

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF TARBORO, HELD AT 7:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 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 Councilmember Ruffin and passed unanimously, that the agenda be approved as presented.

3. REQUESTS AND PETITIONS OF CITIZENS

A. David Weeks – 443 Raccoon Branch Road, Tarboro

Mr. Weeks, Carwash owner at 1804 N Main Street, expressed concerns about the lack of police officer presence around his carwash. He explained that after several break-ins discovered by customers or himself, he set up a surveillance camera. He stated that he never saw a police officer ride by the carwash on the camera footage.

B. Phyllis Skinner – 915 Elm Street, Tarboro

Ms. Skinner expressed concerns about high utility rates and bills.

4. SUDDENLINK COMMUNICATIONS

Jared Sonne, Regional Vice President, presented information regarding the status of Suddenlink within the Town of Tarboro. He stated that Suddenlink had improved infrastructure, decreased customer problems and offered improved internet service. Mr. Sonne also stated that Suddenlink would soon be under new ownership.

Councilmember Jordan asked if Suddenlink could improve internet service in surrounding rural areas. Mr. Sonne explained that Suddenlink would strive to reach all areas possible.

Councilman Jenkins expressed his disappointment with Suddenlink, he stated that he had problems with his service and with customer service. Mr. Sonne assured Councilman Jenkins that he would look into his complaints and try to solve the issues.

5. MATTERS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

A. Zoning Map Amendment – B-1 to B-3

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Council of the Town of Tarboro will conduct a public hearing beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 14, 2015, in the Council Room of the Town Hall of the Town of Tarboro for the purpose of considering and taking action on the following item.

- To consider a petition submitted by Kenneth Brewer, Jr to rezone .2 acreage of property located at the southwest corner of Trade Street and Saint James Street intersection from B-1 (Commercial District) to B-3 (Commercial District).

Being the property situated and being in the Town of Tarboro at the southwest corner formed by the intersection of Saint James and Trade Streets and fronting 54 feet on Trade Street and about 154 feet on Saint James Street; being Lot (d) of the property in the Town of Tarboro described in deed from George Howard, et al. to Alice H. Cobb, recorded in Book 130 at Page 4, Edgecombe County Public Registry. This being the same property conveyed on the 30th of November, 1935 to R.M. Fountain by W. Stamps Howard, Trustee, recorded in Book 342 at Page 280 of the Edgecombe Public Registry.

The full text of this application which if adopted, will effectuate the proposed changes is on file in the office of the Director of Planning and in the office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Tarboro

in the Town Hall and is available for review by interested parties during normal business hours prior to the holding of the public hearing.

All citizens and interested parties are urged to be present at said Public Hearing and make their views known on said proposed amendment and application.

BY ORDER OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF TARBORO.

This the 26th day of August, 2015.

The Mayor declared the public hearing open.

Kenneth Brewer spoke in favor of the re-zoning. He purchased the lot in foreclosure and is interested in expanding the uses of the lot.

Councilman Shephard asked when the area was rezoned, he stated that he owned a car lot on the property in the past. Troy Lewis explained that the UDO was adopted in 1990, the area was zoned B-1 at that time.

No one spoke against the Zoning Map Amendment.

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 Jenkins and passed unanimously, that Council approve the resolution, attached at page 72-108a, approving an amendment to the Official Zoning Map of the Town of Tarboro and the adoption of an ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 15-11

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE (ZONING ORDINANCE) OF THE TOWN OF TARBORO AND ITS ENVIRONS TO AMEND THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF .2 ACREAGE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF TRADE STREET AND SAINT JAMES STREET FROM B-1 (COMMERCIAL DISTRICT) TO B-3 (GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT)

The Ordinance is recorded in Ordinance Book Number 11.

6. REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

None.

7. TOWN MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Consent Items

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

(1) Memo 15-62 – 2015 Tax Levy Adjustment

Action taken: Council

- ordered the Tax Collector be charged with afterlists 1-10 in the amount of \$1,980.17,
- approved 2015 Tax Levy release numbers 1-5 in the amount of \$6,146.28, and
- approved the *Schedule of 2015 Tax Levy Adjusted as of September 14, 2015*, attached at page 72-108b, in the amount of \$3,256,372.31.

(2) Minutes

Action taken: Council approved the minutes of August 10, 2015 regular meeting and minutes of the August 26, 2015 special meeting.

B. Action Items

(1) Memo 15-63 – Resolution – Electric Rate Decrease

Councilman Shephard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Burnette that Council reject the proposed 10% decrease at this time. The motion did not pass due to a 2 to 6 vote. Councilman Knight made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Jordan and passed by a 6 to 2 vote that Council accept the proposed 10% decrease and adopt the resolution, attached at pages 72-108c through 72-108f, amending the Town of Tarboro Fee Schedule. The rates will become effective October 1, 2015. Councilmembers Woodard, Jordan, Hull, Knight, Ruffin and Jenkins voted for the motion. Councilmembers Shephard and Burnette voted against the motion.

(2) Memo 15-64 – Budget Amendment – North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program Grant

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

BUDGET AMENDMENT
TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF TARBORO
September 14, 2015

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				
103480.2900	Gov. Hwy Safety Prog Gr	0	+26,000	26,000
EXPENDITURES – GENERAL FUND				
104310.3301	Gov Hwy Safety Prog	0	+26,000	26,000

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

(3) Memo 15-65 – 2015-2016 FY Budget Amendment – Re-appropriations from 2014-2015 FY

Councilman Jenkins 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
September 14, 2015

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 – WATER & SEWER FUND				
313990.0100	Fd Bal Appropriated	281,956	+20,000	301,956
EXPENDITURES – WATER & SEWER FUND				
317150.7300	Cap Outlay-Improv	10,000	+20,000	30,000

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

(4) Memo 15-66 – Budget Amendment – Generator Day Tank

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

BUDGET RESOLUTION
TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF TARBORO
September 14, 2015

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA, that the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget be amended as follows:

Account No.	Account Name	Current Budget	Amt of Change	Revised Budget
REVENUES – ELECTRIC FUND				
313990.0100	Fd Bal Appropriated	301,956	+20,000	321,956
EXPENDITURES – ELECTRIC FUND				
317110.7400	Cap Outlay-Equip	251,400	+20,000	271,400

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

(5) Memo 15-67 – Award Contract – 2015 Street Improvement Project

Councilman Jenkins made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Woodard and passed unanimously, that Council award the bid for the 2015 Street Improvement Project to Barnhill Contracting Company, for the not to exceed amount of the actual bid, and authorize the Mayor and appropriate Town officials to execute the contract documents. The bid tabulation is attached at page 72-109a.

(6) Memo 15-68 – Manual of Standard Designs, Details & Specifications

Councilman Woodard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Burnette and passed unanimously, that Council adopt the Resolution, attached at page 72-109b, replacing the previous Manual for Design Standards and Specifications with the updated version as proposed by The Wooten Company.

(7) Memo 15-69 – Electric Department – Bids for new service Bucket Truck

Councilman Jenkins made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Ruffin and passed unanimously, that Council approve the purchase of the ETI bucket truck based on staff recommendations.

(8) Memo 15-70 – Police Department – Purchase of new Police vehicles

Councilman Knight made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Woodard and passed by a 6 to 2 vote that Council authorize the purchase of 9 new police vehicles from Doug Henry Ford at a price of \$27,206 each. Councilman Shephard stated that he believed the motion was inappropriate due to the fact that Council was not presented with corrected figures requested at the August Council meeting. The Police Chief presented corrected figures as requested in a different format. Council was made aware that the vehicles were in budget. The up fitting for the vehicles will be presented to Council for approval at the October meeting. Councilmembers Woodard, Jordan, Hull, Knight, Ruffin and Burnette voted for the motion. Councilmembers Shephard and Jenkins voted against the motion.

The Mayor called for a 5 minute break at 8:21 pm.

(9) Memo 15-71 – Lease Agreement – Boys & Girls Club

Councilman Woodard made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Knight and passed by a 5 to 3 vote that Council approve the lease agreement between the Town of Tarboro & the Boys & Girls Club and authorize town officials to execute all documents pertaining to the agreement. Councilmembers Woodard, Jordan, Hull, Knight and Ruffin voted for the motion. Councilmembers Shephard, Burnette and Jenkins voted against the motion.

(10) Memo 15-72 – Appointments – Edgecombe County Cultural Arts Council

Councilman Jenkins suggested that the same individuals nominated at the May 11, 2015 Council meeting, Memo 15-38, serve as current nominees. The nominees include Ashley Meyers, Dana Alexander, Ides Pettaway and Lucinda Plasencio. Councilman Hull made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Ruffin and passed unanimously, that Buddy Hooks be added to the nominations. Council voted to fill the 3 terms expiring June 2018 with Ashley Myers, Lucinda Plasencio and Dana Alexander and voted to fill the term expiring June 2017 (Melodie Menke, resigned) with Buddy Hooks. The vote follows:

Buddy Hooks	8 votes
Ashley Myers	6 votes
Dana Alexander	6 votes
Lucinda Plasencio	6 votes
Ides Pettaway	4 votes

(11) Memo 15-73 – Appointment for October 2015 – Planning Board and Zoning Commission

It is recommended that Council be prepared to appoint an individual to fill an un-expired 4 year term at the October 2015 Council meeting.

(12) Memo 15-74 – Appointments for October 2015 – Edgecombe County Tourism Development Authority

It is recommended that Council be prepared to appoint individuals to fill four expired terms at the October Council meeting.

(13) Memo 15-75 – Appointments for October 2015 – Tarboro Main Street Façade Committee

It is recommended that Council be prepared to appoint individuals to fill three expired terms at the October Council meeting.

(14) Memo 15-76 – Appointment for October 2015 – Parking Authority

It is recommended that Council be prepared to appoint an individual to fill one expired term at the October Council meeting.

(15) Memo 15-77 – Appointment for October 2015 – Redevelopment Commission

It is recommended that Council be prepared to appoint an individual to fill one expired term at the October Council meeting.

(16) Memo 15-78 – Appointment for October 2015 – Tarboro-Edgecombe Airport Authority

It is recommended that Council be prepared to appoint an individual to fill one expired term at the October Council meeting.

8. OTHER REPORTS

A. Town Manager

The Town Manager expressed his appreciation to former County Manager Lorenzo Carmen. Mr. Carmen recently retired from Edgecombe County. Mr. Thornton also stated that the State budget was released on Monday September 14, 2015 and it included historic preservation credits.

B. Town Attorney

None.

C. Mayor

None.

D. Council Members

Ward 1 – Councilman Woodard - None

Ward 2 - Councilman Hull – None

Ward 3 – Councilman Burnette – requested an update on the status of the website. Anne Mann informed Council that she had received a few bids and would hopefully receive a few more. She stated that she was hoping to have a contract within a few months.

Ward 4 – Councilmember Ruffin – None

Ward 5 – Councilman Jenkins - None

Ward 6 – Councilmember Jordan – None

Ward 7 – Councilman Knight – stated that he never accused former Town Manager, Sam Noble of any wrong doing but did vote to send to someone with expertise in the area. Councilman Knight stated that he felt it was the fair thing to do and that the Town had followed the proper course.

Ward 8 - Councilman Shepheard – stated that he felt that only two Councilmembers voted the right way for former Town Manager, Sam Noble. Councilman Shepheard also stated that he had been disrespected by current Town Manager, Alan Thornton.

Councilmember Ruffin stated that many of her constituents were still unhappy with the decision not to file charges and felt that the Town should file a civil suit against Mr. Noble.

Councilmember Jordan stated that the decision not to file charges does not make Mr. Noble's actions right and that he used his position to make poor choices.

Councilman Jenkins expressed his concerns about a Councilmember's personal vendetta against him during this case.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Rick Page, Mayor

Leslie M. Lunsford, Town Clerk