

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF TARBORO, HELD AT 7:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM, TOWN HALL, TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

MEMBERS PRESENT

C.B. Brown	Councilman
Steve Burnette	Councilman
Deborah Jordan	Councilmember
Taro Knight	Councilman/Mayor Pro Tem
Garland Shephard	Councilman
Leo Taylor	Councilman
Othar Woodard	Councilman

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rick Page	Mayor
John Jenkins	Councilman

ALSO PRESENT

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

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Mayor Pro Tem.

A. Invocation

The invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Knight.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA BY COUNCIL

Alan Thornton, Town Manager, requested Council add Memo 16-05 – Amendment to Contract to Audit Accounts. Councilman Woodard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Jordan and passed by a 5 to 1 vote, that Council add Memo 16-05 and approve the agenda as amended. Councilmembers Brown, Burnette, Jordan, Taylor and Woodard voted for the motion. Councilman Shephard voted against the motion.

3. REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS

A. John Wooten - 3706 N Main Street, Tarboro

Mr. Wooten, Phoenix Historical Society, informed Council of the upcoming events in honor of George Henry White Day on January 29, 2016. He stated that there would be a radio broadcast at 11:00 am on WCBS and a banquet that night with guest speaker G. K. Butterfield.

4. MATTERS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

A. Application for Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to Operate Taxicabs in the Town of Tarboro in 2016

The following Notice of Public Hearing was posted in the Town Hall and mailed to all current holders of Certificates of Convenience and Necessity:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Tarboro Code of Ordinances, Section 18-48, that a PUBLIC HEARING will be conducted by the Town Council at its regular meeting in the Council Room in the Town Hall at 7:00 P.M., Monday, January 11, 2016, to consider and act upon the applications of Kermit Perkins T/A K & L Transport Service, 1600 W Howard Avenue (6 taxis) for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to operate in the Town of Tarboro for the year 2016.

All interested citizens and all parties of interest will be given an opportunity to be heard. Any interested person may file with the Town Clerk a memorandum in support or opposition to the issuance of such a certificate.

This 4th day of January, 2016.

The Mayor declared the public hearing open.

Kermit Perkins, Kelvin Whitehead and Walter Byrd spoke in favor of the Application for Certificate of Convenience and Necessity.

No one spoke against the Application for Certificate of Convenience and Necessity.

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 Woodard and passed unanimously, that Council approve Kermit Perkins T/A K & L Transport Service for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to operate six taxicabs in Tarboro for 2016.

5. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

None.

6. PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

1. Randy Mundt – North Carolina Floodplain Mapping Program – postponed until the February meeting.

2. Norris Tolson – Carolinas Gateway Partnership – Mr. Tolson, newly hired Director at Carolinas Gateway Partnership stated that he is looking forward to working in the area and with the Town of Tarboro.

7. TOWN MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Consent Items

Councilman Woodard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Burnette and passed unanimously, that the following consent items be approved:

(1) Memo 16-01 – 2014 Tax Levy Adjustment

Action taken: Council

- (1) approved the 2014 Tax Levy release number 27 in the amount of \$1,327.92 and authorize the Tax Collector to refund same which has already been paid, and
- (2) approved the *Schedule of 2014 Tax Levy Adjusted as of January 11, 2016*, attached at page 73-1a, in the amount of \$3,392,022.81.

(2) Memo 16-02 – 2015 Tax Levy Adjustment

Action taken: Council

- (1) entered into the minutes 2015 Tax Levy release numbers 14 in the amount of \$78.10, and
- (2) approved the *Schedule of 2015 Tax Levy Adjusted as of January 11, 2016*, attached at page 73-1b, in the amount of \$3,358,935.40.

(3) Minutes

Action taken: Council approved the minutes of the December 14, 2015 regular meeting.

B. Action Items

(1) Memo 16-03 – Minimum Housing Code Enforcement – 1903 Speight Forest Drive File No. 15-02

Councilman Taylor introduced and moved the adoption of an ordinance entitled

ORDINANCE NO. 16-01

AN ORDINANCE ORDERING THE BUILDING INSPECTOR OF THE TOWN OF TARBORO TO EFFECTUATE THE PURPOSES OF ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 9 ("MINIMUM HOUSING STANDARDS") OF THE TOWN CODE AS TO THE BUILDING AT 1903 SPEIGHT FOREST DRIVE IN THE TOWN OF TARBORO, OWNED BY BELINDA H. GRAYIEL.

which motion was seconded by Councilmember Jordan and passed unanimously. The Ordinance is recorded in Ordinance Book Number 11.

(2) Memo 16-04 – Taxicabs – Certificates of Convenience and Necessity

Action taken during Matters Scheduled for Public Hearing 4. A.

(3) Memo 16-05 – Amendment to Contract to Audit Accounts

Councilman Woodard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Brown and passed by a 5 to 1 vote, that Council amend the audit contract with Martin Starnes & Associates to extend the report submission date until February 29, 2016. Councilmembers Brown, Burnette, Jordan, Taylor and Woodard voted for the motion. Councilman Shephard voted against the motion. Councilman Shephard was concerned that Council was not made aware by the Town Manager that the audit was not submitted in the proper time frame. Anne Mann, Finance Director, explained that due to the NCEMPA asset sale, the cost of service study and the subsequent electric rate changes and implementation there was a delay in receipt of client-prepared financial statements.

8. OTHER REPORTS

A. Town Manager

The Town Manager informed Council that the Council Retreat was scheduled for Saturday February 20 & Sunday February 21, 2016 at the Fountains of the Albemarle.

B. Town Attorney

The Town Attorney stated that he had addressed Councilman Woodard's ethics request. The Town Attorney also addressed the Tourism Board. He stated that based on his research, once the initial board is set the members are in place even if they do not participate, therefore, the board can legally operate. He did suggest that Council request having the bylaws changed. Councilman Burnette requested this issue be added to the Council Retreat agenda.

C. Mayor Pro Tem

The Mayor Pro Tem requested the appointment for the Airport Authority be added to the February meeting agenda.

D. Council Members

Ward 1 – Councilman Woodard – None

Ward 2 - Councilman Taylor – stated that he was currently working with Alan to resolve citizen issues. He also raised concerns about the number of houses in his neighborhood without house numbers, he asked if the Town could possibly send a notification to property owners requesting they add the house number to the front of the property. Councilman Taylor also stated that he would be attending the newly Elected Officials Workshop soon.

Ward 3 – Councilman Burnette – None

Ward 4 – Councilman Brown – None

Ward 5 – Councilman Jenkins – None

Ward 6 – Councilmember Jordan – None

Ward 7 – Councilman Knight – None

Ward 8 - Councilman Shephard – asked why the Recreation Department stopped applying for the on-going Senior Center of Excellence Grant for \$15,000 a year. Travis Stigge, Recreation Director, assured Councilman Shephard that he would look into the grant and re-apply in the future. Councilman Shephard asked if the Town had a grant writer on staff. Alan Thornton informed him that the Town works with Carolinas Gateway Partnership, Electricities and the Planning Department for available grants. Councilman Shephard stated that there was Downtown development grant money available if someone could apply for it. Councilman Shephard also requested information on the distribution of the new Police vehicles. The Police Chief stated the distribution was 6 vehicles to street officers, 2 vehicles to Investigations and 1 to Administration. Councilman Shephard was extremely upset stating that the Police Chief “sold” Council on the SUV’s because the street officers were in the cars for 12 hour shifts and needed more space. Mayor Pro Tem Knight stated that this was an issue for the Town Manager to work on, not Council.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Woodard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Jordan and passed unanimously, that the meeting be adjourned.

Rick Page, Mayor

Leslie M. Lunsford, Town Clerk