

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING of May 30, 2001, with Mayor Buck Trott and Commissioners Zeke Sossomon, Amy Patterson, H. N. James, and Mike Cavender present; Comm. Sanders was not present.

Also present were Richard Betz, Lamar Nix, Mildred Johnson, Maureen Lackey, Steve Pierson, Eric Pierson, Anne Deville, and Jennifer McNally. Bill Coward arrived at approximately 7:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order.

The Mayor called the Special Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda.

Copies of the agenda had been distributed by mail. The Clerk requested that one item of New Business be added: discussion of disbursement of scholarship awards.

MOVED BY COMM. SOSSOMON AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

III. Business.

1. The Clerk reported that scholarship awards had for a number of years been disbursed in two payments, one in August and one in December. Because the Board had decided last year to make checks out jointly to the student and the school, he recommended that only one disbursement be made in August. Some Board members felt that it would be better to retain the two disbursements so that students not enrolling in the second semester would not receive awards; it was also pointed out that some interest would be lost. The consensus of the Board was not to change the manner of disbursing scholarship funds.

2. Each Board member was given a copy of the proposed FY 01-02 Budget, Budget Ordinance, and Budget Message, prepared by the Town Administrator. The major elements of the budget were then reviewed in some detail. In addition to the points discussed at the May 16 meeting, the Board also discussed the following with the Town Administrator.

- Funding for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Future of the Macon County Water and Sewer fund.
- Utility rates.
- An additional \$100,000 recommended by the Finance Committee for street paving.
- Health Insurance proposals, subject of a May 24 Finance Committee meeting.
- Wages and salaries.
- Budget request to Jackson County for fire protection in the Highlands Fire District.

3. The Board agreed by consensus to set a budget hearing for 8:00 a.m. on June 27.

4. The Mayor reported that the Board intended to go into Closed Session to discuss pending litigation regarding Bowery Road condemnation with the Town Attorney. Mildred Johnson was present and asked what litigation was pending. Bill Coward said that the litigation was ten condemnation actions pending for property along Bowery Road; he said the Open Meetings law clearly permitted a closed session for such a purpose.

MOVED BY COMM. SOSSOMON, SECONDED BY COMM. CAVENDER, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO G. S. §143-318(A)(3) TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION REGARDING BOWERY ROAD WITH THE TOWN ATTORNEY. All present left the room except the Clerk and the Town Engineer.

The Board discussed the Bowery Road Historic District nomination

and its effect on the condemnation actions along Bowery Road with the Town Attorney. The Town Attorney was asked to determine the final deadline for submitting comments to the State Historic Preservation Officer. It was also agreed that this item would be placed on the June 6 agenda in Open Session.

MOVED BY COMM. CAVENDER, SECONDED BY COMM. SOSSOMON, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO GO INTO OPEN SESSION.

VII. MOVED BY COMM. CAVENDER, SECONDED BY COMM. PATTERSON, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was declared adjourned by the Mayor at 8:30 p.m.

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Richard Betz, Town Clerk