

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

September 2, 2014

The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Cramerton met in regular session on Tuesday, September 2, 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.

Invocation: Given by Attorney Brown.

Pledge of Allegiance: Given by all.

Adoption of Agenda for this Meeting: Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen asked that the presentation of the plaque to Ms. Cathy Young be rescheduled to a future meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawrence and approved by all.

Public Comment: No one signed up to speak.

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

Presentation of Plaque of Appreciation to Mr. Anthony Goff for Years of Service on the Town Planning and Zoning Board. Mayor Worley and the Board thanked Mr. Goff for his years of service from 2009 to 2014 on the Planning and Zoning Board. Mr. Goff stated he had enjoyed working with the Planning and Zoning Board committee and the Town's staff.

Discussion and Possible Action to Approved Proposed August 5, 2014 Meeting Minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen made a motion to approve the August 5, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawrence. Commissioner Carpenter stated he requested a copy of the recorded August 5, 2014 minutes as he wanted to review them prior to the draft minutes being proposed for approval tonight. Mayor Pro Tem asked if there was something in particular that Commissioner Carpenter was concerned about. Commissioner Carpenter asked that approval of the meeting minutes be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen withdrew his motion.

Presentation and Discussion on the Pavement Condition Study and Scope of Work for FY 2015. The Planning Director stated that several meetings have been held between the Town Manager, Public Works Director, and himself to discuss the pavement condition study. Discussions are being held with Mr. Jerry Hatton, engineer, for the City of Belmont for his input. Consideration is being given to performing crack sealing on all the streets in Cramerton. Woodlawn Avenue, Front Street, and Washington Street are at the top of the study which indicates they are in need of immediate repair work as they are heavily traveled. Bid packages will be created in the fall for spring construction.

UPDATE ON CONTINUING PROJECTS:

Update on NCDOT Projects:

- **Update on Goat Island Park, Phase II:** A turbidity fence has been placed in the river behind the Fire Department. Closure of Goat Island will occur on September 22nd and signage has been posted at the Fire Department closing the area during the construction process. Surveying for this project was completed last week. A check for \$25,000 was received from the Ewing Family Environment Fund of the Community Foundation of Gaston County.
- **Update on Development Projects:** The Town Manager, Town Planner, and Mr. Scott Bell with Davis and Floyd met with the developer at the South Fork Village Apartments to discuss the greenway regarding soil conditions. Discussions were held regarding possibly moving the greenway or using a different type of material. Reclaimed asphalt was suggested. The surface area is unstable and would not be feasible for equipment to travel on. The engineers are reviewing the cost of future upkeep depending on the material chosen. The Planning Director stated he traveled to Kings Mountain to a solar farm that has utilized reclaimed asphalt and are quite happy with the product. Mr. Krouse stated the material resembles fine gravel and dirt that has been compacted.

The area that is in question is approximately 1,500 linear feet and it acts as a secondary channel and water flows over it. The Town Manager stated this area is almost completely on the South Fork Village Apartments side with some of this area extending into the area that will be single family homes. Mr. Krouse explained the reclaimed asphalt would be suitable for biking, walking, but would not be conducive for baby strollers. The depth of the unsuitable soils is greater than six feet per Mr. William Ratchford and there is a problem with compaction. The Planning Director stated relocating the greenway would create issues regarding the current retaining wall and the retaining pond. The Town Manager stated there is an issue with the slope on the back side of the property. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen asked if an elevated boardwalk would be a possible solution. The Town Manager stated flood waters would continue to be a factor. No action was taken by the Board and continued discussion will be held at the workshop meeting.

No updates have been received from Duke Energy regarding transmission tower removal.

The Town Attorney stated the upset bid process and formal contract with VCM Bowman continues regarding the 18.83 acres on Hamrick Road.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Beautification Committee: No update. Next meeting to be held on Monday.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: No update. Next meeting to be held on Monday.

Centennial Celebration Committee: No update. Next meeting to be held on Monday.

BUSINESS ITEMS/TOPICS OF DISCUSSION FOR EACH COMMISSIONER:

Commissioner Ware asked about the staging area for the bridge and how it would affect the parking areas at Town Center. The Town Manager stated no construction trailer would be required for this project and all materials would be delivered as needed. Areas around the Fire Department will be utilized for the equipment needed for placement of the bridge.

Commissioner Lawrence had nothing to report.

Commissioner Carpenter stated Ms. Carolyn Helms who serves on the ABC Board has her three year current term coming up for consideration in October to be reappointed. Commissioner Lawrence asked if other citizens are asked to serve. Commissioner Carpenter stated it was difficult to find citizens who are willing to serve as they would be asked to sign documentation regarding their credit. He stated that everyone on the ABC Board signed documentation regarding \$100,000 of credit due to the size of the orders the ABC Store has to place. Commissioner Carpenter stated Ms. Helms has served two terms on the ABC Board. Attorney Brown stated the Board of Commissioners has discretion regarding committee member appointments. Mayor Worley stated no committee member is appointed to a committee for life. Commissioner Koutsoupas asked if the Board may want to consider asking any committee member that is up for reappointment to submit a formal reapplication and a formal request prior to being reappointed. Commissioner Ware stated that most committee members usually re-up and continue to serve. Commissioner Koutsoupas recommended that upcoming reappointments be considered at the Board's monthly workshop meetings. Attorney Brown stated the appointment process could be either by ad hoc or a formal set up. Commissioner Koutsoupas stated he liked the thought of a formal set up. He asked if this would require a criminal background check to be completed at each appointment. Chief Ratchford stated yes.

Commissioner Carpenter stated that the ABC Board had worked hard and put in a lot of time and effort and now the Board is going to suggest that other citizens should be considered. He stated the ABC Store has only part-time staff and a full-time store manager. The ABC Board members receive \$200 per month. Mayor Worley stated when a position is being considered for reappointment that this information should be available to the public. The Town Manager stated the reappointment information was not included with tonight's agenda packet as he received this information over the weekend.

Commissioner Koutsoupas recommended this item be discussed at the next Board meeting. Commissioner Lawrence stated if someone was interested in the position then they would be willing to appear before the Board regarding any committee position. Commissioner Ware asked where are all these people that are asking to volunteer. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen stated information is being distributed through social media. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen recommended that any committee openings should be advertised for sixty days. Commissioner Carpenter commented to the Board that they should not insult the current members and did not think these members would be willing to come in front of the Board if they already serving. Commissioner Koutsoupas stated they should be comfortable appearing before the Board to discuss any accomplishments that have occurred while they have been serving and why they want to continue to serve. Mayor Worley stated they need to remember they are political appointments and serve at the will of the Board.

Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen had nothing to report.

Commissioner Koutsoupas had nothing to report.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

NC League of Municipalities: Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen stated he would be attending and the location was convenient as it is being held in Greensboro this year. The Town Manager asked the Board to let him know if anyone else is attending in order to make arrangements.

Wilkinson Boulevard Corridor Study: The Planning Director will give an update on this later.

Duke Energy Transmission Infrastructure: Nothing new to report.

Population Update: The Town's population is now 4,689 which represent an approximate growth of 11 percent. The population in 2010 was 4,165.

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 Two Rivers Utilities completed 16 weekly checks for lift stations, responded to 31 water meter related calls, and installed one new irrigation tap. TRU repaired one water leak, completed one smoke test, and responded to one miscellaneous water call. Water samples were taken at three locations and all met or exceeded the State drinking water standards.

Town Attorney: Nothing to report.

Police Department: Chief Ratchford stated the Municipal Citizens Academy would receive applicants through the third Friday in December. A press release along with the application will be available on the Town's website.

Fire Department: Chief Foulk was absent.

Town Clerk: Mayor Worley and Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen were reminded about the ethics training course. An update of committee members and their terms will be given at each work shop meeting.

Planning Director: Mr. Krouse stated a silt fence was put up at the project being developed in the Timberlake Subdivision by AV Homes as there have been some complaints. Mayor Worley stated he spoke to the contractor about the work crews starting at 7:00 a.m. every day except Sunday.

The Planning Director stated the “Build a Better Boulevard” bike event on Sunday was well attended. Mayor Worley participated in the bike ride. A stakeholders meeting was held on Monday along with an informational lecture at 6:00 p.m. which was attended by approximately 60 people. Information can be accessed on the website regarding the corridor study. Discussion was held regarding placement of the “Eat Smart, Move More” mile marker signage that can be received from the Health Department at no cost. This signage can be placed on the Town’s sign poles and the signs can be customized with the Town’s logo. The Town Manager asked the Planning Director to review the Pedestrian Plan to assist in the location of the signage.

Finance Director: The Finance Director presented a summary of financial data for the general fund as of June 30, 2014. Property taxes collection rate is 98.6 percent. A change was noted in the Sales and Use tax due to change of accrual and the implementation of the NC DMV Tag and Tax collection process. The unaudited fund balance reflects an overall increase of \$386,495 as a result of revenues exceeding expenditures and proceeds from financing and asset sales.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Commissioner Ware to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen and approved by all.

Mayor Ronald E. Worley

ATTEST:

Wilene Cunningham, Town Clerk