

**NORTH SALEM  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2024**

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

The September 5, 2024, Council Meeting was called to order by Council President Becky Fancher at 6:01 pm. She led with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a prayer.

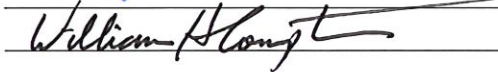
**2. ROLL CALL:**

Becky Fancher, President – Present

Jimmy Roberts, Vice President – Absent

Bill Compton, Member – Present





**3. PUBLIC HEARING – 2025 BUDGET (ORDINANCE 2024-3)**

Beth presented Council with the proposed 2025 budget. After some discussion, Becky made a motion to approve; Bill seconded. The budget will be adopted at the October meeting.

**4. MINUTES:**

Bill made a motion to approve the August minutes as written; Becky seconded.

It was decided to deviate from the agenda and allow representatives from INDOT to explain the road project scheduled for 2025. Jessica Miller and Kristopher Greenlee were in attendance and spoke about the project that will be taking place on 236. There will be paving, curbs and sidewalks. Also, a water main will need to be relocated and a fire hydrant moved. This will all be done all at the expense of INDOT; The town will not be burdened with any cost. Becky made a motion to sign the Standard Hardship Agreement; Bill seconded.

**5. OLD ITEMS:**

a. Generators – these have been ordered and a down payment has been made. The first generator will be installed tomorrow at the fire station.

**6. NEW ITEMS:**

a. Amendment to 2024 Salary Ordinance – due to wording needing to be changed regarding the Water Operator salary, Beth presented Council with an amendment. After some discussion, Becky made a motion to approve; Bill seconded.

b. 2025 Salary Ordinance – Beth presented Council with the proposed 2025 Salary Ordinance. After a brief discussion, Becky made a motion to approve; Bill seconded.

c. Old Fashion Days Wrap Up/Review – Linda Miller was in attendance and wanted to thank everyone for their help with the festival. She also wanted everyone to know that plans are underway for Christmas on Pearl Street in December. Also, next year will mark 50 years for Old Fashion Days.

7. **REPORTS:**

- a. Kevin – new town truck is working out great. Did have some mower issues right before Old Fashion Days but it's fixed now; has been dealing with a power outage at the waste water treatment plant the last couple of days. Duke has temporarily fixed the issue but will be installing a new transformer in the next few weeks.
- b. NSPD – Corey's report was submitted to Council. Corey also said that he thought all went well with the festival. He did say that the boundaries should be changed for the car show and extend down to California Street.
- c. Council – None
- d. Harold – None
- e. Beth – None

8. **PUBLIC**

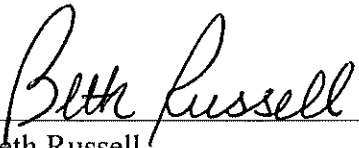
Linda Thompson asked what our proposed tax levy rate was. Linda Miller also wanted to thank our exceptional Fire Department. Resident Mark Wills read a statement (see attached) regarding several issues he had with Marshal Shaffer. Several other people were in attendance to voice their concerns. Marshal Shaffer was given the opportunity to speak to these concerns. After much discussion, Marshal Shaffer submitted his resignation to the Council. Becky and Bill both stated that they did not accept it. Town Attorney Harold Blake then stated that a formal hearing would have to take place regarding the situation. Marshal Shaffer stated that he did not want to go through the process of a formal hearing. Upon hearing this, Bill made a motion to accept his resignation; Becky seconded but wanted to go on record that she did not agree.

A representative from Triad & Associates was in attendance to offer his services if we are ever in need. Mark Wills also offered his services if we need assistance with INDOT as he works closely with them.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm. The next Council Meeting will be October 3rd at 6:00 pm.

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Beth Russell  
Clerk-Treasurer

Good evening, everyone,

For those of you that I have not had the pleasure of meeting yet. My name is Mark Wills. I have lived at the edge of town for what will be 9 years this October. And if we haven't met yet the reason for that, is I generally keep to myself until the point came whereas a respectable member of the community the circumstances no longer allow me to do so. For that reason, by the time I am through here today, I am sure you will know my stance on small town politics.

After sitting by idle watching the way things are done for years now. I have to say I am appalled at the way recent situations that have occurred were handled. As I'm sure many of you may know there have been numerous instances that have taken place that required our current police officer to stand up and perform his sworn duty to protect and serve. Yet the majority of the time we need to rely on the county police because our current officer is too tired, busy or at his part time job. Or for that matter just blatantly refuses to stand up from the bench he is sitting on to do his duty.

For those of you that do not know, there was a situation that occurred at the gas station recently where a lady assaulted a gentleman on video. Even though I and many of you were not there to witness this situation unfold. I am here to let you know that our current officer stood by and watched it happen in uniform and took no action. Not even so much as to try and de-escalate the situation before it got out of hand. Regardless of the circumstances it was unacceptable from an officer. That is also what is considered a dereliction of duty from a sworn peace officer. For that sir, you should be ashamed of yourself! You took a sworn oath to protect and serve. For that reason alone, even though there are many more instances that have occurred, with that being one of the most serious.

As a member of this community my stance is that you have proven time and time again that you are not capable of upholding your duties to either protect or serve. I am calling for you to humbly step down from your current position as the solo officer of the North Salem police force. In the case that you are not willing to do so, as the council, I call on you to remove this officer as the town officer for not upholding the oaths he took to protect and serve. Also, if you are not willing to do what is necessary as a council president that represents each and every member of this community. I call on you to step down and allow someone the opportunity to take your position that is willing to do what is necessary to move this town into the direction it needs to go to make it safe for all residents who reside here.

Thank you allowing me the time to express my concerns.

**North Salem Police Department Monthly Stat Sheet**

**Dates: Aug 2 - Sept 5**

|                                     | <b>Hours Involved</b> | <b>Total Number</b> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Self Initiated Runs</b>          | 5                     | 10                  |
| <b>On Duty Dispatched Runs</b>      | 3.5                   | 4                   |
| <b>Off Duty Call Outs</b>           | 2                     | 2                   |
| <b>Reports / Arrests</b>            | 0                     | 0                   |
| <b>Traffic Stops</b>                | 3                     | 12                  |
| <b>Traffic Tickets / Warnings</b>   | N/A                   | 2 / 10              |
| <b>Patrol Hours</b>                 | N/A                   | 120                 |
| <b>Administrative Duty Hours</b>    | 24                    | N/A                 |
| <b>School Detail Hours</b>          | 40                    | N/A                 |
| <b>Public Relations Hours</b>       | 0                     | N/A                 |
| <b>Total Monthly Hours Worked</b>   | 192                   | N/A                 |
| <b>Day Shifts vs Middle Shifts</b>  | N/A                   | 19 / 4              |
| <b>Total Monthly Sick Leave</b>     | 0                     | N/A                 |
| <b>Total Monthly Vacation Leave</b> | 1                     | N/A                 |
| <b>Police SUV Ending Mileage</b>    | N/A                   | 8991                |
| <b>Total Fuel Used (Gallons)</b>    | N/A                   | 69.1                |

**Runs of Note & Other N**

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| Loose Calf    | 2 Lock Outs |
| Traffic Stops | Mini-Bike   |
| Vin Checks x3 | Check P     |