

MINUTES
FOX FIRE VILLAGE COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Village Hall Meeting Room
January 10, 2023 – 4:30 PM

1. **Call to Order:** Mayor Boito called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM
2. **Members Present:** Mayor Pro Temp Janice Gregorich, Councilmembers Janet Nauman, Don Nelson and Gary Samuels
3. **Others Present:** Chief Shue, Mary Gilroy-P&Z Chair, and several members of the public
4. **Moment of Silence:** Mayor Boito requested those present to pause for a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. **Approval of the January 10, 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda**

Councilmember Nauman removed *Landscaping Bids and Newcomer Information* from her report. Mayor Pro Tem Gregorich added a “*Presentation from David Zmiewsky from First Bank*” to the agenda.

Councilmember Nelson made a motion to adopt the January 10, 2023 agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Consent Agenda

All items listed below are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and without discussion

- A. Approval of Minutes
 1. December 13, 2022 Regular Meeting
- B. Board of Adjustment Appointment – Mary Kragel-Alternate Member 2-yr term

Councilmember Samuels made a motion to approve the consent agenda as written. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Public Comment Period

Mary Gilroy – S. Shamrock commented about a recent incident of an antisemitic banner being draped over a bridge in Southern Pines. Gilroy encouraged the police provide extra patrols at the Jewish synagogue and suggested a letter be sent to them expressing our support in having them here. Mayor Boito responded the police chief has made contact with the synagogue and the police are increasing their presence.

8. Zoning Administrator Report

Village Zoning Administrator, Lissa Kivett provided the following 2022 Year-end Report:

Currently a total of Sixty-one (61) homes are under construction or in the beginning stages of lot clearing. Fifty-six (56) in the Village Corporate Limits and Five (5) in the ETJ.

2022 YEAR END TOTALS

Approved Construction Permit Applications:

Single Family Residence – 55

Accessory Building – 21

Fence – 29

Swimming Pool – 12

Structure Modification – 2

Barn – 3

Screened Porch – 2

Deck – 1

Dog Run – 1

Propane Tank – 9

Land Clearing – 4

Certificate of Occupancy Issued – 62

9. David Zmiewsky – First Bank

David Zmiewsky provided the council with information on First Bank's credit card reward program. He explained the benefits of working with a local bank opposed to utilizing credit cards from larger credit card companies. He also pointed out that First Bank is headquartered in Southern Pines and they provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in charitable contributions to Moore County each year.

10. Council Member Reports:

A. Finance – Janice Gregorich

Mayor Pro Temp Gregorich reported as of December 31, 2022: The general fund balance is \$2,573,288 of which \$822,495 is located in First Bank. \$1,750,792 in NC Capital Trust of which, \$983,108 is reserved. Since depositing money into the NC Capital Trust, we have earned \$792.60 in interest. The water fund balance is \$1,286,163 of which \$536,123 is located in First Bank. \$750,340 in NC Capital Trust of which \$361,076 is reserved. \$339.69 in interest was earned from NC Capital Trust. Gregorich estimates earning between \$1,200 - \$1,500 each month in interest.

Gregorich found the current First Bank credit card we have used for years was accumulating rewards. We cashed in \$1,850.00 of rewards on this card. Gregorich researched several other credit cards and provided details on their cash-back amounts. Brief discussion ensued on options available. Council will further discuss at the upcoming work session.

B. Streets and Park – Janet Nauman

- Corner at Woodland Circle and Hoffman Rd.

Nauman met with the County about the pothole at the corner of Woodland Circle and Hoffman Rd. The County is not responsible for the repair and the pothole was filled with gravel as a temporary fix. Turner Paving permanently repair the area when they pave Bobolink in July.

C. Public Safety – Don Nelson

Chief Shue provided the following report on police department activities:

Chief Shue provided the council with a copy of the 2022 year-end event summary reporting a total of 6,726 calls answered. Included in this total were 1,660 citations, 59 arrests, and 262 ordinance violations. The complete summary will be posted on the Village website.

Chief Shue reported that Foxfire Village made the news again. Officer Judge made a vehicle stop for a suspected DUI which resulted in a vehicle chase. The chase traveled through Lee County, Chatham County, and ended just short of the Guilford County line. An arrest was made. The charges include 4 counts of felony flee to allude arrest, aggressive driving, speeding in excess of 10 mph, failure to stop for blue lights and siren, open container, license revokes, expired registration, failure to maintain lane control, reckless driving, stop sign violation, and left of center. The driver ran because he was wanted in Guilford County for questioning on a shooting last August. Due to the "Run and Done" law, if the owner of a vehicle runs from police, the vehicle becomes property of the Village. The Village has inherited a 3,500 Diesel Dual Pick-up.

Chief Shue asked council to consider enlarging the compound area at the water tower for police evidence. Discussion ensued on a possible location for a compound lot and the status of the white vehicle currently stored in the water tower area.

Chief Stromberg provided the following report on fire department activities:

Chief Stromberg provided the council with a copy of the 2022 year-end summary showing 35% of total calls were in the Village. This is a 13% increase over the previous year. The summary lists calls by station, annual demand for service, historical percentages, demand for service by time of day, and an incident breakdown by type and category. Stromberg explained the staffing at both West End and the Foxfire station. The part-time position in the Village was stopped in November, mainly due to the change in budget. A total of 950 incidents were answered in 2022, 329 were in the Village. 5% of the 329 were fire-related and 59% were EMS or Rescue calls. Stromberg provided details on much of the data.

Chief Stromberg commented on the recent power outage and movement of fire department staff to the West End station due to lack of generator. He did maintain communication with the mayor during the event. WEFD assisted with a 5-alarm fire in Robbins on Christmas Eve providing both tankers, support vehicles and 9 personnel/volunteers. During the Robbins event, there was another large fire in High Falls. WEFD was the first engine on scene for this chicken house fire.

Chief Stromberg added that fire prevention programs were conducted at the elementary schools. They participated in the Village Trunk or Treat, 4th of July parade, and Christmas tree lighting/golf cart parade. Numerous smoke detector installation and inspections were conducted. The ISO inspection originally scheduled for August was not complete until November. Results should be in early February. WEFD is currently a Class 5 ISO and anticipate going to a Class 4 or better. The lower the ISO, the more residents will save on homeowners insurance. Stromberg elaborated on the ISO process.

Councilmember Nelson reported the Hoffman Road gate is not working electronically. Stromberg will investigate the gate battery.

Nelson suggested that due to the recent power outage, a generator be purchased to service the Village administration building, and possibly a separate one for the fire department. Premier Power will be out on Friday morning to provide an estimate for the generator(s) and installation. Canter Power from Raleigh will also come out and provide an estimate. Discussion ensued on generators.

D. Water Department – Gary Samuels

Councilmember Samuels reported the field work was complete for the new well-site. We have received a green light from the State but cannot finalize everything until we have a completed survey. The well-driller is Underwood and they gave us a lead time of 3-4 weeks after the survey to begin drilling.

E. Mayors Report – Don Boito

Mayor Boito attended a meeting with other local and county officials about important issues facing the county. Topics of discussion included the need to construct a water reservoir over the next 10 years, inadequate Powell Bill funds, affordable housing and its impact in local zoning ordinances. Boito provided details about the affordable housing issue which aims to eliminate the local governments ability to govern zoning. Brief discussion followed.

11. Old Business

- Pool Management

Councilmember Nauman reported the leak detection company will be out on Friday to determine if there is a leak in the pool. If so, they can also repair it. Nauman is meeting with USA Pool Management on Thursday. Gregorich commented the timeframe is getting shorter before we need to open the pool. She is concerned if repairs are necessary, we may have a scheduling conflict with opening in May. Brief discussion continued.

12. New Business

- Council Retreat

Mayor Boito suggested council consider scheduling an off-site Council Retreat to review what the Village has accomplished and goals of the council.

13. Public Comment:

None

14. Adjournment

Councilmember Nelson made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 5:27 PM.



Lisa A. Kivett, CMC, NCCMC, CZO
Village Clerk



Don Boito
-Mayor