

**MINUTES OF THE AGENDA WORK SESSION
OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE
TOWN OF LAUREL PARK, N.C.
February 10, 2011
9:30 A. M.**

The Laurel Park Town Council held an agenda work session in Town Hall on February 10, 2011 at 9:30 a. m. The following members were present: Mayor Henry T. Johnson, Commissioner Dona M. Mennella, Commissioner J. Carey O'Cain, and Commissioner Robert O. Vickery. Town Manager Jim Ball was also present. Commissioner Richard P. Cooke was absent.

Mayor Johnson called to order the February 10, 2011, Council Agenda Work Session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Mennella 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 February 15, 2011 Town Council regular meeting.

1. Consent Agenda
 - a) Minutes from the January 18, 2011 Council Regular Meeting
 - b) Minutes from the February 10, 2011 Council Work Session
 - c) Tax Releases
2. Public Hearings – None
3. Old Business – None
4. New Business
 - a) Tax Collector's Report
 - b) Consideration, Resolution to Advertise Delinquent Taxes
 - c) Consideration, Memorandum of Agreement between Laurel Park and Henderson County for Governmental Communication Tower
 - 4) Consideration, Stream Restoration Agreement
5. Town Manager's Report

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

1. Discussion, Rails to Trails update by Paul Hansen. Paul Hansen updated the Town Council on the Rails to Trails project. The proposed Ecusta Trail would convert the Norfolk Southern rail line from Hendersonville to Brevard to a trail. The French Broad Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), at the City of Hendersonville's request, has agreed to fund \$60K for a planning study with Hendersonville providing the 20% (\$12K) matching fund requirement. Also, Hendersonville would like to find funding for an economic impact study for the same project. The MPO could fund a planning study but not an economic impact study. The estimated cost of the economic impact study would be approximately \$12K. The Town of Brevard has committed \$5K towards the economic impact study. Paul Hansen requested Laurel Park contribute an appropriate amount to the economic study. There was a general consensus from the Town Council that an appropriate contribution from the Town would be considered. Mayor Johnson tasked Jim Ball to contact the City of Hendersonville for complete details of the proposed economic impact study.

2. Discussion, Parks and Greenways Board Survey. Paul Hansen informed the Town Council that the Parks and Greenways Board had developed a survey to gather information from residents about Town Parks, walking areas, and green space. As part of a Comprehensive Long Term Plan, the Parks and Greenways Board requests residents of Laurel Park take part in the survey and provide input and comments to be included in the Comprehensive Plan. The survey was designed in a manner so it could be included in the Town's April newsletter as an insert. Mr. Ball gave each Council member a draft copy of the survey for review and comment.
3. Discussion, ABC Privatization. Mr. Ball stated that, since the last work session, Governor Perdue announced that she was not proposing privatization and that selling the ABC system was not the right business decision for North Carolina. This issue would still need to be closely monitored during the upcoming legislative session.
4. Discussion, Garbage Collection and Disposal Ordinance. Mr. Ball presented the Town Council with a draft of Chapter 2, Article 13, *Garbage Collection and Disposal Ordinance*. The issue was discussed at the January work session. The draft would be reviewed by Council for comment and discussion at the March work session.
5. Discussion, Semi-annual Water System Review. Mr. Ball reviewed the current status of the Town's water system with Council. The unbilled gallons rate was 12.9% for the calendar year 2010, which was up slightly from the previous reporting period. Mr. Ball hoped that the unbilled gallons rate would remain low and every effort would be taken to continue monitoring unbilled gallons. In the last 10 days, Public Works had fixed two water leaks in the Timbercreek area.
6. Discussion, Contributions for Public Works: Two Laurel Park residents, Ann McFadden and Sharon Taylor, spearheaded an effort to raise funds for the Public Works employees for their hard work and efforts during the winter (especially during the Christmas day snow storm). Mr. Ball stated he met with the residents to explain the procedures used by the Town for that type of effort. The residents provided each Public Works employee with a fifty (\$50) dollar gas gift card. Also, they contributed \$890 dollars to the Town to provide needed personnel items for the employees. The Public Works employees agreed that water resistant winter boots would be an excellent use of the funds.

Also, the Timbercreek Property Owners Association, Inc. contributed \$200, which was added to the initial contribution and used for the purchase of the water resistant winter boots. Mr. Ball stated that Laurel Park is truly a special place made so by the generosity and thoughtfulness of the residents of the community.

7. Discussion, Lots within Wildwood Heights. Constance Drury, a realtor with Keller Williams, talked with Mr. Ball about a possible land deal she was brokering in Laurel Park. She stated that some Laurel Park residents were considering purchasing about 3 acres of vacant land and then conveying it to the Town of Laurel Park. She stated that the purchasers would want to place some restrictions on the transfer (basically, that it remained green space with no development to occur or any use to detract from the quiet enjoyment of the surrounding area, etc.). She wanted to know if the Town Council would be interested in accepting the property. Council concurred that they would be interested in the property.
8. Discussion, Rhododendron Lake Property. Mr. Ball stated that Clement Riddle, of ClearWater Environmental, had updated him on the stream restoration project. Mr. Riddle stated that the detailed plan for the stream restoration project was almost completed. The goal was still to have all permitting completed by August 2011.

9. Discussion, Parcels adjacent Rhododendron Lake Property. Mr. Ball stated that he and the Mayor had met with Toni Youngblood and Jim Lancaster about the possibility of purchasing land to be added to the nature park and included within the stream restoration project. The one parcel (.51 acres) owned by Jim Lancaster and the second parcel (1.38 acres – of which the Town was interested in only about 0.25 acres) owned by Toni Youngblood. A tentative agreement had been reached with both parties clearly in line with the appraisals completed by Russ Leitner. Council concurred to move forward with the project.
10. Discussion, Unknown Parcels. Mr. Ball stated that he and Kim Hensley met with Loic Laforet, a North Carolina certified paralegal, from Juris Care, Inc., and reviewed the initial title search work of the unknown parcels within the Town. Loic Laforet had established an ownership trail to almost all the parcels. The next step was to try and locate, if possible, the owners. Council agreed to continue with the project.

KEY DATE(S) – The Council reviewed and discussed the following key date(s):

Laurel Park Civic Association annual dinner meeting would be Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at the Hendersonville Country Club.

There being no further business, Commissioner Vickery moved to adjourn. 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