

**The Village of Simpson
Regular Council Meeting
December 17, 2018
7:00 P.M.**

The Village of Simpson held a Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 P.M. in the Village Hall, 2768 Thompson Street, Simpson, NC.

WELCOME

Mayor Richard Zeck welcomed everyone.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Richard Zeck called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Elaine Martin, Village Clerk conducted the Roll Call.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Zeck, Mayor
Brenda Hawkins, Mayor Pro-Tem
Dianne Thomas, Councilwoman
Mary Moye, Councilwoman

OTHERS PRESENT

Elaine Martin, Village Clerk
Susan Ellsworth, Finance Officer
Keen Lassiter, Village of Simpson Attorney
Citizens, Present

QUORUM PRESENT

Elaine Martin, Village Clerk stated to the Board a quorum was present.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Richard Zeck provided prayer.
Mayor Richard Zeck provided pledge.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND JULY MINUTES

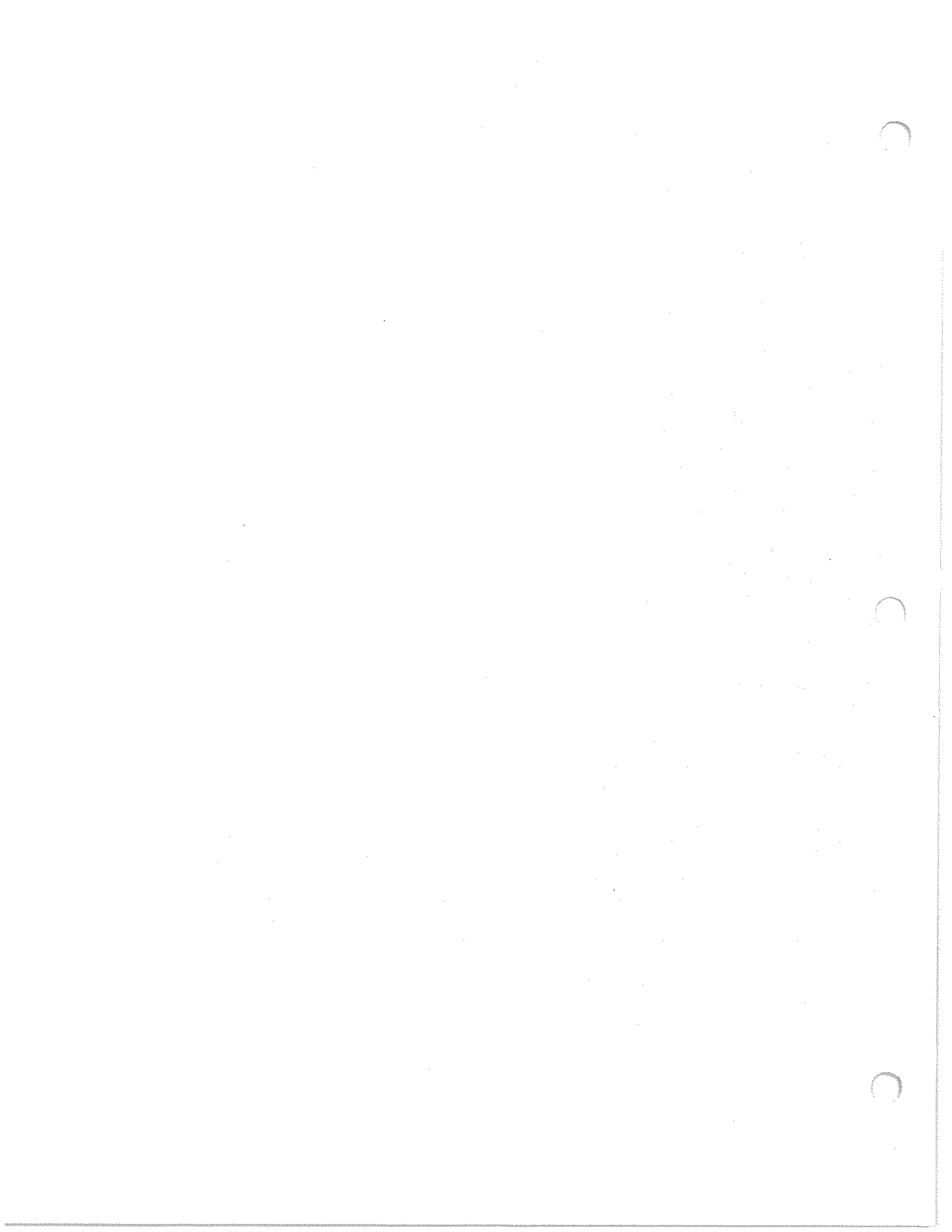
Mayor Richard Zeck asked the council if they had anything to add to the agenda. Councilwoman Brenda Hawkins made the motion to approve the agenda and Councilwoman Dianne Thomas seconded the motion. All voted "Aye", the motion was carried. Councilwoman Dianne Thomas made the motion to approve the November 19, 2018 minutes and Councilwoman Mary Moye seconded the motion. All voted "Aye", the motion was carried.

PUBLIC ADDRESSES TO THE COUNCIL:

Mayor Richard Zeck asked if there were any public comments.

- Sheila Frizzell spoke briefly with three questions.
 - "Why are there no wreaths on Queen Street?"
 - "When will the pothole on Street be filled?"
 - "Grass cutting some "

- Mrs. Walker spoke briefly with a question.
 - "Out of the three councilwomen, who is in charge over what area?"



- Hew Mills spoke briefly and thanked everyone.
- Emily Corbett spoke briefly on a call she had made to town hall about the potholes in front of the Post office.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Councilwoman Brenda Hawkins thanked everyone for coming, their support and Merry Christmas.
- Councilwoman Dianne Thomas thanked everyone for coming and Merry Christmas.
- Councilwoman Mary Moye thanked everyone for coming and Merry Christmas.

ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Attorney Keen Lassiter had a brief report about November updates on the condemnation process on the four homes. Over the past month he has spoken to Reggie Satterfield a couple of times. He has kept Attorney Keen Lassiter updated on what is going on with the sixty-day window notice where the property owners have to improve or demolish the property. He called Mr. Satterfield just last week (December 13th) and he would assume that none of the properties were improved or demolished. He will speak to him again sometime this week. Next month he will meet with town officials and they will make decisions on which properties will move forward.

MAYOR REPORTS:

Mayor Zeck spoke briefly about the wreaths being put up in Simpson. There were twenty-two out of twenty-five of the wreaths that didn't work. We were paying someone to hang wreaths that were not working. We got them fixed this year. A collaborative effort with the city of Winterville we were able to get them hung up for free. This saved our town several hundred dollars that we have paid in the past to have them hung and taken down. We did get a few emails from people outside the EJT stating that the lights look nice. We are trying to make the village's image look nice.

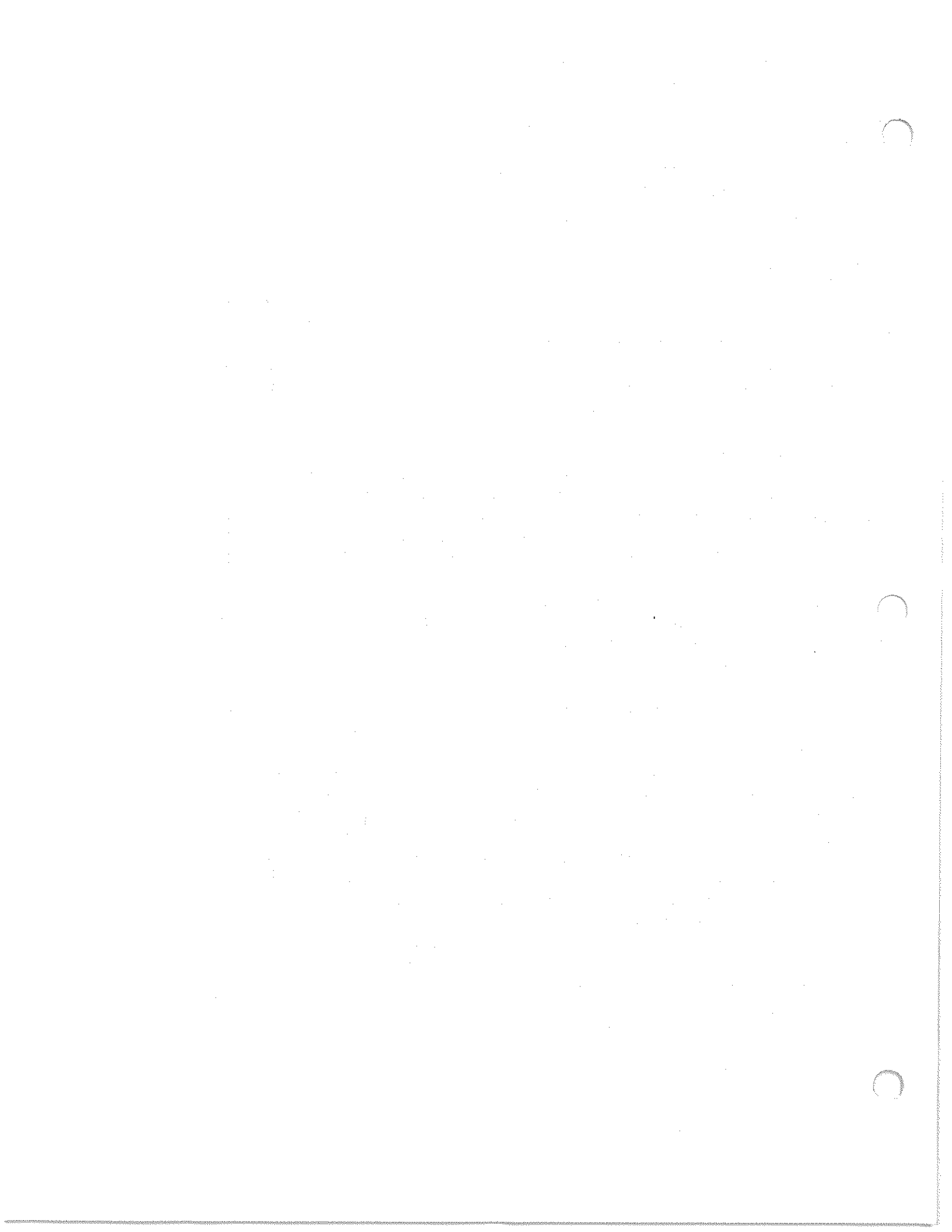
Mayor Zeck spoke briefly about Christmas. The staff did an incredible job of decorating the place and preparing the food for today. We had many gift cards that were donated. There were a lot of donations made for the Christmas event this evening.

Mayor Zeck spoke about the financial outlook. We are working with a couple of excavators whose slow time is during the winter to be able to begin working on the ditches. As we have mentioned last month, in talking with some engineers, some of the patch work we do, you have water coming up underneath the roads and you patch and patch. The water is being squeezed out by some of the patches we have. We want to get away from some of the patch work and do it right the first time. That bump in the road on Queen Street is the water department responsibility. This weather is when you will be seeing more things like the ditches and the roads being done. As we mentioned last month, the danger with doing things with the roads is its all temporary. If your ditches aren't done properly the water is coming back underneath the roads. Alexander does a great job. If you have an issue with the road you need to call us. There is a system in place when people call. This is how we are going to focus on the ditches. When the ditches are finished, water will stay away from the roads and we can start fixing the roads properly as long-term solutions. When we have a limited budget like we do, and we keep throwing good money after bad money on temporary fixes, we are losing money. We are going to have to spend some money and do it right. That is part of our focus this winter. When our next budget comes in, we can take the money that we focused on the ditches this year and we can focus on roads next year. In the meantime, we will patch them. Alexander does an incredible job and he is very responsive to the community and their needs. Mayor Richard Zeck then publicly acknowledged Alexander is doing a great job and is grateful.

Mayor Zeck spoke briefly about in January we are going to do a review of 2018 and the plans for the council members for 2019. What's on the agenda 2019 and what kind of projects we have.

Couple of the items on the list;

The intersection of Tucker, McDonald and Blackjack Simpson has been a concern for many people



for a long time. Blackjack Simpson/Tucker is one of the top twelve priorities in Pitt County. One idea they are looking at is what they call a "mini roundabout" and so that is one of the options for slowing the traffic down.

Mayor Zeck spoke briefly about sidewalks along Blackjack Simpson. We are on the DOT list as Project M47700, began the process of feasibility study. They have to go and get the right away, because it's a state road. At least getting us on the agenda and that is important to our citizens.

The next council meeting will be in January 14, 2019.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

ITEMS FOR MOTION:

Councilwoman Brenda Hawkins made the motion to approve the 2019 council meeting minutes and Councilwoman Mary Moye seconded the motion. All voted "Aye", the motion was carried.

November

Councilwoman Brenda Hawkins made the motion to approve the 2019 Holiday Schedule and Councilwoman Dianne Thomas seconded the motion. All voted "Aye", the motion was carried

Councilwoman Brenda Hawkins made the motion to approve a Proclamation for Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month, January 2019 and Councilwoman Mary Moye seconded the motion. All voted "Aye", the motion was carried


ADJOURNMENT


A motion was made by Councilwoman Dianne Thomas to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mary Moye All voted "Aye", the motion carried, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Elaine Martin, Village Clerk

Approved On 11/14/19
Date


Mayor Richard Zeck


Mayor Pro-Tem Brenda Hawkins


Councilwoman Dianne Thomas


Councilwoman Mary Moye



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