

**MINUTES OF THE AGENDA WORK SESSION
OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE
TOWN OF LAUREL PARK, N.C.
August 13, 2009
9:30 P. M.**

The Laurel Park Town Council held an agenda work session in Town Hall on July 16, 2009 at 9:30 a. m. The following members were present: Mayor Henry T. Johnson, Commissioner Robert O. Vickery, Commissioner Keith A. Maddox, and Commissioner Dona M. Mennella. Town Manager Jim Ball was also present. Commissioner Richard P. Cooke was absent.

Mayor Johnson called to order the August 13, 2009, Council Agenda Work Session. Mayor Johnson acknowledged the three candidates, Commissioner Dona Mennella, Andrew Kilpatrick, and Carey O’Cain, running for the two Council positions in the upcoming November election.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

AGENDA REVIEW – The Council reviewed the agenda items for the July 21, 2009 Town Council regular meeting.

- 1) Consent Agenda
 - a) Minutes from the July 21, 2009, Council Regular Meeting
 - b) Minutes from the July 21, 2009, Council Closed Session
 - c) Minutes from the July 21, 2009, Council Special Work Session – Town Ordinances
 - d) Minutes from the August 13, 2009, Council Work Session
- 2) Public Hearings
Conditional Use Permit Request from Henderson County
- 3) Old Business
None
- 4) New Business
Consideration, Conditional Use Permit Request from Henderson County
- 5) Town Manager’s Report

COUNCIL UPDATES AND OPEN DISCUSSION – The Council received updates on and discussed the following areas:

UPDATES/NOTES:

1. Discussion, FY 2008-2009 budget close out. Mr. Ball reviewed with Council the close-out status for the FY 2008-2009 budget through the 13th month. In broad terms, he stated that he estimated an approximate \$49,000 shortfall in revenues. The revenue source that showed the most significant shortfall was sales tax. He stated that expenditures would be under spent by approximately \$111,000, which was mainly due to several capital projects being eliminated or deferred due to the revenue shortfalls. He stated that the only remaining items that would affect the budget would be the August 15 and September 15 sales tax distributions. At the September work session, he would review the August 15 sales tax figures with Council and how the distribution affected the revenue

figures. At each work session, until the audit has been completed, the monthly update would continue.

2. Discussion, general review of Town ordinances for the Tuesday special work session. Mr. Ball presented a copy of four ordinances that Council would review at the special work session scheduled for Tuesday, August 18, 2009 at 10:00 am.
 - Chapter 7, Article 2, Concealed Weapons on Municipal Property
 - Chapter 5, Article 1, Streets and Sidewalks
 - Chapter 5, Article 3, Street Cutting or Excavating on Right-of-Way
 - Chapter 5, Article 5, Tree Trimming on Street Right-of-Way and Town Property
3. Discussion, Town Hall Parking Lot. Mr. Ball stated, over the past couple of years, people have complained about the exit from the Town Hall parking lot onto White Pine Drive. It is very steep and some cars drag when using the exit. He plans to review the parking lot configuration over the next couple of months and present a plan for Council review. If the plan was approved, he would look to schedule re-doing the parking lot in next year's budget.
4. Discussion, Jump Off Rock. Mr. Ball discussed with Council that he had received a letter stating the view at Jump Off was becoming overgrown. He will have Public Works try to improve the area view late in the fall and in the early winter.

Also, he had received several inquires about have a drinking water source at Jump Off. He stated he would work with the Public Works Superintendent to see if they could come up with a plan for the site. In the past, the yard hydrant was left unlocked but the Town experienced several cases where the water was left on after use or people damaged the hydrant. Hopefully these types of problems would not occur if a fountain were to be added to the park.

5. Discussion, Beer and Wine Tax Distribution. Mr. Ball informed Council that the state had finished its budget process and adopted a budget for the upcoming year. One area that would directly impact the Town was the Beer and Wine Distribution. The state's adopted budget would reduce the amount of its distribution to municipalities in FY 2009-2010 by \$14.4 million or about 66%. This would be a one-year impact – the funding would be restored for FY 2010-2011. The estimated shortfall for the Town would be approximately \$6,600.
6. Discussion, Pavement Condition Survey for FY 2008-2009. Mr. Ball informed Council that he had received two quotes for the project. B & F Consulting with the field work to be completed by the Institute for Transportation Research and Education (ITRE) for \$7,600 and William G. Lapsley & Associates, P. A. for \$6,000. It was the consensus of the Council to use William G. Lapsley & Associates, P. A.
7. Discussion, Old Lake Property. Mr. Ball stated that Attorney Sam Neill had informed him that Attorney Frank Jackson, who represents Hasan Mansouri, requested minutes from any meeting in which the Old Lake Property was discussed. Mr. Ball would prepare the request to give to Attorney Sam Neill.
8. Discussion, Town Walking Trails. Mr. Ball updated Council on the Parks and Greenways Board and Civic Association plans to use dedicated unopened right-of-ways to establish additional walking trails within the community. Several residents that have property near these areas do not like the idea. In particular, one resident who was asked if he would donate an easement – said he would not. After a brief discussion, it was the general consensus of the Council that it would review each proposal on a case by case basis before making any final decision.

9. Discussion, Rails to Trails program. Commissioner Maddox stated while he was attending a Transportation meeting in Sylva with Eugene Conti, NC Secretary of Transportation, he spoke with Mr. Conti regarding the Ecusta Rails to Trails project. Mr. Conti expressed interest and stated he would get someone on his staff in touch with Commissioner Maddox. Later, Commissioner Maddox discussed the details of the project with Mr. Charlie Grady who was on Conti's staff. Mr. Grady requested a map of the railway. He obtained a PDF map from Hunter Marks and emailed the PDF map to Mr. Grady.
10. Discussion, sewer project. Mr. Ball stated that because the Town did not receive funding from the State on the Town's application to install a gravity sewer line from Fleetwood to Cedarbrook (Laurel Park Highway "backbone"), the sewer committee had been requested to review and recommend a course of action for continuing to pursue adding sewer to the nonsewered areas within the community. Mr. Ball stated the sewer committee recommended completing the gravity study that was placed on hold due to the application for stimulus funding. Council concurred.

KEY DATES – The Council reviewed and discussed the following key dates:

Auditor – August 17-19, 2009

Land of Sky annual dinner at Taylor Ranch – October 7, 2009

NCLM Annual Conference in Greenville, NC – October 25-27, 2009

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

Henry T. Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kimberly B. Hensley, CMC, Town Clerk

Date