

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

June 10, 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 – Consideration and action of the addition of the police take home vehicle policy.

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

Motion by Comm. Poole, seconded by Comm. Lerner to approve the minutes from the June 3rd, 2008 regular meeting. Passed unanimously.

Open Forum:

Nancy Gunter came before the Town Board to publicly praise the Taylorsville Police Dept. On March 30, 2008 she placed a 911 call because her husband had a heart attack. Lieutenant Doug Bowman was the first person to arrive and he immediately started CPR. She commended his skills and abilities and professionalism. Most people only think of law enforcement as crime and speed control but some of our officers are trained as EMS personnel and first responders. Those skills and abilities go above what BLET calls for and she recommended that those officers be paid additional for their additional educational training. She stated that we are losing officers at a steady rate to surrounding counties and if we want to retain good quality officers she as a tax paying citizen would not mind to pay to keep them here. She stated that we need to do all we can to keep our veteran officers, because it costs more to train new ones than to pay to keep the qualified ones and when you find yourself truly in the need for a veteran officer no amount of money will be too much when your life depends on highly skilled and trained officers.

Gwen Jenkins also thanked David Odom for working on the water lines near her home and getting the water pressure increased. She also thanked the Police Dept. for their good work. She is a town citizen who pays town taxes and considers the police dept. a true benefit to living inside the town limits.

Commissioner Holleman had to be excused from the meeting at 6:00 pm due to a prior commitment.

Mayor Barriger opened the public hearing for the 2nd discussion of the proposed FY 2008/09

budget for the Town. Town Manager, David Odom outlined the proposed GF & W&S revenues vs. expenditures for each department for the upcoming year. The GF budget totals \$1,604,391.00 & the W&S budget totals \$1,461,868.00 making a grand total of \$3,066,259.00. The proposed budget is an overall 14% increase from last year, due in part to rising costs of fuel, health insurance, garbage & tipping fees and inflation overall. The proposed budget called for the purchase of a new street sweeper and 3 new police vehicles and a \$2000.00 raise for all employees with an incentive July bonus and longevity/performance bonus in December. An environmental solid waste fee will now be charged to every in town water and or sewer customer in the amount of \$5.00 per month. Police reports will now cost \$5.00 each. Additionally, every water/sewer meter in town will be replaced with new efficient meters. Some meters were as old as the 1940's and do not accurately record usage thus loss of revenue due to inaccurate readings. No comments were heard from town citizens. Commissioner Poole questioned the salary increase for employees and the 3% performance/ longevity bonus. He asked about determining our cost cutting ability and where or what were we going to try to cut. David Odom stated that the town entered into a debt set off program through the state of NC and we anticipate additional revenue of \$60,000.00, which we have had on our books as bad debt. That is money owed to us by utility customers not paying their bills. Additionally we are working on the delinquent tax list which totals approx. \$50,000.00. Strong measures up to and including foreclosure will be looked into in order to collect that lost revenue. Ronnie Robinette stated that the town has some of the best employees around and although some areas aspects of the budget might need to be evaluated through out the year, overall he feels it should pass as is. No more discussion was heard and the public hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Comm. Lerner and seconded by Comm. Robinette to approve the FY 2008/09 budget as presented on the condition that the performance/longevity bonus in December will be tied to performance. Passed unanimously. See attachment A, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

The Town Board presented 2 checks each in the amount of \$1050.00 to the Alexander County Rescue Squad and Central Alexander Fire Dept. in honor of deceased Councilman Bob Phillips. Terry Foxx with the Rescue Squad and Matt Jordan with the Fire Dept. were present to accept the checks. They thanked the Town Board and expressed their appreciation for all the years that Commissioner Phillips had served on both of their boards and how instrumental and supportive he was in continuing their efforts to serve the community.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lerner and seconded by Commissioner Robinette to approve granting permission for Crossroads Classic bike race to hold a race here in downtown Taylorsville on July 25th from 5:15 pm until 11:00pm. Event support will be needed from the police dept., fire dept., rescue squad and the town's public works dept. Passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Poole, seconded by Commissioner Lerner to approve temporarily closing 2nd Ave and Main Ave Dr. for the event. NCDOT will be contacted and asked to temporarily close Main Ave. from 5:15pm until 11:00pm. Passed unanimously. See attachment B, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Robinette, seconded by Commissioner Lerner to adopt a police vehicle take home policy which allows each officer to be assigned a specific car and their responsible for the upkeep for the car. Passed unanimously. See attachment C, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lerner, seconded by Commissioner Robinette to purchase approx. 40 new banners for \$8500.00. They are to be strategically placed at the four entrances into town. Vote passed 3 to 1, with Commissioner Poole voting nay. (Commissioner Holleman was absent.)

A motion was made by Commissioner Poole, seconded by Commissioner Lerner to approve allowing an easement for Chad Emke to cross 9/100's of an acre that the town owns at the water tank property on the top of Linney's Mtn. He will be responsible for all expenses and must adhere to town regulations and or specifications. Passed unanimously.

Town Manager and Public Works had no formal report for the past week.

Police Chief Tony Jones mentioned that Spanish classes were a possibility with no tuition charge from Mitchell Community College but we would have to purchase the books.

No Planner's report.

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

With no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Attest

Yolanda Prince, Town Clerk