

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

**August 21, 2014**

The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Cramerton met in workshop session on Thursday, August 21, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the G.M. Michael Room at the Cramerton Town Hall.

**Board members present:** Mayor Ronnie Worley, Mayor Pro Tempore Will Cauthen, Commissioners Sam Carpenter, Demetrios Koutsoupas, Tammy Lawrence, and Sandra R. Ware.

**Staff present:** Michael Peoples, Town Manager; Bill Brown, Town Attorney; Greg Ratchford, Chief of Police; Joel Lineberger, Finance Director; Kevin Krouse, Planning Director; and Wilene Cunningham, Town Clerk.

**Call to Order and Determination of Quorum:** Mayor Worley called the meeting to order and determined that a quorum was present.

**Adoption of Agenda for this Meeting:** Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen made the motion to adopt the agenda as proposed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ware and approved by all.

**Public Comment:** No one signed up to speak.

**Recognition of CaroMont Health for partnership with the Town of Cramerton on the Goat Island Park, Phase II Fit Pavilion. Mr. Doug Lockett, CEO and President, Will Be Present.** Mr. Doug Lockett, CEO and President, and Mr. Alex Mullineaux, Director of Public Affairs presented to the Board a replica of the \$50,000 check for the fitness pavilion to be erected on Goat Island Park, Phase II. The Town Manager stated Goat Island will be closed to the public effective September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Construction will start on the Town's side with the erection of the causeway. Commissioner Ware asked if the fitness pavilion equipment would have senior citizen friendly amenities. The Town Manager said yes and the equipment would meet ADA requirements. Mayor Worley stated the fitness pavilion will be a great addition and will be enjoyed by many.

**UPDATES FROM TWO RIVERS UTILITIES, MR. MIKE BYNUM AND UPDATES FROM CRAMERTON DEPARTMENT HEADS (TOWN ATTORNEY, POLICE CHIEF, FIRE CHIEF, TOWN CLERK, PLANNING DIRECTOR, FINANCE DIRECTOR, AND MORE AS NEEDED):**

**Update from Two Rivers:** Mr. Mike Bynum stated the Town of Stanley held a groundbreaking ceremony yesterday as they have joined Two Rivers Utilities. TRU completed 21 weekly checks for lift stations, responded to 18 water meter related calls, installed one new irrigation tap, repaired three water leaks, and patched one utility cut.

**Town Attorney:** Mr. Brown stated he missed the last Board of Commissioners meeting as he had been in Colorado on vacation.

**Police Department:** Chief Ratchford had nothing to report.

**Fire Department:** Chief Foulk was absent.

**Town Clerk:** The Town Clerk stated a framed photo of Mr. C. Claudius Dawson was donated to the Town by the Dawson family. The September newsletter is being prepared and participation in the Municipal Citizens Academy continues to be encouraged.

**Planning Director:** Mr. Krouse stated “Build a Better Boulevard” meetings will be held on Monday. The meeting will include members from the City of Belmont’s Council and Planning and Zoning Board along with the public. This information has been submitted to the newspaper. A biking event will be held on Sunday afternoon beginning at the bike store in downtown Belmont and ending at the Glenway Pub. The trip will be approximately ten miles. Captain Robinson with the Cramerton Police Department along with officers from the Belmont Police Department will provide a police escort. Mr. Krouse stated the traffic count for Wilkinson Boulevard shows a decrease in traffic as Interstate 85 is used as the main traffic corridor. The traffic count is greater at Franklin Square in Gastonia due to the I-85 exchange. Mr. Krouse stated Mr. Wil Neumann has provided a video of the Wilkinson Boulevard corridor to be used as part of this study.

**Finance Director:** The Finance Director stated three responses were received regarding the request for proposals for insurance and the summary proposal sheet was included in the agenda packet. Whitesides Insurance Company is the Town’s current provider and a decrease in premium of \$3,462 was proposed without a reduction of benefits. It was recommended the Town continue coverage for the Fire Department through the current insurance provider of VFIS. The Finance Director stated the Town had received quality service from Whitesides Insurance and recommended the Town continue with them for another three years.

A demolition ordinance has been prepared for 105 Riverside Drive. John E. Jenkins, Inc. has provided a quote of \$3,950 for the demolition and this process can be started on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

All work papers for the audit have been delivered to the auditor and field work may begin next week. The audit being requested by the Local Government Retirement System will only require an agreement letter and not a separate audit contract. The Finance Director stated he is working on financial statements. Mayor Worley and the Board thanked Mr. Lineberger for his continued efforts at saving the Town money.

## **TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT:**

*US Infrastructure Pavement Condition Study:* A meeting was held with the Town Manager, the Planning Director, and the Public Works Department to discuss the study and recommendations for a priority list. A meeting was held with Mr. Jerry Hatton, engineer, for the City of Belmont

to discuss how they take the USI pavement condition study a step further which helps explain the priority list for funding. Information will be presented at the next Board meeting.

*Duke Energy Transmission Tower Update:* A map has been prepared by the Planning Director to be picked up by Mr. Tim Gause. Duke Energy is looking at future substations to serve the Cramerton area and is considering possibly using the existing corridor by the high school or property south. Information may be available within the next month.

Commissioner Ware asked if Center Street was going to be repaired. The Town Manager stated it was not a high priority street and crack sealing may be a possible solution. Front Street is in the top projects. Discussions will need to be held with Two Rivers Utilities regarding any proposed projects.

The Town continues to work with NCDOT regarding work at Eighth, Tenth, and Wilkinson Boulevard. Custom Paving is scheduled to perform the milling and resurfacing at the underpass at Eighth Avenue. Paving is scheduled on Wilkinson Boulevard at the South Fork Village Apartments for the turnaround. Information should be available in two weeks regarding the appropriation of funds for a sidewalk for Lakewood and Eagle Roads.

The Public Service Natural Gas Company project appears to be on schedule and no lane increases or sidewalks are proposed for Gaston Road.

## **REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Discussion and Possible Action to Approved Proposed July 17, 2014 and July 31, 2014 Meeting Minutes.** A motion was made by Commissioner Ware to approve the July 17, 2014 and July 31, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen and approved by all.

**Discussion and Possible Action to Approve a Resolution of Support for the NC Governor's Highway Safety Grant Program for the Purchase of Traffic Equipment.** Chief Ratchford stated traffic cones, barricades, and a light trailer will be purchased with this grant money. A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen to approve a resolution of support for the NC Governor's Highway Safety Grant Program for the purchase of traffic equipment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawrence and approved by all.

**Discussion and Possible Action to Adopt Two Resolutions and an Ordinance to Clarify and Establish Speed Limits on the State and Town Portions of Woodlawn Street and Mayflower Avenue and Tenth Street and Eighth Avenue.** Attorney Brown stated no ordinance is required as the speed limit on these roads remains the same and only the road numbers are being corrected per the State's request for their recordkeeping. A motion was made by Commissioner Carpenter to adopt two resolutions to correct the State road numbers as per NCDOT's request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Koutsoupas and approved by all.

**Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Agreement with the NC Wildlife Commission for Funding Fishing Pier and Canoe Landing.** A fishing pier behind the C.B. Huss Recreation Center and a canoe landing near Patterson Street have been proposed. The reimbursement would be \$42,000 with a zero percent match by the Town. A motion was made by Commissioner Lawrence to approve the agreement with the NC Wildlife Commission for funding fishing pier and canoe landing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carpenter and approved by all.

#### **UPDATE ON CONTINUING PROJECTS:**

- **Update on Goat Island Park, Phase II:** Mobilization for the project should begin the first of September and Goat Island will be closed to the public effective September 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- **Update on Development Projects:** Property contracts regarding the Villages at Cramerton Mills are being worked on and need to be completed by the end of September. The firing range has been discussed and should be completed within three years without any interruption to the Police Department.

#### **BUSINESS ITEMS/TOPICS OF DISCUSSION FOR EACH COMMISSIONER:**

Commissioner Ware stated the Town needed to be prepared regarding parking during and after the Goat Island Park bridge construction. The Town Manager stated information is being discussed with the group that is assisting with the Build a Better Boulevard study for their insight regarding the Town Center area. Suggestions have included pull in style parking on Eighth Avenue which would be user friendly and safe. Commissioner Ware asked if it was known who would be the new tenant for the tavern. The Town Manager stated the space was under contract and the new owner should be announced soon.

Commissioner Koutsoupas stated there were 30 to 35 people in attendance at the recent block party at Central Park. Survey information was received and will be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The Rockin' the River event is scheduled for Saturday at the Goat Island Park. Commissioner Koutsoupas stated the resident at 316 Treeline Drive asked about stormwater drain off and erosion in their yard. The Planning Director stated he would follow up with this.

Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen asked about possible reciprocity with the Town of McAdenville and the City of Belmont regarding golf cart usage. Chief Ratchford stated that golf carts cannot legally cross Wilkinson Boulevard. The Town of McAdenville does not currently have a golf cart ordinance. The City of Belmont's ordinance does not align with Cramerton's ordinance. Attorney Brown stated he would follow up with this.

Commissioner Carpenter had nothing to report.

Commissioner Lawrence had nothing to report.

Chief Ratchford reminded everyone that school starts on Monday and if any residents had concerns regarding school traffic to please contact the Police Department.

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Commissioner Ware to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen and approved by all.

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Mayor Ronald E. Worley

**ATTEST:**

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Wilene Cunningham, Town Clerk