

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF TARBORO, HELD AT 7:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2016 IN THE COUNCIL ROOM, TOWN HALL, TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rick Page	Mayor
C.B. Brown	Councilman
Steve Burnette	Councilman
Deborah Jordan	Councilmember
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
Leslie M. Lunsford	Town Clerk
Chad Hinton	Town Attorney

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Mayor.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA BY COUNCIL

Mayor Rick Page requested Council add a Closed Session per NCGS § 143-318.11.(a)(6) to the agenda directly following the approval of the agenda. Councilman Shephard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Woodard and passed unanimously, that Council approve the amended agenda.

Councilman Knight made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Shephard and passed unanimously, that Council enter into Closed Session at 7:03 pm.

Councilman Knight made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Woodard and passed unanimously, that Council enter into Open Session at 7:34 pm.

Councilman Burnette made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Shephard that Council request Town Manager, Alan Thornton's resignation. The motion did not pass due to a 2 to 5 vote. Councilmembers Burnette and Shephard voted for the motion. Councilmembers Brown, Knight, Taylor, Jordan and Woodard voted against the motion.

Mayor Rick Page read Council his letter of resignation effective immediately.

Councilman Knight carried out the meeting as Mayor Pro Tem.

3. REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS

A. Rick Page – 1502 Chauncey Drive, Tarboro

Mr. Page requested Council consider revisiting the Residency Policy before hiring a new Police Chief and the retiree insurance reimbursement policy. He also requested the doors at the Electric Department be painted.

B. Al Braxton – 2406 Deanie Avenue, Tarboro

Sgt. Braxton stated that he was working on the evening of the shooting when the radio system failed. He stated that it was a scary situation but the officers worked through the problem using cell phones. He did ask that Council and staff spend the necessary funds to properly upgrade the system.

C. Bronson Williams, Edgecombe Tribune - 212 N Main Street, Tarboro

Mr. Williams, Edgecombe Tribune President, stated that he thought Council had been disrespectful to the public by going into Closed Session for half an hour at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Williams also stated that the Edgecombe Tribune would work to provide the Town with news by non-bias reporting. He addressed some concerns including Council's decision to pass along the remaining 9% decrease to citizens, Councilmembers involving special interests and personal vendettas with government business and the possible need for finding a way to help the Town Manager instead of criticizing him.

D. John Wooten – 3706 N Main Street, Tarboro

Mr. Wooten stated that he supported the Town Manager. He also expressed concern about the 9% decrease being passed down to citizens, he felt the Town should save the money in case of an emergency. Mr. Wooten was informed that the money was only intended for rate stabilization and that Electricities had also prepared for rate stabilization.

E. Police Chief Damon Williams – 400 E Northern Blvd Apt 6, Tarboro

Chief Williams expressed his appreciation to the citizens of Tarboro as well as the past and present Council and staff for their support during his time serving the Town of Tarboro.

4. MATTERS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

None.

5. PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

- Submitted Action Plan for the Central Area of Tarboro – Anthony Edwards – Mr. Edwards explained his plan to revitalize the Town of Tarboro and stated that he was actively seeking funding from grants, lobbying politicians and any other source he could find. Mr. Edwards requested Council schedule a work session to study the plans he provided. Councilman Shephard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Jordan and passed unanimously, that Council request staff coordinate a work session to review the plans.
- Status of Town of Tarboro's Communication Systems – Lt. Hale and Sgt. Webb – Sgt. Webb presented Council with information on the Town's computer systems & servers and answered questions. Lt. Hale presented Council with information on the radio system used by all Town departments. This portion of the system failed during the recent shooting leaving officers without communication with dispatch or other officers. Lt. Hale stated that the system is no longer made and cannot support upgrades. Lt. Hale and Chief Williams assured Council and citizens that the system is still functioning and the Department has a plan in place should the system go down again. Surrounding areas are currently upgrading from the same system and do have parts available until our system is upgraded. Chief Williams stated that he would have information prepared for the Town Manager soon.

Town Manager, Alan Thornton, expressed his disappointment in Council by calling for a Closed Session before the Communication System Presentation was presented with factual information. The Manager then defended himself against accusations made by Councilmembers and news media.

6. TOWN MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Consent Items

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

(1) Minutes

Action taken: Council approved the minutes of the February 8, 2016 regular meeting.

B. Action Items

(1) Memo 16-15 – Budget Amendment – Police Department Elevator

Councilman Woodard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Jordan and passed unanimously, that Council adopt the following resolution:

BUDGET RESOLUTION
TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF TARBORO
March 14, 2016

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA, that the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget be amended by amending Revenue and Expenditure line items as follows:

Account No.	Account Name	Current Budget	Amt of Change	Revised Budget
REVENUES – GENERAL FUND				
103990.0100	Fund Bal Appro	331,282	+10,000	341,282
EXPENDITURES – PUBLIC WORKS: BUILDINGS & GROUNDS				
104260.7400	Capital Outlay-Equip	78,000	+10,000	88,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Budget Officer is hereby authorized and directed to implement said budget as amended.

(2) Memo 16-16 – Budget Amendment – Powell Bill Fund

Councilman Woodard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Burnette and passed by a 5 to 1 vote, that Council adopt the following resolution:

BUDGET RESOLUTION
TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF TARBORO
March 14, 2016

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA, that the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget be amended by amending Revenue and Expenditure line items as follows:

Account No.	Account Name	Current Budget	Amt of Change	Revised Budget
REVENUES – POWELL BILL FUND				
193200.0100	Refunds & Reimbur	0	+27,750	27,750
193990.0100	Fund Bal Appro	353,000	+187,150	540,150
EXPENDITURES – POWELL BILL FUND				
194525.7400	Capital Outlay-Equip	56,500	+214,900	271,400

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Budget Officer is hereby authorized and directed to implement said budget as amended.

Councilmembers Burnette, Brown, Jordan, Woodard and Taylor voted for the motion. Councilman Shephard voted against the motion.

(3) Memo 16-17 – Award Contract – Auditing Services

Councilman Woodard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Taylor and passed unanimously, that Council award

the audit contract for the fiscal year 2015-2016 to Petway, Mills & Pearson, PA at the proposal cost of \$27, 240 with the understanding that the additional two years may be subject to negotiation and require future Council approval and authorize the Mayor to sign the necessary contract. A bid tabulation is attached at page 73-6a.

(4) Memo 16-18 – Resolution – Disposition of Fixed Asset – John Deere Wheeled Excavator

Councilman Woodard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Jordan and passed unanimously, that Council approve the Resolution, attached at page 73-6b, and authorize the Mayor to execute the Resolution for disposal of the asset attached at page 73-6c.

(5) Memo 16-19 – Minimum Housing Code Enforcement – 709 Edmondson Avenue File No. 15-04

Councilman Burnette introduced and moved the adoption of an ordinance entitled

ORDINANCE NO. 16-02

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 709 EDMONDSON AVENUE IN THE TOWN OF TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA OWNED BY MICHAEL SUGGS.

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

(6) Memo 16-20 – Appointments – Historic District Commission

Councilman Shephard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Burnette and passed unanimously, that Council re-appoint Eugene Muse and Shannon Wilson to serve another four year term on the Historic District Commission. The term will expire in March 2020.

7. OTHER REPORTS

A. Town Manager

The Town Manager expressed his appreciation to Police Chief Williams for his time at the Tarboro Police Department. He also reminded Council of the work session meeting on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 6:00 pm to discuss the recent salary study performed by the MAPS Group.

B. Town Attorney

The Town Attorney stated that he would be attending the Municipal Attorneys Winter Conference at the UNC School of Government in the near future and would report any new updates back to Council as needed.

C. Mayor Pro Tem

None.

D. Council Members

Ward 1 – Councilman Woodard – thanked Police Chief Williams for his time at the Town of Tarboro.

Ward 2 - Councilman Taylor – thanked the Electric Department for changing the street lights out to LED lights on Pine Street. He also requested a Memo addressing a 4-way stop sign on Pine Street & Lewis Street be added to the agenda for the April Council Meeting.

Ward 3 – Councilman Burnette – apologized to Council for making the motion requesting the Town Managers resignation, stating he was “talked into” making the motion. He also stated that he made the motion asking the Town Manager to resign for other reasons in addition to the TPD Communication System. Councilman Burnette also thanked Police Chief Williams for his time at the Town of Tarboro.

Ward 4 – Councilman Brown – thanked Police Chief Williams for his time at the Town of Tarboro. He also requested staff try to send out the agenda packets earlier than the Wednesday prior to the meeting.

Ward 5 – Councilman Jenkins – None

Ward 6 – Councilmember Jordan – thanked Police Chief Williams for his time at the Town of Tarboro. Councilmember Jordan also thanked Department Heads for their hard work and the Town Manager for choosing not to resign.

Ward 7 – Councilman Knight – thanked Police Chief Williams for his time at the Town of Tarboro as well as other Department Heads.

Ward 8 - Councilman Shephard – asked questions about the financial summary report, questions were answered. Councilman Shephard informed Council that the Town Manager has been disrespectful to him and asked him to leave his office.

8. CLOSED SESSION AS PER NCGS § 143-318.11.(a)(3) – Ward Transformer Site

Councilmember Jordan made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Woodard and passed unanimously, that Council enter into Closed Session.

Councilman Woodard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Jordan and passed unanimously, that Council enter into Open Session.

Councilman Taylor made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Jordan and passed unanimously, that Council authorize the payment of \$4565.75 for the OU-2 Ward Transformer Superfund Site subject to review of the final settlement agreement.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Taro Knight, Mayor Pro Tem

Leslie M. Lunsford, Town Clerk