

**The Village of Simpson  
Regular Council Meeting  
March 18, 2019  
7:15 P.M.**

The Village of Simpson held a Regular Council Meeting at 7:15 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**

Susan Ellsworth, Finance Officer conducted the Roll Call and stated there is a quorum was present.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Keen Lassiter, Attorney  
Susan Ellsworth, Finance Officer  
Citizens

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Councilwoman, Dianne Thomas provided prayer.  
Mayor Richard Zeck provided pledge.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND FEBRUARY 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.  
Councilwoman May Moye seconded the motion. All voted "Aye", the motion was carried.  
Councilwoman Brenda Hawkins questioned the mini roundabout only being Blackjack Simpson not Tucker, under Mayor reports.  
Councilwoman Dianne Thomas made the motion to approve the February meetings with the change.  
Councilwoman Brenda Hawkins seconded the motion. All voted "Aye", the motion was carried.

**PUBLIC ADDRESSES TO THE COUNCIL:**

- Hugh Mills, Emily Corbet, Oscar Telfaire

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

- Councilwoman Brenda Hawkins. Good evening and I will say this offhand I appreciate you coming and support, I am saying it now if I get into something else and overlook it please know I do appreciate you. I would like you to keep in mind Ms. Mary Alice Davenport a commissioner in Ayden, NC passed this weekend.

- Councilwoman Mary Moyer. Good evening everyone, it is good to see your faces tonight and we just hope we are doing everything to please the community and doing everything we can to improve the community. We are just thankful you are here tonight.
- Councilwoman Dianne Thomas. Good evening, my name is Councilwoman Dianne Thomas. Again, I thank you for coming out, taking time from your busy schedule to be here and have concerns for your village, your city as well. I have some concerns and highlights that I would like to use as well. We have two walking trails that have been prepared by Mr. Lucas, he bought his equipment out here and it does annoy me that his two tractors were vandalized on the park, windows broken out and according to Pitt County Sheriff it appeared that it could have been adult because it was not a child that was able to vandalize the windows. The windows are broken out of his tractors and his insurance has replaced those and Thank God the town was not held accountable for that. I am thankful you are here.

### **ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

- Attorney Keen Lassiter had one report following past months. He has been in contact weekly if not multiple times with the Pitt County Inspection Department. Also, your Mayor has been very helpful in making phone calls and sending emails to the inspections department and other people at the county for us to get the documents we need. He did finally get a package on all 5 properties and was called on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> and picked them up on Friday afternoon. He reviewed them and quite frankly most of the documents were not there. Three (3) properties did not have an order and there is supposed to be an order issued by the building inspector, maybe there was a good reason it wasn't in the package. He sent out an email today asking for some clarification on that, hopefully he will get that tomorrow and we can move forward with the condemnation process with these properties. He will remind them that it started with five (5), one (1) was removed, so the department did not see that one all the way to condemnation. The other four (4), are moving forward, started drafting letters that will go to the property owners and have started the title work, so we can make sure we know who the owners are to get everyone's names on it. With that being said he anticipates over the next thirty (30) days when we are together the letters would be gone, the complaints will be drafted, and he can give us an update as to where we are with enforcement. Thank you, Mayor, I appreciate your help.

### **SPECIAL GUEST MIKE DONOVAN from WASTE INDUSTRIES**

Mike Donovan spoke

- about the changes that are coming up with Waste Industries and the Village waste disposal.
- Recycling changes being proposed is that each resident will receive one 65-gallon container that will be picked up once a month.
- Yard waste will change to two (2) 90-gallon containers per resident that will be picked up each week.
- There will not be a change in the cost. The plan is to start issuing the containers by the first of April.
- Several residents had questions and comments.

### **MAYOR REPORTS:**

Mayor Zeck spoke about:

- the role of the mayor
- the Town Clerk is no longer with us.
- Simpson continues to be right on line with the budget, showing a small surplus.
- at the April and May, we will begin talking about the budget, having a budget draft to the council to review. We will open it up for public comments.
- the walking trail was a slow process due to rain and there are a couple more things to do. As it dries out signs and benches will be put up. The next step is to fix the basketball court.
- Nine (9) different ditch areas with chock points were addressed by Phil Crumb Construction. There will be more ditch digging coming in the next budget.

- The house demolition – there are people that have dropped the ball. This has been going on for since I took office. There are excuses and paperwork not done, bottom-line it wasn't done. Things are now moving forward, with things concluding very soon.

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

- Town clerk open position
- With the volume of calls the town receives and the amount of business, Mayor Zeck feels that there is not a need for two (2) positions, one Town Clerk and one Finance Person. It should be combined into one position.
- Mayor Zeck feels that Susan Ellsworth should be the Clerk/Finance person.
- Brenda Hawkins stated that we should not vote on that tonight but at least discuss as you said because there are some pros and cons to having one person in verses two in her opinion. I would like it to be tabled to the next meeting.
- Dianne Thomas spoke about previous personnel members and the expense to the community and how the tax dollars could be used in a more beneficial way for the community. One clerk could handle the position.
- Mary Moyer spoke that she didn't mind for Susan to hold both positions but the thing of it is, I think she would need a backup because anything could happen. Doesn't have to be a permanent person because if she is out, who's going to do the job.
- Mayor Zeck stated that we will need to at some point if not tonight then next month we will to take a look at that position and what we are going to do. No motion was made.
- Continuing, Mayor Zeck asked if there was any further discussion on the first amendment.
- Brenda Hawkins stated that you have to be careful because some of those positions were not filled because of the lack of people volunteering. This is why when someone is in the position that is going to carry on the work, you just leave them on because we had no one to replace them. We need to be careful on how we set the term limits because you may end up with on one to fill those spaces.
- Mayor Zeck discussion on the second amendment – majority of Simpson residents – proposed Simpson still holds the majority with 3 members and 2 ETJ members.
- Brenda Hawkins asked to change three (3) members to majority. Mayor Zeck responded, the reason that this came up is because the majority still keeps it at four (4), there is no incentive to have a fair representation to the ETJ because if you have 5 members, 3 would be a simple majority and 4 would be a major and we have always had four (4). There has never been an expansion for inviting two (2) ETJ members on the planning committee.

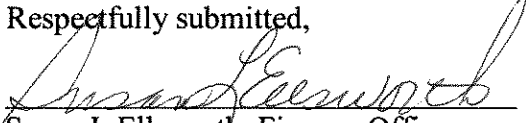
### **ITEMS FOR MOTION:**

- Amend Section 9.01 D. of Article XI of the Simpson Zoning Ordinance to state that members may be appointed up to two (2) successive terms of two (2) years but after a second successive term members may not be reappointed for a one (1) year period.
- Diane Thomas made a motion to adopt the first amendment. Mary Moyer seconded it. All in favor Aye. Motion was carried.
- Amend Section 9.01 A. of Article XI of the Simpson Zoning Ordinance to state that three (3) of the members shall reside within the corporate limits of the village at the time of their appointment. They shall be appointed by the Council. Two (2) of the members shall reside outside of the corporate limits of the village, but within the limits of the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the village at the time of their appointment. They shall be appointed by the County Board of Commissioners after being nominated by the Council.

- Brenda Hawkins made a motion to adopt the amendment. Dianne Thomas seconded it. All in favor Aye. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by councilwomen Brenda Hawkins to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by councilwomen Diane Thomas All voted "Aye", the motion carried, the meeting adjourned.

The next council meeting will be in April 15, 2019.

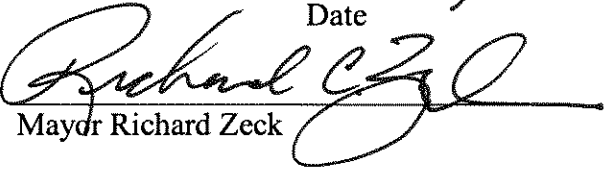
Respectfully submitted,

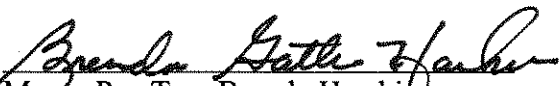
  
Susan L. Ellsworth, Finance Officer


Approved On


4-15-19

Date

  
Mayor Richard Zeck

  
Mayor Pro-Tem Brenda Hawkins

  
Councilwoman Dianne Thomas

  
Councilwoman Mary Moye