

**The Village of Simpson  
Regular Council Meeting Minutes  
May 17, 2021  
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**

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 Moye, Councilwoman

**OTHERS PRESENT**

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Councilwoman Mary Moye 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 Dianne Thomas made the motion to approve the agenda and Councilwoman Mary Moye seconded the motion. All voted "Aye", the motion was carried. Councilwoman Dianne Thomas made the motion to approve the April Public Hearing minutes and Councilwoman Brenda Hawkins seconded the motion. All voted "Aye", the motion was carried. Councilwoman Brenda Hawkins made the motion to approve the April Council minutes and Councilwoman Dianne Thomas seconded the motion. All voted "Aye", the motion was carried.

## **PUBLIC ADDRESSES TO THE COUNCIL:**

No public present.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

- Councilwoman Brenda Hawkins spoke briefly thanking everyone for attending, wished June happy birthdays, the second vaccine clinic at Philippi on May 16, 2021 had a good turnout, American Red Cross sent information on home fire safety and hurricane safety checklist and June-November is hurricane season, some residents concerned with trash and want a time extension due to being slow to get trash out, speed limit sign is down on the corner of Queen and Virginia, survey will go in on May 30, 2021, wants to set a date for Clean-up in April next year.
- Councilwoman Mary Moye spoke briefly thanking everyone for coming out mentioned, concerned with road conditions, status on trailer park that is getting worse, graduation for DH Conley is June 4 with 4 tickets per person.
- Councilwoman Dianne Thomas spoke briefly thanking everyone for coming to the meeting and will discuss a matter she has later in the meeting.

## **ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

Attorney Keen Lassiter

- Condemnation lawsuit was filed on February 23, 2021, Pitt County Sheriff Department served the lawsuit on both defendants on April 14, 2021. They have thirty (30) days to respond and have not responded yet. If no response, wants to file a motion to get this lawsuit to a judge. Will have to schedule a hearing by sending a letter through first-class mail. It appears they did do some work, but debris on the ground is worse.

## **MAYOR REPORTS:**

Mayor Richard Zeck spoke

- Regarding the financials, we had a 26% increase in revenue, and we will end the year in a good position and use it to start the road paving. Receiving grants and also the building occurring in the ETJ is also a factor in the increase in revenue. The cost of the road paving was roughly \$60,000.
- Susan Ellsworth introduced ECU intern, Ronicia James to the council members.
- Wants to also have another Clean Up Day in the Fall, possibly September, in addition to the date set in April.
- Discussed Facebook post made concerning children that were playing in ditches and damaged basketball hoops.
- Telfaire and Mill is next on the list for paving, estimated cost around \$100,000. There is a potential grant but will continue to look for grants. The Village will get the American Rescue Act money (which is for Covid-19 related infrastructure), but probably can't use it for the roads, however, it could be used for water. 2 inch asphalt will be put down and will do our best to make Telfaire and Mill residents aware of this in advance.

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

- Mayor's proposal for next year's Draft Budget is a 30% increase and there will be a public hearing for the budget that we'll also have put in the newspaper.

- Councilwoman Dianne Thomas had 2 seniors contact her and have been on the Meals on Wheels waiting list for almost 2 years. Mayor Zeck explained how funds and meals are distributed and said that it is in the budget to feed 2 more people. Simpson's current route feeds 7-9 people, so 2 additional people is acceptable if the number doesn't exceed 13. Susan Ellsworth will contact the Council on Aging on this matter.
- The Planning and Zoning Administration Services Contract between Mid-East Commission and Village of Simpson is long overdue. We are currently using the Land Use Plan from 2008.
- Tucker Rd will get repaired in July.

**ITEMS FOR MOTION:**

A motion was made by Brenda Hawkins to approve the 2020-2021 Budget Amendment. Dianne Thomas seconded the motion. All voted "Aye", the motion was carried.

A motion was made by Dianne Thomas to approve the feeding of 2 more people for Meals on Wheels. Mary Moyer seconded the motion. All voted "Aye", the motion was carried.

A motion was made by Dianne Thomas to accept the Planning and Zoning Administration Services Contract. Mary Moyer seconded the motion. All voted "Aye", the motion was carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Roncia James                      Susan Ellsworth  
 Roncia James, ECU Summer Intern      Susan Ellsworth, Village Clerk/Finance Officer

Approved On 6-21-21  
 Date

Richard Zeck  
 Mayor Richard Zeck

Brenda Gattin Hawkins  
 Mayor Pro-Tem Brenda Hawkins

Dianne Thomas  
 Councilwoman Dianne Thomas

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 Councilwoman Mary Moyer

Next meeting is June 21, 2021

