

**MINUTE BOOK XXXIII PAGES 1-10  
TROUTMAN TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 11, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Town of Troutman Town Council was held in the Troutman Town Hall, 400 North Eastway Drive, North Carolina on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Teross W. Young, Jr., presiding.

Councilmembers Present: W. Paul Henkel, Felina L. Harris, Edward R. Nau, Jerry R. Oxsher, Nicholas D. Jaroszynski

Councilmembers Absent: None

Staff Present: Ronald Wyatt, Town Manager; Kimberly Davis, Town Clerk; Lynne Hair, Planning Director; Justin Mundy, Finance Director; Emily Watson, Parks & Rec. Director; Josh Watson, Police Chief; Austin Waugh, Public Works Supervisor; Lou Borek, Human Resources Director; Jessica Davidson; Gary Thomas, Town Attorney; Michael Barker, IT, Mike Daly, Senior Systems Administrator

Press Present: Debbie Page, Iredell Free News

**I. MAYOR TEROSS W. YOUNG CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER**

**MAYOR YOUNG WELCOMED VISITORS AND GUESTS**

**INVOCATION** – Delivered by Councilmember W. Paul Henkel

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ADJUSTMENTS TO AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (\*\*)**

**\*\*Added: Under VII-Closed Session – Closed Session Pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) To Consult with Attorney**

**\*\*Removed: Item III. 13. Titled- Recognition of Wrestling Coach Bill Mayhew In Honor of His Extraordinary Coaching Career (due to Mr. Mayhew not being able to attend)**

Upon motion by Councilmember Eddie Nau, seconded by Councilmember Felina Harris, and unanimously carried, approved to adopt the January 11, 2024 Town Council meeting agenda as amended above.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA:** *Consent Agenda Items are considered to be routine by the Town Council and will be approved with one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless the Mayor or a Council member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered as the first item under New Business.*

1. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of November 09, 2023
2. Approval of Agenda Briefing Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2023
3. Approval of Closed Session Minutes of December 11, 2023
4. Adoption of the Troutman Town Council 2024 Meeting Schedule (Revised)
5. Approval to Renew Contract/Agreement Between the Town of Troutman and DebtBook
6. Annexation Request AX-24-01 (Non-Contiguous), Applicant: CZC Land Development, 9.822 (+/-) acres; PIN 4659096595, 1250 Charlotte Highway
  - a. Adoption of Resolution 01-24 Titled: "Resolution Directing The Clerk To Investigate A Petition Received Under Article 4A of G.S. 160A"
  - b. Approval of Certificate of Sufficiency

- c. Adoption of Resolution 02-24 Titled: *“Resolution Fixing Date of Public Hearing On Question of Non-Contiguous Annexation Pursuant to Article 4A Of G.S. 160A” (Setting Public Hearing Date of February 8, 2024)*
- 7. Annexation Request AX-24-02 (Non-Contiguous), Applicant: Town of Troutman ABC Board, 7.67(+/-) acres; PIN: 4659095027, 1270 Charlotte Highway
  - a. Adoption of Resolution 03-24 Titled: *“Resolution Directing The Clerk To Investigate A Petition Received Under Article 4Aof G.S. 160A”*
  - b. Approval of Certificate of Sufficiency
  - c. Adoption of Resolution 04-24 Titled: *“Resolution Fixing Date of Public Hearing On Question of Non-Contiguous Annexation Pursuant to Article 4A Of G.S. 160A” (Setting Public Hearing Date of February 8, 2024)*
- 8. Annexation Request AX-23-10 (Non-Contiguous), Applicant: BBC Rocky Creek, LLC, 19.511 (+/-) acres; PIN(s) 4740490827, located off Byers Road
  - a. Adoption of Resolution 40-23 Titled: *“Resolution Directing The Clerk To Investigate A Petition Received Under Article 4Aof G.S. 160A”*
  - b. Approval of Certificate of Sufficiency
  - c. Adoption of Resolution 41-23 Titled: *“Resolution Fixing Date of Public Hearing On Question of Non-Contiguous Annexation Pursuant to Article 4A Of G.S. 160A” (Setting Public Hearing Date of January 11, 2024)*

Upon motion by Councilmember Jerry Oxsher, seconded by Councilmember Eddie Nau, and unanimously carried, the Consent Agenda was approved as presented.

(Copied in full, Res. 01-24 is filed in Resolution Book IV, Page 1)  
 (Copied in full, Res. 02-24 is filed in Resolution Book IV, Page 2)  
 (Copied in full, Res. 03-24 is filed in Resolution Book IV, Page 3)  
 (Copied in full, Res. 04-24 is filed in Resolution Book IV, Page 4)  
 (Copied in full, Res. 43-23 is filed in Resolution Book IV, Page 87)  
 (Copied in full, Resolutions 01-24 thru 04-24, Resolution 43-23, and Certificates of Sufficiency, are attached to these minutes and are filed on CD Titled: “Town Council Supporting Documents” dated January 08<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in CD Book #1 Titled: “Town Council Supporting Documents” along with Council’s 2024 Meeting Schedule, DebtBook agreement, annexation requests and other annexation supporting documentation)

### III. PRESENTATION(S) / RECOGNITION(S):

#### 9. Presentation of Resolution 39-23 Recognizing the Distinguished Service of George W. Harris

Following the reading of Resolution 39-23, Mayor Young presented Mr. Harris with a plaque and a Town of Troutman Paddle in honor and in recognition of his 4-year term as Councilmember on the Troutman Town Council.

Mr. Harris thanked Council commenting that it was an honor to serve. He loves Troutman and even though he was not born here, he has a connection as he lived a Barium Springs Home for Children as a child. Mr. Harris stated that he looks forward to serving in some form again in the future.

Councilmember Paul Henkel stated that he looks forward to Mr. Harris serving the Town in the future as he so chooses stating that in the past 4 years, he has been diligent in his duties which resulted in good things for the Town. Mayor Young thanked Mr. Harris asking that he give his better half Council’s regards as well commenting that he knows how much of a toll it takes on spouses and family in the amount of time it takes to do this role.

**10. Recognition of Cameron Jones as “Town of Troutman Employee of the Month” for November, (Ron Wyatt, Town Manager/Josh Watson, Police Chief)**

Town Manager Wyatt explained as a reminder that Detective Sgt. Jones could not be at last month's meeting due to official business. Police Chief Josh Watson stated that Sgt. Jones was nominated by another Department Head who noticed how hard Sgt. Jones works. He stated that during November, Sgt. Jones handled the investigation of the homicide incident that occurred that month. The investigation required numerous interviews and data collection that took a lot of effort and time while continuing to perform duties that are essential for daily operations and provide assistance to other officers. Chief Watson stated that his performance is not just how he performed in November, but is how he performs every day. In presenting Sgt. Jones with his certificate, he stated that is proud that Sgt. Jones was selected stating that the department is proud to have him as part of the team.

Mayor Young thanked Sgt. Jones for his continued dedication to the Town and the department commenting that his efforts in keeping our community safe do not go unnoticed.

**11. Recognition of Darin Yoder as “Town of Troutman Employee of the Month” for December, (Ron Wyatt, Town Manager / Emily Watson, Parks & Rec. Director)**

Emily Watson, Parks & Rec. Director recognized Darin Yoder as the Town of Troutman Employee of the Month for December stating that Darin has been with the Town since April as a maintenance technician in the Parks and Rec. department where he is a tremendous asset. He is consistent, reliable, resourceful, cooperative, promotes teamwork, is skilled in his work, and has a high standard of performance for himself and others. She stated that in December Darin accepted additional challenges, not within his job description, learning the skills needed, and completed the job well with a positive attitude. He supported the police department in its renovation project by building all the shelving for their evidence room. Ms. Watson stated that he is described by others as always having a great attitude and willing to help, going above and beyond. She concluded by presenting his certificate stating that we are fortunate and proud to have Darrin at the Town of Troutman.

**12. Recognition of Justin Mundy, Finance Director as the “Town of Troutman Employee of the Year”, (Ron Wyatt, Town Manager)**

Town Manager Wyatt recognized Justin Mundy as the Town's Employee of the Year. He stated that Justin has been extraordinary in a lot of ways since he came to work for the Town. Justin is a CPA and makes sure that the Town is financially sound and has worked tirelessly and long hours to make sure the Town is modernized. Manager Wyatt spoke about the scanning process of financials and other documents implemented by Justin which makes research less time-consuming and saves on space which Town Hall is lacking. In addition to his financial duties, he is the supervisor of the ladies in the front office. In the 2 years that Justin has been with the Town the Town has received clean audits. Manager Wyatt noted that all the things mentioned make Justin Mundy worthy of being the “Employee of the Year”.

Mayor Young presented Mr. Mundy with the “Employee of the Year” certificate congratulating him on his accomplishment.

Mr. Mundy stated that he is honored and feels totally unworthy because all employees do an incredible job. All the department heads do an incredible job and they make his job so much easier by keeping track of their budgets. In expressing appreciation for the recognition, he commented that we have a great Town Manager and a great Town Council.

**~~13. Recognition of Wrestling Coach Bill Mayhew In Honor of His Extraordinary Coaching Career, (Emily Watson, Parks & Rec. Director / Brent Bustle, Maintenance Tech.)~~**

*\*\*Removed from the Agenda under adjustments.*

**14. Recognition of the Antrican-Smith Family, (Emily Watson. Parks & Rec. Director)**

Manager Wyatt spoke about an unfortunate incident that was discovered on Christmas morning where someone cut all the ties that held the garland along the greenway near Food Lion. Several Staff members received calls and went out, but the Antrican-Smith family who have been community partners in multiple community events took the opportunity to teach their children a lesson in values and that one of the gifts of Christmas is giving back to others and the community. The family went back to their garage and got ties to re-hang the garland and bows.

Parks and Rec. Director Emily Watson stated that they received the phone calls that damage had occurred so she and her husband went out to assess it. She stated that they gathered up the bows and set them against the fence planning to come back later in the day to repair the damage, but in the meantime, this family spent their Christmas during that for them. Later, they sent a video and pictures that meant so much that they spent money, time, energy, and effort on Christmas Day to restore the damage expressing appreciation for what they do. Ms. Watson stated that only one family member, Tyler Antrican, was able to attend tonight.

Before presenting the Certificate of Recognition, Mayor Young read the certificate aloud thanking them for investing their time and opening their hearts to lend a helping hand to improve the Troutman community. He commented that we appreciate all that they do, and he thinks that it needs to be replicated and a lesson for all of us to learn.

Mr. Antrican commented that they walk the trail every day and that day the kids had a lot of energy so they wanted to get them out and get them going. He stated that he is a big Christmas fan and it hurt his heart to see the damage. Mr. Antrican expressed appreciation for the Town, the display, and the recognition.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**15. Consider Granting an Easement to Duke Energy Corporation (DEC), (Ron Wyatt. Town Manager)**

Manager Wyatt stated that he has not yet received an updated/revised version that would be appropriate to adopt as to the specifics, but he is asking that the Council consider granting an easement assuming that once the final rendering is submitted, it is to be approved by the Planning Director, Town Attorney, and Consulting Firm. The request for the easement is to allow Duke Energy to run power to the Houston Road Industrial project.

Upon motion by Councilmember Paul Henkel, seconded by Councilmember Eddie Nau, and unanimously carried, approved to grant the request for an easement to Duke Energy contingent upon the approval of the final easement map by the Town Attorney, Planning Director, and Consulting Firm.

(Copied in full, easement and easement map are attached to these minutes and are filed on CD Titled: "Town Council Supporting Documents" dated January 08<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in CD Book #1 Titled: "Town Council Supporting Documents")

**V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*The public is invited to address the Town Council with comments or concerns. Public comment is limited to three (3) minutes per individual. Speakers are required to sign in at the podium and are required to adhere to Town Policy #51 Titled: "Policy Governing Comments from the Public at Town Meetings"*

(For Live Streaming, go to the link on the home page of the Town Website at [www.troutmannnc.gov](http://www.troutmannnc.gov))

- Christine Clontz, 114 Hampton Cove Road addressed the Council stating that Hampton Road, which houses 14 homes is now the access to hundreds of homes in the Fall's Cove Development is in disarray. It has been the main entrance for all construction and utility trucks, and for more than 2 years they have dealt with the speeding of those trucks. They have contacted and spoken with DOT, Highway Patrol, and our Town Manager, and sadly nothing has been resolved. She stated that she used to walk and jog on that road, but cannot anymore due to the vehicles. No one can walk their dogs down the road because it is too dangerous. Ms. Clontz shared that her neighbor's dog was killed by a passing dump truck and that an oversized truck ran over the Hampton Cove sign. She stated that there seems to be no accountability for all the inconvenience and requested that the Town extend the responsibility of their road to the Fall's Cove Developer.

- Gene Reese, a Mt. Airy resident who owns property on Murdock Road addressed the Council requesting that they consider asking the Planning Board or form a committee to reevaluate the Town's Land Use Plan for the Murdock Road area. He stated that the land is far too valuable for Light Industrial use which yields the least value per acre in property value for the Town than any other use. He also stated that the Town's Land Use document refers to protecting the rural landscape and the agricultural nature of the community and that the map of the Land Use Plan plan is inconsistent with the text of the plan.

- Douglas Haneline, Hoover Road resident asked if Troutman is selling themselves short on what the Town could potentially have here.

- Glen Weber, a 38-year ETJ resident addressed the Council requesting that the Town of Troutman extend the right for everyone in the ETJ to be able to vote and run for Town Council or abolish the ETJ. He stated that the people in the ETJ do not get any rights. They can serve on the Planning Board, but those decisions can be overturned by the Town Council. They live in the county and pay taxes in the county so if the Town wants to give ETJ residents zoning regulations they should have 100% involvement. They do not want to be in the city and have to pay double the taxes, although he does pay taxes on 3 pieces of property that is located in the Town, so why can't he run for office or vote?

- Richard Coleman, a current candidate running for County Commissioner addressed the Council bringing a concern to Council's attention stating that in a period of about 6 weeks, he has had a total of 67 of his campaign signs go missing in the Town of Troutman. He knows that signs going missing are a pretty consistent issue during campaigns. He has had campaign signs up since the Fair on private property and they have gone missing on 4 separate occasions. On each occasion, he has tried to go through the proper channels whether it was Town Management, Board of Elections, or DOT because he understands the statutes and regulations when it comes to political signs, and each time he was told that it was not them that was taking them. He explained that with the last 22 signs that he put out, he put air tags, trackers, and cameras on them to see who was taking them and discovered that it was the Town of Troutman. He stated that if signs are going to be pulled up, there should be a thorough understanding of what right-of-way is and what private property is. He received no warning or phone call and he was the one reaching out to others to make sure he was not in violation. He found the signs leaned up against the utility shed outside Town Hall after he was told repeatedly that they were not taken by the Town. He hopes that the Council will address his concern internally so it does not happen to anyone going forward.

- Jessica Williams, a Murdock Road resident stated that people on Murdock Road, Hoover Road, and the Duck Creek area want to request reconsideration of the Town's Future Land Use Map. She addressed the low attendance at community meetings stating that people in the ETJ do not get notifications. She stated that communication is not cohesive in that part of town; so she is now on the Town's email list to get notifications of meetings. Ms. Williams suggested that the Town maybe hold another community meeting for the Future Land Use Map and that communication be sent out to the people who normally do not get it, people would come out and get involved. She agreed with Mr. Reese stating that the map looks in total opposition to the text.

## **VI. ELECTED / OFFICIALS / STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

### **Elected Reports and Comments**

#### **Councilmember Nicholas Jaroszynski**

- Thanked the public for their comments stating it is important to help the Council understand what people are dealing with.
- Thanked the Parks and Rec. Department and Emily Watson for their perseverance with the Jingle Run 5K; re-scheduling it, and hosting it in the middle of another rainstorm the following weekend.
- Thanked the Town employees for their dedication to the Town and earning awards such as Employee of the Month and Employee of the Year. He thanked the rest of the staff for encouraging and supporting them in their job and daily duties.

#### **Councilmember Felina Harris**

- Wished everyone a Happy New Year.
- Congratulated employees, Justin Mundy, Cameron Jones, and Darin Yoder on their recognitions, thanking them for all they do for the Town.
- Expressed thanks and appreciation to the Antrican-Smith Family for fixing the garland and bows on the greenway.
- Thanked all citizens for coming out tonight whether you spoke or not commenting that we appreciate you for being in this room; we know that you care.
- Wished her Sorority Sisters of Delta Sigma Beta an early Happy Founder's Day on January 13<sup>th</sup> and a happy early birthday to Town Manager Wyatt on that same day.

#### **Councilmember Eddie Nau**

- Thanked the Troutman, Statesville, and Mooresville Police Departments for the outstanding job they did in catching and charging the individuals involved in the break-ins/robberies in each town. He stated that this type of action is not going to be tolerated.

#### **Councilmember Paul Henkel**

- Thanked the Police Department for their diligent work working with the other agencies in finding and making the arrest for the 2 robberies that happened in Troutman.
- Thanked the employees of the month and the year. It was nice to see that Mr. Mundy was totally surprised with the recognition of the Employee of the Year.
- Expressed thanks to all who attended the meeting tonight and to all who participated. He stated that maybe the Town should bring back the Citizen's Academy where people can come to learn how the Town/government operates and why things happen the way they do. In the past, the academy has been very informative.

#### **Councilmember Jerry Oxsher**

- Stated that it is great to see all the recognitions, all of them are well deserved.
- Commented that it is good to see a big crowd present and the people letting the Council know what they think. He addressed Jessica Williams stating that communication is not always easy; a lot of times Council has to go digging also, but he understands and agrees with her comments.
- Recognized his father-in-law being present tonight.
- Wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked everyone for coming.

#### **Mayor Young**

- Welcomed Councilmember Oxsher's father-in-law for coming to watch the US political process.

- Sent his regards to the family of Mr. Kenneth Reid on his passing. He commented that he was not able to be here for the recognition of Mr. Reid but was able to attend his service. The Mayor expressed appreciation for all he gave to the community and his service on the Town's Planning and Zoning Board.
- Stated that the Town does periodically update our Land Use Maps and ordinances and in updating those documents, the Council welcomes people to get involved. It does not always suit everything the Council wants and it does not always suit what individuals want, stressing that it is a road map of how to grow the Town. Council has to make a lot of difficult decisions based on those road maps. He encouraged the public to get involved and show up as the Town continues to review those plans in the future.
- Expressed thanks and congratulations to Justin Mundy, Finance Director on being awarded "Employee of the Year" stating that Mr. Mundy was a great hire and is doing a great job. It is impressive to see how clean the Town's finances are.

### **Staff Reports and Comments:**

#### **Emily Watson, Parks and Rec. Director**

- Stated that she was excited to recognize Darrin Yoder tonight stating that he came to the Town from Mooresville Parks and Rec. Department and has been with the Town for over a year. He has been a game changer for their department as well as the department's new Events Coordinator (Amber) who was present tonight but left before she got the chance to introduce her commenting that she looks forward to introducing her to Council in the future. Amber started part-time in November and came aboard full-time 2 weeks ago. She expressed thanks and appreciation for the Council's support.
- Commented that the department has been busy getting Christmas decorations down and organized; getting caught up on some training, and getting settled into the new facility. They are getting prepared for the spring season due to athletics beginning at the end of February.
- Event Updates:
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual MLK Breakfast, Celebration, will be held at 8:30 tomorrow morning at the Career Academy Technical School (CATS). Mr. Eugene Robinson, a retired NFL player is the guest speaker. She stated that 80 people have replied to our RSVP. Service projects are planned following the breakfast, weather permitting.
  - Lisa Crates Photography is offering free family photos for Valentine's on Sunday, February 4th at Town Hall from 2-4 pm. They are asking for a \$10 donation that will go to My Sister's House Bedroom renovations in partnership with the Ruritan Club. Appointments can be reserved by email.
  - Beginners sewing camp will be held starting in March on Wednesdays from 10 am-12 pm. Parks and Rec. is partnering with Troutman 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church who will be providing the sewing machines. The camp will be held at the Parks and Recreation Center. Cost is \$30.
  - 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Sprint into Spring 5k/10k will be held on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. Registration is online at [www.runsignup.com](http://www.runsignup.com) (the fee for the 5k is \$20 and the 10k is \$25). Fifty-five (55) people have registered so far. The race will begin at Town Hall.
  - Parks and Rec. will host a Youth Baseball Camp in the park on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 3 pm led by South Iredell High School Coaches. The camp is for 1<sup>st</sup> grade through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Free pizza lunch.
  - Smartphone Photography Workshop by Lisa Crates on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Registration is on the CivicRec website.
  - Spring Craft Expo will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup> at South Iredell High School from 9 am – 3 pm. There are already 85 of the 130 vendor slots filled.

#### **Austin Waugh, Public Works Director**

- Commented that he is proud of the guys in his department, working all day in the torrential downpour checking street storm drains, sewer lift stations, and right-of-ways making sure they were all good. Around 11 pm that night, the power went out so generators had to be taken to several pump stations.
- Installed 50 water meters; had 80 inspections; performed a large sewer service repair; and had 6 water leaks.
- Rebuilt the pump at Sanders Ridge lift station.
- Installed Fire Extinguishers at all lift stations.

- Repaired an issue with the Massey Street generator.
- Serviced 5 town vehicles.

**Justin Mundy, Finance Director**

- Thanked everyone for all the kind comments stating that it is an honor to have been selected as the “Employee of the Year”. He commented that every single person easily deserves that award as much as he does if not more; getting to see all the departments and how they operate makes his job unique. Mr. Mundy stated that change is hard, and when he first came to the town everyone made it an easy transition.
- Expressed appreciation to all department heads, Town Manager, and employees upfront.
- Commented that he is glad that the audit went well, now he is getting ready for the upcoming budget.
- Working with ICS and will have new accounting software coming in April or May.

**Lynne Hair, Planning Director**

- Reported that in 2023 the Planning Department was very busy. In her first two years with the Town, there were a lot of rezonings with 26 Conditional Zoning cases.
- Issued right at 1000 permits for construction last year, The Town had a full year of having a full-time Code Enforcement Officer last year which allowed them to start doing things like new construction Certificate of Occupancy (CO) inspections. Code Enforcement Officer Harris inspected 655 new homes this past year. He also processes zoning applications.
- Stated that the department had a lot of plan reviews, 18 of which were non-residential. Plans for the 1<sup>st</sup> Phase of Wakefield Village (55 and over community) have been submitted for review.
- Continues to work on ordinances for text amendments.

**Josh Watson, Police Chief**

- Stated that in December, the department had 3 recruits graduate from Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) with a 100% passing rate. One of the recruits had the highest test score average for the multiple weekly testing and another had the highest score on the state exam. They are now sworn in and have started the 6-week Field Training Program that has to be completed before they can assume patrol duties on their own.
- Commented that the department has been able to gain some space in Town Hall. They went from 24 officers in 3 office spaces to 5 office spaces.
- Stated that the evidence room has been expanded. He thanked Parks and Rec. employees, Darrin Yoder and Jay Murdock for the shelving in the new evidence room.
- Informed Council that at the end of 2023, it was the completion of the 2nd year using new systems and standardized reporting process which allows the reporting of accurate crime statistics.
- Expressed appreciation to Council for their appreciation for all the officers, commenting that he has a great team who work hard and care about the community.

**Ron Wyatt, Town Manager**

- Commented that he has spoken with Eric and Christine Clontz several times and feels sorry for their situation and that the loss of their neighbor's dog is a tragedy. He stated that he and the Clontz's have reached out to NCDOT numerous times. Manager Wyatt stated that when the construction is completed, they are supposed to repave Hampton Cove Road and we will ask that speed humps or devices be placed there. He stated that he has explained that the street is under the control of NCDOT; it is not a town street and all we can do is advocate on their behalf.
- Addressed growth stating that a lot of times with growth, there are some positive things, but there is always the negative, and if that is what we focus on everything will be negative. He continued by stating that Iredell County is considered one of the top 2 counties in North Carolina, and North Carolina is considered one of the top 5 states in the United States. Manager Wyatt stated that the town cannot tell people to not sell their property; all we can do is devise the Land Use Plan which has been updated sooner than in the past because there has been so much growth. He stated as Jessica Williams said she is now on the town's email, offering that the email list is an option where anyone can be included. Manager Wyatt addressed comments made by people in the audience last



month about doing things that were not appropriate and his harsh comments towards them who turned it around to say he was scolding the Council. But, for a couple of individuals in the audience, he meant what he said and he has hired an attorney and there will be consequences for their actions; he is not going to be accused of criminal activity when it is not so, nor targeted by individuals. He spoke regarding people not wanting or liking change, or development coming to their backyard explaining that he as Town Manager, and Iredell Economic Development is only implementing the plan that the Council approved.

- Addressed Mr. Glen Weber's comments in wanting the right to run for Town Council and the ability to vote for Council stating that it is a state lawmaker decision, not the Town Council; nor is it the Town's decision whether to allow ETJ residents to vote inside Town limits. It is also not the Town that determines what ETJ is.
- Commented on Mr. Richard Coleman's version of what had transpired with his campaign signs stating he left a lot of facts out of what in reality happened. He explained that after several attempts/emails to find out if the Town picked up the signs. It was realized that signs were taken by the Town's Code Enforcement although on private property were placed in the right-of-way, but he should not have picked those signs up and the signs were returned. Mr. Coleman has filed a police report regarding the other signs that are missing. He explained that he did not get a phone call because he gets no favoritism and the Town cannot call everyone that puts out illegal signs. Manager Wyatt stated that Mr. Coleman accosted an employee making him feel threatened.
- Expressed appreciation to Council, Staff and everyone that thinks staff, including himself are doing a great job.

Mayor Young expressed appreciation for Manager Wyatt's comments regarding growth stating that he does travel the state a lot and some communities are not growing. Troutman is dealing with growth, but growth is a problem that some of the communities around our state would love to have. How the Town should grow is a topic that the Council can approach during the upcoming retreat.

Upon motion by Jerry Oxsher, seconded by Councilmember Eddie Nau, and unanimously approved to take a brief break before going into closed session.

## **VII. CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GENERAL STATUTES 143-318.11(A)(3) TO CONSULT WITH ATTORNEY AND CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GENERAL STATUTES 143-318.11(A)(6) DISCUSS PERSONNEL**

Mayor Young called for a Closed Session pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS) 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney and pursuant to General Statutes 143-318.11(A)(6) to discuss personnel.

Along with Mayor Pro Tem Henkel and Town Council, Ronald Wyatt, Town Manager; Kimberly Davis, Town Clerk; Jessica Davidson; and Gary Thomas, Town Attorney joined the Closed Session.

Upon motion by Councilmember Jerry Oxsher, seconded by Councilmember Eddie Nau, and unanimously carried, approved to hold a Closed Session to consult with attorney and discuss personnel.

*Mayor Young Opened the Closed Session.*

***\*\*MINUTES OF CLOSED SESSION HAVE BEEN SEALED UNTIL SUCH TIME PUBLIC INSPECTION WILL NO LONGER FRUSTRATE THE PURPOSE OF THE CLOSED SESSION\*\****

Attorney Thomas was excused for the Personnel Session.

*Closing of Closed Session and Reconvene Open Session*

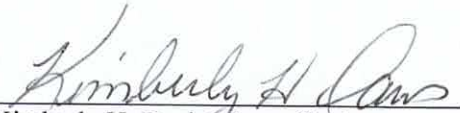
Upon motion by Councilmember Jerry Oxsher, seconded by Councilmember Eddie Nau, and unanimously carried, approved to reconvene open session.

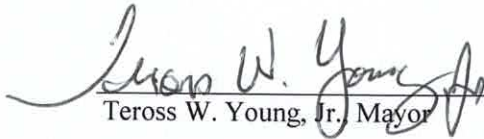
**Action taken as a result of the Closed Session:**

Upon motion by Councilmember Paul Henkel, seconded by Councilmember Jerry Oxsher, and unanimously carried, approved an increase in the salary for Town Manager Wyatt of 10% over current salary covering to his contract period in December.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Councilmember Nicholas Jaroszynski, seconded by Councilmember Felina Harris, and unanimously carried, approved to adjourn the January 11, 2024 Town Council meeting at 11:00 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kimberly H. Davis, Town Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Teross W. Young, Jr., Mayor

(\*\*) Adjustments to the Agenda

