

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

March 1, 2005

Present: Mayor Guy Barriger, Commissioner Glenn P. Deal Sr., Commissioner George Holleman, & Commissioner Bob Phillips

The regular meeting was opened for business by Mayor Barriger at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Holleman gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed the invocation. Motion by Commissioner Deal, seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve the adoption of the agenda for the March 1, 2005 meeting. Passed unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Deal, seconded by Commissioner Phillips to approve the minutes of the February 1st 2005 meeting. Passed unanimously.

No comments/requests were heard in open forum.

Motion by Commissioner Deal, seconded by Commissioner Holleman to direct the Town Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of a voluntary annexation petition received from 13 citizens on Jay Drive and School Avenue. The results will be declared at the April meeting. Passed unanimously. See attachment A, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Deal, seconded by Commissioner Holleman to send a letter of Intent to the NCDOT regarding the W. Jay Drive road, SR 1196. If the properties are voluntarily annexed into the town limits, the Town desires that the street become a Town maintained street instead of a NCDOT maintained road. Passed unanimously. See attachment B, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

Discussion was held regarding the Town's cemetery. Mayor Barriger suggested that the prices of the burial plots be raised to \$700.00 inside and \$1400.00 outside effective 7-1-05. Commissioner Holleman stated that he is not in favor of expanding the cemetery across 2nd Ave. and is in favor of selling the property. He is in favor of selling the remaining plots in the existing cemetery and possibly creating a mausoleum along the creek in the existing cemetery. Motion by Commissioner Deal, seconded by Commissioner Phillips to expand the cemetery across 2nd Ave. developing the 1st quadrant into plots for sale. Minimal grading will be needed and some pine trees removed for the plots to be surveyed and marked for sale. The price is to increase effective 7-1-05 to \$700.00 for Town residents and to \$1400.00 for outside residents. Passed with a vote of 2 to 1, with Commissioner Holleman opposed.

Motion by Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Deal to approve the contract for the FY 04/05 audit with Martin, Starnes & Assoc.'s, for approximately \$13,000.00. Passed unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Holleman to refund Mr. RD Hunt \$11.27 tax interest penalty. Passed unanimously.

Police Dept Report:

20 crimes reported; 14 solved making 70% cleared

See written report

Public Works Director: David Robinette

See written report

Town Planner: Jon Pilkinton

No report this month

Town Manager: David Odom

- The NC Rural Center announced that the Town will be awarded the \$400,000 supplemental grant for Energy United/Newton Water Project that we applied for.
- We have sent a critical needs list to US Congresswoman Virginia Foxx.
- Alexander County received a grant from NCDOT to construct a rail spur to the industrial park. Rumors are that a film or plastics plant will locate there.
- Mr. Isenhour of Isenhour Furniture has contacted Town Hall regarding the sewer line under the old box factory. He has offered to pay \$10,000 towards relocating the line and paying for a camera inspection to determine the problems. The cost estimate to relocate the line is \$47615.00. After discussion, Council stated more negotiations would be needed regarding the relocation of the line.
- Town Hall roof is leaking and the insurance adjustor is to review later in the week. Several estimates of repair costs will be obtained and reported back in April.
- NC House Representative Mark Hollo and NC Senator John Garwood both drafted legislation for the Town which will eliminate the 10% limit for satellite annexations.
- David Odom asked for early input regarding Council's preferences for the FY 05/06 budget. The suggestion of an additional big shelter at Matheson Park was made and more information will be obtained. Commissioner Holleman stated that the Matheson Park Committee should be involved in new additions to the park.

The next scheduled meeting will be Monday April 11, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST:

Yolanda Prince
Town Clerk