

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING of July 25, 2001, with Mayor Buck Trott and Commissioners Zeke Sossomon, H. N. James, Ron Sanders, and Mike Cavender present; Comm. Patterson arrived while the meeting was in progress.

Also present were Richard Betz, Bill Coward, Lamar Nix, Jerry Cook, Kim Lewicki, Don Hendershot, Martha Betz, Bob Wright, Alan Marsh, Rosemary Fleming, Mildred Johnson, Rene Ramsdell, Patsy Thornton, Bill Rethorst, and Charlie McDowell.

I. Call to Order.

This Special Board Meeting had been called and notice given pursuant to law. The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda.

Copies of the agenda had been distributed by mail. The Clerk reported that the Annual Certification of Firemen needed to be approved under New Business.

MOVED BY COMM. CAVENDER, SECONDED BY COMM. SANDERS, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

III. Closed Session.

MOVED BY COMM. CAVENDER, SECONDED BY COMM. SOSSOMON, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO G. S. §143-318(A)(6) TO INVESTIGATE A COMPLAINT, CHARGE, OR GRIEVANCE AGAINST AN INDIVIDUAL PUBLIC OFFICER/EMPLOYEE. The Board, the Clerk, and the Town Attorney retired to the adjacent Chamber of Commerce office for the Closed Session.

The Board discussed complaints and charges which had been made by Maureen Lackey in her letter of resignation, which had been read in Open Session at the July 11 meeting, with the Town Attorney, and approved by consensus a written statement which had been prepared, expanding on the statement made at the previous meeting denying Ms. Lackey's charges.

The Board, the Clerk, and the Town Attorney returned to the meeting room. MOVED BY COMM. SANDERS, SECONDED BY COMM. CAVENDER, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO GO INTO OPEN SESSION.

IV. Business.

COMM. PATTERSON ARRIVED AT 7:10 P.M.

1. Town Attorney Bill Coward read a prepared statement, denying in detail the charges made by Maureen Lackey in her letter of resignation of July 11.

2. The Town Administrator reported that a wireless communications company had approached him through SpectraSite, the Town's consultant, regarding the possibility of erecting an 80-foot monopole at the Satulah Mountain water tank site and adding a 20-foot section to the Big Bearpen Tower; both sites were identified as preferred locations in Table A in the Zoning Ordinance. The Satulah monopole was a stealth technology design which resembled a pine tree, and four different styles had been provided for review; the Board agreed by consensus to pursue design No. 2. The Board also discussed the possibility of adding to the existing Big Bearpen Tower; the consensus was that the height of the tower should not be increased. The Town Administrator agreed to forward the decision to SpectraSite and pursue obtaining additional information on design and lease amounts.

3. The Street Committee had reviewed a request for a handicapped

parking space on Oak Street behind Oak Square. Comm. Sossomon reported that the Committee recommended installing such a space immediately east of the dumpster behind the building.

MOVED BY COMM. SOSSOMON, SECONDED BY COMM. SANDERS, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE STREET COMMITTEE.

4. MOVED BY COMM. SANDERS, SECONDED BY COMM. PATTERSON, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF FIREMEN.

5. MOVED BY COMM. CAVENDER, SECONDED BY COMM. SANDERS, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO G. S. §143-138(A)(6) TO REVIEW AN APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE TRIMMING CREW. All present left the meeting room except the Clerk and the Public Services Administrator.

The Board reviewed an application for employment from Jimmy Baty.

MOVED BY COMM. JAMES, SECONDED BY COMM. CAVENDER, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO GO INTO OPEN SESSION. The public was invited back into the meeting room.

6. MOVED BY COMM. SANDERS, SECONDED BY COMM. CAVENDER, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO EMPLOY JIMMY BATY IN THE TRIMMING CREW AT AN ANNUAL SALARY OF 10-1 (\$19,983).

V. MOVED BY COMM. SANDERS, SECONDED BY COMM. CAVENDER, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was declared adjourned by the Mayor at 7:35 p.m.

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Richard Betz, Town Clerk