

TOWN OF GREENSBORO
Meeting Minutes
07/10/2023

I. Call to Order

Board President, Mikel Knepley called to order the regular meeting of the Town of Greensboro at, 6:32pm at the Greensboro Community Building.

II. Attendees

The following board members were present for the meeting: Clerk-Treasurer, Mary E. Keck; Board President, Mikel Knepley; Board Member, Ralph Chesher.

Greensboro Police Department: Chief Chris Pickens, Officer Daniel Robbins, Officer Lamar Williams, Sgt. Steven Thomson.

The following community members/others were present for the meeting: Rayann Knepley, Misty Clark, Linda Bowling, Rex Jones, Liz & John Runberg, Jennifer Smith, YouTube Blogger from “The Bastards of Politics”, Kristopher Bilbrey

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes from the June meeting were read and same were approved by the board.

IV. Open Issues

- A. Streets & Sidewalks - Drain on North High street was repaired and paving completed. Dave Kaiser with Kaiser Consulting Group will come out to look at streets and propose which should be done next. We expect them to recommend Mill Street as it seems to be in the worst condition. Jason is still waiting to hear from Pavement Solutions. Still need a dump trailer to do hot patching on Mill and other side streets. James Happe was contacted, but no response.

Sidewalk down from High Street to community building. Ralph contacted property owner and was not met with a favorable response. Mikel has also reached out but not response yet, plans to reach to the owner again. Town could pass an ordinance to install it.

- B. Parks Board - Millings from North Street repaving will be used to create a walking path in the park. Hope to start this coming weekend. Large, broken, swing set will be removed. Jason has learned about an online equipment auction of used product from parks and schools. Will monitor for pricing and availability. Peg board is still pending.
- C. Fundraising – Greensboro Pike Festival: Over 40 vendors signed up, submitted event info to several radio stations, the Mix will broadcast at the event, Nash FM may come out but will for sure announce on air. Courier times contacted Elly and ran an article on the front-page July 8. Sneds Restaurant has offered to have a bar cart at the event with no cost to the town & they will donate 10% of proceeds to the town. Will this be allowed by the board? Mikel indicated this will not be allowed & there is possibly a state law against it. Elly purchased yard signs to advertise the festival & asked if the town will reimburse that cost of approximately \$120. Mikel & Ralph agreed.

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Prizes for kid's games still needed. Misty indicated she has purchased prizes.

Awaiting confirmation of dart board / balloon pop game with Mike Dawson – a backup plan is in place if he is unable to provide supplies.

- D. Community Building updates: Ralph is waiting on the chairs that he ordered from Rural King to come in.
Donated Koala Baby changing tables still need to be installed.
Vending Machines: Jason Clark would like to place vending machines in town to help generate revenue for the town. He is still looking for an affordable option.
Lines down in the back of Community Building – determined to be cable lines possibly owned by Frontier to remove or repair.

- E. Board updates: Jason Clark will be sworn in as Town Board Member. Completed

- F. Connie Ripberger has not yet completed the planning and zoning permit but no work has been done that the board is aware of. She may be waiting on the insurance company.

- G. Police Department – Event planning, hours report & issued violations were not reviewed as is typically normal.

- V. New Business
 - A. Chief Pickens addressed the board & attendees regarding the Henry County Sheriff's meeting held on July 6th, 2023. Several statements were made, issued via newspaper, online & social media regarding GPD & other PD's in Henry County. Chief Pickens did not attend the meeting in question but watched the video online and took notes of statements made in order to address the issues and accusations of Sherriff Sproles. A handout was provided to all attendees by Officer Robbins. A copy of that handout is attached to the meeting minutes. Some of those accusations are:
 1. Small town PD's don't care about the community – Pickens has given thousands of his own money & countless hours. Officers volunteer their time, off duty to community events. Pickens has also worked with dispatch to update documents and resolve radio communication issues effecting GPD & other departments.
 2. GPD/small town PD's are "badge factories" - officers do work security on their own time such as at sporting events in Indianapolis. This is common for all law enforcement agencies, including New Castle PD.
 3. Why are so many officers are needed for small towns? All officers are "reserve" with each required to work 24 hours per month. 720-man hours are required to accomplish 24/7 coverage as the town desires. To accomplish the coverage requested by Greensboro, 30 officers would be needed at 24 hours each per week.
 4. Untrained staff with criminal backgrounds. All officers have passed background checks with the Indiana State Police. All staff have the minimum or more required 40 hour training.

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5. Pickens has attempted to schedule meetings to discuss expectation, but Sproles was too busy. Pickens has also requested more information about alleged misconduct with little to no direct responses.
6. Sproles continues to request a roster of GPD staff despite Pickens providing evidence in the handout that it was received by Sproles on 11/22/22 and in June 2023. Other agencies are able to locate officers in CAD.
7. Sproles accuses GPD of scaring campers at Westwood, criticizes for response to issues in Kennard, Mooresville, patrolling outside of Greensboro, etc. No complaints by citizens, other law enforcement, or any agency have been made to Pickens, or the Town Board directly.
Board President contacted Sproles directly and was told “everything is fine” & he will connect with Mikel in the future to further discuss. No further response has been received.
8. Sproles made several other criticisms that Pickens identifies as out of the Sheriff’s authority, hypocritical and unfounded.

B. Linda Bowling indicated her neighbors have had items stolen recently. Pickens gave out PD phone number which rings to him, his deputy chief and voicemail. Officer Robbins advised residents can request property checks for specific time periods. Pickens advised a vacation check form is also available on GPD website.

President adjourned the meeting at: _____

Minutes Submitted:

Clerk – Treasurer Mary (Elly) Keck

Minutes approved by:


President, Mikel Knepley

Board Member, Jason Clark

Board member, Ralph Chesher

President adjourned the meeting at 8:28PM

Minutes Submitted:

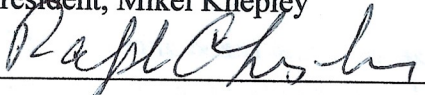


Clerk – Treasurer, Elly Keck

Minutes approved by:



President, Mikel Knepley



Ralph Chesher

Mike Dawson