

## **TOWN OF OAK CITY**

**March 1, 2021**

### **AGENDA**

#### **TOWN MEETING 7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER-** Mayor Stalls

**PRAYER-** Commissioner Sue Harrell

**In Attendance-** All are present

#### **REGULAR SESSION**

**AGENDA/MINUTES-** Motion to approve made by Commissioner Harrell and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Edmondson.

**CONSENT AGENDA-** N/A

**BOARD REPORTS-** Commissioner Harrell stated that Tommy will be putting the stop sign behind the Family Dollar back up that a big truck knocked down.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Streets-** Harrell stated that the street behind the Family Dollar need to be repaired because of the pot holes. Kevin Turner who works with Oak City EMS gave the board a list of streets in town that needed to be repaired as well. Mayor Stalls ask the Town Clerk to call DOT about repairing the streets. Mayor Stall's reports that Main Street needs rocks and that he had spoken to K and B Hauling about bringing rocks. Stalls stated that Tim Boddie will spread the rocks once the rocks are delivered. Commissioner/Town Clerk Porter had also spoken to someone about bringing rocks but she had told him he didn't have to since Mayor Stalls already had someone. Commissioner Harrell ask how much do each person charge, Porter hands out the estimate that K and B Hauling provided in the amount of \$536.25 and Carl Ventura cost is \$450.00. Commissioner Edmondson stated that we should go with the cheaper cost of the two. Edmondson also stated that the rocks could be dumped at the Senior Center instead of Main Street and he would spread them himself to avoid paying someone the extra money. Commissioner Harrell ask if the rocks could be paid for out of the Powell Bill funds; Mayor Stalls stated yes it can. Commissioner Edmondson motion to use Carl Ventura at the cost of \$450.00 to deliver the rocks; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Harrell.

**Motion passed**

## Utilities-

- **Eddie Stocks Vice President Member & Industrial Development at EMC** is present at the request of the board to discuss past and possible present rate increases. Mr. Stocks stated that the last rate increase was in 2017 but the board did not do a full increase to match EMC (Edgecombe Martin Co-op). Stocks stated that the Town of Oak City have always use the same rates as EMC and he was not sure why they didn't do it in 2017. Stocks stated that the Town of Oak City are still operating off of EMC rates from 2015. Stocks stated that the WPCA credit that is being passed on to Oak City is based off of EMC rates. Stocks stated that Oak City may need to stop giving the citizens this credit until the rates are raised to match EMC. Stocks stated that EMC was having a rate study done this Fall and EMC will be having a 10% increase next year but not sure how much of the 10% will be going to each different rate code. Stocks advises the town of Oak City to increase rates to mimic EMC as they have done in the past to cover cost they pay to EMC but stated it was totally up to Oak City on how much and when they raise the rates. Commissioner/Town Clerk Porter ask Mr. Stocks about customer accounts being much higher over the past few months and ask him to explain what the reason could be so she can inform the customers when they ask. Stocks stated that its serval reasons but a few could be as follows: hot water heater could be missing an element, insulation underneath the house could be torn out due to animals trying to keep warm during the cold days, pipes that runs underneath the house that's connected to the heating unit could be stopped up, using space heaters and because of the extremely cold weather the central heating will stay on longer in order to maintain the temperature inside the home. Mr. Nick Cannon agrees to all of these reasons as well.
- **Nick Cannon-** Mr. Cannon stated that the board should raise the rates to mimic EMC. Cannon stated that the Oak City is losing money on the electric system because of this especially when the town is paying EMC. Cannon stated that the town needs some more utility poles because a lot of them are rotten and that increasing the rates would help with the cost to replace these poles. Cannon further stated that if an ice storm comes that Oak City will not be able to pay for the cost it would take to fix the lines and poles with rates the town is charging.

A motion was made by Commissioner Harrell to cancel the WPCA credit given to the customers immediately until further notice 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Burnett. **Motion passed**

Another motion was made by Harrell to table the rate increase until next month meeting when the board get more information from Eddie Stocks about why the rates

wasn't increased at the same rate as EMC back in 2017. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Burnett.

**Motion passed**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Baseball field-** Mayor Stalls stated that Parks & Recreation Director Steven Cannon approached him about the baseball field needing new lights. Nick Cannon who is present at the meeting stated that these lights will cost approximately \$13,000. Commissioner/Town Clerk Porter stated this should have been given to her earlier so she could discuss this with the accountant because the Town don't have the money to make this large purchase right now. Porter went on to state this type of purchase is normally discussed in a budget meeting with the accountant to have the money allocated for that amount. Porter stated that this money will have to come from the general fund which is used to pay for all of the town expenses or out of the CD account. Porter called the town accountant, Karen Shook during the meeting to ask her if the town indeed had this much money to spend right now. Mrs. Shook stated that it was a lot of money and the town don't have the money to spend right now but if the town wanted to spend the money it would have to come from the general fund balance account. Commissioner Edmondson ask the accountant why wouldn't the money come out of electric fund being that it is for lights. The accountant stated that the lights at the baseball field falls under recreation which is a general fund account and is how the LGC would see and it could be questioned by the auditors. Mrs. Shook stated that if the board want the money to come from the general fund balance she would do what the board request and do a budget amendment from that account. Commissioner Harrell made a motion to pay \$13,000 for the lights at the baseball field and to not donate the \$2,000 for the next fiscal year to the recreation department; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Edmondson.

**Motion passed**

**Budget Amendment-** Commissioner Harrell made motion to amend budget #1 for Covid-19 expenditures (CARES funds) in the amount of \$5,380; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Edmondson. **Motion passed**

Commissioner Edmondson made a motion to amend budget #2 for Meetings and Trainings in the amount of \$1600; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Harrell. **Motion passed**

**Arts Council-** Motion was made by Commissioner Harrell to donate \$100.00 to the Martin County Arts; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Burnett. **Motion passed**

**Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Harrell; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Edmondson. Motion passed**

**Meeting adjourn at 9:50 p.m.**

**Public Comment-** N/A

*Willie Stalls, Mayor 4/7/21*  
*Monetta Porter, Town Clerk*

