

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE  
TOWN OF LAUREL PARK, N.C.  
JULY 21, 2009  
9:30 A.M.**

The Laurel Park Town Council held its regular meeting in the Laurel Park Town Hall on July 21, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. The following members were present: Mayor Henry T. Johnson, Commissioners Dona M. Mennella, Richard P. Cooke, Keith A. Maddox, and Robert O. Vickery. Town Attorney Sam Neill and Town Manager Jim Ball 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 Mennella 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 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

Commissioner Maddox moved to approve the Minutes from the June 16, 2009, Council Regular Meeting. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Maddox moved to approve the Minutes from the June 16, 2009, Council Special Work Session – Town Ordinances. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Maddox moved to approve the Minutes from the June 16, 2009, Council Work Session. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**REZONING REQUEST BY HENDERSON COUNTY**

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing for the purpose of receiving public comments on the Rezoning Request by Henderson County.

Mayor Johnson stated the Henderson County Board of Commissioners had asked the Laurel Park Town Council to consider rezoning a parcel of land at the Fleetwood water tank site to facilitate intergovernmental public safety and emergency communications. Public notice of the hearing was given in the Times-News, in accordance with GS 160A-264, and letters mailed to abutting property owners. An article was also placed in the Town's July newsletter.

Mayor Johnson stated Henderson County was currently coordinating a communications upgrade with the North Carolina Highway Patrol to install communication equipment and infrastructure to support the state-wide Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER). He stated this system would facilitate communications at local, state, and federal levels during emergency situations.

Mayor Johnson also stated the proposed communications tower would be configured to accommodate not only the VIPER system, but other County emergency management system antennae (911, EMS, Hendersonville Police, for example), which were sited on an older tower at the Fleetwood site. He said the old tower would not handle VIPER as an add-on, and when the new tower was operational, the old tower would be dismantled and removed—basically a one-for-one swap. He stated the new tower would only be used for governmental communications.

Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. There being no further business, Commissioner Cooke moved to close the public hearing. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **CONSIDERATION, REZONING REQUEST BY HENDERSON COUNTY**

Mayor Johnson stated the Planning Board reviewed the rezoning request at its meeting on July 14, 2009, and forwarded a favorable recommendation to Council. At the Town work session on July 16, 2009, Council reviewed the wording changes needed if the request was approved. Each Council member had received a copy.

Mayor Johnson stated the current ordinance read:

Public and commercial antennas located at the Fleetwood water tank site.

Mayor Johnson recommended the following ordinance change to read:

Public and commercial antennas located on Parcel Number 9927351.

Governmental antennas located on Parcel Number 9900636.

Commissioner Vickery moved to approve the Rezoning Request by Henderson County. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **CONSIDERATION, PROHIBITING THE CARRYING OF CONCEALED WEAPONS ON MUNICIPAL PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING THE POSTING OF SIGNS ORDINANCE**

Mayor Johnson stated Council was continuing the process of reviewing all Town Ordinances during the special work sessions after each Council regular meeting. Council's goal was to review the ordinances for clarity, applicability, and formatting. As Mayor Johnson stated in previous Town Meetings, some of the ordinances were several years old and needed to be updated or eliminated. As each ordinance was revised and updated, a copy would be available for public inspection during normal operating hours in the Town Office, as well as posted to the Town's web site.

Mayor Johnson stated the ordinance to be considered was Prohibiting the Carrying of Concealed Weapons on Municipal Property and Authorizing the Posting of Signs Ordinance. Upon Council's review of the ordinance, the following two areas were clarified along with standardizing the ordinance format: the general statute references and where concealed weapons would be prohibited.

Commissioner Vickery moved to approve the Prohibiting the Carrying of Concealed Weapons on Municipal Property and Authorizing the Posting of Signs Ordinance. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion. Commissioner's Maddox and Mennella opposed the ordinance as it was written. Commissioner Mennella recommended Council table the item and discuss the ordinance further at the Special Work Session immediately following the Town's Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Vickery withdrew his motion to approve the Prohibiting the Carrying of Concealed Weapons on Municipal Property and Authorizing the Posting of Signs Ordinance. He moved to table the item and discuss it further at the Special Work Session immediately following the Town's Regular Meeting. 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.

Lieutenant Grayson Mullen gave the following police statistics for the month of June: 235 residence checks, 6 arrests, 4 accidents, 3 domestics, 42 citations, and 1,129 area security checks for a total of 1,851 service events for the month.

**OTHER ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE TOWN COUNCIL**

Town Attorney, Sam Neill, requested that a closed session be added to the agenda for the purpose of considering and giving instructions concerning a potential or actual claim, administrative procedure, or judicial action. Commissioner Mennella moved to approve amending the agenda by adding a Closed Session for the purpose of considering and giving instructions concerning a potential or actual claim, administrative procedure, or judicial action. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**MAYOR AND COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

**MAYOR JOHNSON** – Mayor Johnson stated the Town was not a recipient of the sewer grant. He recommended the sewer committee reconvene within the next few weeks and that Council discuss the topic at its next Council Work Session.

**COMMISSIONER MENNELLA** – Commissioner Mennella had no comments.

**COMMISSIONER MADDOX** – Commissioner Maddox stated that, according to [NeighborhoodScout.com](http://NeighborhoodScout.com)'s Best Affordable Places in America to Retire, Laurel Park was recently ranked third.

**COMMISSIONER VICKERY** – Commissioner Vickery had no comments.

Commissioner Maddox moved to recess the Regular Meeting and go into Closed Session at the request of Town Attorney Sam Neill for the purpose of considering and giving instructions concerning a potential or actual claim, administrative procedure, or judicial action. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Cooke moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

There being no further business, Commissioner Cooke moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Mayor Johnson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

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Henry T. Johnson, Mayor

Attest:

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Kimberly B. Hensley, Town Clerk

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Date