

**The Village of Simpson
Regular Council Meeting
November 19, 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 Moyer, 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

Councilwoman Mary Moyer provided prayer.
Mayor Richard Zeck provided pledge.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND OCTOBER 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 October 15, 2018 minutes and
Councilwoman Mary Moyer 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.

- Hugh Mills asked "When were the Christmas wreaths going to be put up?"
- Hugh Mills spoke briefly about trash pick-up schedule.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Councilwoman Brenda Hawkins spoke briefly about how well the program St. James Church in Greenville had for the homeless and veterans.
- Councilwoman Brenda Hawkins spoke briefly about how well the event for the flu shot at the Phillippi Missionary Baptist Church.
- Councilwoman Brenda Hawkins spoke briefly about G. R. Whitfield is still in need of Volunteers for teachers to help with tutoring in reading and math for grades K-8.
- Councilwoman Brenda Hawkins spoke briefly about N.C. State A&T, will be at the Hilton in Greenville for Aggie night. This is for anyone ninth grade and up. You do not have to be already attending A&T to attend.
- Councilwoman Brenda Hawkins thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Councilwoman Dianne Thomas congratulated ECU on their first win and asked everyone to continue sending prayers for ECU.
- Councilwoman Dianne Thomas thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Councilwoman Mary Moye wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Attorney Keen Lassiter spoke briefly about speaking with Reggie Saddlefield from the Pitt County building inspector's office. They spoke about the five properties for condemnation. All five are in the system. The property on 2727 Virginia Street has been removed because the owner has secured the property. Attorney Keen Lassiter stated that he and the Mayor Zeck will research if indeed that would remove the property from condemnation. The other four are in the process to be condemned. Once the building inspector has condemned the property there is a process. There is hearing and then time for them to improve the properties. That time will end for three of the properties on December 13, 2018. After December 13th, if the properties have not been improved to the appropriate level, they will be subject for condemnation. Pitt county building inspectors will notify the Village of Simpson of final condemnation. At that point in time the Village of Simpson council would have to make a decision on how they want to move forward. Moving forward basically requires enforcement since they haven't met the requirements. Village of Simpson would have to sue the property owners. That would be four properties and four lawsuits. The next step, beyond December 13, 2018 is the institution of a lawsuit. This would go to the Pitt County district court for district judge to make the decision. Once it's filed in about sixty days it will be done. Attorney Keen Lassiter would get back with the council once it's finished its process for them to make their decision. Attorney Keen Lassiter also wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

MAYOR REPORTS:

Mayor Zeck spoke briefly about the financial report. The first four months of 2017 the Village of Simpson had \$100,000 in revenue. The first four months of 2018 the Village of Simpson has \$122,000 in revenue. This does not include the pending \$35,000 grant from Raleigh for the walking trail. We have a 22% increase in revenue. This is due to doing a better job of collecting taxes, bills sent out for services that Alexander has done, increase in fees and other new sources. Last year for expenses we had \$92,000 and \$8,000 for a surplus. This year we have \$89,000 in expenses and a \$33,000 surplus. This is significant because it does not include the \$25,000 expensive for the police chief from last year. We have significantly reduced our expenses and increased our revenues. We have picked up over \$25,000 in net income for the Village of Simpson. That also includes \$10,000 spent on new playground equipment. We also did a ditch project, prepaid the fire department annual fee and prepaid annual insurance premiums. We also saved a lot on the Christmas wreaths this year. We will be getting the wreaths hung very soon. The guy that was going to do them, his motor blew up. So we are looking someone else to get them hung up.

Mayor Zeck spoke briefly on the updates on the condemned houses. Three different realtors have called, looking into when the house by the post office on Simpson will be torn down. They have people wanting to buy

the house, but they are afraid to move in with the abandoned house next door. We need to start to make Simpson ready for our next generation. There has been some talk about habit for humanity and small homes coming in Simpson. When they look around and see thirteen abandoned homes in our community, they don't see the pride and don't see that we care enough about our town. They want to spend the money and give us the resources to come in and build in our community. If we don't show the pride we won't attract people to want to come into Simpson.

Mayor Zeck spoke about taking the council members on a tour of the ditches and roads the need repairing. In the last month the Mayor has met with two different engineers about the ditches and streets in our town. There has been more damage by just doing patch work to the roads. The patches on top of patches has caused the water to coming up from underneath and making the roads around the patches worse. The engineers suggest that the ditches need to be cleaned before you fix the roads. This winter we will be looking into cleaning more of the ditches. We can get a better price because it will be a slow season. One of the major ditches that we are looking at is Telfair and Hardy where we need to look at a redesign because it funnels a major portion of this back section of Simpson. Another area is Garden Grove that has a ditch that feeds twenty-one houses that is almost flat. The Kent and Mill Streets are the worse roads. The main drainage in Simpson is on that side of Blackjack Simpson and cuts behind the houses. Even the ditches in Garden Grove cuts under the street and drains over there. All the drainage is over grown. Some people have stated that they don't want some of the ditches done because they want the privacy where the trees have over grown. It's not about them liking the privacy it's about the drainage in the Village of Simpson. Once we get some formal quotes, we can see what the best way to use the Powell Bill money. The money is for the improving of the roads and ditches, once the ditches are cleaned out, we can work on the roads.

Mayor Zeck spoke briefly about the \$35,000 grant that is still pending from Raleigh for our park. We are still waiting on ideas and quotes on the walking trail in writing. The walking trail could almost be a mile when finished. Susan has the paper and grants just waiting on the quotes to submit.

Mayor Zeck spoke briefly about trash pick-up. Pak- R is no longer in business. Waste Industries is about the only ones left. Waste Industries didn't pick up trash and leaves for the previous holiday. The conclusion was a guy didn't come in on his regular schedule and when the truck gets full, they have to come back a second day. We have issues that we all are going to have to work through them and be patient. We encourage the residents to call town hall and they will do what they can and call Waste Industries. They are trying to fit us in their schedule. Councilwomen Brenda Hawkins asked "If we have looked into other garbage pick-up?" Mayor Zeck replied "yes" but the cost we have today may change when we get a contract with Waste Industries.

Mayor Zeck spoke briefly about people in our ETJ complaining about code enforcement with people who are building and not following ordinances. We have had a number of people interested in the ETJ planning board positions and participating on them. We have sent out several letters in violation of ordinances to residents. We all have to be aware that the town does have ordinances and we do have to follow them. One ordinance is requiring dog licenses, in the last ten years there been zero issued. As we look at these things, we need to amend some of these laws. Some of the other areas are abandoned vehicles on properties and people building garages and sheds without making it sure they are code compliant.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Mayor Zeck spoke briefly about the 2019 council meeting schedule and holiday schedule. Councilwomen Brenda Hawkins asked if they could look at it for next month.

Councilwomen Brenda Hawkins spoke briefly about the cost of mosquito spraying and if the state reimburses us. It would cost us more than one hundred dollars to apply for that. We now have a deal with the county for the mosquito spraying.

Councilwomen Dianne Thomas asked if there will be a Christmas gathering next month. Yes, it will be on December 17, 2018 and Susan and Elaine will take care of the food and stuff for the December meeting.

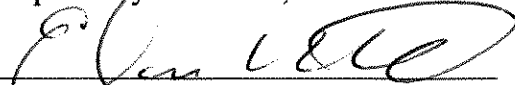
ITEMS FOR MOTION:

No items at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

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

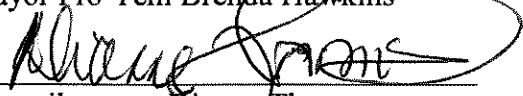
Respectfully submitted,



Elaine Martin, Village Clerk

Approved On 12/17/10
Date


Mayor Richard Zeck


Mayor Pro-Tem Brenda Hawkins


Councilwoman Dianne Thomas


Councilwoman Mary Moya