

**The Village of Simpson
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2021
7:02 P.M.**

The Village of Simpson held a Regular Council Meeting at 7:02 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, Village Clerk/Finance Officer conducted the Roll Call and stated there is a quorum.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Zeck, Mayor
Brenda Hawkins, Mayor Pro-Tem
Dianne Thomas, Councilwoman
Mary Moyer, Councilwoman (by phone)

OTHERS PRESENT

Susan Ellsworth, Finance Officer
Keen Lassiter, Village of Simpson Attorney
Ronicia James, Intern
Residents

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Councilwoman Dianne Thomas provided prayer.
Pledge by Everyone

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND APRIL MINUTES

Mayor Richard Zeck asked the council if they had anything to add or change 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 April Council minutes and Councilwoman Mary Moyer seconded the motion. All voted "Aye", the motion was carried.

PUBLIC ADDRESSES TO THE COUNCIL:

Mr. Mills stated we're headed in the right direction and he's glad to see residents' tax money being used to make Simpson better.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Councilwoman Brenda Hawkins spoke briefly thanking everyone for attending, wished June and July happy birthdays, residents are saying they've seen improvements concerning the drainage, there are some tiles not set properly on a few streets and questioning if we could get them reset and would there be drainage going on those streets not being paved and who will pay

for it, one of the tile issue is located between Virginia and Porter, she's glad to see that residents are taking pride in their yards because it looks beautiful, there are no flags on Simpson St or Queen St, American Red Cross is still calling for blood, vaccines and the 3 W's.

- Councilwoman Mary Moye spoke briefly thanking everyone for coming out mentioned, asked about the status on trailer park since their bushes and weeds are getting high.
- Councilwoman Dianne Thomas spoke briefly thanking everyone for coming to the meeting and asked if we could get a card sent on behalf of Simpson and the council for former Philippi pastor's funeral this week since he was like family to the village, Vidant Medical Center is feeding kids at the GOC starting July 7, the basketball poles are in need of repair, and she's glad to be a resident of Simpson.

ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Attorney Keen Lassiter

- The defendants in the Blakely lawsuit are now in default and the attorney is working on getting a motion for a default hearing. There's a Relief Act declaration document where you must have their date of birth or a social security number, but he didn't get a date of birth until the 2nd week in June. He should have that document in the file within the next week and he will let us know when the court/hearing date will be.

MAYOR REPORTS:

Mayor Richard Zeck spoke

- He gave Representative Farkus a tour of the town. There's a pending legislation on heir properties. Also spoke with him on the sewer and road conditions and getting possible funding for that.
- There's a rental home on Queen we've gotten several complaints from. We need to have an ordinance stating how many cars and/or campers you can have on the property.
- Representative Farkus wrote a letter to DOT and the Mayor also wrote a letter to the resident about cutting down the bush on the corner of McDonald & Simpson for the safety of drivers.
- It will take about 4-5 days for the railroad track repair on Queen & Virginia, that will be happening real soon. Also working on Tucker Rd and the pavement of Telfaire and Mill and cleaning out Hardee St. Councilwoman Brenda Hawkins made a comment stating the owner of the empty brick house on Hardee gave the "okay" to clean out the ditch to run the drainage through if needed.
- Private property signs may be seen around Simpson to remind kids not to play in those areas.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Mayor Zeck stated 2020-2021 fiscal year had the highest revenue collected in Simpson history. He wants to focus the monies this next year on improving our infrastructure – street pavement, walking trail, ditches. There's the American Recovery fund out there we may possibly receive, however, there's limits on what we could use it for. Mayor predicts a 4-5% increase in revenue next year. He reminded everyone that we do have a rainy-day fund in the bank.
- Mayor Zeck mentioned that hopefully the pavement of the roads will encourage more donations from people and also create more jobs for Simpson residents who may want to help pave. He spoke on an idea for the future which is getting some starter homes built for people who want to stay in the area while they are working on major projects in Simpson.
- The discussion of September Community Day was tabled until the next meeting.

- Finance Officer Susan Ellsworth mentioned about re-branding Simpson and creating a new logo and marketing what Simpson has to offer. Mayor Zeck agreed and asked council members to ask around to see if residents have any ideas and input on our marketing efforts.

ITEMS FOR MOTION:

A motion was made by Dianne Thomas to approve the 2021-2022 Budget ordinance. Mary Moye seconded the motion. All voted "Aye", the motion was carried.

A motion was made by Dianne Thomas to approve the continuation of the Fire Agreement with the Simpson Rural Fire Department. Brenda Hawkins seconded the motion. All voted "Aye", the motion was carried.

A motion was made by Brenda Hawkins to not hold a council meeting in July. Dianne Thomas seconded the motion. All voted "Aye", the motion was carried.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ronicia James, ECU Summer Intern



Susan Ellsworth, Village Clerk/Finance Officer

Approved On 8/26/2021
Date



Mayor Richard Zeck



Mayor Pro-Tem Brenda Hawkins



Councilwoman Dianne Thomas



Councilwoman Mary Moye

Next meeting is August 16, 2021

