



ELM CITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2015
ELM CITY TOWN HALL
CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**

Mayor Grady Smith (hereinafter "Mayor Smith") called to order the regular meeting of the Elm City Board of Commissioners (hereinafter "Board") at 7:30 pm, on August 11, 2015.

2. **Roll Call**

Mayor Smith conducted a roll call. The following were present:

Commissioner, Dale Childress (hereinafter "Comm. Childress")
Commissioner, Melvin Cooke (hereinafter "Comm. Cooke")
Commissioner, Lewis Crockett (hereinafter "Comm. Crockett")
Commissioner, Marsha Wells (hereinafter "Comm. Wells")
Commissioner, Gil Wheeler (hereinafter "Comm. Wheeler")
Town Administrator, Jonathan Russell (hereinafter "Admin. Russell")
Town Clerk, Dena Cordell

3. **Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting**

Mayor Smith gave the Board opportunity to review the proposed minutes from the July 14, 2015, meeting.

MOTION: Comm. Cooke made motion to approve the July 14, 2015, meeting minutes; seconded by Comm. Crockett. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. **Public Comment for Waste Water Expansion Project**

Mayor Smith turned the Public Comment meeting over to Admin. Russell. He gave instructions to the public as to the procedures for how the forum would be conducted. Citizens were given time to place their name on a sign in sheet if interested in speaking with the Board, had three minutes to voice their concerns, would be told when there was one minute remaining, and when the time was up. Citizens were asked to approach the podium and give their name and address. Admin. Russell gave an additional time for citizens to sign up or gave time for any interested in speaking, the opportunity to do so.

Mark Letchworth, of 6067 Homestead Road, mentioned that he did not have County water, but had well water. His concern was contamination of his well. He questioned whether the Town consulted with other agencies for the Waste Water Study and whether the permits with NCDENR were current.

John Manning, of 6019 Homestead Road, mentioned that he didn't understand why the citizens were allowed to attend the meeting, and felt the public comment portion of the meeting should be concluded.

Diane Griffin, of 6212 Tonya Road, questioned the number of acres being sprayed upon, the current gallons per day permitted to be sprayed with permits, of the 208 acres, what is the next move, would the property be resurveyed, whether or not the spraying would take place in the Wilson County portion of the property only, whether other options had been sought out to help the Town get off the moratorium, and whether grants were sought to help in the endeavors.

Randy Jenkins, of 6530 Homestead Road, was concerned about the possible contamination of his well.

Kristina Johnson, of 6375 Homestead Road, mentioned that her family farmed on the 50 acres adjacent to the current sprayfield. She mentioned the concern of runoff into the creek that borders her property, and for the wildlife on her property. Also mentioned was that her family was not interested in selling their property.

John King, of 6109 Tonya Rd, is concerned that the property values in the vicinity of the sprayfield would plummet. He mentioned that the home was his only home, and plummeting values of property would cut into his planned retirement funds. He questioned whether all resources had been exhausted, if research of negative effects on health and property values had been done, and whether there was some other way to resolve the moratorium issue.

Admin. Russell took time to address each question and any additional questions that were spoken.

5. Admin. Russell's Report

- A. State Budget Adoption: The delay in the adoption of a state budget will potentially cause a delay in the September grant cycle. The high unit cost grant will be pushed to March of 2016, and will rely on the amount of funding allocated by the state.

- B. Stormwater Management / Ditch Cleaning Quote: Mr. Harris has begun to clean ditches on the east side of Town in efforts to relieve some of the stormwater issues. Quotes are being solicited to clean approximately 3,000 feet of ditch in the western portion of Town, with a focus on the Anderson Street / Lynnhaven Drive neighborhoods. A quote has been received in the amount of \$59,000 which will include installing 3 catch basins. The ditches affected are Anderson to Lynnhaven, Watson Lane, and Parker to Daniel.
- C. Sidewalk Extension: Design and layout are currently being worked on for the new portion of sidewalk along West Main Street. This portion will extend from Parker Street, west to the Post Office. Utility easements and the path of least resistance for the sidewalk are being reviewed.
- D. Special Use Permit Withdrawal: Coronal Solar has withdrawn their special use permit application at this time. Concerns over their ability to complete the project within a timeframe that would allow them to collect the state tax credit, lead to the withdrawal. It was told that they would return if monies were provided for extension of the credits in the state budget.
- E. Tree Removal: The diseased oak tree located at the corner of North Parker and West Nash Street was removed during the month due to it being a safety hazard.
- F. Train Depot Progress Update: Site planning and design is continuing for the depot renovation. Oakley Collier intends to have draft plans ready for review by August 28th. The plans will be reviewed by USDA and the Town before final approval. Construction will take approximately six months and completion should be in the Spring of 2016.
- G. Nash County Sprayfield Meeting: Nash County Commissioners have scheduled a public hearing on Thursday, August 13th at 7 pm, in response to the proposed sprayfield expansion into Nash County. It will take place at the Agricultural Extension Office.

Admin. Russell mentioned that Golden Leaf could be approached for possible funding of the wastewater expansion. Also, USDA has a 70 percent grant funding program.

- H. Additions:

Admin. Russell presented the 2014 tax settlement paperwork from the County of Wilson. Total taxes collected were \$374,412.33, with an uncollected amount of \$15,401.44.

MOTION: Comm. Childress made motion to accept the tax settlement report from Wilson County; seconded by Comm. Cooke. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

6. **Invoices**

Admin. Russell presented the Board with the monthly Town invoices in the agenda packet.

Additions: Oakley Collier (Train Depot – Architects) - \$5,000
 Rid-A-Pest (library, office, substation) - \$200
 Colonial Flowers (death) - \$40.57
 Jonathan Russell (reimburse supplies – Sam's) - \$132

MOTION: Comm. Wells made motion to pay bills; seconded by Comm. Childress. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

7. **Comments from Public Floor**

Thelma Young reported that the outreach food ministry brings food to nearly 100 families. It seems to be working very well for the citizens. Comm. Crockett commended them on a job well-done.

8. **Commissioner Concerns**

Comm. Wells mentioned that the EC Missionary Baptist Church had also started a food pantry. It is open to citizens on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 5 to 7 pm.

Comm. Wells questioned the timeline of the property sale at 206 West Main Street, regarding funding of purchase, etc.

Comm. Wells questioned as to whether Strata had made any progress regarding the vegetative buffer. She mentioned the possibility of taking legal action. Comm. Wheeler suggested the Town draw a site plan and present to Strata to help them in planning.

Comm. Wells questioned the clean-up of the wastewater facility tour. Admin. Russell assured that nothing had been done but standard maintenance.

9. **Closed Session**

MOTION: Comm. Childress made motion to go into closed session; seconded by Comm. Wells. Motion passed by unanimous vote. The closed session met pursuant NCGS 143-318.11 (personnel and legal matters).

10. **Re-opening of Open Session**

MOTION: Comm. Childress made motion to adjourn the closed session and re-open the open session; seconded by Comm. Crockett. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

11. **Adjournment**

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:30 pm, August 11, 2015, upon motion of Board.

MOTION: Motion was made to adjourn by Comm. Childress; seconded by Comm. Crockett. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Minutes submitted by Dena H. Cordell, Town Clerk