

**The Village of Simpson
Regular Council Meeting
February 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 Zeck welcomed everyone.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Zeck called the meeting to order

ROLL CALL

Elaine Martin, Clerk/Finance Officer conducted the Roll Call.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Zeck, Mayor
Brenda Hawkins, Mayor Pro tem
Dianne Thomas, Councilwomen
Mary Moye, Councilwomen

OTHERS PRESENT

Elaine Martin, Clerk/Finance Officer
Keen Lassiter, Village of Simpson Attorney
Pastor Brad Williams from Salem Methodist Church
Citizens, Present

QUORUM PRESENT

Elaine Martin, Clerk/Finance Officer stated to the Board a quorum was present.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Pastor Brad Williams from Salem Methodist Church gave the Invocation.
Mayor Zeck led said the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND DECEMBER MINUTES

Mayor Zeck asked the council if they had anything to add to the agenda.
Approving December Minutes was added for approval.
Mayor Pro Tem Brenda Hawkins made the motion to approve the December minutes.
Councilwomen Dianne Thomas seconded the motion. All voted "Aye", the motion was carried.

PUBLIC ADDRESSES TO THE COUNCIL:

Mayor Zeck asked if there were any public comments.

Hugh Mills Jr. addressed the council and stated, "2018 is a new year. I think I know most of the people here. We would like to encourage the elected officials to restore the public trust that we have been missing lately. We would like some input and direction."

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Pro tem Brenda Hawkins had comments and spoke briefly.

Council member Dianne Thomas had comments and spoke briefly.

Council member Mary Moyer had comments and spoke briefly.

MAYOR REPORTS:

Mayor Zeck spoke on accomplishments during first 30 days (see attached notes).

- Financial Report- Melonie Bryan (former Pitt Co. financial officer) was brought in as an expert financial consultant to assess current financial situation.
- Current fiscal year budget needs to be entered in QuickBooks. Need to recreate a budget within QuickBooks without any previous documentation as to how budget was created.
- Bank Fees: Our budget was for 678.00 for bank fees, should be zero. We now have free checking. No monthly fee for checking account-saving town \$700.00 per year.
- Mayor Zeck will not be taking the \$600 fuel account for Mayor's position saving the town \$600.00 per year.
- Purchased a new laptop for the Village as proof of previous ownership was documented properly.
- The town was paying \$75.00 per month for maintenance on laptop that wasn't the Village's laptop for the past 3 years which was privately owned.
- \$200.00 savings on late fees assessed to accounts that were paid late.
- Replaced water heater that had been leaking for some time and cleaned out room.
- Extra refrigerator that was in the kitchen moved to public works shop.
- Town acquired debit card to make online bill payment which would allow for paperless savings and on time payments. Working towards a paperless environment and online accounting for all of our accounts.
- 6 active credit cards- 9 users- Updated and cleaned up old users, now the mayor and town clerk are the only ones responsible for usage.
- Powell Bill money not spent from previous years (maybe get back). This is in the discussion period right now.
- Sheriff dept. has is sealed police evidence locker. Call and evidence logs are missing. Some evidence is 11-12 years old. There is an ongoing investigation into some of the activities surrounding lack of information
- Mayor Zeck has reached out to people that want to help and partner with us, traffic engineer from NCDOT is beginning a traffic survey regarding the Simpson and Tucker intersection.
- Abandoned buildings, unoccupied 11 houses, these homes are a safety hazard
- Fire Dept. needs addresses on houses. It's for your resident's safety.
- Social media, facebook page, newsletter updated most sites already, There is a new Facebook page, Village of Simpson N.C.
- Playground and walking trail-An anonymous individual is willing to help with the cost of a walking trail by ballpark, possible free playground equipment from Pitt County parks and Recreation. We will need people to help to install the equipment.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

-Police Chief position-Mayor Zeck recommended to council until some of the issues are resolved. Mayor briefly spoke about the cost of having a Police Chief. And Mayor wanted what to do what was best for the community, and that there were a lot more priorities in the community. Mayor opened it up to any thoughts the council may have. Mayor Zeck asked for a motion to place the Police Chief position on hold at this time. A **motion** was made by councilwomen Dianne Thomas to put the police Chief position on hold for a later date. The motion was second by Councilwomen Brenda Hawkins. All voted "Aye", the motion carried.

-Letter to Grimesland- Asking Grimesland for reimbursement of lawyer fees from the failed annexation, the property rights in the ETJ. A **motion** was made by councilwomen Brenda Hawkins to address a letter to Grimesland for reimbursement; the motion was seconded by councilwomen Mary Moyer. All voted "Aye", the motion carried. Mayor Zeck asked attorney Keen Lassiter to draft the letter.

-Hours of operations/MOW- In order for Simpson to serve MOW it has to be by health code standards. Meals have to be in safe environmental controls environment. The box outside does not meet that standard. It needs to be inside the building. As we move forward Mayor Zeck will work with Elaine and Alexander and review the hours of operation.

-Mayor Zeck spoke briefly about selling junk behind garage. A **motion** was made by councilwomen Brenda Hawkins to sell the junk behind garage; the motion was seconded by councilwomen Mary Moyer. All voted "Aye", the motion was carried.

-Mayor Zeck spoke briefly about increasing service fees. Mayor Zeck would give more details in the March meeting and will asked for a motion in March.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mayo Pro Tem Brenda Hawkins. To adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by councilwomen Dianne Thomas. All voted "Aye", the motion carried, the meeting adjourned.


Respectfully submitted,


Elaine Martin, Clerk/Finance Officer

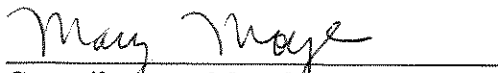
Approved On 4-16-18

Date


Mayor Richard Zeck


Mayor Pro tem Brenda Hawkins


Councilwoman Dianne Thomas


Councilwoman Mary Moyer