

TOWN OF RICHLANDS
NORTH CAROLINA

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The Richlands Board of Aldermen met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 6:00 pm at the Richlands Town Hall. Present for the meeting were:

Mayor McKinley D. Smith
Alderman Kent Painter
Alderman Tom Brown
Alderman Paul Conner
Alderman Rob Willems
Alderman Kandy Koonce

Also present were:

Gregg Whitehead, Town Administrator
Thomas Bennett, Chief of Police
John Ceruzzi, Attorney with Lanier Fountain & Cercuzzi
Trevor Normile, Duplin Times
Johnathan Jarman, Public Works Director
Doreen Putney, Town Clerk

There were 15 citizens present.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Mayor McKinley D. Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Alderman Kent Painter

INVOCATION: Mayor McKinley D. Smith

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

A motion was made by Alderman Paul Conner, seconded by Alderman Tom Brown to adopt the agenda as written. The motion was unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM January 10, 2012:

A motion was made by Alderman Kandy Koonce, seconded by Alderman Tom Brown to approve the Regular Board of Alderman Meeting minutes from January 10, 2012 as written. The motion was unanimously carried.

PRESENTATION OF MAYOR MARVIN TROTT'S PORTRAIT:

Mayor McKinley D. Smith made a presentation to the family of the late Mayor Marvin Trott. Mrs. Phyllis Trott, wife of Mayor Trott, hung his portrait on the "Wall of Mayors" located in the board room.

ORDINANCE 2012-02 (Regulation of Animals on Public Property):

Town Administrator, Gregg Whitehead, reported that after receiving complaints from town citizens he has drafted an ordinance that would regulate animals, specifically dogs, on any property owned by the Town. Mr. Whitehead stated that the Town Attorney, Keith Fountain recommended to add in section 8-2-18 "service animals are exempt from this section". It was noted that offences to this ordinance applies to the Animal Control ordinance that already exists. It was suggested to invite business owners to post signs in their business windows to assist in making citizens more aware of the ordinance.

After a brief discussion, **a motion** was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Kandy Koonce to approve Ordinance 2012-02 to Regulate Animals on Public Property as amended. The motion was unanimously carried.

STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT DOCUMENTS:

Mr. Whitehead reported that he has followed up with LGC's Director of Debt Management, Mr. Tim Romocki and NCDOT regarding the best funding solutions to ensure that the street improvement project will be completed at the best price. Mr. Whitehead presented a Declaration of Intent to Reimburse and a Capital Project Ordinance for the Board to review. He stated that it was recommended to pledge the use of fund balance monies to pay for the work and then use the loan proceeds to reimburse the General Fund.

A motion was made by Alderman Paul Conner, seconded by Alderman Kent Painter to adopt both the Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse and the Capital Project Ordinance. The motion was unanimously carried.

SATELLITE ANNEXATION PETITIONS:

Mr. Whitehead presented to the Board two Satellite Annexation Petitions for consideration. One is for Tax parcel 44-47.12 currently owned by Trade Oil Company and the other is tax parcel 44-47.13 owned by LPA Richlands LLC. These two locations are adjacent to Koonce Fork Rd and will become the new Wilco-Hess Gas Station and the new McDonald's restaurant. The Town Clerk has provided the required Certificate of Sufficiency for each petition. Mr. Whitehead stated that the next step would be for the Board to schedule a public hearing on the annexation petitions.

A motion was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Kandy Koonce to schedule a public hearing for Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 6:00 pm to hear public comment on

the two Satellite Annexation Petitions tax parcel 44-47.12 and 44-47.13. The motion was unanimously carried.

COMMUNITY BUILDING UPDATE:

Mr. Whitehead updated the Board on the Community Building Renovation projects. Mr. Whitehead stated new exterior doors are being installed as well as some additional track lighting on the inside. A new plan has been presented to include a wooden deck off of the side door and benching around the existing tree. The bids for this would be an additional \$16,000. After a discussion, the board decided to postpone a decision until the new the fiscal year proposed budget has been completed to see if there would be any funds available for this additional project.

BUDGET WORKSHOP DISCUSSION:

Mr. Whitehead reported that it is that time of year again to begin the fiscal year 2012/2013 budget preparations. The departmental budget requests have been distributed to the department supervisors. Alderman Conner requested for the department supervisors to include a prioritized capital list of all their equipment when they submit their budget requests. The board will decide on a date for the workshop at their next regular board meeting in March.

ADMINISTRATORS NOTES AND UPDATES:

The Town Administrator, Gregg Whitehead, presented a copy of notes and updates to the Board which is incorporated by reference and hereby made a part of these minutes. He also reported on the following:

- A Richlands teacher will be receiving approximately \$3,000 in grant money and wanted to use it to replace some of the wind broken Bradford Pear trees with Crepe Myrtles.
- Received a notice from Department of Commerce regarding Small Town Mainstreet Program. The town did not make it last year and Mr. Whitehead wants to file an application again this year.
- Ms. Hattie Angel with the Democratic Party is requesting the use of the Community Building for a precinct organizational meeting and to have the rental fee waived. After a brief discussion, the Board decided that they could not waive the rental fee, however, they may use the town hall for their meeting if they so desire.

POLICE REPORT:

Chief Thomas Bennett presented a copy of the Activity Report for the month of January 2012 to the Board which is incorporated by reference and hereby made a part of these minutes. He also reported on the following:

- As part of a new State Security Policy, the police department will need to begin to keep visitor access logs beginning October 1, 2012. We will need to determine what areas of the police department are considered to be physically secure locations. Visitors may only access the non-secure areas without being logged in and escorted. All visitor logs will include name & agency of visitor, signature, identification, date, time, purpose, & name of person visited. The logs must be kept for a minimum of one year. In some cases, fingerprinting and background checks will be done.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS:

Alderman Tom Brown: Concerned with the Charter Franchise letter he received. Mr. Whitehead stated that we still receive the franchise fee, however, we cannot get into any new franchise agreements.

Alderman Kent Painter: No concerns at this time.

Alderman Paul Conner: Stated that ONWASA is holding a workshop this Thursday evening and was told that good information for Richlands will be discussed. He will give an update at the next meeting.

Alderman Kandy Koonce: No concerns at this time.

Alderman Rob Willems: No concerns at this time.

Mayor McKinley Smith: Remarked on his concern with the ruling by the US Court of Appeals denying legislative bodies from opening their meetings with sectarian invocations. Meaning you cannot use the name of “J-e-s-u-s” or “C-h-r-i-s-t” (he spelled the name). Being a minister, himself, he stated that he will abide by the federal law, but continue to pray at the beginning of the meeting in a non-sectarian way, however, he wanted it known that he does not agree with this ruling himself.

PERSONNEL/CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Paul Conner to go into closed session to discuss personnel. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Kent Painter, seconded by Alderman Kandy Koonce to go back in to open meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

No action was taken during the closed session.

ADJOURN:

With no further business, **a motion** was made by Alderman Paul Conner, seconded by Alderman Tom Brown to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm. The motion was unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Attest:
Doreen Putney, Town Clerk

Mayor McKinley D. Smith