

TOWN OF BOGUE
COUNCIL MEETING
February 20, 2023

The Town Council of Bogue met Monday, February 20, 2023 at the Bogue Town Hall, 121 Chimney Branch Road.

Mayor Robert O'Chat called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Mike Crose led a prayer.

Council members present; Mayor O'Chat, David Padgett, Charlie Wilton, Albert Taylor, Richard Dougherty and Mike Crose. Also present; Attorney Donna Boggs and Town Clerk Shawne Southard.

Agenda

Mayor O'Chat asked to add Paving Contract to the Agenda under New Business. Councilman Dougherty made a motion to accept the agenda with Paving Contract added. Councilman Wilton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Councilman Wilton made a motion to approve the January 9, 2023 minutes as written. Councilman Crose seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments

Cecil Hurst asked if the property on Bogue Loop Road is in the Town's name. Clerk Southard stated it is in the Conservation Fund's name at this time, but will be deeded over to the Town. Mr. Hurst asked if in the new budget the Town could clean up that property.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Aaron Stryker, the new Emergency Management Coordinator, spoke to the Town Council regarding what he and his team can do to help during an emergency. He stated that there is one emergency shelter at this time at Newport Elementary School. Cecil Hurst asked how can the Town help with senior citizens and residents with disabilities during an emergency. Mr. Stryker said he would get that information to the clerk.

Clerk Southard presented the completed Audit from Williams, Scarborough and Gray. Clerk Southard stated that Williams, Scarborough and Gray will no longer do audits for municipalities so she is looking into getting a new auditor. Councilman Padgett made a motion to accept the 2021-2022 audit as presented. Councilman Crose seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor O'Chat stated that the Town received two quotes for paving roads in Lake Arthur; Barrington Ridge and Franklin Ct. Mayor O'Chat stated a third company did not have time or resources to offer a quote. Thomas Simpson contracting for \$63,845 and Onslow Grading and Paving for \$78,012.95. Councilman Taylor made a motion to approve the quote from Thomas Simpson contracting for \$63,845. Councilman Dougherty seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Department Reports

Finance: Mayor O’Chat stated total cash funds are \$673,219.43.

Budget: Clerk Southard stated property taxes are paid through January, Local Sales tax is also through January and Vehicle taxes are through December. She stated she will do a budget amendment before the end of the Fiscal Year to correct the overage in Repairs and Maintenance. Clerk Southard stated she is working on the 2023-2024 Fiscal Budget and asked if the Council has anything they would like to see to please let her know. The plan is to present a rough draft to the Town Council in April and have a Public Hearing in May. Lastly she reminded the Town Council the ARP Funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026.

Planner: Clerk Southard stated that one permit was approved; 5367 Hwy 24 (Waters Construction) for a new office building.

ILA: Councilman Dougherty stated there was a budget meeting and that there are plans to increase Fire and EMS salaries by 4% for Cost of Living, a tax increase (after 5 years) of 1% for Fire and 1% for EMS, base pay for Fire will go up 5% and EMS will go up 18%. The total 2023-2024 Budget will be \$3,747,648. There will be a pubic hearing.

Streets: Mayor O’Chat stated there will be more rock put down on Chimney Branch Rd to fill in potholes.

Emergency Manager: None

Town Hall: None

Events: Councilman Dougherty stated everything is moving forward for the 4th of July event. The only issue was getting a cut through from MacDaddy’s to Hwy 58 as the NCDOT would not allow it.

Miscellaneous Reports/Announcements

Mayor O’Chat stated the Sheriff’s department has added 2 additional Deputies to Western Carteret making a total of 8 Deputies that cover our area.

Clerk Southard stated she finished her Parliamentary course; she has now completed all the requirements to become a Certified Municipal Clerk.

Clerk Southard also stated that Bob Penrod our Fire Inspector came out to look over the Town Hall; he stated that the fire extinguisher must be inspected yearly and that our smoke detector needs a new battery.

Adjournment

At 6:38 p.m. Councilman Padgett made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Wilton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

_____ BOBBY O’CHAT, MAYOR

_____ SHAWNE SOUTHARD, TOWN CLERK