

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF TARBORO, HELD AT 7:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2014 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM, TOWN HALL, TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rick Page	Mayor
Steve Burnette	Councilman
Al Hull	Councilman
John Jenkins	Councilman
Deborah Jordan	Councilmember
Taro Knight	Councilman
Carol F. Ruffin	Councilmember
Garland Shephard	Councilman
Othar Woodard	Councilman

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

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.

A. Invocation

The invocation was given by Councilmember Ruffin.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA BY COUNCIL

Councilmember Ruffin requested a discussion about merit raises be added to the Agenda. Councilman Shephard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Hull and passed unanimously, that merit raises be discussed at the upcoming budget study sessions. Councilman Jenkins made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Hull and passed unanimously, that Council approve the agenda as is.

3. REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS

Sarah Peveler – 208 E Battle Avenue

Ms. Peveler expressed her concerns about her excessive water usage due to broken pipes during the extreme winter weather.

Philip Brown – 1607 Captains Road

Mr. Brown spoke in favor of the Ordinance allowing citizens to shoot rodents inside the city limits.

William (Billy) Phillips – 716 Salem Lane

Mr. Phillips spoke in favor of the Ordinance allowing citizens to shoot rodents inside the city limits.

Carlton Mosley – 219 Brandon Avenue

Mr. Mosley spoke about the flooding on Colony Drive, he asked Council to consider helping to divert the flood waters.

Robert Clemmons – 825 Sunset Avenue – Freewill Holiness Church

Mr. Clemmons, Pastor, asked for Council to take into consideration, allowing the Finance Department to issue sewer credits for commercial accounts. The church is considered a commercial account and the ordinance states sewer credits can only be issued for residential account. The Pastor explained that the church had a toilet that leaked causing the water and sewer bill to be excessive. The toilet was repaired.

Phil Holland – 608 Weeks Drive

Mr. Holland expressed concerns about excessive water usage due to broken pipes during the extreme winter weather.

Joe Reams – Raccoon Branch Road

Mr. Reams also expressed concerns about excessive water usage due to broken pipes at a building he owns and rents to tenants.

John Jenkins – 1100 Main Street

Mr. Jenkins spoke in favor of the Ordinance allowing citizens to shoot rodents inside the city limits.

Council discussed the current ordinance regarding water leaks and credits. The Town Manager recommended the current policy be applied to all cases mentioned above and see how it works for the customers. The Mayor advised the accounts be handled according to the current policy and Council can revise the ordinance in the future if necessary. It was a consensus among Council to accept the Town Manager's recommendation.

4. MATTERS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

None.

Police Chief Williams introduced new Police Officers, Ptl. Janil Baez and Ptl. Vincent Pocaroba. The Mayor read both officers the oath and swore in both officers.

5. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Josh Edmondson, Planning Director, presented the Planning Board and Zoning Commission report for February 17, 2014 to Council. The report is attached at page 72-66a. Action taken on the report follows: Councilman Knight made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Hull and passed unanimously, that Council call for a public hearing to be held on Monday, April 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. regarding UDO Text Amendment 14-01.

Josh Edmondson, Planning Director, also presented the Main Street Façade Committee report, attached at page 72-66b.

A. Sharon Horton – 217 Main Street

Councilman Woodard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Jordan and passed unanimously, that Council approve the grant application.

6. TOWN MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Consent Items

Councilman Shephard clarified that Council requested at the February meeting that the self-insured funds be list as a separate line item in the General Fund and that was not reflected on the monthly Financial Summary Report. Karla McCall, Finance Director, stated the funds had been moved accordingly and that she would document the changes in the next report. Councilman Knight made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Ruffin and passed unanimously, that the following consent items be approved:

(1) Memo 14-17 – 2013 Tax Levy Adjustment

Action taken: Council

- (1) increased the 2013 Tax Levy in the amount of \$505.38 for auto taxes billed by Edgecombe County,
- (2) decreased the 2013 Tax Levy in the amount of \$57.81 for auto taxes released by Edgecombe County, and
- (3) approved the *Schedule of 2013 Tax Levy Adjusted as of March 10, 2014*, attached at page 72-66c, in the amount of \$3,485,826.51.

(2) Minutes

Action taken: Council approved the minutes of the February 10, 2014 regular meeting and minutes of the January 18, 2014 Council Retreat.

B. Action Items

(1) Memo 14-18 – The Wooten Company – Disinfectant By-Product Study

Carl Scharfe, The Wooten Company, presented the Disinfectant By-Product Study. Councilman Knight made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Woodard and passed unanimously, that Council accept the study.

(2) Memo 14-19 – Sewer System Rehabilitation Project – No. CS370581-03

Councilman Jenkins made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Ruffin and passed unanimously, that Council authorize the Mayor to sign the Resolution, attached at page 72-66d, and execute all documents pertaining to same.

(3) Memo 14-20 – Resolution – North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency and Duke Energy Progress, Inc.

Councilman Knight made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Jenkins and passed unanimously, that Council adopt and authorize the Mayor to sign the Resolution, attached at page 72-66e and 72-66f.

(4) Memo 14-21 – Memorandum of Understanding – Tarboro Town Common Joint Civic/Government Project

Councilman Shephard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Hull and passed unanimously, that Council authorize the Mayor and Town Manager to approve the Memorandum of Understanding, attached at pages 72-66g through 72-66i, and all documents relating to same.

(5) Memo 14-22 – Request for Change in Ordinance Relating to Cemeteries

Councilman Knight made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Hull and passed unanimously, that Council call for and hold a public hearing at the April 14, 2014 meeting regarding the request for a change in the Town's ordinance relating to cemeteries. The change would allow the ashes of one or more cremated person to be buried in a lot that has already been used for an internment.

(6) Memo 14-23 – Appointments – Historic District Commission

Council was asked to appoint five (5) individuals to fill five (5) expired terms on the Historic District Commission. Attorney Frank Allen, Richard Lambeth, Brent Nash, Jr. and Betty Temple have expressed interest in serving another term. John Walker has elected not to serve another term. Councilman Jenkins made a

motion, which was seconded by Councilman Shephard and passed unanimously, that Council appoint Mr. Allen, Mr. Lambeth, Mr. Nash and Ms. Temple to serve on the board. Nominations were open for the last term, Councilmember Jordan nominated Candis Owens and Councilman Jenkins nominated Jerome Vandenhurk. Councilmembers Jordan, Knight, Woodard and Ruffin voted for Candis Owens. Councilmembers Burnette, Shephard, Hull and Jenkins voted for Jerome Vandenhurk. A 4-4 tie vote required the Mayor to vote, he voted for Jerome Vandenhurk. Dr. Vandenhurk was appointed to serve on the Historic District Commission.

7. OTHER REPORTS

A. Town Manager

The Town Manager informed Council that the Arts Council has art they are interested in displaying in Town Hall. Council agreed.

The Town Manager called for Buddy Harrison, Electric Department Director, to explain the electric car charging station. Buddy explained that the Town of Tarboro could apply for a grant from Electricities to help fund an electric car charging station that would allow owners of electric cars to come into the Town to charge the car. The estimated cost to the Town would be about \$1,000. Councilman Jenkins made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Jordan and passed by a 6 to 2 vote, that Council authorize Buddy Harrison to submit a letter of interest. Councilmembers Jordan, Knight, Hull, Woodard, Ruffin and Jenkins voted in favor of the motion. Councilmembers Shephard and Burnette voted against the motion.

B. Town Attorney

Chad Hinton, Town Attorney, stated that he had reviewed the residency requirement policy for the Town of Tarboro.

C. Collector of Revenue

The Collector of Revenue's report was presented to Council and is attached at page 72-67a.

D. Department Heads

Police Chief Williams shared the information he received from other Municipalities regarding destruction of rodents, squirrels, pigeons, etc. He stated that he did find other towns that had a similar ordinance but with extensive regulations including no alcohol 8 hours prior to shooting, certain hours on certain days, specific ammo, area had to be inspected by Police, etc. Council agreed that staff should provide a recommendation at the April 14, 2014 meeting.

E. Mayor

None.

F. Council Members

Councilman Woodard asked for the Town Manager's report on the residency requirements. Alan Thornton recommended that Section 13-80 of the existing Ordinance be amended to state that the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Electric Department Director and the Public Works Director live within 20 minutes of the Town of Tarboro. This would allow the Department Head to be at any related emergency within 20 minutes. The Finance Director, Recreation Director, Planning Director, Town Clerk and Personnel Officer would not have to live in the city limits of Tarboro or within the 20 minute response time area. It is specified in the Town Charter that the Town Manager does have to reside in the city limits of the Town of Tarboro. After discussion among Council, Councilman Knight made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Jordan and passed unanimously, that Council accept the Town Manager's recommendation and call for and hold a public hearing at the April 14, 2014 meeting regarding residency for Department Heads.

Councilman Shephard asked questions regarding the excessive water loss report. He was informed that some of the water had been found and was being corrected and that there was about 20% still unaccounted for. Staff is still working to account for all lost water.

Councilman Burnette thanked Troy Lewis and Public Works for painting the fence around the ball fields at the Braswell Center.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Knight 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