

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE
TOWN OF LAUREL PARK, N.C.
FEBRUARY 16, 2010
9:30 A.M.**

The Laurel Park Town Council held its regular meeting in the Laurel Park Town Hall on February 16, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. The following members were present: Mayor Henry T. Johnson, Commissioners Dona M. Mennella, Robert O. Vickery, and J. Carey O'Cain. Town Manager Jim Ball was also present. Town Attorney, Sam Neill and Commissioner Richard P. Cooke were absent.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Johnson asked for any additions and/or deletions to the agenda. He recommended the Appointment of John Crook to the Board of Adjustments (to fill the remainder of Frank Riggs term ending December 31, 2012) be added to the Consent Agenda as item d. Commissioner Vickery moved to approve the Agenda as amended. 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 January 19, 2010, Council Regular Meeting
- b) Minutes from the January 19, 2010, Council Special Work Session – Town Ordinances
- c) Minutes from the February 11, 2010, Council Work Session
- d) Appointment of John Crook to Board of Adjustment – Appointment to December 31, 2012

Commissioner Mennella moved to approve all the items on 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

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Town Clerk, Kim Hensley, presented Council with the 2009 Laurel Park Tax Levy Report as of February 10, 2010 as follows:

Levy	\$ 1,079,608.11
Collected	\$ 1,031,091.89
Uncollected	\$ 49,799.82
Collection Rate	96 %

Ms. Hensley stated that, of the \$49,799.82 due, \$47,800 was real property and \$1,980 was personal property. She also noted that \$15,711.98 of the real property taxes were due from Somersby Park, LLC and Applegart Investments, LLC; as of February 10, 2010, the 2009 tax collection rate was 96%, compared to the 2008 collection rate of 93% in February, 2009.

CONSIDERATION, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 2, FIREARMS ORDINANCE

Mayor Johnson stated Council would continue the process to review all Town Ordinances, during special work sessions scheduled after each Council regular meeting, with the goal to review the ordinances for clarity, applicability, and formatting. As ordinances were revised and updated, a copy would be available for public inspection during normal operating hours in the Town Office and revised ordinances would be posted to the Town's web site.

The first ordinance for consideration was Chapter 2, Article 2, Firearms Ordinance. Upon Council review of this ordinance, minor wording clarifications were recommended along with formatting.

Commissioner Mennella moved to approve the revisions to Chapter 2, Article 2, Firearms Ordinance. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

CONSIDERATION, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 3, PELLET GUNS AND PROJECTILES RESTRICTED ORDINANCE

Mayor Johnson stated the second ordinance for consideration was Chapter 2, Article 3, Pellet Guns and Projectiles Restricted Ordinance. Upon Council review of this ordinance, minor wording clarifications were recommended along with formatting.

Commissioner Mennella moved to approve the revisions to Chapter 2, Article 3, Pellet Guns and Projectiles Restricted Ordinance. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

DISCUSSION, ICE STORM UPDATE

Mayor Johnson provided the Town Council with an overview of the February 5, 2010 ice storm at the Town's monthly work session on February 11, 2010. He reported that various areas in Laurel Park began losing power around 10:15 a. m. on Friday morning (the 5th), and by 3:30 p.m. all areas of the community were without power except one small area in the vicinity of Town Hall. Numerous downed trees damaged Town power feeds and Duke Energy worked hard over the next three days to restore power to the community. By the end of the day on Saturday, power had been restored to approximately 250 homes, the business district, and the medical district (including the three nursing facilities). By Sunday evening, power was restored to the rest of the Town except for a portion of Laurel Park Highway, the Echo, Cedarbrook, and Sabine areas; by 7:00 p. m. on Monday, February 8th power had been restored community-wide.

During the storm, The Laurel Park Police, assisted by Public Works, conducted a 24/7 monitoring of the Town in order to keep at least one lane of traffic open on all Town roads. Throughout the period, the Town had to block several road segments due to downed trees and broken power poles. The large pine that fell on Highway 64 near Pisgah Drive on Friday took out all power in that area as well as causing significant and extended traffic problems in the Highway 64 corridor.

One of many feel good stories during the Highway 64 power outage concerned a resident who called to say he was out of his heart medicine. He could not contact Rite Aid because their power and phone service was out. The heart medicine was a special order and not available at the other Rite Aid stores in Hendersonville. After a few calls and a little coordination, Chief Fisher provided an officer who obtained the heart medicine from the Laurel Park Rite Aid and delivered it to the resident.

The Town contracted with three different tree service companies in order to clear all Town roads. The work was accomplished on February 6th and 7th at a cost of \$5,150. The work included cutting and removing all downed trees, limbs, and debris from the Town roads. It also included removing several leaning trees that endangered the Town right-of-ways.

Council discussed the overall cleanup of the community at the February 11th work session. It was the general consensus of the Council to pursue the following procedures, which are almost identical to those the Town followed after the December 2005 ice storm:

- Prepare bid packets for appropriate companies to handle the Town clean up.
- Prepare a special newsletter to the community outlining the clean up procedures.
- Cancel the Town's normal spring brush collection scheduled for the third week of April.
- Begin a special storm brush collection on or about March 15th in lieu of the normal spring brush collection. The Town would use standard brush collection procedures for this Town-wide cleanup. The procedures would be provided in the special newsletter.

- Residents would have until March 14th to place limbs and brush on Town right-of-ways for pickup.
- Earlier cleanup may start in selected areas, but an entire sweep of the Town would still occur beginning March 15th

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Ball stated the special newsletter outlining brush collection procedures for the Town-wide cleanup would be mailed February 19, 2010. He also stated the Town had prepared the bid packets and would open bids on February 22, 2010.

Mr. Ball also stated Public Works had a lot of work to do but was in fairly good shape. He stated the big blue dump truck's plow was down and hoped to get the part that day. He said the Town would be picking up the plow for the new dump truck that day also.

Chief Fisher gave the following police statistics for the month of January: 1,054 residence checks, 3 arrests, 3 accidents (compared to 4 accidents in the week of February 8th due to the snow/ice storm), and 29 citations issued, for a total of 2,863 service events for the month. Chief Fisher also stated the Police Department had assisted over 100 motorists in February due to the snow/ice storms.

OTHER ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor Johnson recognized a proclamation recognizing the League of Women Voters. Jeannette Cannon, of 44 Old Laurel Drive, thanked Council for approving the League of Women Voters proclamation. She also thanked Council, Police and Public Works for their hard work with the snow and ice removal; she commended them on a job well done.

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

MAYOR JOHNSON – Mayor Johnson reminded Council of the Board Member Appreciation Dinner February 17, 2010 at 6pm.

COMMISSIONER MENNELLA – Commissioner Mennella had no comments.

COMMISSIONER VICKERY – Commissioner Vickery had no comments.

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

There being no further business, Commissioner O'Cain 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