

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF TARBORO, HELD AT 6:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2015 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM, TOWN HALL, TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rick Page	Mayor
Steve Burnette	Councilman
Al Hull	Councilman
John Jenkins	Councilman
Deborah Jordan	Councilmember
Taro Knight	Councilman
Carol F. Ruffin	Councilmember
Garland Shephard	Councilman
Othar Woodard	Councilman

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Rick Page, Mayor

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Leslie M. Lunsford, Town Clerk

MEMBERS ABSENT

Chad Hinton	Town Attorney
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ALSO PRESENT

M Alan Thornton	Town Manager
Leslie M. Lunsford	Town Clerk

**1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by the Mayor.

**2. PRESENTATION OF TOWN OF TARBORO COST OF SERVICES ANALYSIS OF THE TARBORO ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM BY POWER SERVICES.**

Councilman Shephard asked to present a statement to Council before having to be excused due to a prior engagement. Councilman Shephard expressed concerns that Council was only considering a percentage of the savings to be passed down to citizens. He stated that he felt all savings should be passed down to utility customers.

Councilman Shephard was excused at 6:05 pm.

R. L. Willoughby, Power Services, presented the Town of Tarboro Cost of Services Analysis of the Tarboro Electric Distribution System. Mr. Willoughby's presentation was based on a 10% decrease effective immediately with no projected rate increase until 2019. The additional savings would go into a rate stabilization fund set up by the current Council to absorb future rate increases.

After Council discussion, citizens were given time to speak on the proposed rate decrease. The following individuals addressed Council:

**A. John Temple – 300 E Park Avenue, Tarboro**

Mr. Temple stated that he felt Council would be acting irresponsibly if an action was made before being presented the study with a 12%, 14% and 16% decrease. He was informed that Council had been presented with a 12% study at the regular August Council meeting.

**B. Jack Reitzel – 2017 Glissome Street, Tarboro**

Mr. Reitzel expressed concerns about the rate stabilization fund, he asked if the fund could be restricted. He was told the fund would be an Electric fund which is separate from the General fund but that it could not be restricted from other uses under a different Council. He did encourage Council to consider a larger decrease.

**C. Betty Temple – 1003 Saint Patrick Street, Tarboro**

Ms. Temple questioned the amount of Electric Fund reserves and asked if that could be used for rate stabilization. She was informed that it was not recommended to plan for the reserves to be used for rate stabilization. Ms. Temple also suggested that industries not benefit more than residential customer with a larger decrease considering citizens elected Councilmembers.

**D. Carl Benson – 2601 Beechwood Drive, Tarboro**

Mr. Benson suggested utility customers receive the full decrease at the present time since Council could not guarantee the rate stabilization fund and the future rate increase were only projections.

**E. Donnie Hale – 2206 Robin Drive, Tarboro**

Mr. Hale also suggested the full decrease to be passed down to utility customers at the present time stating that Council has the power to give back to the citizens of Tarboro.

Councilman Jenkins made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Woodard and passed by a 6 to 1 vote that Council advise Mr. Willoughby to continue the Cost of Services Analysis based on a 10% decrease with the additional 9% going into a rate stabilization fund with in the Electric fund. Councilmembers Woodard, Jordan, Hull, Ruffin, Jenkins and Burnette voted for the motion. Councilman Knight voted against the motion.

**3. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Knight made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Hull and passed unanimously, that the meeting be adjourned.