

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF TARBORO, HELD AT 7:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2016 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM, TOWN HALL, TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

C.B. Brown	Councilman
Steve Burnette	Councilman
John Jenkins	Councilman
Taro Knight	Councilman/Mayor Pro Tem
Garland Shephard	Councilman
Leo Taylor	Councilman

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Deborah Jordan	Councilmember
Othar Woodard	Councilman

**ALSO PRESENT**

M Alan Thornton	Town Manager
Leslie M. Lunsford	Town Clerk
Chad Hinton	Town Attorney

Council met briefly at 6:00 pm at the Braswell House at Braswell Park to tour and determine the condition of the house. The Braswell House is Town owned property and has been previously rented out. Councilmembers present: Brown, Jenkins, Burnette, Taylor and Shephard. Staff present: Frankie Winslow, Travis Stigge, Buddy Harrison, Troy Lewis, Alan Thornton and Leslie Lunsford.

**1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order and Invocation given by Mayor Pro Tem Taro Knight.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA BY COUNCIL**

Councilman Jenkins made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Shephard and passed by a 4 to 2 vote, that Council add a Closed Session per NCGS § 143-318.11.(a)(6), immediately following 2. Approval of Agenda by Council. Councilmembers Shephard, Brown, Burnette and Jenkins voted in favor of the motion. Councilmembers Knight and Taylor voted against the motion. Councilman Jenkins made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Shephard and passed unanimously, that Council approve the amended agenda.

**CLOSED SESSION AS PER NCGS § 143-318.11.(a)(6)**

Council entered into Closed Session in the Conference Room.

Council entered into Open Session.

Councilman Jenkins made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Shephard and passed by a 4 to 2 vote, that Council terminate Alan Thornton's contract as Town Manager of the Town of Tarboro effective immediately. Councilmembers Shephard, Brown, Burnette and Jenkins voted in favor of the motion. Councilmembers Knight and Taylor voted against the motion.

Councilman Knight made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Brown and passed unanimously, that Council appoint Troy Lewis as Interim Town Manager.

**3. REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS**

**A. Ronnie Daughtry – 2007 Elizabeth Street, Tarboro**

Mr. Daughtry spoke on behalf of the Edgecombe County Memorial Library Board. He stated that the Library had made the decision to stay at their current location and that they were remodeling the current location. Mr. Daughtry also nominated Marcia Cherry to fill Dr. Lawrence Auld's term on the Library Board.

**B. Morgan Edmundson – Parks & Recreation Department**

Ms. Edmundson recognized the senior citizens that participated in the recent Down East Senior Games. She stated Tarboro had 40 participants with the oldest being 90+ years old.

**C. Carol Banks – Arts Council**

Ms. Banks expressed appreciation for the Town's support with the date change for the Happening on the Commons. She also thanked Ray Cullifer at the Public Works Department for his help.

**D. Rick Page – 1502 Chauncey Drive, Tarboro**

Mr. Page expressed concerns about the pay study, including the personnel policy and the need for an evaluation system for merit pay increases. He did speak in favor of employees receiving a pay increase.

**E. Ken Ruffin – 2000 Elizabeth Street, Tarboro**

Mr. Ruffin spoke in favor of a pay raise for Town employees.

**F. Al Braxton – 2406 Deanie Avenue, Tarboro**

Mr. Braxton spoke in favor of a pay raise for Town employees.

Councilman Knight requested Council call for a meeting to discuss employee pay raises. Council called for a meeting Monday June 20, 2016 at 6:00 pm at Town Hall.

**G. John Wooten – 3706 N Main Street, Tarboro**

Mr. Wooten stated that he always found Town employees to be helpful and would like to see the pay deficit brought up to current standards.

**H. Leslie Boyd – 2205 Panola Street, Tarboro**

Mr. Boyd spoke in favor of a pay raise for Town employees.

**I. Brian Pearce – 1902 Lewis Street, Tarboro**

Mr. Pearce spoke in favor of a pay raise for Town employees.

**J. Kevin Perkins – 2503 Summerfield Drive, Tarboro**

Mr. Perkins spoke in favor of a pay raise for Town employees.

**K. Brian Mustard – 728 Wellington Lane, Tarboro**

Mr. Mustard spoke in favor of a pay raise for Town employees.

**L. Morgan Edmundson – 1005 Chapel Street, Tarboro**

Ms. Edmundson spoke in favor of a pay raise for Town employees.

**M. Michael Britt – 699 Fillmore Road, Tarboro**

Mr. Britt spoke in favor of a pay raise for Town employees.

**N. Carol Ruffin – 2000 Elizabeth Street, Tarboro**

Ms. Ruffin stated that the balance from the Self-Insured fund should be used.

**4. MATTERS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

**A. Zoning Map Amendment – RA-12 to RA-8-C**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Council of the Town of Tarboro will conduct a public hearing beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 13, 2016 in the Council Room of the Town Hall of the Town of Tarboro for the purpose of considering and taking action on the following item.

- To consider a petition submitted by S. Clark Jenkins to rezone acreage of property located at Hope Farm Subdivision, lots 1-26 from RA-12 (Residential District – single family) to RA-8-C (Conditional District).

*Those certain parcels of land lying and being situate in Number One Township, Edgecombe County, North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows:*

*BEING, all of Lots 1-26 as shown on plat entitled "Major Final Plat – Section 1, Hope Farm Place Subdivision," dated February 3, 2000, prepared by Joyner-Keeney & Associates, and recorded in Plat Cabinet 6, Slides 123-125, Edgecombe Public Registry.*

The full text of this application which if adopted, will effectuate the proposed changes is on file in the office of the Director of Planning and in the office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Tarboro in the Town Hall and is available for review by interested parties during normal business hours prior to the holding of the public hearing.

All citizens and interested parties are urged to be present at said Public Hearing and make their views known on said proposed amendment and application.

BY ORDER OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF TARBORO.

This the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2016.

Catherine Grimm, Planning Director, presented background information.

Councilman Jenkins abstained from voting due to family involvement. Council approved.

The Mayor declared the public hearing open.

Patricia Weathersbe, 2207 Cotton Drive, asked what the effects would be on current property owners and what the time frame would be for new development. Catherine Grimm answered questions received from Ms. Weathersbe.

Everyone having had an opportunity to be heard, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

Councilman Shephard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Taylor and passed unanimously, that Council adopt the resolution, attached at page 73-17a, and the ordinance entitled:

**ORDINANCE NO. 16-03**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE (ZONING ORDINANCE) OF THE TOWN OF TARBORO AND ITS ENVIRONS TO AMEND THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT HOPE FARM SUBDIVISION, LOTS 1-26, FROM RA-12 (RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT-SINGLE FAMILY) TO RA-8-C (CONDITIONAL DISTRICT).

The Ordinance is recorded in Ordinance Book Number 11.

## B. 2016-2017 Fiscal Year Budget

### PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF TARBORO BUDGET HEARING

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Council of the Town of Tarboro will conduct a public hearing beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 13, 2016 in the Council Room of the Town Hall of the Town of Tarboro for the purpose of considering and taking action on the following item:

1. Fiscal Year 2016-2017 budget.

All citizens and interested parties are urged to be present at said Public Hearing and make their views known on said proposed FY2016-2017 budget.

BY ORDER OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF TARBORO.

This the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2016.

A summary of the proposed budget is as follows:

General Fund	\$11,413,580
Powell Bill Fund	329,500
Emergency Telephone Fund	165,737
Law Enforcement Fund	20,000
Electric Fund	24,080,900
Water and Sewer Fund	4,393,750
Solid Waste Management Fund	1,208,902
Total	\$41,612,369

The Mayor declared the public hearing open.

No one spoke in favor of the 2016-2017 FY Budget.

John Wooten, 3706 N Main Street, asked that Council explain the budget for the citizens present.

Rick Page, 1502 Chauncey Drive, asked that Council postpone voting on the FY 2016-2017 budget until there has been further discussion on the pay study.

Everyone having had an opportunity to be heard, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

Councilman Brown made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Shephard and passed unanimously, that Council postpone voting on the 2016-2017 budget until they have further discussed the pay study. A meeting will be scheduled at the meeting on Monday June 20, 2016 to adopt the FY 2016-2017 budget.

## 5. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Catherine Grimm, Planning Director, informed Council that the current Minimum Housing and Nuisance Ordinances would be on the agenda at the next Planning Board meeting held on Monday, July 18, 2016 at 6:00 pm at Town Hall. Catherine Grimm invited all Councilmembers to attend.

## 6. TOWN MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. Consent Items

Councilman Jenkins made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Shephard and passed unanimously, that the following consent item be approved:

#### (1) Minutes

Action taken: Council approved the minutes of the April 26, 2016 special called meeting, May 9, 2016 regular meeting, May 19, 2016 budget study meeting and the May 23, 2016 special called meeting.

### B. Action Items

#### (1) Memo 16-36 – Minimum Housing Code Enforcement – 709 Edmondson Avenue File No. 15-04

Councilman Shephard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Jenkins and passed unanimously, that Council call for and hold a public hearing on the assessment for demolition cost of \$7,627.48 for the structure located at 709 Edmondson Avenue at the July 11, 2016 meeting.

#### (2) Memo 16-37 – Appointment – Edgecombe County Memorial Library Board of Trustees

The Edgecombe County Memorial Library Board of Trustees recommended a vacant board seat, due to the resignation of Dr. Lawrence Auld, be filled by Marcia Cherry. Councilman Shephard nominated Anthony Edwards to fill the vacant seat. Ms. Marcia Cherry received 2 votes and Mr. Anthony Edwards received 4 votes. Council appointed Mr. Anthony Edwards to fill the six year term expiring in December 2021.

#### (3) Memo 16-38 – Appointment – Fireman's Relief Fund – Board of Trustees

Councilman Shephard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Taylor and passed unanimously, that Council re-appoint Anne Mann to serve another two (2) year term expiring July 2018.

## 7. OTHER REPORTS

### A. Town Manager

Troy Lewis, Interim Town Manager, thanked Council for allowing him to serve in this position.

### B. Town Attorney

None

### C. Council Members

#### Ward 1 – Councilman Woodard –None

**Ward 2 - Councilman Taylor** – stated that he did not agree with the decision to terminate the former Town Manager, Alan Thornton. He also apologized to the Town employees for giving false hope on the pay study and raises. Councilman Taylor stated that he thought Council should adopt the proposed pay ranges as well as a cost of living and merit raise even if Council had to make adjustment to the budget such as financing the Communications System. He expressed appreciation to employees for attending and speaking at the meeting.

**Ward 3 – Councilman Burnette** – explained to employees that the pay study was presented with no recommendation from staff. He stated that Council would work to do the best for the employees and the Town citizens, since citizens were the taxpayers.

**Ward 4 – Councilman Brown** – stated that he appreciated employee comments and that Council would work to find a fitting pay raise plan for employees.

**Ward 5 – Councilman Jenkins** – expressed appreciation for Town staff.

#### Ward 6 – Councilmember Jordan –None

**Ward 7 – Councilman Knight** – stated that he would not blame the previous Town Manager for the pay study issues. He also stated that he did not vote for the termination of Alan Thornton but that he had 100% confidence in Troy Lewis as Interim Town Manager. Councilman Knight thanked Town employees for attending and speaking at the meeting. He also asked that Council stop micromanaging Town staff.

**Ward 8 - Councilman Shephard** – stated that Council was given false information regarding the pay study. He did not disagree with employees receiving a pay raise but he wanted accurate information before Council voted.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Taylor made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Jenkins and passed unanimously, that the meeting be recessed until Monday, June 20, 2016 at 6:00 pm at Town Hall.

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Acting Mayor

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Leslie M. Lunsford, Town Clerk