

**The Village of Simpson
Regular Council Meeting
October 15, 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

Councilwoman Brenda Hawkins 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 September 17, 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.

- Hugh Mills spoke briefly about community day and how he believed it turned out to be a huge success. The mosquito control has seemed to help with the mosquito problem between the two hurricanes in Simpson. Hugh Mills also spoke briefly about Waste Industries and the trash pick-up. Hugh Mills stated that the drainage in Millbrook has greatly improved since the ditches were cleared. Hugh Mills mentioned that ETJ isn't fully represented on the Simpson's Planning Board and mention the term limits of the Planning Board Members are not being voted on by the Council.

- Annie Walker spoke briefly about the Zoning Ordinance and asked for a printed copy. Spoke briefly about someone putting things in the ditch and about getting them cleaned out.
- James Dixon spoke briefly about how it's a partnership between land owner and town and getting the problem ditches cleaned out.
- Hugh Mills Jr. spoke briefly about DOT working on the culverts on Tucker and stopped due to funding issues.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Councilwoman Brenda Hawkins spoke briefly about Waste Industries new schedule on picking up the trash. Inquired on if Waste Industries misses a pickup and if Alexander fills in for that missed pickup it could cause some confusion
- Councilwoman Dianne Thomas spoke briefly about how nice community day turned out and thanked everyone for coming.
- Councilwoman Mary Moye spoke briefly about community day and looking forward to a bigger and better event next year.

ATTORNEY COMMENTS

No comments at this time.

MAYOR REPORTS:

Mayor Zeck spoke briefly about community day and estimated about 175 people attended and 160 tickets were handed out. There were a lot of hours behind the scenes and a lot of volunteers. He also stated they did an incredible job. There were a lot of donations, gifts and money donated. It cost about \$500-\$600 to feed 175 people and for everything that went into the event, which was roughly about 78cents for each citizen. What was left over will be turned into a nice Christmas event for our community.

Mayor Zeck spoke briefly about Hurricane Michael and Florence and how it had little impact to our community. It did bring out the mosquitoes. Cost of the mosquito spray was less than \$100.

Mayor Zeck spoke briefly about the financial reports for July, August and September and we have a surplus. We paid a few things early to save a little money. We are checking into ditches that may need cleaning during the winter months.

Mayor Zeck spoke briefly about trash pick-up and that the new schedule was on the back table. On the schedule is a list of things not to be put out such as hazardous materials, tires, batteries, dead animals. There is a recycling center on Avon Road you can take these items to. Alexander is not to pick these items up for you. It's a potential worker's compensation issue for us. WI is asking that we put our trash cans 10 feet away from your mailboxes to prevent any damages. They have trucks with grabbers and they don't want to damage your mailboxes. Leaf and limbs are put out on Mondays. If all limbs and leaves are not picked up on Monday, they are supposed to come back the next day. They will only pick up four feet limbs. If you have any problems, contact the Village of Simpson and let them call Waste Industries. We are still under the old contract (Pak-R) until January.

Mayor Zeck spoke briefly about condemned homes and how it's a liability issue for us. We need to separate the legal aspect from the emotional aspect. Someone could get hurt in them or it could catch fire. We need to do the right thing. The list of the condemned homes was in last Saturday's paper which is part of the process. There are people interested in helping us like Habitat for Humanity. There are 13 possible homes that will be condemned and five that have already been condemned. As we move forward it will be voted on by the council.

Mayor Zeck spoke briefly about DOT about getting a sidewalk grant. The way DOT works it takes two years to get things presented for consideration. We have to be at the meeting to vote on them. We have to be on the

agenda. Mayor Zeck is getting us on the agenda for the drainage updated. DOT is a little backed up due to the hurricanes and they were supposed to have started on our survey on the light on McDonald Street. The sidewalk is on the agenda and is in the process to be considered.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Mayor Zeck spoke briefly about the planning committee members and terms lengths. When you look at the geographic area of Simpson compared to the ETJ, we are very small geographically compared to the entire area. Other communities are very defined on what their planning departments are, ours is very vague. We don't have very specific term limits; we do have some guidelines like one year, two year, and three years. After looking back at the past five years of minutes, we can't find where the approval of existing people, where it's been presented to have been renewed. We need to tighten things up, from what I have heard from the community. Mrs. Mary has said previously that they have gone door-to-door asking if anyone wanted to be on the planning board. Mayor Zeck said that people had told him, no one asked them, and they didn't know about or they didn't want to be on it because it was limitless. We need more public information out there at these kinds of places. Maybe have a meeting where we invite comments from people. As we are looking to grow and as we are surrounded by these communities we need to expand on these things.

Attorney Keen Lassiter spoke briefly of other communities and specifically on their composition. Attorney Keen Lassister also mentioned, Winterville has ten Planning Board member (eight in town, two in ETJ). They're in town members come from the council and ETJ comes from Pitt County, County of Commissioners. Village of Simpson ordinance identifies that there is five members, which make up the Planning Board, residing within municipal Simpson or within the ETJ. The majority comes from in town. Attorney Keen Lassiter suggested that Simpson needs to decide what membership you want on that five member's board coming from in the ETJ. Majority has to come from in town, which is three or four. Simpson needs to decide if you want representation on the Planning Board coming from the ETJ or not. Simpson needs an amendment saying how many members are coming from in town and ETJ.

Mayor Zeck spoke briefly about the approachment of Greenville, water issues, sewer, ditch issues, drainage issues, sidewalks in our community, and what would make us attractive for people to want to come to Simpson to grow. What could attract people to Simpson is a little convenience store, grocery store or something for our community. We need fresh ideas, some young people and different people from the entire community. When you look at it geographically there is Simpson here and we have a massive ETJ here. There are a lot of people here with a lot of good ideas and a lot of resources. It's not about us versus them. It's about us looking to grow. So we don't get sucked up one day by Greenville.

Brenda Hawkins spoke of some upcoming announcements:

St. James Church in Greenville will be have a program on October 19, 2018 (9am-2pm) for the homeless an veterans to come and get a meals, sleeping bags for the homeless and different types of clothing. Also they will be getting out information to help the veterans and homeless.

Phillippi Missionary Baptist Church on October 27, 2018 (9am-12pm noon) at the multipurpose building. Come by to get your flu shot and they are giving away free bread, donut and pastries between 8:30am – 11:30am.

G. R. Whitfield is looking for volunteers or former teacher to help with tutoring in reading and math for grades K - 8

ITEMS FOR MOTION:

No items at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

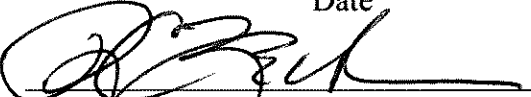
A motion was made by councilwomen Dianne Thomas to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by councilwomen Mary Moyer. All voted "Aye", the motion carried, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Elaine Martin, Village Clerk

Approved On 11/19/10
Date



Mayor Richard Zeck



Mayor Pro-Tem Brenda Hawkins



Councilwoman Dianne Thomas



Councilwoman Mary Moyer