

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF GASTON
TOWN OF CRAMERTON**

February 1, 2005

The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Cramerton met in Regular Session, Tuesday, February 1, 2005 at 7 p.m. in the G.M. Michael Commission Chamber.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Cathy C. Young; Mayor Pro Tempore Jeff Ramsey; Commissioners Ronald Murphy, Jacque Sumner, Willie Cater and Joel Lineberger.

OTHERS PRESENT: LuAnn Ellis, Interim Town Manager; Greg Ratchford, Chief of Police; Steve Baucom, Town Planner; Bill Brown, Town Attorney; Charles Hastings, Water System Supervisor; Cam Carpenter, Recreation Director and Jamie Shytle, Wastewater Treatment Supervisor; and Police Officers B.F. Falls, Brad Adams, Chris Baxter, Corey Debold, Neill Jones, and Steve Lackey.

Mayor Young called the meeting to order. The Reverend David Julen gave the Invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was offered by all.

CONSENT AGENDA: Upon a motion by Mayor Pro Tempore Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Lineberger, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Approval of the Minutes of the January 4, 2005 Meeting.

RECOGNITION OF FORMER TOWN MANAGER/POLICE CHIEF DAVID YOUNG: Mayor Young stated that effective noon today, David Young who served as Town Manager and Police Chief had retired after thirty years service. She stated that various members of his family were present and she would like to recognize each of them and thank the many friends who were here to recognize him for his service to the Town.

Mayor Young stated that she would like to recognize Greg Ratchford, the new Police Chief.

Chief Ratchford stated that he had known Mr. Young since 1976 when he was in first grade and Mr. Young helped him cross the street to school. He stated that he had hired his father, Sam Ratchford as a reserve officer in 1980 and himself in 1989 as a reserve and then in 1990 as a full time officer. He stated that during that time, he had known Mr. Young to be fair and he had watched him and learned from him and hoped to use the skills he had been taught to carry on the job of Chief.

Chief Ratchford presented Mr. Young with his badge, collar pins, patch and service weapon. Mayor Young called Commissioner Sumner who presented a plaque to Mr. Young. Commissioner Sumner read the plaque as follows:

To David Young, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Town Employees and the Citizens of Cramerton
Words cannot do justice to your dedicated service as a life-long resident, devoted citizen and public servant

of our beautiful Cramerton. The proof of your success is in the quality of life, we as residents, enjoy each and every day. Thank you for the years of contribution that make all of us have "pride in our past and faith in our future."

Commissioner Sumner stated that also, enclosed with the plaque was a savings bond in the amount of \$250.00 from the Town which was a gift based on years service to the town.

Mayor Pro Tempore Ramsey stated that the service Mr. Young had given to the fire department in town had not been mentioned. He stated that he had done a great job with the fire department as well and had mentored youth in the community in that role. He stated that it would be hard to find a replacement in the town for Mr. Young because of the love he had for the Town. He stated that the service Mr. Young had given the Town would be missed by everyone.

Mr. Young stated that it had been a pleasure to work for the town. He stated that he did not know how it could be the same for someone to work in his positions that had not grown up in Cramerton and loved the town as he did. He stated that the town was changing from the small town he had grown up in and that he hoped the new leaders would be able to keep some of the things in place that were there from the beginning so it would always feel like the same place, even though it was growing.

Mr. Young asked the Board to take care of the employees in the town. He stated that they were excellent people and servants to the Town. He stated that they had made his job much easier. He asked the Board to cultivate their positions and take care of them and they would help take care of the town they all loved.

Mr. Young stated that he would like to thank all those present and he hoped that God would Bless them in the years to come.

MR. WILSON McDONALD – COMMENTS: Mr. Wilson McDonald stated that he had lived in Cramerton for a while, but his wife had grown up here. He stated that he could not resist coming and paying tribute to Mr. Young tonight. He stated that Mr. Young had helped him in many ways and he would like to thank him for his time and service to the Town.

MS. LEIGH NANCE – COMMENTS: Ms. Nance stated that she did not know Mr. Young, but had read about him in the paper and would like to thank him for his service to the Town.

Ms. Nance stated that she lived on Ridgeway Drive and the reason she was here was that she had been charged a late fee on her water bill last month. She stated that her bill was stamped that service would be discontinued if not paid within five days. She stated that she had never been late with her bill before and that she had mailed her bill on the 12th of the month from either South Point High School or her home but had not been posted to her account until the 19th. She stated that when she called, she had been advised that her account would not be turned off for non-payment and did not agree with that "scare tactic." She stated that she had requested that the late fee be removed and was told that her only recourse would be to come before the Board of Commissioners.

Mayor Young stated that she was the second person that had been before the Board with such a request in eight years.

Commissioner Lineberger stated that he had the same notice on his bill and that the Town staff did not obviously discriminate on stamping the bills or adding the late fee. He stated that he thought he had paid his bill on time as well.

Mayor Pro Tempore Ramsey stated that he would like to table the matter.

Commissioner Murphy stated that he would like to state that if the bill were mailed from either South Point High School or her home which also has a Belmont address, that the mail must first go to the Belmont Post Office and then to Charlotte and then back to Cramerton. He stated that could cause an extra day or so in the mailing process.

Commissioner Sumner asked if there was a problem since the Martin Luther King Holiday had fallen in the time frame as well.

Mayor Young told Ms. Nance that the issue would be resolved tomorrow and she would have an answer at the end of the day.

CLOSED SESSION: Upon a motion by Mayor Pro Tempore Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Lineberger, the Board voted unanimously to go into Closed Session under the provisions of G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss a personnel matter.

Upon returning to Regular Session and there being no further business, Mayor Young adjourned the meeting.

Mayor Cathy C. Young

ATTEST:

LuAnn A. Ellis, Interim Manager/Town Clerk