

TOWN OF RICHLANDS
NORTH CAROLINA

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The Richlands Board of Aldermen met in Regular Session Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 6:00 pm at the Richlands Town Hall. Present for the meeting were:

Mayor Pro Tem McKinley Smith
Alderman Fran Pierce
Alderman Paul Conner
Alderman Hans Jacobsen

Also present were: Gregg Whitehead, Town Administrator; Keith Fountain, Town Attorney; Chief Thomas Bennett, Police Department; Johnathan Jarman, Public Works Director; Doreen Putney, Town Clerk; and Rachael Jenkins, Advertiser News.

Absent: Mayor Marvin Trott and Alderman Tom Brown

There were two (2) citizens present.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Mayor Pro Tem McKinley Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Alderman Hans Jacobsen

INVOCATION: Alderman Hans Jacobsen

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Alderman Paul Conner, seconded by Alderman Fran Pierce to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of November 09, 2010 with the correction of the word "quorum" to "open meetings law" on page 3 paragraph 1. The motion was unanimously carried.

PUBLIC HEARING (Zoning Text Amendment-Game Room):

Mayor Pro Tem McKinley Smith opened the meeting to hear public comment regarding a proposed text amendment to the Town of Richlands Zoning Ordinance that would allow the operation of a game room as a permitted use in the CB (Central Business) zoning district.

With no public comment brought before the Board, Mayor Pro Tem McKinley Smith declared the public hearing closed.

TRENTON STREET TRAFFIC UPDATE:

Gregg Whitehead, Town Administrator, reported that the Public Safety Committee met on December 1, 2010 to discuss the traffic related concerns that were brought to the Board's attention during the November Board Meeting. The Public Safety Committee agreed to recommend to the Board to place a "Children at Play" and "School Zone" sign on Trenton Street and provide additional traffic enforcement during the school year. The committee did not recommend speed humps or to lower the speed limit. Mr. Whitehead stated that he spoke with Ms. Lewis regarding the recommendations from the Public Safety Committee and that she was satisfied with their decision.

ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT ORDINANCE 2010-06 (Game Room):

Mayor Pro Tem McKinley Smith stated that the Board can now act on the proposed ordinance since the required public hearing has been held regarding the regulation governing the operation of a game room in the CB District.

Alderman Paul Conner motioned to remove himself from this issue. The motion was seconded by Alderman Hans Jacobsen. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Hans Jacobsen, seconded by Alderman Fran Pierce to approve the Zoning Text Amendment Ordinance 2010-06 allowing a game room as a permitted use in a CB District. The motion was unanimously carried.

SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING (Condition Use Request-New Beginning Const.):

Gregg Whitehead, Town Administrator reported that New Beginnings Construction Inc., has submitted a conditional use request in order to establish a church at 215 Kinston Hwy. (old Liberty Chevrolet Building).

A motion was made by Alderman Paul Conner, seconded by Alderman Fran Pierce to schedule a Public Hearing to hear comment concerning New Beginnings Construction Inc. request for a conditional use permit during the next Regular Scheduled Board Meeting on January 11, 2011. The motion was unanimously carried.

COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE:

Mr. Whitehead reported that The Walker Group Architect, Beth Walker, was unable to attend due a conflicting schedule and requested for the update to be postponed until the next regular board meeting in January, 2011.

A motion was made by Alderman Hans Jacobsen, seconded by Alderman Paul Conner to table the Community Building Project Update until the next board meeting scheduled for January 11, 2011. The motion was unanimously carried.

GOLF CART ORDINANCE 2010-07:

Gregg Whitehead, Town Administrator reported that during the December 1, 2010 Public Safety Committee meeting they discussed the possibility of regulating the operation of golf carts on town streets. The committee requested for Mr. Whitehead to develop an ordinance detailing the guidelines that they discussed during the meeting and present to the board for review. Mr. Whitehead stated that since there are some Board members absent, he recommends that this issue be tabled until the next Board meeting.

A motion was made by Alderman Hans Jacobsen, seconded by Alderman Paul Conner to accept the Ordinance 2010-07.

A motion was made by Alderman Hans Jacobsen, seconded by Alderman Paul Conner to withdraw the previous motion.

A motion was made by Alderman Fran Pierce, seconded by Alderman Hans Jacobsen to table the Golf Cart Ordinance 2010-07 until the next regular scheduled Board meeting of January 11, 2011. 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 are attached to these minutes. He also reported on the following;

- Change to the Personnel Policy with regards to Article VII, Leaves of Absence, Section 1. Holidays. Mr. Whitehead requested that the Board approve a change to the Holiday policy which would reflect that when a holiday other than Christmas falls on a weekend, the town will observe the same day as the State of North Carolina observes as the holiday.

A motion was made by Alderman Fran Pierce, seconded by Alderman Paul Conner to approve the recommended changes to Section 1, Holidays in the Personnel Policy to confirm with NC State and ONWASA. The motion was unanimously carried.

- ONWASA has extended the Capital Lease Agreement for 15 years.

POLICE REPORT;

Chief Thomas Bennett presented a copy of the Activity Report for November 2010 to the Board. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Chief Bennett also reported on the following:

- The new police vehicle is here and the decals are on. They are waiting for the police package equipment to arrive and be installed. Chief was not sure on a time frame for the completion of the installation.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Anne-Marie Conner thanked the Board for the approval of Ordinance 2010-06 permitting a game room in the CB district.

BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS:

Alderman Hans Jacobsen: Requested an update on Mr. Humphrey's project. Johnathan Jarman stated that is coming along good and should be completed in a week or two.

Alderman Paul Conner: Complimented Officer R. Davis for responding quickly and appropriately during an incident that occurred near his property.

Mayor Pro Tem McKinley Smith: Complimented and thanked the Police Department for a job well done during a funeral procession and providing an escort for the family.

PERSONNEL: None

CLOSED SESSION: None

ADJOURN:

With no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Paul Conner, seconded by Alderman Hans Jacobsen to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 pm. The motion was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Pro Tem McKinley Smith

Doreen Putney, Town Clerk