

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF TARBORO, HELD AT 7:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, JULY 13, 2015 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 Mayor Page.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA BY COUNCIL

Councilman Jenkins made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Woodard and passed unanimously, that the agenda be approved as presented.

3. PRESENTATION – POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Police Chief Damon Williams presented Sgt. Bruce Edwards, Sgt. Gerald Archer, Sgt. Dean Best, Det. Brandon Richardson, Ptl. Brian Morgan, Ptl. Jose Rodriguez and Ptl. Michael Trevathan with Merits Service awards for their work on the recent barricaded citizen case.

The Chief also presented Karen Baker with the Employee of the Year award and Ptl. Donald Norville with the Officer of the Year award.

4. REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS

A. Greg Higgs – 1105 Bradley Avenue, Tarboro

Mr. Higgs requested Council consider allowing citizens 70% use of the M.A. Ray Center and the Boys & Girls Club 30% use of the Center. Mr. Higgs also requested that the walking trail at the M.A. Ray Center be made wider.

B. Jasper Whitaker – Boys & Girls Club

Mr. Whitaker explained to Council that the Boys & Girls Club did not turn kids away, the Club offers scholarships and are willing to work with any family that needs assistance. Mr. Whitaker stated that kids in the area that do not participate are not interested in the structured programs that the Club offers. He informed Council that the Boys & Girls Club currently has 103 kids enrolled in the Club.

Mr. Ron Green, Boys & Girls Club Supervisor, also spoke in favor of the Club. He stated that Mr. Whitaker does all he can to provide a safe and structured environment for the kids involved in the program. Mr. Green stressed that safety is a top priority for the Boys & Girls Club, therefore when the Club is responsible for the M.A. Ray Center all citizens in the Center must be registered in the Club.

Councilmember Jordan suggested that the Boys & Girls Club and the Town of Tarboro coexist in the M.A. Ray Center during all hours of use. Councilman Shephard asked if there was a Town employee at the Center during Boys & Girls Club hours. If so, why wouldn't the Town employee be responsible for citizens not involved with the Club. Alan Thornton, Town Manager stated that the Town would be working with the Boys & Girls Club on a new contract and the Town would take all input into consideration.

C. Al Braxton – 2406 Deanie Avenue, Tarboro

Mr. Braxton spoke in favor of the Boys & Girls Club. He stated that he was participating in the Badges for Baseball program with the Club and had witnessed great programs, organization, supervision and discipline. He had seen growth in the Center and recommended keeping the Boys and Girls Club active at the M.A. Ray Center.

D. Tina Hinton – 716 Bradley Avenue, Tarboro

Ms. Hinton spoke against the Boys & Girls Club having full access to the M.A. Ray Center. Ms. Hinton stated that she supports the Boys & Girls Club but does not agree with the community not being able to use the facilities because of the Club.

E. Karl Joyner – 528 E Saint James Street, Tarboro

Mr. Joyner spoke against the Boys & Girls Club having full access to the M.A. Ray Center. He stated that he thought it was a great program but he did not agree with citizen not being allowed to go into the M.A. Ray Center during the Boys & Girls Club time if they were not members. Mr. Joyner works at the Braswell Center and says that

several activities go on at that Center at the same time and he feels that the same can happen at the M.A. Ray Center.

F. Angel Weathersby – 1838 Thigpen Road, Conetoe NC

Ms. Weathersby spoke in favor of the Boys & Girls Club. She stated that Mr. Whitaker does a great job taking care of the kids, teaching respect, and sportsmanship. She also appreciates the structure.

G. Greg Barnes – Boys & Girls Club

Mr. Barnes, Boys & Girls Club, spoke in favor of the Club. He invited Council to visit the Center during operating hours to see all of the kids participating in the program.

H. Julie Simpson – 3540 Hwy 64 E, Plymouth NC

Ms. Simpson spoke in favor of the Boys & Girls Club. She stated that she was an intern with the Club and that she has seen the hard work and effort for all people not just Boys & Girls Club members.

Councilman Jenkins suggested a public hearing before adopting a new contract with the Boys & Girls Club.

5. MATTERS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

None

6. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The Mayor welcomed the new Planning Director, Catherine Grimm.

Alan Thornton, Interim Planning Director, presented the Planning Board and Zoning Commission report for June 16, 2015 to Council. The report is attached at page 72-102a. Action taken on the report follows: Councilman Hull made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Jenkins and passed unanimously, that Council call for a public hearing to be held on Monday, August 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. regarding Zoning Map Amendment 15-02. Councilman Jenkins made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Woodard and passed unanimously, that Council refer the parking of commercial vehicles in residential areas over to Catherine Grimm, Planning Director for further direction.

7. TOWN MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Consent Items

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

(1) Memo 15-44 – 2010 Tax Levy Adjustment

Action taken: Council

- (1) approved the 2010 Tax Levy release numbers 37 & 38 in the amount of \$670.01 and authorized the Tax Collector to refund release numbers 37 & 38 in the amount of \$670.01 which has already been paid, and
- (2) approved the *Schedule of 2010 Tax Levy Adjusted as of July 13, 2015*, attached at page 72-102b, in the amount of \$3,235,883.96.

(2) Memo 15-45 – 2011 Tax Levy Adjustment

Action taken: Council

- (1) approved the 2011 Tax Levy release numbers 25 & 26 in the amount of \$712.41 and authorized the Tax Collector to refund release numbers 25 & 26 in the amount of \$712.41 which has already been paid, and
- (2) approved the *Schedule of 2011 Tax Levy Adjusted as of July 13, 2015*, attached at page 72-102c, in the amount of \$3,547,568.53.

(3) Memo 15-46 – 2012 Tax Levy Adjustment

Action taken: Council

- (1) approved the 2012 Tax Levy release numbers 19 & 20 in the amount of \$670.74 and authorized the Tax Collector to refund release numbers 19 & 20 in the amount of \$670.74 which has already been paid, and
- (2) approved the *Schedule of 2012 Tax Levy Adjusted as of July 13, 2015*, attached at page 72-102d, in the amount of \$3,591,076.26.

(4) Memo 15-47 – 2013 Tax Levy Adjustment

Action taken: Council

- (1) approved the 2013 Tax Levy release numbers 17 & 18 in the amount of \$622.15 and authorized the Tax Collector to refund release numbers 17 & 18 in the amount of \$622.15 which has already been paid, and
- (2) approved the *Schedule of 2013 Tax Levy Adjusted as of July 13, 2015*, attached at page 72-102e, in the amount of \$3,510,674.81.

(5) Memo 15-48 – 2014 Tax Levy Adjustment

Action taken: Council

- (1) approved the 2014 Tax Levy release numbers 23 & 24 in the amount of \$498.89 and authorized the Tax Collector to refund release numbers 23 & 24 in the amount of \$498.89 which has already been paid, and

- (2) approved the *Schedule of 2014 Tax Levy Adjusted as of July 13, 2015*, attached at page 72-103a, in the amount of \$3,395,030.30.

(6) Memo 15-49 – Taxes – Preliminary Report & Annual Settlement of Tax Collector

Action taken: Council

- (1) approved the Preliminary Annual Settlement Report of the Tax Collector attached at pages 72-103b through 72-103i,
 (2) adopted the following Resolution designating the insolvent list to be credited to the Tax Collector in her settlement:

RESOLUTION

THAT WHEREAS, pursuant to G.S. 105-373 (a) (1), the Tax Collector of the Town of Tarboro has submitted her preliminary annual settlement dated the 30th day of June, 2015, to the Town Council of the Town of Tarboro, and whereas, as a portion of said report, said Tax Collector submitted a list of persons not owning real property whose personal property taxes remain unpaid;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Tarboro, pursuant to G.S. 105-373 (a) (2), that the list of names of persons owing taxes (but who listed no real property) included in the preliminary annual settlement report of the Tax Collector be entered upon the minutes of this meeting and is hereby found by the Town Council of the Town of Tarboro to be insolvent;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said list is hereby designated as the insolvent list to be credited to the Tax Collector in her settlement.

- (3) approved the Tax Collector's Settlement as of June 30, 2015, attached at page 72-103m, subject to the independent audit to be performed by the firm of Martin, Starnes & Assoc., CPA's, and
 (4) recharged the Tax Collector with the outstanding taxes and the responsibility for collecting same for the years 2005 through 2014. (Collection of taxes for 2004 and prior years is barred by law unless foreclosure action has been instituted.)

(7) Minutes

Action taken: Council approved the minutes of the May 14, 2015 budget session, the June 1, 2015 Special Call Meeting, and the June 8, 2015 regular meeting.

B. Action Items

(1) Memo 15-50 – Resolution – Nash-Edgecombe-Wilson Hazard Mitigation Plan

Mr. Ron Townley, Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments, presented an overview and answered questions. Councilman Woodard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Jenkins and passed unanimously, that Council adopt the resolution, attached at page 72-103n, and authorize the execution of the resolution by the Mayor.

(2) Memo 15-51 – Resolution – Change of Control for Cable Television Franchise

Councilman Knight made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Ruffin and passed unanimously, that Council adopt the resolution, attached at page 72-103o, and authorized the execution of the resolution by the Mayor.

(3) Memo 15-52 – Resolution – Disposal of Fixed Assets

Councilman Knight made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Ruffin and passed unanimously, that Council approve the Resolution, attached at page 72-103p, for disposal of the assets attached at page 72-103q.

(4) Memo 15-53 – Wine & Dining Inc. – Encroachment Agreement

Councilman Woodard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Knight and passed unanimously, that Council approve the encroachment agreement with Wine & Dining, Inc. and authorize the execution of the agreement by the appropriate Town officials.

(5) Memo 15-54 – Engineering Services Contract – 2015 Street Resurfacing

Councilman Knight made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Ruffin and passed unanimously, that Council authorize the execution of the contract with The Wooten Company for the not to exceed amount of \$9,500 for engineering services for the 2015 Street Resurfacing Project.

7. OTHER REPORTS

A. Town Manager

The Town Manager welcomed Catherine Grimm as the new Planning Director.

B. Town Attorney

None.

C. Mayor

The Mayor explained that former Town Manager Sam Noble had been dismissed from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Board as a result of the ongoing investigation. The Mayor also asked that the Town Attorney provide Council with direction on future evaluation methods at the August Council meeting.

D. Council Members

Ward 1 – Councilman Woodard - None

Ward 2 - Councilman Hull – None

Ward 3 – Councilman Burnette – None

Ward 4 – Councilmember Ruffin – None

Ward 5 – Councilman Jenkins - None

Ward 6 – Councilmember Jordan – None

Ward 7 – Councilman Knight – clarified that the Closed Session was just for reviewing the Town Managers work objectives, because his evaluation would take place in August.

Ward 8 - Councilman Shepheard – asked if the Town has received the audit from the Arts Council, he was told that we have not received the audit. Councilman Shepheard also asked if the Arts Council could still operate, he was informed that the Arts Council could operate without the Town of Tarboro funding. Councilman Shepheard stated that he felt the Town should appoint members to serve on the Arts Council board even though the Town had not provided funding at this time. Councilman Shepheard asked who released the information regarding Sam Noble, the source is not known at this time.

The Mayor called for a 5 minute break at 8:39 pm.

8. CLOSED SESSION – GS 143-318.11(a)(6)

Councilman Knight made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Hull and passed unanimously, that Council enter into Closed Session.

Councilman Woodard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Hull and passed unanimously, that Council resume regular session.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Rick Page, Mayor

Leslie M. Lunsford, Town Clerk