damage to the crown vic was mild just the headlamp and grill, so it wasn't bad. Commissioner Hill said when are you going to get it done? Chief Hoffman said ASAP just as soon as I have you're blessing. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to purchase the new police car at \$25,172. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes said is there any discussion, all in favor say "aye", motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Murphy said do you know anything about the dark SUV that has been posted on Facebook a bunch of times. Chief Hoffman said so I am getting a whole bunch of pictures are you talking about the Sanderson issue or the Liddell Road? Commissioner Murphy said Liddell Road. Chief Hoffman said I spoke with a detective yesterday and he questioned me because the gentleman from the black Nissan is supposed to be hanging it out in our area we have not seen this vehicle. We are highly on the alert. Mayor Sykes said what kind of vehicle. Chief Hoffman said it is a black Nissan vehicle kind of a car kind of an SUV. It is supposedly a black male and unsure if it is a white female, Hispanic, or mixed female but there is a female that is with him on Liddell Road. He is being charged with felony being in and everything else. What he did was went inside the house gathered things in locations where he wanted them kinda grouped everything he wanted. Before he could get back in the owner—Mayor Sykes said was this in Pink Hill? Chief Hoffman said no this was in the county, but he is supposedly hanging out in this area. We have thoroughly picked up our patrol. You cannot stop everything, but if it matches we are there. The board thanked Chief Hoffman for the report.

Mayor Sykes asked for Timmy Kennedy to provide the water report. Mr. Kennedy said the catch bases in town we have one behind the BP Station in the driveway and it is failing. It is called the Short Stop pretty much needs digging out and put new tile in. Something is failing there and it is asphalt driveway got catch base in the middle. This one is not going to be a simple fix. We got an 80 foot right-a-way Macon Street usually on most side streets the right-away is 60, 50, or 80. Commissioner Quinn said would the catch base be within? Mr. Kennedy said I have not measured it so I am not 100 percent sure, but I will do some investigating if that is what you want me to do. We put a little bit of gravel in the hole, but the tile is failing therefore the catch bases have to be done. Commissioner Hill said the tile where they are going out is failing they have to replace the tile. Mr. Kennedy said there is a sinkhole on both sides there is a joint on both sides that is failing. It is causing sinkholes on both sides of the catch base, we actually patched it at one time. Commissioner Hill said our policy is driveways we—Mr. Kennedy said

they buy the tile we put it in? Commissioner Hill said they buy the tile we put it in. Mr. Phillip Swinson said but for how many driveways? What I am saying is they have a front driveway this is a back driveway. Commissioner Hill said well they use it so it's their driveway both Short Stop and Post Office use it. Mr. Kennedy said we put rock in it to keep someone from getting hurt or messing their vehicle up. Mr. Swinson said until we can find whose driveway it is. Commissioner Hill said yep if they want it fixed they are going to buy the tile and any repairs work till you get they have to pay for it. We will put the tile in and the repair, but they have to pay for it. Commissioner Hill and Mayor Sykes both asked is it something yall can do? Mr. Kennedy said it's too deep no because the size of the ditch and size of tile probably 30 inch. So you're saying pretty much landowner's property do they not pay taxes to the middle of the street anyways? Commissioner Hill said if it is off the right-away then whose property? We have to find out if it is off the right-away. Mr. Kennedy said alright if it is off the right-away it is theirs. The chlorine conversion I don't know if you got the message Crystal sent out on the water bills. Chlorine conversions is fixing to start happening. Neuse Regional started sending out chlorine water Monday, but it has not gotten here yet. We usually four or five days behind. It takes up about four to five days flushed in to get it to here that is going to last about a month. If somebody mentions that you may get a chlorine smell that's is because that is all we are using for this month as far as our disinfection. We had to call out King Plumbing out of Goldsboro they have a jet back truck, we tried our jet back machine stoppage fluid unstopped. The location is right at intersection of Leighton Drive and Johnson Street the manhole right there. It covers all the trailer parks run in that manhole and a couple of other customers. We were unable to get it with our jet machine I had to call them the bill was pretty high dollar for them to come all the way from Goldsboro. We usually use a group from Beulaville, but they were not available that day. We worked on it a lot tried several different areas before we called somebody. We were having trouble with our jet machine and it's about 22 to 23 years old never had any major issues other than the motor fixing the pump part. I feel like it just needs to be rebuilt to get it back up we are trying to do that locally, but that has been a chore. If we have to send it off it's going to have to be South Carolina that is where jetpack is. Mayor Sykes said who would look at it here Johnny D? Mr. Kennedy said hopefully we have a guy from Johnny D that will look at it and he is pretty well with that type of pump hopefully he will look at it for us. That happened on February 17<sup>th</sup> me having to call on somebody on February 10<sup>th</sup> we found Thomas Carwash have a sewer stop up. We did an investigation dug around it, dug around where water was bubbling up, and it end up being cable tv internet service guys drilled through the sewer clean out. They cause a whole problem while King Plumbing was here we had to get the sand out of our manhole. Thomas' Carwash actually paid for the repair and he's trying to get the money back, because he is the one who wanted the internet service to the carwash. I didn't say this a while ago, but on the chlorine conversion we will be over the next couple of three weeks be doing right much flushing. If you see us putting a bunch of water out it is because of the chlorine conversion trying to get a good burnout. I think that is all that I have wrote down unless you have anything for me. Commissioner Murphy said thank you again for getting those signs up so quickly in our neighborhood. Mr. Kennedy said one more thing we found a couple of leaks at the sewer plant and I called somebody to work on those and get it stopped. We have one that is on our wet well it was leaking a little bit at the seam last time we put flex seal on it it's been good for about three

years, but this time we are going to try a different avenue. It is leaking a little bit on the ground and I need to get it fixed. I got somebody coming to take a look. The rain episodes is causing to have the ground be soft everything is moving. I am going to have him look at the repairs for the manhole and on Johnson Street. We went out there the next day after it was fixed when the water was not high and tried with our camera but could get much in because there was so much debris.

The board discussed the areas in the town that need to be cleaned and maintained. Commissioner Hill said Timmy has brought it to my attention that somebody is putting on their lot and it is not their debris she is bringing it in and putting dirt on top of it just an eyesore is there anything we can do about it George? Is there an ordinance or anything we can do about it? Attorney George Jenkins said I would need more information about it before I can answer it. Commissioner Hill said big trees, hauling limbs, piles on the lot we have one right across the Fire Department. Then they bring dirt in a pile on top of it. Mr. Jenkins said is it to dispose of the trees or is compost or what? Mayor Sykes said it is to get rid of it because that is the only place they have to put it at. Commissioner Hill said the one right off 241 behind Jones Furniture there is a pile there is another one over here. The tree limbs are not going to rot because of the dirt it takes years. If it is debris on her property she can burn it. Mr. Jenkins said let me look at it and see. Mayor Sykes said who were you going to call and find out Timmy? Mr. Kennedy said I never got a response. Mayor Sykes said I thought the Governor had something to say about that. Mr. Kennedy said they did to us because we are a municipality, but with a private landowner I am not sure. Commissioner Hill said private landowner can burn what is on his property. Mayor Sykes but when they are hauling in what is the difference. Commissioner Hill said what we were doing was hauling them off and burning that's what he said it did not come off this property that is why we got caught. I figured it would be the same thing. Commissioner Murphy said do you want to go ahead and mention Mr. Tyndall's issue while we are talking about what I mentioned to you earlier? Mayor Sykes said yeah that we can do next. Mr. Jenkins said Mike in addition to is it draining into the storm sewer? Commissioner Hill said it is piling on the lot. Mr. Jenkins said is it staying on their lot, it's not eroding? Commissioner Hill not that I can tell over there on 241 they just started on this one right here. Mr. Kennedy said the Visionary Quality told me I was spreading fungus and bugs things like that from one place to another. As far as municipality we had to make a spot to clean the streets up especially after our storm. Mr. Jenkins said I am just asking do I need to look at it from a nuisance aspect, health issue, trash dumping. Mayor Sykes said all the above, Commissioner Hill agreed and said all the above. Mr. Kennedy said a little bit of all of it because a pile of limbs laying for years is going to cause rodents. Mr. Jenkins said that is what I am thinking where there are rodents there are serpents. Mayor Sykes said and where is she getting them do you know where they are coming from. Mr. Kennedy said no I do not know. Mr. Jenkins said who is doing the dumping? The board said it is Susan. Mayor Sykes said it does not really matter who is doing it, it is wrong. Mr. Jenkins said I am concerned initially about the rodents placing a nest. Mayor Sykes said in the event that we can find a rule or law we can fix an ordinance ourselves? Mr. Jenkins said we can make an ordinance you just can't make it illegal something she has already done, but you can make it illegal in the future. Mayor Sykes it just looks ugly and just wrong. Mr. Jenkins said the looks are the least persuasion part some may say it looks nasty others may say it looks natural. A law like that will not be enforceable. If I have any questions I will get up with Mike. Mayor Sykes said there is a place in

Pink Hill over there that just brought a bunch of cement blocks and put them in his yard. I have had complaints and she has had complaints on it. I have not seen the guy that was doing and didn't know who it was. Anyways it was at Dennis' house and I was talking to Dennis anyway I told him you cannot leave that truck parked there because it is illegal. Mr. Jenkins said when you say truck do you mean like an 18 wheeler truck? Mayor Sykes said it is a great long truck, Ms. Heath said a flatbed. Mayor Sykes the bed was full of cement blocks and stayed parked there for a couple of days. I told him to move that truck and get those cement blocks out of the way and he said it was not their truck. I told him it doesn't matter whose truck it is you are the one driving it. Today the blocks were up off the yard and on the side of his house it is just terrible. I want to know can we have something to prevent that from happening can we have an ordinance? Mr. Jenkins said to prevent what from happening? Mayor Sykes said the trashy mess that he caused or anybody causes we have talked about it before I don't know how you do that. Commissioner Murphy said the across street neighbor stopped me and complained. Mr. Jenkins said about the cement blocks or about other trash? Commissioner Murphy said he said about the cement blocks. Ms. Crystal Heath said he is going to sell his house and he thinks it is going to depreciate the value of his house. Ms. Jenkins what are the blocks there for? Ms. Heath said supposedly he is going to use them to fix up the said house the ceiling is already falling in. Mayor Sykes said that is what is he said, but I would not believe it. Commissioner Murphy said the neighbor said it looked like a junk yard. Mayor Sykes said it does whole place around there, but what can we do about it. Mr. Jenkins said I don't think there is anything we can do about it. Mayor Sykes said we have discussed this before we have fussed this before and he does nothing about it. Mr. Jenkins said is it the one on Highway 11 or near the school? Chief Hoffman said it is the one on College Street. Mr. Jenkins said we have had issues with that lot before. Mayor Sykes said we have had issues several times. Is there any kind of ordinance that we can have about people keeping their yard clean? Mr. Jenkins said no there isn't. Chief Hoffman said can I say something? I don't understand why we can't add some kind of beautification, some kind of you know if I owned the property it would look like it would fall on the property owner at best we have to maintain some kind of—Mayor Sykes intervened and said that is what I am talking about. Mr. Jenkins said you cannot make a law about that cannot make a law to make people yard's look pretty, judge will not enforce it. Chief Hoffman said how come in HOA's and everything else? Mr. Jenkins that is entirely a different thing. Homeowners Association are private organizations and when you buy a house in a subdivision that has an HOA you submit to the HOA, the town is not an HOA it cannot do that. How much different is burning a limb and scattering a bug or parasite or anything else different from is it then some of the critters that live in cinder blocks. Now the gentleman did contact me and told me he told he would get them moved he was using them to refortify the under beam of the house which is old. It looks like we have this issue reoccurring. Commissioner Quinn said maybe make a suggestion and hope they follow through. Mr. Jenkins said you can't legislate taste, that house might be falling down but until it does there is nothing we can do about. Mayor Sykes said I have called the building inspector called him three times and talked to him. Would he come and condemn a house that no children are living in there. How can you get condemnation? Mr. Jenkins said it has to be in danger a clear and present danger. Mayor Sykes said he is in it he is a grown man, anyway the building inspector has been called three times. The trailer park how is it looking is it better? Chief Hoffman said I would like to discuss it. I just

don't understand why we can't. Commissioner Quinn said the guy who bought the place I wonder what his intentions? Mayor Sykes what his intentions according to what he told me were put new trailers. It's not our property, we don't have any streets in there, and there are holes in it but we don't have any. It's been like that for a hundred years because our attorney that I think knows what he's talking about has said there is nothing we can do. Mr. Jenkins said unless he violates a health ordinance and health department comes in or he violates our ordinance. We can't do anything more to him than we can to the person who boards up his house and lets it sit there. Mayor Sykes I know we have had this conversation before. Mr. Jenkins said whether we like it or not people have rights in their property. Mayor Sykes said I want to meet him and I told him when he called me the first time and told me he was buying he was going to put all new trailers out there. I said do you know what you are buying and what kind of trash is out there, and he told me he was and was going to put brand new trailers out there. Commissioner Quinn said is it deemed a mobile home park? Mayor Sykes said yea Johnson Trailer Park when it was Johnson it was not like this it was neat as a pen. Commissioner Quinn said so if anybody buys it they can take out the old and put in new or refurbished. Mayor Sykes said yeah—Commissioner Hill said Dennis sat right here in the meeting and lied to us. He said he was putting in front part up nothing going out there but trailers then he put up them campers. That was before we had any ordinance we couldn't do anything about it. Ms. Crystal Heath said they can do the same thing at Debbie Street behind Jo's Café. Mr. Jenkins said what did you say I could not hear you. Ms. Heath said they can put another trailer in there because it's a trailer park you just have to by the commissions in the ordinance book. Mayor Sykes said there is a trash can out at IGA at one time there was a bedspread and junk pile so I called Jimmy Jackson and told him. He needed to pick it up and the dumpster was open and it was dangerous. I talked to the son did not talk to the daddy. So we called our trash people they did not think it was their container, but anyway they said they can get the trash and they did. Now there is a car seat and something else put out there, but I am calling him again. I am sure he doesn't know it's there, but he needs to get a dumpster so what can we do about that? Mr. Jenkins you would have to catch the person who is doing it. The remedy is catch who is doing it otherwise Jackson is responsible for cleaning it up. Mayor Sykes I am going to call him and put a dumpster out there.

Mayor Sykes said I have one more issue. We had discussions about this there is no truck ordinance right here in the book. We got a truck come down and park in the yard and I have two or three people mention that they didn't think it was supposed to be there because there are no truck signs. Ms. Heath specify because you are not talking about a regular pickup truck. Mayor Sykes said no it is a big truck, an 18 wheeler. The ordinance is right here where it is and I'll just mention to him. It is an ordinance and if we don't enforce it than we need to do away with it. Commissioner Hill said we need to enforce it. Commissioner Murphy said otherwise you are going to be replacing that culvert. Mayor Sykes said that is the main thing the culvert or park before he gets to the culvert. Chief Hoffman agreed with the Mayor.

Mayor Sykes said does anyone else have anything? Commissioner Hill said when we do our budget we need to do something about Carol Drive with the paving's. We have to do something about it. There was no more discussion. The meeting was adjourned.