

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

October 7, 2014

The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Cramerton met in regular session on Tuesday, October 7, 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 a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawrence and approved by all.

Invocation: Given by Attorney Brown.

Pledge of Allegiance: Given by all.

Public Comment: No one signed up to speak.

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

Presentation by Ms. Kim George, Executive Director, Gaston Arts Council. Ms. Kim George and Mr. Julius Barkley provided information to the Board concerning how they would like to ensure the Town is aware of the Gaston Arts Council and what is available. Ms. George stated they cover the entire county and post local upcoming events to their calendar. She stated that information is sent out to the municipalities via e-mails on a monthly basis. She stated they would be glad to assist in posting information regarding the Town's upcoming Centennial Celebration and any other festivals. Ms. George stated printed copies of information from the Gaston Arts Council are available throughout the county. She stated they are working on promoting events to tie in businesses and citizens and increase awareness of arts and culture. Ms. George stated they are working on increasing their artist base and educating individuals how to become part of their art program. She stated she and her staff are available to provide guidance on how to handle various operations for small art groups. The Board thanked her for providing this presentation.

Discussion of Centennial Celebration Committee Recommendations for 100 Year Logo and Event Calendar.

Mr. Jeff Ramsey presented to the Board information regarding the 100 year logo and a calendar of events being proposed for next year's celebration. Mr. Ramsey introduced to the Board the Centennial Committee members that were present. He asked that the Board approve the dates of October 16th through 18th of 2015 for the centennial celebration. Mr. Ramsey stated some minor changes are still planned for the logo such as the addition of a goat or the Goat Island logo. He stated the Centennial Committee would like to have banners with this logo erected on the banner poles by January 22, 2015. The art work for the logo was provided by Mr. Tim Stiles who is the art teacher at Stuart W. Cramer High School. Mr. Ramsey stated Mr. Ted Reece has provided a pair of original Cramer khaki pants from 1932 as an artifact. A Facebook page will be available on October 16th and will begin the 365 day countdown. A Christmas pageant play and a musical will be presented.

Commissioner Koutsoupas asked if Town Hall could be used as the welcome center and manned by a volunteer or a committee member. Mr. Ramsey said any contributions or proceeds received would be given to the Ministerial Association. He asked if the artifacts and pictures being collected could be kept at Town Hall. Attorney Brown stated a form could be designed to tag and inventory artifacts and insurance coverage would be needed to cover these items. Mr. Ramsey stated tables are planned to be set up for the display of artifacts at the C.B. Huss Recreational Center from 10:00 a.m. to noon. A barbeque lunch will be cooked on site at a cost of approximately \$5 per plate.

The Town Manager stated the logo banners need to be ordered soon. Commissioner Koutsoupas asked what information was going to be placed at the bottom of the banner. Mr. Ramsey stated the date of the event would be placed at the bottom. The Town Manager was asked if BB&T would consider allowing the art students from Stuart W. Cramer High School paint a mural on their side wall. The Town Manager said BB&T recently had their structure painted and he would have to provide to them what the mural would actually be. Mr. Ramsey stated that the mural would begin with the farm lifestyle of the Town in 1915 and end with the current development of Goat Island Park. He stated he would have the art class give him a rendering of the mural that he could present to the Board for their consideration.

Mr. Ramsey said the Centennial Celebration Committee is considering putting a float in the parade this year. Mr. Wib Queen stated the Cramerton Bunch will be meeting on Monday, October 20th, and he will discuss with them the possibility of having a float in the parade using the proposed centennial logo.

Commissioner Lawrence thanked Mr. Ramsey and the Centennial Committee members for their hard work and stated she was impressed with the plans for the event. Mr. Ramsey asked the Board for approval for the proposed dates of October 14th through the 16th for the 2015 celebration along with the launching of the Facebook page effective October 16, 2014. A motion was made by Commissioner Lawrence to approve the proposed celebration plans as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen and approved by all. No action was taken by the Board regarding the proposed logo and banner approval as this item will be discussed at the next meeting.

Presentation of Information Regarding the Proposal from Metrocology on the Town Center, Strategic Plan and the Update of Land Development Code by Kevin Krouse, Planning Director. Mr. Krouse stated the proposed study would cover the Town Center master plan and the code rewrite. The Town Manager stated timing is critical due to the reduction of costs for services as it aligns with the City of Belmont utilizing the services of Metrocology. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen asked about the fee schedule and if this could be backloaded. Mr. Krouse stated he would speak to the consultant about changing this. Commissioner Ware asked about codification. The Planning Director stated codification would be completed and sent to American Legal and this information could be placed on the Town's website along with the general code. A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen to approve the proposal from Metrocology on the Town Center, Strategic Plan and the Update of Land Development Code. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Koutsoupias and approved by all.

Presentation of Information Regarding Application for Reappointment to ABC Board for Carolyn Helms. Mayor Worley stated the application for reappointment for Ms. Helms was received along with the ABC Store's performance audit report. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen commented on the store's profit and sales performance. He also asked that the signature page be modified in the application packet to remove the check box and have the applicant's signature verify they have read and agree to the ethics guidelines. Commissioner Carpenter stated the newspaper had contacted the ABC Store asking what where the top sellers were and they are Aristocrat Vodka, Bernadette's Vodka, Absolute Vodka, Smirnoff Vodka and Crown Royal. Commissioner Carpenter stated 156,226 bottles were sold this year, 151,158 last year, and 143,829 the prior year. He stated 55,000 bottles were sold as mini bottles. Commissioner Carpenter stated a percentage is given to the Town based on the number of mini bottles sold. He stated the Town has been given \$71,704 this year and over the past five years a total of \$187,498. The store made \$1,702,940 this year, \$1,594,911 last year, and \$1,609,066 the prior year. The area served includes Belmont, McAdenville, and Lowell. A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen to approve the reappointment of Ms. Carolyn Helms to the ABC Board for a three year term. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ware and approved by all.

Discussion of Applications to Duke Energy for Water, Wastewater, and Irrigation Permits for Goat Island. A meeting was held with Mr. Mike Bynum with Two Rivers Utilities and Mr. Ronnie Lawson with Duke Energy to discuss water, wastewater, and irrigation services to Goat Island. The Town would withdraw less than a half million gallon of water per day and this is much more than expected as usage. The application permit fee is \$2,000 each for a total cost of \$6,000. Water will be needed for Goat Island as a dog park will be coming on line soon. Costs will be gathered regarding boring for the water and wastewater services as this will be under the river and not be attached to the pedestrian bridge. Commissioner Ware stated access to water is needed as part of the cleanup process after events such as the flood.

Discussion of NC Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Possible Acquisition of the Fire Department Property. The Town Manager stated the cost for the project would be \$373,838. The property would be held in perpetuity to be used only for recreational purposes, parking, picnic shelters, or floodproof bathrooms. A letter of interest was filed last February. The grant funding will cover the expense of an appraisal. If the Town desires a second appraisal then this will done at our expense. If the appraisal difference between the two is greater than fifteen

percent then a third appraisal will be conducted and the higher value will be determined to be the fair market value. A new property location for the fire department will need to be considered as a priority. Commissioner Ware stated there is very little vacant land available and this process needs to be initiated. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen agreed and noted that the Town is not making any type of obligation.

Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Proposed September 2, 2014 Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ware to approve the proposed September 2, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen and approved by all.

UPDATE ON CONTINUING PROJECTS:

Update on Goat Island Park, Phase II: Chief Ratchford received a complaint from a citizen regarding the noise being generated by the operation of equipment installing the pilings. A schedule has been received from Blythe Construction and there have no deviations from proposed timeframes. The Town Manager stated the ping pong tables and cornhole boards have been ordered along with the equipment for the Caromont fitness pavilion. Commissioner Koutsoupas stated that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board discussed what type and color of canopy would be placed over the fitness pavilion. Playground equipment was also discussed. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board unanimously chose turquoise as it aligned with colors founds in the Caromont's logo and this canopy was rated as having a higher shade resistant factor than the others. Commissioner Lawrence stated the colors being used on Goat Island need to have continuity. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen asked Commissioner Koutsoupas if a larger section of the proposed material could be viewed. The Town Manager stated a decision needs to be made soon while the causeway is in place on the Lakewood side. Commissioner Koutsoupas stated he would ask that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to hold a meeting prior to the next Board of Commissioners meeting to discuss the canopy options. Commissioner Lawrence stated she would be willing to attend the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting to discuss the architectural theme that is already in place. Commissioner Ware stated the color green is used throughout the Town and Commissioner Lawrence agreed.

NCDOT Projects:

The Town Manager stated the Town requested additional funding and the Planning Director was informed today that an additional \$100,000 has been awarded for the Lakewood/Eagle Road project for a total of \$200,000. Cost estimate for this project is about \$350,000. This project will provide connectivity with the Town, the high school, and the City of Belmont.

The Planning Director stated an ad for engineering services can be found on the Town's website requesting proposals regarding the Lakewood Trail project. All proposals should be received by the end of October with an engineer starting early in November.

The Planning Director stated there is a new contact person at Blossman Fuel. No additional information is available regarding the conversion kit for the police interceptor vehicles.

Mayor Worley asked for an update regarding the bulb-out for Wilkinson Boulevard at the South Fork Village apartments. The Town Manager stated this should be completed sometime next month. The Town Manager stated that the Eighth Avenue underpass is on NCDOT's schedule for repairs along with paving of Cramer Mountain Road in the next year.

Update on Development Projects:

The Town Manager stated current projects were featured in the past Town's newsletter. An update should be available at the end of the week regarding the South Fork Village greenway and information will be provided to the Board at the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Beautification Committee: Mr. Krouse stated a meeting was held last night and there are several committee members up for consideration to be reappointed along with several open seats. Commissioner Carpenter stated one committee member is sick and they would like to make her an honorary member. He stated this member would be considered an honorary member and they would like to keep her listed on the Beautification Committee as an alternate and then place someone to fulfill her term. Mr. Krouse stated wayfinding and welcome signs are being considered. Commissioner Carpenter introduced Mr. Donald Rice who has volunteered to be a member of the Beautification Committee.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Commissioner Koutsoupas stated the fall carnival is scheduled for October 18th. A Turkey Shoot is scheduled for November 15th. Discussion is being held regarding the Grand Marshal for the parade. Mr. Cam Carpenter gave information to this committee regarding the need for the gym lighting to be updated and the possibility of using either single or double ballast lighting. Double ballast lighting would create an energy savings of 50 percent but would cost an additional \$3,000. The amount budgeted for lighting was \$12,000. Commissioner Koutsoupas stated they have a committee member that will need to fill out an application to be considered for reappointment.

Mayor Worley stated that the Centennial Celebration Committee will need to be added to the agenda for updates.

BUSINESS ITEMS/TOPICS OF DISCUSSION FOR EACH COMMISSIONER:

Commissioner Lawrence stated that she would like to see some repairs and possible refacing of the train trestle as this is part of the Town's gateway. Commissioner Koutsoupas suggested possible lighting of the trestle.

Commissioner Carpenter stated he had a citizen ask him about the underpass intersection. Commissioner Carpenter asked about the possibility of a mirror being placed at the underpass. He suggested possibly having two lanes at the intersection of North Main Street and Eighth Avenue to assist with traffic flow. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen commented that the underpass is in bad shape and the rebar is actually visible. He stated there has been an increase in traffic flow and this item needs to be kept active for future discussion.

Commissioner Ware asked about what time traffic counts are being done on Wilkinson Boulevard as she did not think Metrocology had taken a count during peak times or when the traffic is heavy due to backups on Interstate 85. The Planning Director stated traffic counts are done at various times. A signalization project is being worked on with the City of Gastonia and Belmont to assist with traffic efficiency.

Commissioner Carpenter stated the ABC Board is waiting on the State's approval of offering scholarships to South Point High School and Stuart W. Cramer High School. The scholarships per school would be \$2,500 to one male student and \$2,500 to one female student. Goggles will be purchased for South Point High School as an instructional tool regarding drunk driving. The ABC Board's audit was received last Tuesday and the Town will receive a quarterly payment soon. Commissioner Koutsoupas thanked Commissioner Carpenter for the information that was included with Ms. Carolyn Helms' committee application. Commissioner Carpenter stated the store is replacing the flooring with carpet. Commissioner Ware commended the ABC Store and the ABC Board for their excellent work.

Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen stated that a citizen from the Lakewood neighborhood spoke to him about the confusion of the double turn lanes at Wilkinson Boulevard and Lakewood Road. The Town Manager stated he has discussed this with NCDOT.

Commissioner Koutsoupas had nothing to report.

Commissioner Ware stated parking is still an issue.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Wilkinson Boulevard Corridor Study: Information to be provided later in the meeting by the Planning Director.

Duke Energy Transmission Infrastructure: No updated information at this time.

Grand Marshal: The Town Manager stated the Board needs to choose a grand marshal for the upcoming Christmas parade. He stated this discussion could be held in a closed session.

Proposed Purchase of Fire Apparatus: Information will be presented at the next meeting. Options include requests for bids, co-op purchase, or piggyback the purchase with another municipality. The piggyback opportunity exists with the City of Charlotte and the Town of Huntersville. Financing opportunities will be discussed at a later time. The budget from last year contained a ledger entry for proposed fire apparatus of \$250,000. Chief Foulk will present information at an upcoming meeting.

Filing of Application to Norfolk Southern: Application has been filed for the use of property at Main Street.

Miscellaneous: A meeting was held with the City of Belmont regarding golf cart usage and information will be provided to their public safety committee.

Internship: An intern will begin in January 2015.

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

Update from Two Rivers: Mr. Mike Bynum stated Two Rivers Utilities completed 24 weekly checks for lift stations, responded to 12 water meter related calls, and repaired three water leaks. TRU completed a video inspection of two sewer line segments, responded to three sewer related calls, repaired one fire hydrant, and completed one utility locate. The chlorine basin at Eagle Road Wastewater Treatment Plant was cleaned this week. TRU investigated an overgrown utility easement complaint in and entered a survey request to have the limits of the easement staked. NCDOT has completed the sidewalk repair at Lake Drive.

Town Attorney: Nothing to report.

Police Department: Chief Ratchford stated the annual On the Run 5K will be held on Saturday, October 4th, which will involve the closing down of several streets starting at 5:30 a.m. and ending at 11:00 a.m. A letter will be given to all businesses and a Blackboard Connect CTY message will be issued regarding this event. Chief Ratchford stated a separate bicycling event is also planned for that day.

A meeting was held with the Town Administrator for the Town of McAdenville to discuss the renewal of the interlocal police department contract. Attorney Brown assisted with an amendment to the original contract. The Town Administrator stated she would present this information to the Town of McAdenville's council at their next meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen commented on the five year contract with the set price for three years of the five year contract. He asked about possible increases due to fuel costs and/or other major costs. Chief Ratchford stated if there were significant major costs such as fuel or health costs they could be implemented any time during the five year contract.

Fire Department: Chief Foulk was absent.

Town Clerk: Re-application packets have been mailed to all upcoming committee members. Nine residents have signed up for the Municipal Citizens Academy.

Planning Director: Mr. Krouse stated the Build A Better Boulevard Study should be completed by the end of this calendar year. A meeting will be held sometime in November. He commented that nine permits have been issued for rehabs and this is a healthy sign where the mill homes are being renovated.

Finance Director: The Finance Director stated collection of revenue has gone well regarding the first quarter. Expenditures for each department have remained within the expected 25% range. Cash balance remains strong. Fuel costs have been down. Mr. Lineberger stated he recently attended a School of Government class on investment of public funds. He stated Mr. Rob Collis with Collis and Associates should be in attendance at the October 23rd Board meeting for presentation of the audit in draft form. The final audit has been to be submitted to the Local Government Commission for their approval.

The Town Manager stated Lee Construction had notified him regarding possible soil removal at the C.C. Dawson Bridge regarding meeting hydraulic requirements as part of the FERC process which may require ingress and egress permission by Norfolk Southern. They have been instructed to contact Norfolk Southern. Discussion has been held regarding the affect this work would have on the vehicular traffic crossing the bridge.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Commissioner Ware to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen and approved by all.

Mayor Ronald E. Worley

ATTEST:

Wilene Cunningham, Town Clerk