

REGULAR BOARD MEETING of October 19, 2005, with Mayor Buck Trott and Commissioners Amy Patterson, Hank Ross, H. N. James, Dennis DeWolf, and Alan Marsh present.

Also present were Richard Betz, Lamar Nix, Larry Gantenbein, Kim Lewicki, Jim LeWicki, Adam Thompson, Mario Gomes, Bob Wright, Jack Snyder, Rick Siegel, John Cleveland, and others.

I. Call to Order.

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

II. Approval of Agenda.

Copies of the agenda had been distributed by mail.

MOVED BY COMM. MARSH, SECONDED BY COMM. PATTERSON, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS DISTRIBUTED.

III. Approval of Minutes.

Copies of the minutes of the October 5 Regular Board Meeting and October 12 Special Board Meeting had been distributed by mail.

MOVED BY COMM. DEWOLF, SECONDED BY COMM. MARSH, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS DISTRIBUTED.

IV. Reports.

1. The Mayor reported that he and the Town Administrator had attended the annual North Carolina League of Municipalities Convention in Hickory earlier in the week.

He also reported that Macon County had asked the Town to designate an individual to serve on a committee to conduct a comprehensive study of animal control needs; Police Chief Bill Harrell had agreed to serve on the Committee.

MOVED BY COMM. JAMES, SECONDED BY COMM. DEWOLF, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO RECOMMEND APPOINTING THE CHIEF TO THIS COMMITTEE.

2. The Town Administrator reported that all of the grant funds and donations had been received to reimburse the Town the \$8400 advanced for knotweed eradication. He also reported that the final request for payment of \$190,884.60 from the Appalachian Regional Commission for funding of the Hospital Water Line project had been approved and should be received soon. He also reported that the ABC Audit had been completed, and that the Town audit had been completed and would be presented November 2.

V. Old Business.

1. The Board discussed permits issued at previous meetings for use of Town right-of-way for construction activities by Old Edwards Inn on Church Street, which had expired on this date. George Mathis was present and reported that the street would be paved with a binder coat on Friday, from Fourth Street to the generator; after that date, most of the construction would be located back on OEI property. Bob Wright was present representing the Presbyterian Church; he said the Church appreciated OEI's cooperation, but asked that the Board set a deadline, such as November 1, for permission for continuous use of the right-of-way. Mr. Mathis said that there was a little rock work still to be done on the Spa building but it should be completed within the next week or so. Don Mullen was present and asked when "the next week or so" would be; he said the work had been going on for three years. He also requested that the Town police parking violations better on Church Street. Mr. Mathis said that he would cooperate, and had called the Police Department

to report violations himself. He said that the main road and parking would be open by November 1, and from that time on only temporary permits to use the right-of-way would be required. Town Engineer Lamar Nix confirmed that the work would result in the removal of all overhead power lines in the area.

MOVED COMM. JAMES, SECONDED BY COMM. PATTERSON, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO EXTEND THE PERMIT UNTIL THE NOVEMBER 2 MEETING.

3. Comm. Ross reported that he, the Town Engineer, and the Recreation Director had reviewed the bids on the Town Ball Park received at the previous meeting. Town Engineer Lamar Nix then outlined recommended changes for this project, which consisted of a "multi-flow" system instead of the French drains originally proposed, which would not necessitate stripping the sod off the field; the cost of materials would be \$51,500, and he felt that Town crews could do the work. Comm. James thought that the Town should get some prices; he said that work done by Town crews sometimes cost more than it would if it were contracted. Comm. Ross disagreed; he felt that the Town crews were willing to do the work and the Engineer felt they could do so at a savings.

MOVED BY COMM. ROSS, SECONDED BY COMM. DEWOLF, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO LET THE TOWN ENGINEER GO FORWARD WITH THE PROJECT USING THE REVISED MATERIALS AND TOWN FORCES. Comm. James said he would like for the Engineer to keep up with time on the project to serve as a basis of comparison.

4. Comm. DeWolf had prepared some suggestions on the mandatory sewer connection proposal discussed at previous meetings, copies of which had been included with the agenda package. The suggestions called for long range master planning to establish budget projections, review by a consulting engineer of septic systems of existing buildings adjoining the sewer, mandatory connections for new buildings, and several options for sharing the cost burden including the possibility of funding and loans for low-income families. The Board discussed the suggestions.

MOVED BY COMM. MARSH, SECONDED BY COMM. JAMES, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO REFER THE SUGGESTIONS TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

VI. New Business.

1. The Land Use Planning Committee had prioritized its recommendations to the Board, as requested at a previous meeting, and these had been presented at the previous meeting. The Board discussed the priorities at some length, and after considerable discussion agreed by consensus to ask the Planning Board to begin work on the items that they felt were relatively straightforward while Staff begins research on the other recommendations.

2. MOVED BY COMM. PATTERSON, SECONDED BY COMM. MARSH, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO G. S. §143-318.11(A)(5) TO DISCUSS THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY. All present left the room except the Clerk.

The Board discussed possible acquisition of property.

MOVED BY COMM. PATTERSON, SECONDED BY COMM. MARSH, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO GO INTO OPEN SESSION.

VII. MOVED BY COMM. JAMES, 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.

Richard Betz, Town Clerk