

TOWN OF RICHLANDS
NORTH CAROLINA

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The Richlands Board of Aldermen met in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 09, 2013, at 6:00 pm in the Board Room at the Richlands Town Hall. Present for the meeting were:

Mayor McKinley Smith
Alderman Kent Painter
Alderman Tom Brown

Alderman Kandy Koonce
Alderman Rob Willems
Alderman Paul Conner

Also present were:

Gregg Whitehead, Town Administrator
Doreen Putney, Town Clerk
Johnathan Jarman, Public Works Director

Keith Fountain, Town Attorney
Ron Lindig, Chief of Police

There were four (4) citizens present.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Mayor McKinley Smith called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Alderman Paul Conner

INVOCATION: Mayor McKinley Smith

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Gregg Whitehead, Town Administrator, presented the agenda to the Board.

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 (March 12, 2013 & Closed Session March 12, 2013):

A **motion** was made by Alderman Kent Painter, seconded by Alderman Kandy Koonce to approve the Regular Board meeting minutes of March 12, 2013 and the Closed Session meeting minutes of March 12, 2013. The motion was unanimously carried.

PUBLIC HEARING (Zoning Ordinance/Official Zoning Map Revision):

Mayor Smith opened the meeting to hear public comment regarding the 2013 revisions and updates to the Richlands Zoning Ordinance and the official corresponding Zoning Map.

Mr. Leon R. Jones, who owns property at 310 Dreadnaught Street and also 2 acres on Hancock Street expressed concerns with how the new zoning ordinance and map would affect his properties. He stated that he is not currently building on either property, but may decide to sometime in the near future. The Board and Town Administrator explained the changes that would pertain to his property. Mr. Jones was satisfied and did not express any disapproval of the revisions.

Attorney Fountain explained that the Board wants to hear from the public regarding this issue. This is the reason for the public hearing. With no other citizen comments, Mayor Smith declared the public hearing closed.

RICHLANDS ZONING ORDINANCE AND OFFICIAL ZONING MAP:

With the required public hearing being held regarding the revisions to the Town of Richlands Zoning Ordinance and updated Zoning Map, the Board proceeded with a discussion to adopt the two items. Mr. Whitehead quickly reviewed some of the highlights and provided the Board with a "Table of Uses" to use as a quick reference when referring to a property use.

After a brief discussion, a **motion** was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Alderman Kandy Koonce to approve the Town of Richlands 2013 Zoning Ordinance and the updated corresponding Town of Richlands Zoning Map. The motion was unanimously carried.

DOWNTOWN RICHLANDS FAÇADE ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM:

Gregg Whitehead provided the Board with information on the Façade Enhancement Grant Program that was recently adopted by the Revitalize Richlands Commission. Mrs. Anne-Marie Conner, President of the Commission was present to offer a review of the program and answer question from the Board. Mrs. Conner stated that an interested business property owner must submit an application to the Commission. If approved, the owner is required to match funds with the funds provided from the commission. The owner can then reapply again after a three (3) year period. Mrs. Conner requested a donation from the Town for this commission.

After further discussion and questions, the Board decided on the recommendation from the Town Attorney to hold off on any decision of a donation until next budget year where they can revisit this issue again.

RESOLUTION 2013-04 (Preserve Municipal Revenues):

Mr. Whitehead presented to the Board Resolution 2013-04 which is in response to the sales tax reform bills that are being considered in the General Assembly. These bills would eliminate state collected local revenues for municipalities without providing any hold harmless relief for the town. This would ultimately result in a loss of approximately \$86,000 in annual revenues for

the Town of Richlands if this bill is adopted. The majority of the lost revenues would come from the Utility Franchise Fees that are currently state collected local revenues. Mr. Whitehead stated that if the Board approves this Resolution, it will be sent to our delegates in Raleigh.

A **motion** was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Rob Willems to approve Resolution 2013-04 “A Resolution Urging the North Carolina General Assembly to Amend Senate Bills 363 and 394 to Preserve Municipal Revenues”. The motion was unanimously carried.

ADMINISTRATOR 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 part of these minutes. He also reported on the following:

- Small Town Main Street Committee meeting is Thursday, April 11, 2013. The Business and Development Plan will be presented as well as potential design improvements and promotional activities. Mr. Whitehead encouraged everyone to attend. This meeting is also open to the public.
- Richlands Elementary School will hold a “Celebrate Earth Day” on April 22, 2013 at 10:00 am and will also be thanking the Board for the planting of the new Crepe Myrtle Trees. They requested for the Board to attend.
- The Tree Man will begin taking down the Bradford Pear trees next week.

POLICE REPORT:

Chief Ron Lindig provided a copy of the Activity Report for the month of March 2013 to the Board, which is incorporated by reference and hereby made a part of these minutes. He also reported on the following:

- DWI Checkpoint will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2013 from 2300 until 0300. Chief Lindig invited the Board to attend.
- Chief continues to hold In-service education on Saturdays.
- Department received 15 new reflector vests free from the Governors Highway Safety Program. The points earned from DWI Checkpoints were used to obtain the vests..

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Fletcher Rhodes: Mr. Rhodes presented to the Board a petition containing 50 signatures requesting for the Town Board to limit turkey waste spraying on farm land within the town limits. He requested for this petition to become a part of the official record of the Board of Alderman, which is incorporated by reference and hereby made a part of these minutes. Mr. Rhodes stated that the spraying of the turkey manure creates a foul odor and affects the air quality of the citizens of Richlands. He is requesting the Board to investigate to see if there is anything the town can do. The Town Attorney stated that according to State Legislation, Towns have no authority over farmers.

BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS:

There were no Board member concerns at this time.

PERSONNEL: None

CLOSED SESSION: None

ADJOURN:

With no further business, a **motion** was made by Alderman Paul Conner, seconded by Alderman Tom Brown to adjourn the meeting at 6:45pm. The motion was unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Attest:

Doreen Putney, Town Clerk

Mayor McKinley Smith