

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE
TOWN OF LAUREL PARK, N.C.
FEBRUARY 15, 2011
9:30 A.M.**

The Laurel Park Town Council held its regular meeting in the Laurel Park Town Hall on February 15, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. The following members were present: Mayor Henry T. Johnson, Commissioners Robert O. Vickery, Dona M. Mennella, J. Carey O'Cain and Richard P. Cooke. Town Manager Jim Ball and Town Attorney Sam Neill were also present.

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. Commissioner O'Cain 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 January 18, 2011 Council Regular Meeting
- b) Minutes from the February 10, 2011 Council Work Session
- c) Tax Releases - \$93.92/levy and \$11,474.00/value

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 was none.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Town Clerk, Kim Hensley, presented to Council the 2010 Tax Certification Statement as of February 1, 2011 as follows:

Levy	\$ 1,239,729.98
Collected	\$ 1,186,475.10
Uncollected	\$ 54,875.68
Collection Rate	95 %

Ms. Hensley stated that, of the \$54,875.68 due, \$53,839.71 was for real property taxes and \$1,035.97 was for personal property taxes. She also noted that between February 1 – 14, 2011, an additional \$9,555.50 had been collected, making the collection rate 96%. Ms. Hensley also noted that the Town mailed its second notice advertisement letters to delinquent taxpayers on February 2, 2011 and planned to advertise in March, 2011. Mr. Ball added that the total advertising cost would be equally divided and added to each delinquent taxpayer's account advertised.

CONSIDERATION, RESOLUTION TO ADVERTISE DELINQUENT TAXES

Mayor Johnson stated that, according to General Statute 105-369(a), -369(c), all taxpayers owing taxes for the current fiscal year and prior years, which are liens on real property, must be posted and advertised at least once between March 1 and June 30. The resolution by Town Council directs the Town Clerk to comply with the statute and, at a time selected within that time period, advertise all tax liens then owing.

Commissioner Cooke moved to approve the Resolution to Advertise Delinquent Taxes. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

CONSIDERATION, MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN LAUREL PARK AND HENDERSON COUNTY FOR COMMUNICATION TOWER

Mayor Johnson stated that Henderson County was constructing a new communication tower to facilitate intergovernmental public safety and emergency communications at the Fleetwood Water Tank site. The new communication tower would support the state-wide Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) and would facilitate communications at local, state, and federal levels during emergency situations. Also, the new tower would be configured to accommodate not only the VIPER system but other County emergency management system antennae (911, EMS, for example), which were now sited on an older tower at the Fleetwood site. He stated the old tower would not handle VIPER as an add-on, and when the new tower becomes operational, the old tower would be dismantled and removed—basically a one-for-one swap. The new tower would only be used for governmental communications.

Mayor Johnson stated the agreement being considered formalized an agreement between Laurel Park and Henderson County for the use of the site and would aid the County to receive State funding for the project. Commissioner Mennella moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Laurel Park and Henderson County for a Communication Tower. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

CONSIDERATION, STREAM RESTORATION AGREEMENT

Mayor Johnson stated that, at the October 19, 2010 Town Council Regular Meeting, Council approved a Stream Restoration Agreement with ClearWater Environmental, Inc. Clement Riddle, of ClearWater Environmental, Inc., informed the Town that when his company went to register the project under the name of Wash Creek, LLC, that name had already been used in association with another project. The agreement for approval would change the name of the partnership from Wash Creek LLC to French Broad Mitigation Partners, LLC. He stated all other language within the agreement would remain unchanged.

Commissioner Cooke moved to approve changing the name of the partnership from Wash Creek LLC to French Broad Mitigation Partners, LLC. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – Mr. Ball had no comments.

Chief Fisher gave the following police statistics for the month of January: 11 arrests, 4 accidents, 27 citations, 2 runaway juveniles and 1,194 residence checks for a total of 3,365 service events for the month.

OTHER ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE TOWN COUNCIL – There were none.

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

MAYOR JOHNSON – Mayor Johnson stated he had concerns that during this year's legislative session an annexation moratorium would be passed by the General Assembly. The North Carolina League of

Municipalities (NCLM) opposes the annexation moratorium and supports annexation reform. The NCLM asks for the support of municipal officials with this issue. Mayor Johnson asked each Council member to be thinking of what his or her stance on the issue would be.

COMMISSIONER COOKE – Commissioner Cooke had no comments.

COMMISSIONER MENNELLA – Commissioner Mennella had no comments.

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

COMMISSIONER VICKERY – Commissioner Vickery had no comments.

There being no further business, Commissioner Mennella 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