

TOWN OF BETHANIA COMMISSIONERS MEETING

MINUTES

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023

On June 8, 2023, the Board of Commissioners meeting for the Town of Bethania was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Brent Rockett. In attendance at the Alpha Chapel were Mayor Brent Rockett, Mayor Pro Tem Michelle Leonard and Commissioners Tom Beroth, Chris Sapp and John Rogers.

Mayor Pro Tem Leonard gave the invocation. Mayor Rockett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Mayor Rockett asked for a motion to adopt the Agenda of the June 8th Board meeting. Commissioner Leonard made a motion to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously (Attachment A).

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Rockett welcomed Robbie King, the newly hired Visitor Center Coordinator. Mayor Rockett announced that the Boy Scout project is scheduled to be completed this Saturday, June 10. Work will begin around 9:00 AM; volunteers are welcome.

Mayor Rockett reminded the Commissioners of Bethania's upcoming 264th birthday on Monday, June 12. Commissioner Rogers announced that the Long Creek Pool is scheduled to hold a grand opening this Saturday, with a formal dedication scheduled for this Sunday.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Rockett asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2023 Regular Board Meeting. Commissioner Sapp made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously. The Board signed the minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Commissioner Beroth explained the Financial Reports as of May 31, 2023 (Attachment B), stating we are right on track with our revenue and expenditures; interest income has increased dramatically this fiscal year.

Mayor Rockett added that Occupancy income continues to increase; it was over \$6,000 for the month of April. There were no questions.

VISITOR CENTER UPDATE: Commissioner Leonard introduced Robbie King, the newly hired Visitor Center Coordinator.

Mr. King referred to his background in numerous historic settings including Old Salem, the City of Winston Salem FC Historic Resources and two Architectural Firms specializing in historic preservation. He emphasized that he has felt most welcomed here.

His experience includes event planning, retail management and working with the public. He feels there is a lot of potential here and would like to begin by making folks aware of what Bethania has to offer.

Commissioner Leonard added that Mr. King will be working Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 to 4:00 and Julie Jordan will continue in the Visitor Center Wednesday through Friday from 10:00 to 2:00.

BLACK WALNUT FESTIVAL UPDATE: Commissioner Leonard stated Robbie King and Festival Coordinator Beth Spieler met earlier today to work on Festival details. Specifics discussed include a website for vendors, two local musical bands, a musical act from Summit School, two food trucks, an onsite bake sale courtesy of AME Zion Church and a Bee Hive demonstration.

Mayor Rockett will contact Foothills Brewery regarding donating the beer and Commissioner Rogers will contact local resident Steve Beck about making gelato. Community engagement will be essential as many volunteers are needed.

ADOPT 2023-2024 BUDGET ORDINANCE: Mayor Rockett called on the Budget Officer, Commissioner John Rogers, who stated that the Budget Hearing was held during the May 10th Board meeting. The proposed budget was sent to all residents via email and US mail prior to the May Board meeting. The tax rate will remain at 30 cents. There were no comments or questions.

Commissioner Rogers made a motion to adopt the 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance as written (Attachment C). Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE: Town Clerk, Karen Keller stated that there were 26 total tickets written during the month of May, with 25 of those being speeding tickets. The average MPH over was 18.16. One violation included an arrest and trip to jail.

Discussion followed regarding the July Board meeting. Commissioner Beroth made a motion to cancel the regular July Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Keller reminded the Commissioners that the filing period for the upcoming municipal election will begin July 7, 2023 at noon and end July 21, 2023 at noon. There will be three Commissioner seats on the ballot for Bethania this November.

Mayor Rockett will be on vacation from June 18 through July 6, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Robbie King inquired as to the availability of black walnuts. Commissioner Leonard responded that we order all things black walnut from Hammonds, Inc.

ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Beroth made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted for approval, the Minutes of the Board of Commissioners Meeting of June 8, 2023, consisting of three pages.

**Submitted by Karen Keller
Town Clerk**

APPROVED BY:

**Brent S. Rockett
Mayor, Town of Bethania**

**Michelle Leonard
Mayor, Pro Tem**

John Rogers

Chris Sapp

**Tom Beroth
Finance Officer**