

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF TARBORO, HELD AT 7:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2016 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM, TOWN HALL, TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rick Page	Mayor
C.B. Brown	Councilman
Steve Burnette	Councilman
Deborah Jordan	Councilwoman
Taro Knight	Councilman
Garland Shephard	Councilman
Leo Taylor	Councilman
Othar Woodard	Councilman

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Jenkins	Councilman
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ALSO PRESENT

M. Alan Thornton	Town Manager
Diane Johnson	Acting Town Clerk
Chad Hinton	Town Attorney

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Mayor.

A. Invocation

The invocation was given by Mayor Rick Page.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA BY COUNCIL

Councilman Shephard requested the agenda be amended to discuss an article that was recently published in the newspaper regarding electric utility rates. Councilman Knight stated that he would like to see (some or all) of the electric rates savings passed on to the customers. Mayor Page respectfully asked that Council discuss the electric rates at the upcoming Council Retreat (February 20-21). Councilman Woodard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Taylor and passed unanimously, that the agenda be approved as presented.

3. REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS

A. Roy Gray – 611 E. Johnston Street

Mr. Gray had questions regarding homeowners on East Johnston Street having to purchase flood insurance for their residence due to FEMA declaring the area to be in the flood zone. Previously, the houses were not in a flood zone. Mayor Page informed Mr. Gray that a representative with the NC Floodplain Mapping Program was present and would address his concerns.

4. MATTERS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

None.

5. PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

A. Randy Mundt (NC Department of Public Safety)

Mr. Mundt gave a presentation on the Floodplain Mapping Program. Council was informed that the new flood maps would be available in 2 (two) months and once all data is released there is a three month review period and a three month appeals period. Mr. Mundt answered questions and addressed concerns from Mr. Roy Gray.

B. Martin Starnes & Associates (FY 2014-2015 Audit Report)

Justin Knight, a representative with Martin Starnes & Associates gave an overview of the 2014-2015 fiscal year audit.

C. Town of Tarboro – New Website

The Finance Director gave an update on the Town's proposed new website. Council unanimously agreed for staff to move forward with this project.

6. TOWN MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Consent Items

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

(1) Memo 16-06 – 2015 Tax Levy Adjustment

Action taken: Council

- (1) entered into the minutes 2015 Tax Levy release numbers 15 through 21 in the amount of \$120.86 and authorized the Tax Collector to refund release number 21 in the amount of \$45.19 which has already been paid, and

- (2) approved the *Schedule of 2015 Tax Levy Adjusted as of February 8, 2016*, attached at page 73-3a, in the amount of \$3,358,814.54.

(2) Minutes

Action taken: Council approved the minutes of the January 11, 2016 regular meeting.

B. Action Items

(1) Memo 16-07 – Traffic Schedule – No Parking Hunter Hill Road

Councilman Woodard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Knight and passed unanimously, that Council adopt the resolution attached at page 73-3b, amending the Traffic Schedule to prohibit parking along the east side of Hunter Hill Road.

(2) Memo 16-08 – Bid Award – General Foam Plastics

Councilman Woodard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Burnette and passed unanimously, that Council award the bid, attached at page 73-3c and 73-3d, for a 2000kW Generator to Gregory Poole Equipment Company in the amount of \$1,138,270 plus sales tax of \$79,679. Mr. R.L. Willoughby with PowerServices answered questions from Council. General Foam Plastics is required to hire 98 new employees.

(3) Memo 16-09 – Report of Unpaid Taxes that are Liens on Real Property and Tax Lien Advertising

Councilman Knight made a motion, which was seconded by Councilwoman Jordan and passed unanimously, that Council approve the report of the Tax Collector on unpaid 2015 taxes that are liens on real property and that Council order the Tax Collector to advertise 2015 taxes that are liens on real property once a week for two (2) weeks as soon as all statutory requirements can be met.

(4) Memo 16-10 – Disposition of Town Owned Property - 203 Creek Street

Councilwoman Jordan made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Knight and passed unanimously, that Council accept Ray Lancaster's offer, attached at page 73-3e and page 73-3f, to purchase 203 Creek Street (vacant lot) for \$1000 subject to upset bid procedure.

(5) Memo 16-11 – Appointment - Tarboro Edgecombe Airport Authority

Councilman Shephard nominated Mr. Anthony Edwards. No other names were nominated. Councilman Woodard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Knight and passed unanimously, that Council appoint Anthony Edwards to fill a five (5) year term expiring October 2020.

(6) Memo 16-12 – Appointment – Edgecombe County Tourism Development Authority

Councilman Knight made a motion, which was seconded by Councilwoman Jordan to re-appoint Mr. Raj Patel to serve a two (2) year term expiring October 2017. Councilmembers Brown, Burnette, Taylor and Woodard voted for the motion. Councilman Shephard opposed. Councilman Shephard stated the vote was illegal and that he had spoken with Mr. Patel and no one from the Town had contacted Mr. Patel and he was not interested in serving on the Tourism board. Councilman Woodard requested the Town Manager to contact Mr. Patel.

(7) Memo 16-13 – Appointment –Upper Coastal Plain Council of Government (Transportation Advisory Committee)

Councilman Brown volunteered to represent the Town of Tarboro on the Transportation Advisory Committee. This committee is responsible for the establishment of goals, priorities and objectives for the rural transportation planning process. Councilwoman Jordan made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Woodard and passed unanimously to appoint Councilman Brown to serve on this committee.

(8) Memo 16-14 – Appointments for March 2016 – Historic District Commission

Council will appoint two individuals to serve on the Historic District Commission at the March 2016 Council meeting.

7. OTHER REPORTS

A. Town Manager

The Town Manager thanked the staff from the Police Department and the Fire Department for their efforts in rescuing a citizen from the Tar River.

B. Town Attorney

None

C. Mayor

The Mayor reminded Councilmembers of the Council Retreat scheduled for February 20-21, 2016 at the Fountains of the Albemarle and encouraged their attendance.

D. Council Members

Ward 1 – Councilman Woodard – None

Ward 2 – Councilman Taylor – stated he would like to see a 4-way stop sign at the corners of Lewis and Pine Street, speed limit signs on Summerfield Drive and Windermere Circle, and the name "Tarboro" on the town's water tower. Councilman Taylor also commended the

Water Department for their professionalism in handling a situation regarding an irrigation system.

Ward 3 – Councilman Burnette – asked for clarity on the re-appointment of Mr. Patel to the Tourism Board. The Town Attorney informed him it was a legal action by Council until a replacement could be found.

Ward 4 – Councilman Brown – inquired if deer warning signs could be placed on Barlow Road near the apartment complex due to the vast amount of deers in that area. He was informed by the Public Works Director that this is a state street and the Town could ask the state to consider placing signs in this area. Councilman Brown thanked Council for appointing him to the Upper Coastal Plain Council of Government Transportation Advisory Committee.

Ward 6 – Councilwoman Jordan - None

Ward 7 – Councilman Knight – stated he would like to see public access to Wi-Fi at the Town’s Recreation buildings. He was informed by the Finance Director that options were being considered.

Ward 8 – Councilman Shepheard – stated he would like the development plan from Anthony Edwards placed on the agenda for the Council Retreat; inquired about the timeframe use of the fountain in the Town Common (the fountain is not operated during the winter months); the traffic light cycle at Main Street and Northern Boulevard, Saint Andrew Street and Northern Boulevard, Saint Andrew Street and Hope Lodge Street, and Main Street and Hope Lodge Street; stated that attention is needed in some areas (roads) of Greenwood Cemetery; thanked the Public Works Department for the maintenance that was done on the fences; thanked the Recreation Department for the removal of a 2002 baseball schedule sign at the Municipal Stadium; inquired about the heat not working in the fitness room at Braswell Center and a non-functioning water fountain in the dining area at E.L. Roberson Center.

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

Taro L. Knight, Mayor-Pro Tem

Diane Johnson, Acting Town Clerk