

**MINUTES OF THE AGENDA WORK SESSION
OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE
TOWN OF LAUREL PARK, N.C.
July 16, 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 Richard P. Cooke, Commissioner Keith A. Maddox, Commissioner Dona M. Mennella, and Commissioner Robert O. Vickery. Town Manager Jim Ball was also present.

Mayor Johnson called to order the July 16, 2009, Council Agenda Work Session.

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 June 16, 2009, Council Regular Meeting
 - b) Minutes from the June 16, 2009, Council Special Work Session – Town Ordinances
 - c) Minutes from the July 16, 2009, Council Work Session
- 2) Public Hearings
Rezoning request by Henderson County
- 3) Old Business
Consideration, Rezoning Request by Henderson County
- 4) New Business
Consideration, Prohibiting the Carrying of Concealed Weapons on Municipal Property and Authorizing the Posting of Signs Ordinance
- 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 current close-out status for the FY 2008-2009 budget through the month of June. In broad terms, he stated that he estimated an approximate \$50,000 shortfall in revenues. The revenue source that showed the most significant shortfall was sales tax. He stated that he estimated expenditures would be under spent by approximately \$100,000 which was mainly due to several capital projects being eliminated or deferred due to the revenue shortfalls. He stated that, at the August work session, he would review the figures with Council through the month of July and that, although the budget year ended on June 30, 2009, some revenues would be received and expenditures paid in what was termed the "13th month". At each work session, until the audit has been completed, the monthly update would continue.

2. Discussion, FY 2008-2009 Town Road Maintenance Program update. Mr. Ball reviewed with Council the Town's Road Maintenance Program through FY 2008-2009. A part of the review addressed the plan the adopted in 1999 to pave all unpaved roads within Laurel Park. When the program was adopted, the Town had 4.62 miles of unpaved roads. To date, 2.68 miles had been paved. The total miles remaining unpaved were 1.94 miles. Mr. Ball stated that Central Drive was scheduled to be paved during the current budget year. Mr. Ball stated that the last Pavement Condition Survey was completed in January 2005. The Pavement Condition Survey was scheduled to be updated during the FY 2009-1010 budget year.
3. Discussion, FY 2008-2009 semi-annual review of the Town water system. Mr. Ball reviewed the current status of the Town's water system with Council. The unbilled gallons rate was 6.2% for FY 2008-2009 as compared to 7.7% for FY 2007-2008. Mr. Ball hoped that the unbilled gallons rate would remain low and every effort will be taken to continue this trend.

Mr. Ball also updated the Council on the data recorded from changing one pump each at the Laurel Park Highway and Hebron Pump stations early in the budget year. Both pumps replaced were approximately twenty years old. The newer pumps were clearly more efficient and the pump runtimes have been lower at each station, effectively reducing electrical costs. A second pump had replaced at the Laurel Park Highway pump station in May and the results were similar as pump runtimes have been lower when that pump is in operation.

4. Discussion, FY 2008-2009 fuel report update. Mr. Ball reviewed with Council the FY 2008-2009 fuel report for the Town. Both the Police Department and the Public Works Department fuel costs were lower in FY 2008-2009 than in FY 2007-2008 (Police 32.37% and Public Works 33.59%), which was partly due to the cost of fuel being lower during the FY 08-09 budget year and also that each Department used less fuel (Police 6.84% and Public Works 14.68%) than in the previous fiscal year.
5. Discussion, general review of Town ordinances for the Tuesday work session
 - Chapter 5, Article 1, Streets and Sidewalks

Mr. Ball presented a copy of the ordinance that Council would review at the special work session scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2009 at 10:00 am.

6. Discussion, request for property access from dedicated unopened road by Robin and Sherry C. Nelson. Mr. Ball reviewed a request from Robin and Sherry Nelson who propose to build a house between Alta Circle and Roberts Drive and wish to access the home from Roberts Drive. In order for that to happen, their drive would cross a portion of a dedicated unopened road. Council has, in the past, granted permission for that type case with the resident bearing full cost and any future costs associated with the use. Council agreed to the request.

Mr. Ball stated another issue to make Council aware was the dedicated unopened road had been used for a walking trail by residents in the area connecting Laurel Park Highway to Roberts Drive. The Town had maintained this trail, which was not completely within the right-of-way. Mr. Nelson stated he was fine with the encroachment on his property. Mr. Ball recommended, and Council concurred, that a survey of the road be completed and the trail moved to where it was on Town property.

7. Discussion, Shaws Creek Farm Roads. Mr. Ball informed Council that he had been contacted by Reed Neal, a resident in Shaws Creek, who asked if the Town would use some type "paver product" at the entrance to Shaws Creek Farm Road and White Pine Drive to enhance the entrance to the subdivision. After a brief discussion, Council agreed that a detailed plan needed to be presented. In any case, if approved, all costs would be paid by the homeowners' association both for installation and ongoing maintenance.

8. Discussion, Town Historic Marker. Mr. Ball stated that the Civic Association was finalizing plans for the installation of the Town's first Historical Markers. The marker would highlight the Fleetwood Hotel and be placed at the corner of Laurel Park Highway and Pinewood Circle. Mr. Ball suggested that the Town assist in the project with developing a uniform site plan for each location. Council agreed in principle to the idea but asked Mr. Ball to bring back additional information.
9. Discussion, update Old Lake Property. Mr. Ball stated that Sam Neill, Town Attorney, filed the condemnation action on June 25, 2009.
10. Discussion, stimulus application for sewer project. Mr. Ball informed Council that there was still no word from the State on the Town's application for funding a gravity sewer project from Fleetwood to Cedarbrook (Laurel Park Highway "backbone"). Mr. Ball stated that the application request was for \$2,023,530 and that the second-round notifications of funding were set for release on July 1, 2009, but have been delayed.

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