

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE
TOWN OF LAUREL PARK, N.C.
APRIL 19, 2011
9:30 A.M.**

The Laurel Park Town Council held its regular meeting in the Laurel Park Town Hall on April 19, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. The following members were present: Mayor Henry T. Johnson, Commissioners Robert O. Vickery, J. Carey O'Cain and Richard P. Cooke. Town Manager Jim Ball and Town Attorney Sam Neill were also present. Commissioner Dona M. Mennella was absent.

Mayor Johnson opened the regular meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Johnson welcomed Sandy Tallant, District Manager with Duke Energy to the meeting. He asked for any additions and/or deletions to the agenda. Commissioner Cooke moved to approve the Agenda. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Minutes from the March 15, 2011 Council Regular Meeting
- b) Minutes from the April 7, 2011, Budget Work Session
- c) Minutes from the April 14, 2011 Council Work Session

Commissioner Vickery moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were none.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION, TOWN AUDIT CONTRACT WITH BURLESON & EARLEY, P.A.

Mayor Johnson stated the annual audit contract for the Town had been prepared by Burleson & Early, P.A. The contract covered auditing the general financial statements of Laurel Park for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011 and was an annual requirement. The contract amount was \$12,250, which was the same as last year's contract. Mayor Johnson stated Mr. Ball recommended Council approve the audit contract. Upon approval, the auditor would forward a copy of the audit contract to the Local Government Commission for review and approval.

Commissioner O'Cain moved to approve the Town Audit Contract with Burleson & Earley, P.A. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

CONSIDERATION, PROCLAMATION, MUNICIPAL CLERKS' WEEK

Mayor Johnson stated a proclamation recognizing Municipal Clerks' week had been prepared for Council's approval. Municipal Clerks' week would be observed the week of May 1 – May 7, 2011. He stated the office of the Municipal Clerk was the oldest among public servants and provided the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies, and agencies of government at other levels. The Municipal Clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all. Mayor Johnson stated it was most appropriate that Council recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the Municipal Clerk, as well as, giving a special thanks to its Town Clerk, Kim Hensley, and Deputy Clerk, Karen Wills, for their hard work and commitment in the performance of their duties.

Commissioner Cooke moved to approve the Proclamation for Municipal Clerks' Week May 1 – May 7, 2011. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

CONSIDERATION, PROCLAMATION, POLICE WEEK

Mayor Johnson stated a proclamation recognizing Police Week had been prepared for Council's approval. He stated Police Week would be observed the week of May 15 – May 21, 2011 with May 21, 2011 being recognized as Peace Officers Memorial Day in honor of the Federal, State, and municipal officers who had been killed or disabled in the line of duty. Mayor Johnson stated it was most appropriate that the Council recognize the accomplishments of law enforcement nationwide, as well as, to say a special thanks to Chief Fisher and the Laurel Park Police force for their tireless dedication to the residents of Laurel Park.

Commissioner Vickery moved to approve the Proclamation for Police Week May 15 – 21, 2011. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion. He stated he was impressed with the Laurel Park Police Department and how they do so much more than house checks and police escorts. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

CONSIDERATION, SPECIAL MEETING, FY 2011-12 BUDGET

Mayor Johnson stated Council had begun preparing the FY 11-12 Budget during a special work session on April 7, 2011. Council reviewed with staff the most recent re-evaluation figures from the Tax Assessor's Office. During the April 7th work session, Council also reviewed services provided by the Town with respect to areas, such as, staffing needs, capital outlay needs, park maintenance and possible expansion, the Town's water system, fire protection, and solid waste collection to name a few. Council provided preliminary guidance on areas impacting the coming year's budget.

Mayor Johnson stated that at the agenda work session on Thursday, April 14, 2011, Council discussed setting a follow-up special work session with staff on the FY 2011-12 Budget for Tuesday, April 26, 2011 at 9:00 a. m. in the Laurel Park Town Hall.

Commissioner Cooke moved to set the Special Meeting, FY 2011-12 Budget for Tuesday, April 26, 2011 at 9:00 a. m. in the Laurel Park Town Hall. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – Mr. Ball stated he and Commissioner Mennella attended the NCLM Regional meeting in Dillsboro, NC on April 14, 2011. Mr. Ball shared with Council a copy of the League's goals and hi-lighted several legislative topics going on in Raleigh that would have an impact on the Town. He stated that one area discussed at length was the State's 2.4 billion dollar shortfall in their budget and where the money would come from.

Chief Fisher gave the following police statistics for the month of March: 3 arrests, 2 accidents, 1 suspicious person, 2 suspicious vehicles and 34 citations for a total of 3,410 service events for the month.

OTHER ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE TOWN COUNCIL – Sandy Tallant, District Manager with Duke Energy, discussed the merger of Duke Energy with Progress Energy and Duke's current rates. Mayor Johnson asked what percentage of Duke's energy was nuclear. Ms. Tallant gave the following generation makeup:

Coal = 48%
Gas/oil = 27%
Nuclear = 15%
Hydro = 11%

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

MAYOR JOHNSON – Mayor Johnson had no comments.

COMMISSIONER COOKE – Commissioner Cooke had no comments.

COMMISSIONER O'CAIN – Commissioner O'Cain had no comments.

COMMISSIONER VICKERY – Commissioner Vickery expressed his appreciation to Chief Fisher and the Laurel Park Police Department for a job well done.

There being no further business, Commissioner Cooke moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Attest:

Henry T. Johnson, Mayor

Kimberly B. Hensley, CMC
Town Clerk

Date