

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

August 5, 2008

Present: Mayor Guy Barriger

Mayor Pro Tempore, George Holleman

Comm. Jack Lerner, Comm. Ronnie Robinette, & Comm. Kenny Poole

The regular meeting was opened for business by Mayor Barriger at 5:30 p.m.

The invocation was given by Commissioner Holleman. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Comm. Robinette, seconded by Comm. Holleman to approve the following changes to the agenda. Passed unanimously.

Addition of item 11a – Budget Amendment for Patrol Car Loan and Grant Money Received.

Addition of item 12a – Report on Historical Preservation Committee Meeting.

Motion by Comm. Robinette, seconded by Comm. Poole to adopt the agenda. Passed unanimously.

Motion by Comm. Holleman, seconded by Comm. Robinette to approve the minutes from the June 10th, 2008 regular meeting. Passed unanimously.

Open Forum:

Karen Bowles Thanked the Town for the new street light and banner in front of her house.

Kathryn McCurdy asked the Town Board if the board minutes and agendas were on the town website. She stated she would like to see them on the website. Manager Odom told her that the minutes were placed on the website after they were approved. He said the minutes are approved at the next board meeting, but sometimes it is a couple months before they get on the website.

Representative Ray Warren gave the Town Board a legislative update. He stated that the latest session met March 13 through the middle of July. During that time 260 bills were passed. Included in those 260 bills was the Jessica law, which created harsher punishment for sexual predators. The town board asked him about the exit ramp on Hwy 16 South in Conover. Rep Warren said at this time there are no plans for the exit to be reopened. The state engineers have deemed the ramps unsafe. The engineers said that with the addition of the new ramp there would be too much traffic getting on and off of I40 in that area.

Manager Odom presented the board with a petition of 21 signatures of residents who live on 6th St. NW requesting something be done about the speeding issue of drivers down 6th St. NW. Chief Tony Jones stated that extra patrol has been given to that area, but very few tickets have been issued, one of which was to an individual who signed the petition. The recommendation was that speed bumps be placed on 6th St. NW to control speeders.

Motion by Comm. Robinette, seconded by Comm. Lerner to place two speed bumps on 6th St. NW in a location in which they do not cause an increase in the flow of storm water on any resident's property. Passed Unanimously.

Motion by Comm. Holleman, seconded by Comm. Lerner to adopt a resolution applying for NC Rural Supplemental Grant and Subsequent Matching Funds. A Letter will be sent to NC Rural Water Association requesting that the application be changed to have a grit separator removed and those funds be used for upgrading/relocating Northwood Pump Station. Passed Unanimously. See Attachment A, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

Motion by Comm. Holleman seconded by Comm. Lerner to approve a budget amendment to fiscal year 07-08 allocating an additional \$30,843.00.00 from GF Fund Balance to Administration, Police, Streets & Sanitation, Buildings, Miscellaneous, and Outside Appropriations in order to balance last years budget. An additional \$37,000.00 was needed from Powell Bill Fund Balance to Powell Bill Expense to balance last year's budget. Passed Unanimously. See Attachment B1 & B2, which are hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

Motion by Comm. Holleman seconded by Comm. Poole to approve a budget amendment to fiscal year 08-09 receipting in additional revenues to the General Fund for the total of \$80,340.12. Passed Unanimously. See Attachment C, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

Manager Odom came before the board asking for a Budget Amendment from Fund Balance for \$20,000 to cover the cost of tree removal on South Center Street, repairing the sidewalks damaged by trees on South Center Street, and planting of dogwood trees in the place of trees removed. After discussion by the board a motion was made by Comm. Poole seconded by Comm. Holleman to remove funding allocated to Alexander County Animal Control in the amount of \$4,180.00 and \$6,000.00 for Alexander County Chamber of Commerce to supplement the cost of tree removal on South Center Street. Passed Unanimously.

Commissioner Holleman gave a report of the progress of the Historical Preservation Committee. He stated that he would like to see some of the historical preservation guidelines incorporated into a policy for historical areas inside the town. The board asked Manager Odom to speak to the town attorney about cost associated with her looking at the guidelines and telling us how the town could adopt some of the policies therein.

Chief Tony Jones gave the police report. In it Chief Jones stated that the Police Dept was only nine UCR reports away from the total reports taken for the entire year of 2007. He stated that he believed that crime was up in the city due to the poor economy. People are getting more and more desperate for money to pay for bills and are turning to petty theft. Chief Jones turned the floor over to Captain James who stated that they had saved at total of \$5,300.00 on the equipping of the new patrol cars by putting L.E.D lights on the inside instead of light bars on top of the car and having someone local install the equipment. Chief Jones then state that the cost for the Bike

Race for the police department alone was \$3,250.

Commissioner Holleman had to leave for personal reasons at 6:55 pm.

Planner Jon Pilkenton stated in the planning report that the Board of Adjustments approved the addition of 8 more units on the Keever property on 6th St. NW. He also said the board was still working on the land development plan.

Public Works Director, David Robinette, gave the town board a written report of things the crew had done in the last month and stated that they were continuing to look for ways to cut cost. He stated in the month of February the department used 724 gallons of fuel at a cost of \$1,800. In the month of July the department used 747 gallons which is 23 gallons more than the month of February and the cost was \$2,635. That is a difference of \$835 for 23 gallons of fuel with the increase in cost of fuel. Fuel is one of the public works dept's largest monthly expenses.

Manager Odom stated that the recycling program for the town has went from 68% participation in 1998 to 37% participation in 2008. The recycling program is budgeted to cost the town \$26,000 in this fiscal year. The cost of the program in the month of June was \$2,155.00 for 4.1 tons of recyclables. If we took those same 4.1 tons to the landfill it would only cost us \$246.00. If participation doesn't increase then he sees no logical reason to keep the program going as tight as our budget currently is.

A motion was made by Commissioner Poole, seconded by Commissioner Robinette to set the next meeting for September 2, 2008 at 5:30 pm. Passed unanimously.

With no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Mayor

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Attest

Yolanda Prince, Town Clerk