

TOWN OF RICHLANDS
NORTH CAROLINA

Office of the
Town Clerk
(910) 324-3301
(910) 324-2324 fax
richlandsclerk@embarqmail.com

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 245
Richlands, N.C. 28574



The Richlands Board of Aldermen met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 13, 2014, at 6:00 pm in the Board Room at the Richlands Town Hall. Present for the meeting were:

Mayor McKinley D. Smith, Sr.
Alderman Kent Painter
Alderman Paul Conner

Alderman Kandy Koonce
Alderman Michael Carpenter
Alderman Tom Brown

Also present were:

Gregg Whitehead, Town Administrator
Ron Lindig, Chief of Police
Keith Fountain, Town Attorney

Doreen Putney, Town Clerk
Johnathan Jarman, Public Works Director
Trevor Normile, Duplin Times

There were two (2) citizens present.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Mayor McKinley Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Kandy Koonce to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (April 08, 2014 & April 25, 2014 Budget Workshop):

A **motion** was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Kent Painter to approve the Regular Board meeting minutes of April 08, 2014. The motion was unanimously carried.

A **motion** was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Kent Painter to approve the Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2014. The motion was unanimously carried.

PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED 2014-2015 FY BUDGET:

Gregg Whitehead, Town Administrator presented to the Board the Proposed 2014/2015 Fiscal Year Budget. Mr. Whitehead stated that the Board will need to schedule a public hearing and the budget must be adopted prior to July 1, 2013.

Mr. Whitehead provided the board with a few of the highlights of the proposed budget.

- Total proposed operating budget is \$1,244,300.
- Due to the 2013 property tax revaluation, the property tax base in Richlands decreased 1.6%.
- Required by law to publish the revenue neutral rate for the fiscal year 2014. This is the amount of property tax it would take to keep our revenue/income as it is now. Our revenue neutral rate for 14/15 is \$.40 per \$100 valuation.
- Currently we are at a \$.36 property tax. I am proposing to increase property taxes to \$.38 instead of the \$.40 revenue neutral rate.
- No fee increases have been proposed.
- No fund balance is being used to balance this budget.
- Nothing has been budgeted for the park project due to not knowing if we are awarded the grant. However, there is \$6,000 in the park fund which can be used to finish the landscaping around the Wishing Tree.
- If we do not get the grant, we can still do half of the park project.

A copy of the Proposed FY 2014/2015 Budget is available for public viewing in the Town Clerk's office and will also be available on the town's website www.richlandsnc.gov.

SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2014/2015 FY BUDGET:

Now that the Proposed FY 2014/2015 budget has been presented to the Board, they need to schedule a public hearing to hear public comment regarding this proposed budget.

A **motion** was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Michael Carpenter to schedule a public hearing at the regular scheduled meeting at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 in the Board Room at the Richlands Town Hall for the purpose of hearing public comment on the Proposed FY 2014/2015 Budget Ordinance. The motion was unanimously carried.

AUDIT CONTRACT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING 2013/2014:

Gregg Whitehead, Town Administrator, presented to the Board the Audit Contract Renewal with CPA Firm of Williams, Scarborough, Smith & Gray to conduct the fiscal year financial accounts ending June 30, 2014. Mr. Whitehead stated that the cost is not to exceed \$10,600.00.

A **motion** was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Kandy Koonce to approve the Contract to Audit Financial Accounts for FY ending June 30, 2014 between Williams, Scarborough, Smith & Gray and the Town of Richlands. 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:

- Reminded the board that Town Hall Day is Wednesday, June 04, 2014.
- The Wishing Tree was unveiled last Friday, May 09, 2014. The elementary school kids were the first ones to put wishes on the tree.
- Mr. Whitehead gave a brief update on the Small Town Main Street committee. He stated that they are applying for 501c3 non-profit status. The biggest challenge is getting the property owners to cooperate. We are looking at the parking issue and are throwing around different ideas.
- Currently working on updating the multi-jurisdictional mediation plan.

POLICE REPORT:

Chief Ron Lindig provided a copy of the Activity Report for the month of April 2014 and the May 02, 2014 Checkpoint Statistics to the Board, which is incorporated by reference and hereby made a part of these minutes. He also reported on the following:

- Conducted a DWI Checkpoint on May 02, 2014. Received support and assistance from other entities throughout the county. Total of 32 charges in a 3 ½ hour period. The report is attached to these minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS:

Alderman Tom Brown: Alderman Brown excused himself from the board and made a presentation to the Town from the “Friends of the Park” committee that was originally organized in 1995. At that time, Mr. Mac Cameron was president, Alderman Brown was vice-president, Lorena Parker was the treasurer and Jeff Causey who was the Town Administrator at that time was the secretary. Alderman Brown stated that the committee had a remainder of \$1,106.04 in the “Friends of the Park” bank account and presented a cashier’s check in that amount to the Town Board requesting it to be utilized for the current park project.

Alderman Brown also stated that he has received many comments on the great job that the police department and the public works department are doing. He stated that he appreciates the bike and foot patrols that the officers are doing. He also encouraged other board members to attend a DWI Checkpoint.

PERSONNEL: None

CLOSED SESSION: None

ADJOURN:

With no further business, a **motion** was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Kandy Koonce to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 pm. The motion was unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Attest:
Doreen Putney, Town Clerk

Mayor McKinley D. Smith, Sr.