

MINUTES

Rutherford College Town Council Meeting

September 12, 2011

CF3, Track 7

6:30 PM- Agenda Review

Mayor Jimmy Huffman called the Agenda Review to order. After a brief discussion, the Council agreed to amend Old Business, Item I, from "Campus St. Drainage" to "Drainage Issues" due to current drainage issues on Griffin St. as well as Campus St. The Council also agreed to omit New Business, Item V, per the Town Manager's request. The Agenda Review was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

7:00 PM- Regular Meeting

CALL TO ORDER/ Mayor Jimmy O. Huffman, Sr.

(All Council was present with Council Yates Jensen being 15 minutes late due to work related issues.).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ Led by Pastor Sally Queen

INVOCATION/ Pastor Sally Queen

APPROVE/ AMEND AGENDA/ Council McClure recommended that the Council approve the Agenda with the following changes:

- 1) Old Business, Item I- Change "Campus St. Drainage" to Drainage Issues"
- 2) New Business, Item V- Omit

Council Wallrichs move to approve the agenda with the above-mentioned changes. Vote was unanimous.

APPROVE/ AMEND MINUTES/ Council Satterwhite moved to approve the July 29th, August 1st, and August 8th minutes with the following change to the August 9th Special Meeting minutes:

- 1) Page 2- Public Comments- Change the last sentence from "Council Satterwhite moved..." to "Council McClure moved..."

Vote was unanimous.

OATH OF OFFICE/ Kenneth B. Geathers, Jr. as Town Manager

Mrs. Donnelly administered the following oath to Kenneth Geathers, Jr.

"I, Kenneth B. Geathers, Jr. do solemnly swear that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of North Carolina not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as Town Council, so help me God."

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ MariBeth Icard was present to bring forth the following two (2) items to the Council's attention.

- 1) Recycle Bin Area- Ms. Icard stated that storm water was washing away the parking area for the Recycle Bins causing deep ruts as well as sweeping trash left around the bins down Campus St. She further stated that the bins are unsightly due to the trash left around them, and suggested that the Council considers placing a buffer or screen around the bins in order to keep them looking nice. Council Abernethy questioned whether the town didn't already have an ordinance in place that required such buffers. Planner Johnny Wear stated that he would look into this and report back to the Council at the next meeting.
- 2) Ms. Icard also informed the Council that she, along with help from Deputy Cecil Carson, is creating a Community Watch Program, in order to make the citizens of Rutherford College aware of the recent "breaking and enterings" as well as protecting from future incidents. She requested that the Council consider letting her hold the community meetings here at Town Hall as well as advertise the upcoming meetings on the digital sign. Council Abernethy moved to allow the Community Watch program to use the Community Rooms on Oct. 3rd at 5:30 p.m. The Clerk is to advertise this meeting on the digital sign. Vote was unanimous.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT/ Mr. Wear stated that the Planning Board met on August 29th to hold a public hearing to approve a conditional use permit for property located at 2730 Rutherford College Rd. The property is currently owned by Burke Incorporated (Gerald Baker, Jr.), and the business wanting to rent the property is Lanchase Forest Products, LLC. This is a logging business in which they store and ship out logs. The Planning Board approved the request as well as adding a requirement that the sign currently on the property be defaced.

Mr. Wear also updated the Council on the nuisance properties in town. With no response to the letter sent to the property owners of 1000 Malcolm Blvd. (Lowder Property), the town has cleaned up the excessive vegetation and overgrowth on the property causing a lien to be attached to the property. Other letters have been sent out allowing 30 days for compliance to the following properties:

- 1100 Malcolm Blvd- abandoned cars and non-conforming business
- 1110 Malcolm Blvd- excess vegetation
- 161 Azalea- excess vegetation
- 101 White- excess vegetation and junk
- 110-120 Green- excess vegetation and junk

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT/ Mrs. Donnelly stated that in regards to the loan request for 920 Malcolm Blvd, First Citizen's gave the town two options.

- 1) 15-year loan for 80% of value equaling \$120,000, 3.95% fixed for 5 years (after 5 years, rate can change), annual payment of \$10,755.
- 2) 15-year loan for 100% of value equaling \$150,000 (a portion of current town property will be used as collateral), 3.95% fixed for 5 years (after 5 years, rate can change), annual payment of \$13,444.

Attorney Ayers stated that the bank needed to clarify the ceiling on the interest after the initial 5 years. Council Abernethy suggested that Mrs. Donnelly inquire SECU about a loan. Council McClure moved to accept the first option once the ceiling on the interest is determined acceptable, and only if Mrs. Donnelly is unable to find better rates at another bank. Vote was unanimous.

AUDIT REPORT/ Eric Bowman, CPA, was present to go over the Audit Report. Mr. Bowman began by stated that the town had a Net Change in the Fund Balances in the amount of (\$17,214) and end of year expenses equaling \$964,183, which is extremely good. Mr. Bowman further stated that the town's unassigned fund balance equaled \$808, 293 which translates into 154%. Mr. Bowman stated that he encourages towns to have at least 16%. He further stated that the town's cash and cash equivalent assets for governmental activities is \$938,326 and utilities is \$1,120,456 equaling a total of \$2,058,782. The tax collection rate was 97% which commends the citizens and Town Hall staff. Mr. Bowman stated that once again Mrs. Donnelly has done an excellent job with the finances for the town.

Council Satterwhite asked the Town Manager to look into the property that the town took in with the water corporation on Honeycutt St. where the old water tank used to sit, and make sure that it has been properly recorded as the Town of Rutherford College's property. Mr. Bowman stated that it should be already listed as a town asset, but he will confirm and get back with Gaynell.

OLD BUSINESS

- I. **Drainage Issues-** The Council instructed Mr. Geathers to research the schematics and seek alternatives for improvements that need to be made on Campus St. to alleviate the storm water drainage onto Mrs. Icard's property such as redefining the drainage swells, ditches, and driveway pipes. The Council also discussed Griffin St. where there also a large storm water drainage issue. Mr. Geathers is to look into this as well.

NEW BUSINESS

- I. **Proclamation- Fall 2011 Litter Sweep-** Council Satterwhite moved to approve the Fall 2011 Litter Sweep Proclamation. Vote was unanimous.
 - a. **Town-wide special waste pickup-** Council Abernethy moved to authorize the Clerk to schedule a leaf-limb, and appliance pickup for sometime within the last two (2) weeks of October. Vote was unanimous.
- II. **Proclamation- 10th Anniversary of 9/11 National Day of Service & Remembrance-** Council McClure moved to approve the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 Proclamation. Vote was unanimous.
- III. **Resolution-Firefighter's Week-** Council McClure moved to approve a Resolution making September 11th through September 17th, 2011, Firefighter Week in Rutherford College. Vote was unanimous. The Council further discussed and agreed to send a special invite to firefighters, first responders, and police to the town's annual Veteran's Day Fish Fry.
- IV. **Town Seal-** Council McClure stated that he felt our town seal was lacking compared to other town seals; where other town seals may display points of interest belonging the town, ours only states and name and incorporation date. Council McClure stated that he along with Mr. Geathers, and Council Satterwhite, when attending the NCLM Conference will speak to some vendors who specialize in town seals.

COMMENTS

The Clerk informed the Council that they would need to appoint a Delegate and Alternate representative for the NCLM Business meeting at this year's annual conference. Council Satterwhite moved to appoint Mayor Huffman as the Delegate and Council McClure as the Alternate. Vote was unanimous.

ADJOURN

Council Satterwhite moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica S. Bargsley
Town Clerk

Approved:

Mayor Jimmy O. Huffman, Sr.

Date: _____