

November 14, 2017  
7:00 p.m.

The Town of Pink Hill held its monthly board meeting on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the town hall board room. Present for the meeting were Mayor Carol Sykes, Commissioners Mike Hill, James Quinn, and Penny Murphy, Town Attorney George Jenkins, Public Works Director Timmy Kennedy, and Town Clerk Kimberly Mitchell.

Visitors present for the meeting were Susan Myers, Carter Kennedy, Daniel White, Janice Goldsby, and Cierra Dunham.

Mayor Sykes called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone here. She said she would like for everybody to turn their cellphones off please. Mayor Sykes asked Commissioner Hill if he would lead everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner Hill then led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Sykes said we have a special guest tonight and his name is Carter Kennedy but I am going to let him stand up and introduce himself and tell us why he is here. Carter Kennedy stood up and said he is the son of Donald and Glenda Kennedy and he is here because this is part of his Boy Scout requirements for a merit badge that is Eagle required. Mayor Sykes said congratulations and thank you for coming and you are welcome any time. Mayor Sykes asked do I have a motion to approve the agenda and amendments. Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the agenda and the amendments to the agenda and the consent agenda with October 10, 2017 board minutes. Mayor Sykes asked do I have a second. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes asked if there was any discussion if not, all in favor say "Aye" and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Sykes said we do have an amendment to the agenda – The Pink Hill Business Alliance Members to give update about Christmas on the Hill. Thank you all so much and I am so excited about that and looking forward to it. Daniel White said so just to kind of give you a few updates and I will give you a copy of this here in just a second, no I will go ahead and do it now. He said so this is an outline of just some of the kind of high level things of what is going on, dates, times, and who might be involved. It is going to be on the open lot there on the corner of Hwy 241 and Broadway Street on Bill Turner's lot. Bill has approved us to use the lot for the Christmas tree. Darnell has basically helped us get a tree. That should be in Sunday I believe so next week we will basically be trying to make arrangements to get it kind of standing and ready. Along with that we are doing the lights. The tree and the lights are sponsored by the Business Alliance so we are taking care of that. Outside of that the event is completely free and open to the public. It is just something meant to kind of bring some attention to the town. It will give us an opportunity to kind of have like a reoccurring thing. This will be something that we will start doing reoccurring every Saturday before the Sunday Christmas Parade every year. Mayor Sykes stated that would be nice. Daniel said several families you know some of us have been around here forever, you know our families come back even if they are gone during that weekend for the parade, so we just thought let's make that weekend a little bit more. We will also be doing during that day a little bit kind of just highlighting or advertising our business open house. That is just saying basically hey businesses are going to be open, by all means come on a little early and hang out and check out the businesses. He said but by 3 o'clock is when we will kind of rotate over to the lot, idea being we have got some local churches that are going to have booths

set up. Those are going to do like hot cocoa and things like that. Cierra said it is on them if they want to sell crafts or whatever they want to do. We are not monitoring that. Mayor Sykes said okay but y'all are monitoring the lot? Daniel and Cierra replied yes.

Daniel said the idea was being that you know this is about the community and this is about the town, so this is not charging vendor's kind of thing. This is the churches and we have told them by all means if they wanted to offer something to kind of fundraise that is great. He said other than that some of the churches are going to also bring either one or two of them have like a four or five person group that sings from their church or they may bring a whole choir. They will be doing Christmas caroling kind of thing. We are going to have a couple of solo people doing some Christmas songs. Kerry Willis is going to set up and kind of be like a DJ kind of thing, so he is basically going to play Christmas music in between when we don't have live music playing or being sung. Cierra said we did ask both East Duplin and South Lenoir Bands and choirs to come but they cannot, so they are hoping to next year but East Duplin had a conflict with time and they couldn't get here before we would be done. Daniel said and South Lenoir has an event that afternoon and cannot get back in time. Cierra said so we are hoping that for next year we can get them, but we did ask and we were hoping they could come. She said if y'all know of anybody else that would like to participate, please send them our way. Daniel said the band director which also helps some with the choir at South Lenoir loved the idea. He said absolutely we will be here next year, they just had some of these stuff planned several months ago and so they just couldn't pull it off.

Cierra said back to the tree is there any way we can get help from the town in digging the hole. Don't they have a backhoe or something? Mayor Sykes said I would say yes but I don't know what Timmy is going to say. Timmy said are you wanting the hole dug ahead of time of how are you needing it? Daniel said well I will tell this I had Darnell ask the guy that she gets these trees from, I don't know if it is all of hers but this specific one. He deals with towns a lot and so the way they do these trees is they take the tree and build a piece of plywood, nail it, screw it, or whatever to the base of the tree, dig the hole, and the dirt basically goes over the plywood and up part of the trunk. So we would just dig the hole, set it down in there. Mayor Sykes asked it's a root ball right? Daniel and Cierra replied no it is not a root ball, that's why they did the plywood idea. He said the experience that he has with the other towns, they plant it anytime within the last week or two and it generally stays fresh all the way through New Year's. So we should not have a problem there as long as we just kind of keep it watered, but that is the basic idea because I wanted to know how we would do that otherwise and so that is the way she came back. That is an idea and if you guys could help us, then great, if not okay. It would be like the first of next week. The tree will come in on Sunday and then anytime next week we can coordinate. Timmy said just get in contact with me and I will meet you out there on site with the backhoe. Cierra said okay and that would be great. Timmy said as long as it is okay with the board and the board replied yes.

Daniel said the idea being we will get the lights and everything on it, set it up, and then we may do obviously some stuff with decorations and such. Cierra said that Jennifer's School of Dance is going to dance. Daniel said Dance Etc. from Kinston is going to dance as well, so we will have two different dance studios.

Cierra said the previous Miss Merry Christmas is going to be there. We did ask Abby if any of the new ones wanted to come even if they just introduced themselves and who sponsored them. They didn't have to do anything but Abby said she has only had two to sign up the other day so far. Kim said I think they have got some more now. Cierra said good because Abby came by the store earlier in the week and so we have been trying to help her work that out. Daniel said we have been trying to push the Business Alliance some at least with those businesses to say hey. Kim replied thank you. Cierra said so we are hoping we can get them to at least come. Kim said show their face. Daniel said I know at least a few of us already have girls in it so.

Cierra said Yvonne and the Queens, they all are going to be there. Daniel said the other thing that we wanted to throw out, so obviously we would love for you guys to be there. I would love to do something with you guys and Carol to be kind of like the ones that count down to plugging it in kind of thing if you don't mind. If you're available great. If you are not, I totally understand. Cierra said the actual tree lighting is going to be at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Sykes said well let me ask you this, do you have a special person, and the reason I say this is because the Lights of Love thing at the hospital we always have a special person. It is in the cancer fund sort of but we always have a special person we ask to light the tree and I don't know if you have got somebody. Cierra said we were going to ask y'all to be our special people. Mayor Sykes said okay. Daniel said y'all are our special people this year. Mayor Sykes said oh well thank you. She said you are the first one that has told me that buddy. Daniel said that is the idea because this is the first year and we want it to be something that is a reoccurring thing every year for the town. Then after we build on it if we see that it does go to the idea of how it is expanding, then we will talk about that. Mayor Sykes said I think it will, I think it will expand, I really do.

Daniel said one point in particular to cover, I know I asked some questions already on this but just to kind of make sure this is okay. What we would like to do and this is more about honestly protecting the kids a little bit because we're not really going to be having people wrapped over there. It is going to be on the open lot, but we would love to block off there at the stop light at the end of Broadway and then back up part of that block probably towards the end of Wendy's building. Mayor Sykes said you mean on Broadway. Cierra and Daniel replied yes. Cierra said so not the whole block but just kind of part of the block. Daniel said just because we know we are going to have people walking with cars and kids and it is going to be getting dark that kind of bothered me a little bit, so we would like to do that. I know I kind of asked already but, so I guess my question with that is with the parade or anything like that do we have as a town, do we have anything from a barricade sawhorse looking things or whatever. If we don't, then we can try... Mayor Sykes asked Timmy don't we have some barricades those orange ones? Timmy said the police station has got some that DOT provides and a matter of fact they are still in the police bay. Kim said just get with Joey on that. Timmy said I would be glad to haul them out there for you.

Daniel said the idea being, I mean we would just do it for just three and half hours total, so we are not talking about a big long time and we want even try to take up the whole block by no means or nothing. We don't want to affect anybody negatively. Cierra said businesses. Daniel said most of the businesses in that spot right there are closed by 3:00 p.m. and that is why we

were thinking, you know. We have talked already to most of them already but I am going to verify again tomorrow and remind them and make sure that we don't have any issues. If we need to we will slide it down some, like I said I was just trying to create a path for people back to their cars with their kids. Timmy asked what was the date and time again. Daniel said December 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is the Saturday before the Christmas Parade from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Mayor Sykes said so you mean the day before the Christmas Parade. Cierra said yes, the day before.

Daniel said and then one other thing too, I mentioned it to Tony and them with the fire department, you know with the idea of maybe having like a truck out there. It is the kids and you know they will love that. So Tony said they would be absolutely okay with that. They have got their Christmas party starting at 6:30 p.m. that night but he said he thought they could at least have a truck around there or something like that. Obviously positioned if they did need to leave, they could get out. Mayor Sykes asked what time would the tree lighting be. Daniel and Cierra replied 5:30 p.m. Mayor Sykes said okay. Daniel said we have already got all of that on the Facebook page and we will be pushing that out the rest of the week. Cierra said they are going to get a banner up I am told by the end of the week. Mayor Sykes said well the reason I was asking because we will all go to the fire department thing so that it will be okay. Daniel said you can get some hot cocoa and we can light the tree and then y'all can go right over there.

Daniel said I figure once the tree is lit, especially if it is real cold, and it gets dark then people will kind of ease right on out. Cierra said it is going to be real informal. We will have like kind of a line-up of who is going to do stuff if they are performing or whatever, but other than that it is going to be informal. Daniel said Thursday night we have got our next meeting that idea is to basically bring back everybody we have got currently committed to singing or something and we are going to layout a time schedule that we can publish and everything. He said we have let know most of the local churches I think in some shape, form or fashion we've touched through some individual. Cierra said we have tried to anyway our best. Daniel said I know at least nine or ten have been talked to already. Mayor Sykes said remember that James and we will say something on Sunday about the churches unless you have already talked to us. Daniel said remind them again and Cierra said take a flyer to them or any of the churches. We would love for them to be a part of it. Daniel said I know a few of the churches couldn't do necessary caroling and stuff because maybe they already had an event going on close to that but they have invited the congregation. Other than that if you have got any questions that we can answer. Commissioner Hill said so you probably need it blocked off from about 2:30 p.m. to about 7:00 p.m.? Daniel and Cierra replied at the very most. Mayor Sykes said so we need a motion to do that. Commissioner Hill made a motion to block a portion of Broadway from the traffic light down past Wendy's store from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mayor Sykes stated she is really happy and proud of y'all. George stated you haven't voted on that. Mayor Sykes said I'm sorry, we have had a motion, excuse me. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes asked is there any discussion and thank y'all for reminding me how to do that. All in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Cierra said the biggest thing is we just hope y'all will help us spread the word because we are trying but there is only so many of us. Daniel said it will be pushed hard in the next couple of weeks as far as Facebook, etc. and like I said I have already reminded some of the people I had

already bringing up in some of the churches again to just keep bringing it up if they don't mind. Mayor Sykes said well you know Linda Raye is having something Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of this week so we want to put a brochure in her store. Cierra said and the open house, the Business Alliance is kind of doing a little informal open house. The last few years we have done it where they had to go to each store and get punched but we are not doing that this year. Each business can if they want to do some sort of drawing or whatever individually, we are doing it that way. Daniel said we wanted to kind of evolve it in the past. We were seeing if it would be an idea to bring more people into the town and kind of expose them to the businesses. We still kind of obviously want to highlight anything we can with the town but in this case we just thought with it being Christmas time it would be better to just make it more of an event that could start drawing people in. Mayor Sykes stated she thought it was great. She said you are representing the town and that is great. Daniel said we talked to a few other people in some other towns and people that we also know that go to other towns every year to see their tree lighting, so we are kind of trying to take lessons from that.

Mayor Sykes said years and years ago we had a tree every year over by the school and we had apples and oranges for the children each year and that has been a long time ago. Kim said and if y'all can help pass the word about the parade please, to get people registered. Cierra asked are you getting any. Kim said it is getting there and the November 27<sup>th</sup> is the deadline. Daniel said we mentioned to Dance Etc. and some of them because they have done it in the past. Kim said they did it last year. Daniel said yes, so we mentioned it to them. Kim replied thank you. Mayor Sykes thanked Daniel and Cierra and said if there is anything that we can do or I can do to help it, please call me because I am home some of the time. Just call me if I can help, I would be more than happy to.

The next item on the agenda was OPEB Reporting – Make changes to Section 4 Post-Employment Benefits: Healthcare in Personnel Policy. Kim said in your book you will see there is a portion from our employee benefit out of the personnel policy. We are required by GASB 75 to do an OPEB which is other post-employment benefit reporting and because Carol she retired from the town and she receives the benefit of the medical insurance. The town will have to do these reports. We already have to do a type of report but they are changing it and we will continue to have to do this report until Carol is no longer with us, you know passed. Kim said but because our personnel policy states that a contribution by the town of \$100 per month on the retiree's individual group insurance coverage until the retiree reaches the age of 65 is in our policy, we will continue to have to do this report and it is like \$3,000. She said I have talked to the majority of the employees and we're not going to be able to afford our insurance when we retire, and it is \$100 that the town would pay and we still wouldn't be able to afford it. Kim said I have talked with Connie and she suggested to save the town money because it is a \$3,000 report that would have to be done, maybe taking that out. Because if we go ahead and remove it from our personnel policy, we won't have to do the report when the next person retires like Timmy would be the next one to retire. We won't have to do that report. We are still going to have to do it as far as Carol is here, but like I said we won't have to do it after that. Mayor Sykes said so I am kind of like grandfathered in. Kim replied yes, well we still have to do the report. Commissioner Hill asked Timmy if he agreed with this, I want to make sure before I make a motion. Timmy replied yes sir, I am not going to be able to afford \$800 a month even with the \$100 help. Commissioner Hill said I make a motion to delete Section 4 Post-Employment

Benefits: Healthcare Item B: A contribution by the Town of \$100 per month on the retiree's individual group insurance coverage, until the retiree reaches the age of 65, at which time the retiree shall incur the entire cost of the premium, delete from our personnel policy. Mayor Sykes said I have a motion do I have a second. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. Mayor Sykes asked if there was any discussion, if not, all in favor say "Aye" and it carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was reminder of Christmas Parade & Christmas Party. Mayor Sykes said our Christmas Parade is on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Kim said as far as the parade, Commissioner Hill are you driving your truck. Commissioner Hill said that was what I was fixing to ask them if they wanted to ride with me. He said I think what we are going to do this year is put us some chairs in the back of the truck so everybody can see us and my wife will drive the truck. Kim said and he has already got the signs. Commissioner Hill said I have got the signs at the house. Kim said so y'all can meet at like Mike's house and then he can drive up to the beginning. Commissioner Hill said well they can meet right at the start. Commissioner Quinn said so we can meet where we met last year. Commissioner Hill replied yes. Kim said right there at the old Allstate building because that is where all the dignitaries are. Mayor Sykes asked and the parade begins at 2:00 p.m. Kim replied the parade begins at 2:00 p.m. but they probably need to be there by 1:15 p.m. Mayor Sykes said no later than 1:30 p.m. Timmy said you need to be there earlier. Kim said yes because a lot of people think oh it doesn't start until 2 we can get there at 1:30.

Mayor Sykes asked Daniel if they had called the Free Press about this because I would love to have this put in there. Cierra said we need to and the Duplin Times, I will try to do that. Mayor Sykes said and the Kinston Free Press because if they don't put us in there this year I really am going to throw a fit. Daniel said they would call them.

Kim reminded everyone that the Christmas Party is December 15, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Baron & the Beef.

The next item on the agenda was Police Updates. Chief Thigpen was not able to attend the meeting due to shooting qualifying, but gave a copy of his activity log event summary for the period of October 10, 2017 through November 13, 2017 for each board member. The Police Department had 3 accidents, 1 alarm, 1 assist Highway Patrol, 5 assist Lenoir County EMS, 3 assist Duplin County Sheriff's Office, 7 assist Lenoir County Sheriff's Office, 2 assist motorist, 6 assist Pink Hill Fire Department, 1 attempted shoplifting, 1 breaking and entering to residence, 5 citations, 9 citizen concerns, 3 disturbances, 1 intoxicated person, 2 larceny, 2 noise complaint, 1 suspicious activity, 1 suspicious person, 3 suspicious vehicles, 1 unlock vehicle, 1 911 hang up for a total of 59 calls.

The Fire Department Report was next on the agenda. Timmy gave the fire department report due to Fire Chief Tony Heath not being able to attend the meeting. Timmy said since our last meeting we have had 16 EMS calls, 6 vehicle accidents, 1 service assignment, 2 automatic alarms, and 1 brush fire which was a cotton bale.

Timmy said he would like to invite the board and mayor to our Christmas gathering which will be at the old Pink Hill School cafeteria at 6:30 p.m. He said please come and the meal is usually very good. Commissioner Murphy said you guys missed a really good one at the last fire department meeting, we had steak. Timmy replied I missed it too and Commissioner Murphy said oh you did that's right.

Timmy said that is all he has got for the fire department. Everything else seems to be good. We are finished with the spook house. Mayor Sykes asked did you do good on it this year, I mean as well this year as you did last year. Timmy said I wouldn't call it good but we did alright. We made a little money. Mayor Sykes stated well that is what it is about.

The next item on the agenda was Water/Sewer Report. Timmy said over this last month I had an issue, as a matter of fact Commissioner Hill came up that day whenever we were working on it, with the aerator motor. I thought the motor was bad. Because it is out in the middle of the lagoon I had to call Pearson Pumps with their crane. Of course, that is kind of pricey but anyway that is the only way we can get the motor pulled. Whenever he pulled it apart, and this was after he got a backup motor put out there and of course the backup motor is 5 horsepower smaller but it can get us by until we could have got that one fixed, it ended up having a hoe inside it and we got that piece out. Mayor Sykes asked a what? Timmy replied the end of a hoe, the metal part of a hoe. Timmy said I couldn't begin to tell you how that got in there. After we got that out, I made the decision to go ahead and try to put the motor back out there and it is running. We didn't have to redo the motor and that was good.

Timmy said he is having an issue with one of his irrigation pumps. He said he hasn't been able to run it for the last couple of weeks. It hasn't been rebuilt in at least three or four years as far as being pulled and carried back in. It has got a lot of vibration in it and it is just not pumping. I am going to have to get that done probably over the next couple of weeks.

Timmy said they have been doing some winterizing on some of our items and stuff like that making sure we have heat tapes on our backflow preventers and things like that. He said we are scheduled to have the Christmas lights put up on November 21<sup>st</sup> by Right-On Signs. That is who we had to get this year. Mayor Sykes said who did you say is going to do it this year? Timmy replied Right-On Signs. He said that is all I have and everything else seems to be good and of course that is plenty as far as money wise and budget wise. Mayor Sykes said thank you, all of you.

The next item on the agenda was Budget Amendments if needed. Kim replied there no budget amendments but there are a couple of transfers and you have got a copy of those but that is it.

The next item on the agenda is Remarks by Town Attorney. There were no remarks to be made at this time.

The next item on the agenda was Comments by the Board. Commissioner Hill said he was proud to be here.

The next item on the agenda was Public Comment Period if needed. There were no public comments at this time.

The next item on the agenda was Closed Session if needed. There was no need for a closed session at this time.

With there being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned.