

MINUTES

Rutherford College Town Council Meeting
April 4, 2011

6:30 PM

AGENDA REVIEW/ The Council took this time to review the Agenda. All Council and Town Attorney were present.

7:00 PM

REGULAR MEETING

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

(All Council present)

INVOCATION/ Pastor Sally Queen

APPROVE/AMEND AGENDA/ Council McClure moved to approve the Agenda as presented with the addition of an Executive Session to discuss personnel. Vote was unanimous.

MINUTES/ Council McClure moved to approve the minutes for March 7th and March 10th as presented, vote unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ Council Yates Jensen stated that he would like to thank the staff as well as the citizens who made the "Save our School" Workshop on March 10th such a success.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT/ Planner Johnny Wear was absent for the meeting due to an illness in his family.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT/ Gaynell Donnelly, Administrator, stated that she was submitting her resignation after 28 years of service for June 17, 2011. She further stated that she wanted to give thanks to the past and present Town Council & staff, Eric Bowman & staff, West Consultants & Staff (especially Benjie Thomas, Chester West, and Jerry Twiggs), Doug Taylor, Dee Blackwell & staff of WPCOG, Ellis Hankins & staff of NCLM, Mike Smith & staff of the UNC School of Government, NCAMC, Ella Caudle, Shirley Cannon, family, and God. Mrs. Donnelly further stated that she would like to challenge the future staff and Council to maintain the level of success the Town has maintained over the years. Council Satterwhite stated that he would like for her to consider changing her resignation to retirement. Mrs. Donnelly agreed to this. Council McClure stated that he personally, as well as the Town would always be indebted to Mrs. Donnelly because of her unwavering dedication to the Town. Council Icard further stated that he would like to thank Mrs. Donnelly for all of the extra time that she has put in throughout the years that had went unnoticed. Eric Bowman, CPA, added that he would also like to thank Mrs. Donnelly for handling to finances with such efficiency. The Town of Rutherford College has never had the financial problems that other towns and businesses face from year to year. Council Icard moved to accept Mrs. Donnelly's retirement effective June 17, 2011. Council was unanimous.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- I. *Approval of 2010 Unpaid Taxes-*** Council Wallrichs moved to approve the 2010 Unpaid Taxes, vote unanimous.
- II. *Approval of 2010 Tax Releases-*** Council Wallrichs moved to approve the 2010 Tax Releases, vote unanimous.
- III. *Release Tax Collector of Unpaid 2010 Taxes-*** Council Wallrichs moved to release the Tax Collector of unpaid 2010 taxes, vote unanimous.
- IV. *Authorize Advertising of Unpaid 2010 Taxes-*** Council Wallrichs moved to authorize the advertising of unpaid 2010 taxes, vote unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS:

- I. *Campus St. Drainage-*** Todd Poteet, West Consultants, was present to answer any questions that the Council may have about the costs that were estimated to revise the existing drainage along Campus Street. This estimate of \$81,640.00 included removing the existing (2) cross drain pipes, improving and creating ditches on the south side, and installing a cross pipe to move water from the south side to the north and piping the water to the creek. Council McClure asked if it was not possible to just add a storm drain box at the location where the water travels under the road, shut off the current cross pipe, and divert the water along the left side of the street into the creek. Mr. Poteet stated that this would help with the water that runs in Ms. Icard's back yard but it will not help with the excessive amount of water that is dumping into her pond from the Valdese property. Council McClure further asked if there were storm drain boxes that were not as vulnerable to leaves and debris. Mr. Poteet stated that here was a concrete box that is raised several inches from the ground but it does cause somewhat of a traffic hazard. Council McClure moved for Council Abernethy and Icard to abstain from voting, vote unanimous. Council McClure then moved to have West Consultants rework the estimate to just include a storm drain box beginning at the cross pipe (cutting off the existing cross pipe) and divert the drainage along the left side of the street to the creek. Vote was unanimous with Council Abernethy and Icard abstaining.
- II. *Bids for demolition of old Town Hall-*** Council McClure moved to accept the lowest bid by D.H. Griffin in the amount of \$11,000. (It was noted that the reason for the low amount of bid was because D.H. Griffin has an in-house asbestos removal team). Also included in this motion is for D.H. Griffin to save the rock and to haul it behind the new Town Hall with the Town paying any additional appropriate costs for the transportation of the rock. Vote was unanimous.
- III. *Council Satterwhite Budget Amendment Motions-*** Eric Bowman, Town Auditor, was present to discuss the budget amendment motions made at the March Town Council meeting. The following were his suggestions:
 - a. *Show Vehicle tax (\$6,000) as a separate item under General Fund Revenues-*** Mr. Bowman stated that this is not problem.
 - b. *Allocate Vehicle tax to Transportation (Powell Bill)-*** Mr. Bowman stated that the General Fund where Vehicle tax is located, is already helping fund the Powell Bill account, so this change was not needed unless the Council just chose to do so.
 - c. *Adjust Sales Tax Refund line to reflect \$9,000 (this year's income)-*** Mr. Bowman stated that this was fine for the current budget but the sales tax refund changes year to year due to town projects. Next year the amount may not be but \$200 or \$300.
 - d. *Reduce "Additional Principal" to \$35,000; Take \$22,000 CD and increase \$3,000 from General Fund to pay \$25,000 principal for the first quarter 2011 on USDA Loan; pay additional \$10,000 in the second quarter 2011 on USDA Water Loan-*** Mr. Bowman stated that he is not comfortable with the Council making this change. The current debt principle for the town is \$2.5 million, with the town paying approximately \$115,000 in interest a year. Mr. Bowman further stated that due to the tough economic times that he does not recommend putting extra money on the debts. Once the economy changes for the better and the Town's General Fund is not slowly declining then paying off the loans

early would be a great direction for the Council to take. Council Satterwhite stated that the amendment proposal were for the current fiscal year. He further stated that the reasoning for the first three (3) amendments was for transparency reasons and that he wholeheartedly agrees with Mr. Bowman on the fourth budget amendment proposal. He further stated that he will withdraw this amendment proposal.

- e. Transfer request from General Fund to Powell Bill-* Council McClure moved to transfer \$5,300 from the General Fund to the Powell Bill as requested by the Town Administrator. Vote was unanimous.

IV. Town Maintenance- Council McClure moved for Council Jensen to abstain from this vote, vote unanimous. Council Icard moved to extend Jensen Landscaping's contract until the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2011), vote unanimous with Council Jensen abstaining.

- a. Schedule Workshop-* Council McClure moved to hold a workshop to discuss Town Maintenance and the addition of a new kitchen/concession to the park on April 11th at 6:30 pm. Vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

- I. Litter Sweep Proclamation/ Spring 2011-* Council Wallrichs moved to proclaim April 16-30, 2010 as "Litter Sweep" time in Rutherford College. Vote was unanimous. The Council instructed to the Clerk to schedule a limb/brush/appliance pickup by GDS.
- II. Schedule Budget Workshop-* Council Wallrichs moved to hold a Budget Workshop on May 16th at 5:30 pm with sandwiches being served. Vote was unanimous.
- III. Approve/ Records Retention & Disposition Schedule-* Council McClure moved to approve the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources' Records Retention & Disposition Schedule. Vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- I. WPCOG Policy Board Report-* Council McClure stated that at the recent policy board meeting he attended, the WPCOG broke ground for their new facility on 2nd Avenue in the Town of Longview. He further stated that the WPCOG still has money available to help individuals whom have lost jobs with their mortgage. Council McClure then moved to invite the WPCOG Policy Board to Rutherford College and host a board meeting in our community rooms in Town Hall. Vote was unanimous.
- II. Burke County Magazine Ad Request-* Council McClure moved to not purchase an ad in the Burke County magazine at this time, vote unanimous.

CLOSED SESSION

Council McClure moved to enter into closed session to discuss personnel pursuant of G.S. 143-318.11(6). Council Satterwhite moved to go out of closed session, vote unanimous.

REGULAR MEETING

Council McClure moved to have the Mayor talk with Mrs. Donnelly about mentoring the Clerk (Jessica Bargsley) on the finances and to add Town Manager on the Agenda for the Workshop held on April 11th at 6:30 pm. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica S. Bargsley
Town Clerk

Approved:

Mayor Jimmy O. Huffman, Sr.

Date: _____