

City of High Shoals
Regular Council Meeting
March 12, 2024

- Call to Order
 - Mayor PJ Rathbone called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. In attendance were the following: PJ Rathbone, Tim Eidson, Kathy Rhyne, Bobby Vassey, Bo Rhyne, and Denese Cook. Dennis Cash will be late, he is away on a fire call.
- Invocation
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approval of Agenda
 - PJ Rathbone asked to add to new business for retirement. Motion to add made by Denese Cook, seconded by Dennis Cash. All approved.
 - Motion to approve with changes made by Kathy Rhyne, seconded by Denese Cook. All approved.
- Approval of Minutes
 - Motion to approve made by Dennis Cash, seconded by Denese Cook. All approved.

Citizens' comments/concerns: The City of High Shoals Council offers citizens the opportunity for Public Expression issues per NCGS 160A-81.1 (limited to 3-5 minutes per speaker).

- Michael Bowman- Motorcycle doing burnouts in the evening, 2 a.m. and earlier in the day. A mini dirt bike being ridden down River Street, past N Lincoln and toward the post office. The camper man that lives behind Robby Ray's in the camper rides around with the excavator and forklift. Normal trafficking of 403 N Lincoln St. Tractors are going down the road after midnight with no lights on. The sidewalk above Bowman's house, when the entrance is put in the sidewalk will be fixed. An inflatable wire was cut, the boy and girl that walk around were yelling. Charlie Goebel and Shania Marlowe.
- Judy Taylor- The ditch at her house is like a creek coming down through her yard. The front culvert, where there used to be a ditch, after reworked, it's slanted. Judy is to show Tim the pictures of her yard. A lot of silt from where it is filling back in.

Good of the Order: This is a time set aside for members to offer comments or observations (without formal motion) about the organization and its work. The good of the order is also the time to offer resolution to bring disciplinary charges against a member for the offenses committed outside a meeting.

- Nothing to add per PJ.
- The City Clerk reminded council of the State Street house, when they did the power, they messed the pipe up. We would have to redo a new pipe that is not as deep.

➤ **Departmental Reports:**

- Police Report-Gaston County
 - The camera is up now at the county border. Motor vehicle theft of 200 Block of School St. Gun stolen. Battery Stolen. 1 non-fatal overdose on N. Lincoln. Criminal summons for school violations. Special checks and officers initiated. Traffic stops, DSS, simple disturbance.
- Financial-Dennis Cash
 - Checking 1: \$456,329.49
 - Savings 1: \$ 11,110.91
 - Savings 2: \$160,598.90
 - Capital Management: \$ 47,123.58
 - TOTAL: \$675,162.88

- Budget year is coming, if you have any wants, needs, desires, have it ready for budget session.
 - Cemetery-Denese Cook
 - Cemetery was cleaned off yesterday (Brian & Denese)
 - We have serious issues with fire ants
 - Water/Sewer-Bo Rhyne
 - No leaks that we are aware of
 - Streets/Maintenance/Sanitation-Kathy Rhyne
 - Trash trucks are running ok, we're rotating the trucks.
 - Nothing on streets
 - Parks/Recreation-Bobby Vassey
 - Yard of the Month: 224 Cherry St- Max Parker
 - Easter Egg Hunt ~ March 30th
 - Vehicles- Tim Eidson
 - Truck motor blew up last week
 - Radiator busted on dump truck but that is fixed.
 - Tim believes we may have to buy two vehicles
 - Dodge is \$72,000
 - Ford is \$58,000
 - Chevrolet \$62,772.48
 - May need a 4-wheel drive
 - The smaller truck does not have a hitch, the only vehicle that we have now is the dump truck that can haul. All of our trucks are over 20 years.
 - Administration/Mayor Report-PJ Rathbone
 - Prior to applying for the grants, we will have to decide to take over the land. There are possibilities and different funding. We will have to make the decision within the next one to two months. We will have to get a commercial appraisal for the commercial property. Then provide the appraisal to the current owner. Steve will be joining the calls on the Brownfield meetings.
 - **Old Business:**
 - Discussion/Action: Calendar
 - The Easter Celebration is already established on March 30th.
 - October 31st – Pumpkins on the Bridge
 - Sunday December 15th - Christmas Parade 2pm
 - Discussion/Action: Ray's/Sewer line Replacement
 - Apartments for a 6 inch line, \$2,020 to replace the pipe.
 - Motion to approve made by Kathy Rhyne, seconded by Dennis Cash. All in favor.
 - Discussion/Action: Discussion/Action: GS 143-318.11 Closed Session The personnel exception – (a)(6)
 - *Must propose motion to go into closed session by citing (A)(6).
 - Motion to go into closed session for A6 made by Denese Cook, seconded by Kathy Rhyne. All in favor.
- First motion coming out of the closed session, to dismiss Robert Dusch effective March 13, 2024 made by Mr. Cash, seconded by Kathy Rhyne. All in favor

Motion made to offer lead position to Brian Wilson, effective 3/13/2024 with a pay increase to \$24, seconded by Bobby Vassey. All in favor.

➤ New Business:

- Discussion/Action: Ball Field (5 years)
 - Currently we have a 9u travel ball team utilizing our baseball field on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Those folks would like to go into an extended timeframe to secure the field for up to 5 years. They are wanting to move forward and possibly bring another team in to practice on the off days. The city has purchased netting for left field and the back stop. We also purchased a mobile pitching mound. Everything is stored between the bathrooms.
 - Motion to agree to a 2-year contract for three days a week made by Mr. Cash, seconded by Bo Rhyne. All in favor.
- Discussion/Action: Vehicle(s)
 - Awaiting information
- Discussion/Action: Retirement
 - Tim made the motion to accept the resolutions for acceptance into the Retirement system, seconded by Bo Rhyne. All in favor.

CITY OF HIGH SHOALS

RESOLUTION TO PICK UP THE EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS PAYABLE AS MEMBERS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System
3200 Atlantic Avenue
Raleigh, North Carolina 27604

WHEREAS, the 1981 Session (1982 Regular Session) of the North Carolina General Assembly, by a duly ratified bill effective July 1, 1982, enacted North Carolina General Statute 128-30(b1), a copy of which is attached hereto, which under the conditions specified therein permits an employer participating in the North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System to pick up the contributions payable to this System by its employees who are members of this System; and

WHEREAS, this employer is an employer participating in the North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System with respect to its eligible employees; and

WHEREAS, this employer deems it desirable to pick up the contributions payable by its employees as members of the North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE City of High Shoals Council in regular session, that as of March 12, 2024 the City of High Shoals elects pursuant to the provision of North Carolina General Statute 128-30(b1) to pick up and pay to the North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System the contributions which would be otherwise payable to this System by its employees who are members of this System and to treat in all respects such contributions in the manner specified in said North Carolina General Statute 128-30(b1).

Upon motion to accept Resolution by Tim Edison and seconded by Bo Rhyne the above resolution was introduced and adopted. The number voting in the affirmative was 6 and the number voting in the negative was 0.

CITY OF HIGH SHOALS

RESOLUTION TO ENROLL IN THE NORTH CAROLINA LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the 1945 General Assembly and subsequent legislative actions amended the North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System so as to make the benefit of said System available to all counties, Cities, towns, and any separate, juristic political subdivision; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of this Unit realizes the necessity of providing its employees with the security and protection provided by a sound retirement plan; and

WHEREAS, Article 3 of Chapter 128 of the General Statutes of North Carolina provides that any governmental unit desiring to enroll its employees in said System shall make application to the Board of Trustees of the North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System, and shall by resolution elect to participate in said System pursuant to a favorable vote of a majority of its eligible employees;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City of High Shoals Council in regular session,

1. That the City of High Shoals hereby elects participation of its employees in the North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System.
2. That the City of High Shoals hereby agrees to comply with all provisions of the North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System as defined in Article 3, Chapter 128 of the General Statutes of North Carolina as amended by the 1945 General Assembly.
3. That the City of High Shoals is hereby ordered and directed to make application to the Board of Trustees of the North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System for enrollment of this Unit and its employees in said System.

Upon motion of Tim Edison and seconded by Bo Rhyne the above resolution was introduced for passage. The following number voted in the affirmative: 6. The following number voted in the negative: 0.

CERTIFICATION

North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System
3200 Atlantic Avenue
Raleigh, North Carolina 27604

This is to certify:

1. That at a meeting of the High Shoals City Council
held in City Hall's Council Meeting Room on the 12th day of
March, 2024, the attached resolution was duly introduced and legally passed in
accordance with the applicable provisions of law relating to the City of High Shoals
County of Gaston and the General Statutes of North Carolina.
2. That the meeting at which said resolution was passed was duly constituted, a quorum was present,
and that a resolution was publicized in accordance with the applicable provisions of law and the General
Statutes of North Carolina.
3. That the attached resolution is a true and accurate copy of the resolution passed by the
City of High Shoals as the same appears on Page iii of the Minute Books.
4. That on the 12th day of March, 2024, the City of High Shoals
advised in accordance with the applicable provisions of law relating to the applicable provisions of law and the General
Statutes of North Carolina.
5. That High Shoals has a total of 2 eligible employees and that of those
eligible employees 2 voted favorably.

This the twelfth day of March, 2024.

Brendi Strange
(City Clerk)

Corporate Seal (if any)

CERTIFICATION

North Carolina Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System
3200 Atlantic Avenue
Raleigh, North Carolina 27604

This is to certify:

1. That at a meeting of the High Shoals City Council
held in City Hall's Council Meeting Room on the 12th
day of March, 2024 the attached resolution was duly introduced and legally
passed in accordance with the applicable provisions of law relating to the City of High Shoals
County of Gaston and the General Statutes of North
Carolina.
2. That the meeting at which said resolution was passed was duly constituted, a quorum was
present, and that a resolution was publicized in accordance with the applicable provisions of law and
the General Statutes of North Carolina.
3. That the attached resolution is a true and accurate copy of the resolution passed by the
High Shoals City Council as the same appears on Page iii of the Minute
Books. This the twelfth day of March,
2024.

Brendi Strange
(City Clerk)

Corporate Seal (if any)

➤ Motion to Adjourn

- Motion to recess until 3/19/2024 at 6:30 pm made by Kathy Rhyne, seconded by Bobby Vassey. All in favor.

CITY OF HIGH SHOALS
CONTINUATION OF THE MARCH 12, 2024
REGULAR MEETING

- **Call to Order:** The Mayor reopened the March 12, 2024 City of High Shoals Council meeting on March 19, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the High Shoals City Hall. Present at the meeting were PJ Rathbone, Bobby Vassey, Bo Rhyne, Denese Cook, Tim Eidson, Kathy Rhyne, and Dennis Cash.
- The Mayor said he had gotten quotes from People's Bank, Chevrolet, and GM for the financing of a new city truck. He had not heard back from Ford. Tim Eidson recommended not making a decision until the City heard back from Ford.
- There was discussion on the City financing itself for a new truck. Dennis Cash said the City could then repay itself with interest perhaps cheaper than what a dealer or the bank would charge. Tim Eidson said that the County Landfill would pay \$65 per load of dirt that the City could get from the water plant property. The Mayor said the state would have to approve a large withdrawal from the general fund and

Kathy Rhyne noted neither money received from the sale of dirt or the purchase of a vehicle was in the current budget.

- The Mayor recommended not approving the load rate from People's Bank (7.75% interest paid quarterly over 60 months plus a loan fee for each truck financed) and to wait and hear back from the Ford dealership with more definite numbers. He also recommended listing the old truck on Gov-Deals for \$1,000.
- A motion was made by Tim Eidson to list the old truck on Gov-Deals for \$1,000. It was seconded by Bo Rhyne. All approved.
- Kathy Rhyne made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Denese Cook. All approved.