

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE
TOWN OF LAUREL PARK, N.C.
JANUARY 20, 2009
9:30 A.M.**

The Laurel Park Town Council held its regular meeting in the Laurel Park Town Hall on January 20, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. The following members were present: Mayor Henry T. Johnson, Commissioners Dona M. Mennella, Keith A. Maddox, Richard P. Cooke, and Robert O. Vickery. 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. There were none. Commissioner Maddox 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 December 16, 2008, Council Regular Meeting
- b) Minutes from the December 16, 2008, Council Special Work Session
- c) Minutes from the January 15, 2009, Council Work Session

Commissioner Mennella moved to approve the Minutes from the December 16, 2008, Council Regular Meeting. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Mennella moved to approve the Minutes from the December 16, 2008, Council Special Work Session. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Mennella moved to approve the Minutes from the January 15, 2009, Council Work Session. 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, AMENDING THE ANIMAL CONTROL AND PROTECTION ORDINANCE

Mayor Johnson stated Council was continuing the process of reviewing all Town Ordinances during special work sessions that are scheduled after each Council regular meeting. Council's goal was to review the ordinances for clarity, applicability, and formatting. As Mayor Johnson had stated in previous Town meetings, some of the ordinances were several years old and needed to be updated or eliminated.

As each ordinance is revised and updated, a copy will be available for public inspection during normal operating hours in the Town Office. Also, as ordinances are revised and updated, they will be posted to the Town's web site.

Mayor Johnson stated the first ordinance to be considered was the Animal Control and Protection Ordinance. After Council reviewed the ordinance, only minor wording clarifications had been recommended along with formatting.

Commissioner Vickery moved to amend the Animal Control and Protection Ordinance. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

CONSIDERATION, AMENDING THE WATER SHORTAGE AND CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

Mayor Johnson stated the second ordinance to be considered was the Water Shortage and Conservation Ordinance. He stated the ordinance was completely revised during the past summer as the community was under water restrictions. After Council reviewed the ordinance, only minor wording clarifications had been recommended along with formatting.

Commissioner Maddox moved to amend the Water Shortage and Conservation Ordinance. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Ball provided Council with a fall leaf collection update. He stated Public Works had completed the current year's leaf collection. The last date resident's could place leaves curbside was December 29, 2008. All Town roads had been checked for any remaining piles. As stated in previous Town newsletters, residents may place bagged leaves and small yard trimming curbside throughout the year and call Town Hall for pickup. Public Works makes every effort to pick up the bags within 48 business hours. Mr. Ball also stated that over 100 Christmas trees had been collected by Public works during January. Henson's used a tub grinder at Public Works to grind all of the Town's brush, leaf, and Christmas tree collections from the past year into mulch.

Chief Fisher gave the following police statistics for the month of December: 2 accidents, 19 citations, 255 business checks, 882 residence checks, 5 arrests, 1,058 area security checks and 1 death investigation for a total number of 2,440 events for the month. Chief Fisher also added there was a robbery at the Poplar Lodge which had now been cleared.

Mayor Johnson expressed his congratulations and appreciation to Chief Fisher and the Laurel Park Police Department on a job well done in solving the Poplar Lodge robbery.

OTHER ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE TOWN COUNCIL – Kenneth Landriau, of 3940 Laurel Park Hwy, and Chairman of the Laurel Park ABC Board, reported the store was doing well despite the economy. Mr. Landriau's concern was over the increase in crime nationwide, additional crime affecting the ABC store, and the safety of ABC store employees. Mr. Landriau also felt liquor stores in general were more susceptible to crime in the late evening hours because there were fewer customers; he would like to see an increase in law enforcement visibility in the evenings. Chief Fisher stated the Police Officers were driving, parking, and walking throughout the Laurel Park Shopping Center every evening and felt his department was doing everything they could to ensure the safety of all businesses located within the shopping center.

John Crook, of 3290 Laurel Park Highway, and chairman of CFRAC, gave the following cable/video programming update: Video distributions in Henderson County, as compared with the base, did very well. Mayor Johnson asked why the Town of Mills River came up so short. Mr. Crook said it was because

they were only receiving credit for the month of December, 2006; a special act would need to be put together for Mills River. He said video distribution was population based and the population numbers change quarterly. While the Town of Fletcher's population was increasing, the rest of the municipalities' populations were decreasing. Mr. Crook questioned if there was an error. He stated Macon County had signed off on the change from Mediacom to Morris Communications. Mayor Johnson stated Mr. Crook's comments/updates would be of interest at the January 20, 2009 LGCCA meeting.

Attorney Neill stated that, out of the 111 deeds mailed out to taxpayers regarding the Lake Drive Lakebed Condemnation, the Town had received 105 signed deeds back, which he thought was a remarkable response. Mayor Johnson stated most checks for those taxpayers who had responded were mailed out on January 16, 2009.

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

MAYOR JOHNSON – Mayor Johnson stated members of the LGCCA had asked municipalities to provide a report on how each one was doing on tax collections, and if the economy was affecting the taxpayers ability to pay their taxes. He reported that, as of January 15, 2009, the Town had collected 91.7% of the 2008 tax levy as compared to 91.6% of the 2007 tax levy in January of 2008.

Mayor Johnson also stated he and Mr. Ball attended a breakfast on January 16, 2009 hosted by Representatives Thomas Apodaca, Caroline Justice, and David Guice. The major topic of discussion was the economy.

COMMISSIONER MENNELLA – Commissioner Mennella had no comments.

COMMISSIONER MADDOX – Commissioner Maddox had no comments.

COMMISSIONER COOKE – Commissioner Cooke 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, Town Clerk

Date