

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

September 1, 2015

The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Cramerton met in regular session on Tuesday, September 1, 2015 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 Demetrios Koutsoupas; Tammy Lawrence; and Sandra R. Ware. Commissioner Sam Carpenter was absent.

Staff present: David Pugh, Town Manager; Bill Brown, Town Attorney; Chief Greg Ratchford; Joel Lineberger, Finance Director; and Wilene Cunningham, Town Clerk.

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

Invocation: The invocation was given by Attorney Brown.

Pledge of Allegiance: Given by all.

Adoption of Agenda for this Meeting: Commissioner Ware made a motion to adopt the proposed agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawrence and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Public Comment: No one signed up to speak.

Mayor Worley asked Chad Shumate with Mayworth's Public House if he would like to offer an update regarding the Cramerton Merchants Association. Mr. Shumate stated four meetings have been held and they have been well attended. He stated the members continued to discuss having a concert on Friday, October 16th, on Center Street for the Centennial. Mayworth's Public House along with a beer vendor are going to be responsible for the costs that will be associated with the band and staging. Eight vendor booths are being offered and they will be on first come first serve basis. Mr. Shumate said a data base is being created for an updated contact for the businesses and they hope to have the bylaws prepared by the next meeting. A calendar of events is being prepared and should be available in February. The next Cramerton Merchants Association meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15th, at 8:00 a.m. at Town Hall. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen said volunteers are assisting with preparing the data base list. Cam Carpenter with Parks and Recreation stated staging for the Friday night concert has been confirmed and will be placed in front of the BB&T Bank. Chief Ratchford advised Mr. Shumate that additional permitting is still needed by the police department.

Recognition of new office technician, Robin Padgett: The Town Manager introduced Ms. Padgett to the Mayor and Board. Ms. Padgett stated she started work last Monday and this is her first full week here. She stated she worked for the Town of Stanley for a couple of years and has approximately twenty years in the healthcare field. She and her husband live in Mount Holly along with her daughter who is a senior at Stuart W. Cramer High School.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING:

Discussion and Possible Action regarding an Ordinance revising Title VII, Chapter 76: Parking Schedules that will create no parking zones on certain areas of streets surrounding Central Park area (High Street and Eleventh Street):

Open the Public Hearing: A motion was made by Commissioner Ware to open the public hearing regarding an ordinance revising Title VII, Chapter 76: Parking Schedules that will create no parking zones on certain areas of streets surrounding Central Park streets. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen and approved by all.

Staff comments/Board of Commissioners Questions and Answers: Chief Ratchford stated there had been no changes from the last meeting. He distributed the memo that was provided to the residents in the Central Park area regarding motorist and resident complaints. Town staff has been monitoring

parking and traffic conditions on Eleventh Street and High Street over the past two months and have found several issues that negatively impact public safety in that area of Town. The Town has enacted several temporary ordinances in order to determine if they will have a positive impact on parking and traffic issues. The temporary ordinances will be in effect from Monday, September 7th through Thursday November 19th. A determination will be made at the Board of Commissioners meeting on November 19th. The public hearing will remain open through November 19th in order to give residents an opportunity to voice any concerns about the proposed ordinances. The notice of hearing will be republished before the September 17th meeting to see if there are public comments then.

Commissioner Koutsoupas asked about temporary signage and marking of streets. Chief Ratchford stated Rodney Baker has ordered signs and his staff will mark the streets. Letters from the police department will be delivered to residents of these streets informing them of the temporary ordinance.

Public Comments: No one signed up to speak.

Consider approval to keep the public hearing opening during the “trial period” pursuant to the new parking ordinance of Central Park streets: A motion was made by Commissioner Ware to keep the public hearing open during the “trial period” of the new parking ordinance for the Central Park area streets. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Koutsoupas and approved by all.

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

Discussion and Possible Action to approve the proposed August 4, 2015 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mayor Pro tem Cauthen to approve the proposed August 4, 2015 meeting minutes as proposed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ware and approved by all.

Review, Discussion, and Possible approval of Arnett Muldrow & Associates Branding and Marketing process for Cramerton. The Town Manager stated a brief memo from Arnett Muldrow & Associates was included in the agenda packet providing information regarding their scope of services. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen stated he was impressed with their depth of process and deliverables. Board consensus was to accept the process. Mr. Pugh stated a steering committee had been recommended and Arnett Muldrow & Associates will be asking for input regarding who should be placed on the committee. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen recommended no more than ten people should be on the steering committee and he asked that he be part of the process.

Update on Hamrick Road: The Planning Director stated there was no update at this time regarding Hamrick Road.

Update on Goat Island Park Irrigation: Cam Carpenter stated the exhibits and letter are being prepared by McGill Associates to be mailed next week to the thirteen agencies involved. Mayor Worley stated he wanted to thank Cam Carpenter and Rodney Baker for the signage and parking spaces marked at the lifesaving crew station. Mr. Carpenter stated three parking spaces have been designated for the Carolina Thread Trail.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT:

Political Booths: A memo was prepared by legal counsel addressing political booths being set up at the upcoming Centennial Celebration and Attorney Brown referenced North Carolina statute on political activity (G.S. 160A-169). Attorney Brown stated any candidate can attend the event and distribute political material. The Board asked about signage. Chief Ratchford stated signage on private property is allowed. Signage placed on right of ways is allowed for thirty days and must be removed within ten days following the election. Attorney Brown stated there may be some upcoming changes regarding signage based on the decision of the Supreme Court in reference to regulating speech. He stated this decision should not affect this year’s election. The Town Manager stated an overview of municipal government will be offered to the candidates and will be held the last week of September. Donald Rice asked about the candidate’s forum. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen stated that is a different event and Jeff Ramsey would be contacting the candidates. Mr. Pugh stated the Montcross Chamber of Commerce is hosting a meet and greet for the candidates on September 24th.

Centennial Celebration: The Town received a check for \$7,500.00 from the ABC Board.

STAFF REPORTS:

Two Rivers Utilities: Mike Bynum with Two Rivers Utilities stated TRU responded to thirty water meter related requests, two sewer calls, and repaired six water leaks. Fourteen lift station inspections were completed. Eagle Road wastewater treatment plan is operating well. Work continues on the digester cleanout and land application of bio-solids at the Eagle Road wastewater treatment plan. An increased number of trucks will continue to travel in and out of the plant.

Town Attorney: Nothing to report.

Town Clerk: Nothing to report.

Police Chief: Chief Ratchford stated he would be presenting information on September 15th at the Regional Chief's Meeting regarding opioid deaths and to encourage more agencies to sign on for this program. Commissioner Ware asked if someone is opioid dependent are they able to turn themselves in without being charged. Chief Ratchford said the new law allows them to ask for help and physicians are giving them Naloxone.

Planning Director: Mr. Krouse stated an encroachment agreement is being prepared with Colonial Pipeline regarding the Lakewood Greenway with a contractor being chosen later this year.

Mayor Worley stated he attended the MPO meeting and several projects have been forwarded to Raleigh. Mr. Krouse stated there were about fourteen projects submitted and the Build A Better Boulevard rated well. Commissioner Ware stated the project list was in today's newspaper. Mr. Krouse stated the Garden Parkway project has now been broken into smaller projects which will assist in promoting progress.

Finance Director: The Town has received \$7,500.00 from the ABC Board for the Centennial Celebration and \$8,600.00 grant monies from the U.S. Forestry Service.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Centennial Committee: Cam Carpenter stated the Centennial Committee met on Saturday. Staging set ups and entertainment have been arranged. The pictures for the archival timeline will be moved to the gym for two days from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Mr. Carpenter stated a proof needs to be given to the Gazette for the front cover of the publication that is being prepared for the Centennial. Pictures and art work will need to be given to the Gazette by September 16th. Nine sponsorship banners are available for sale. Monies have been received for eleven golf tournament teams. The Belmont Banner and Gaston Gazette are preparing articles regarding this event. The next meeting will be held on September 9th at 5:30 p.m. The agenda for the ceremony will be set at that meeting.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Cam Carpenter stated the next meeting will be held on September 14th. Windows will be replaced in the Community Center next Wednesday.

Mayor Worley stated the mural on the BB&T structure may not be complete at the time of the Centennial celebration. The entrance sign for the Town has been refurbished at Market Street behind the Kingsway Store. Commissioner Lawrence stated some landscaping needs to be completed around the signs. Mr. Carpenter stated he would follow up with landscaping.

Mayor Worley stated Governor McCrory has been invited as the keynote speaker.

Commissioner Koutsoupias stated the fence has been taken down at Central Park. Mr. Carpenter stated he and his staff are working in that area when they have time. Mayor Worley asked if an order of 100 commemorative coins is sufficient. Mr. Carpenter stated the coins would be offered for purchase at \$10.00 each. Commissioner Koutsoupias asked if the coins could be ordered with a rigid plastic case. Mr. Carpenter was asked to find out the price for ordering 250 coins with the plastic case.

BUSINESS ITEMS/TOPICS OF DISCUSSION FOR EACH COMMISSIONER:

Commissioner Lawrence addressed the planter that is downtown across from the deli and what can be done as it continues to be damaged repeatedly. Commissioner Lawrence stated it is time consuming to empty planters and replant each time repairs are made. The planter is hit by traffic such as delivery

trucks when they turn at that corner. Chief Ratchford stated the parking space on Ninth Street could be marked for golf cart parking only to allow a larger turning radius at that intersection.

Commissioner Lawrence stated there is an uneven space in the sidewalk in the downtown area. Mr. Carpenter stated he and Rodney Baker have discussed repairs.

Commissioner Lawrence asked about the possibility of tearing down the building and removing cinder blocks along the railroad. Cam Carpenter stated the building belonged to Godley and Associates and the cinder blocks are in the railroad's right of way. The Planning Director stated a contract would be required for demolition. Attorney Brown stated Mr. Godley has a 99 year lease and his permission would be needed. The Town Manager stated he would follow up on this item for Commissioner Lawrence.

Commissioner Lawrence asked about the status regarding painting of the underpass. Discussion was held by the Board regarding painting the underpass. Attorney Brown stated consideration would be required regarding reflective elements in reference to traffic at night. The Board discussed having the underpass pressure washed and then discuss possible paint colors.

Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen asked about the date for delivery of the new fire apparatus. The Town Manager stated October 1st.

Commissioner Koutsoupias asked about the status of the Tiger Grant. The Planning Director stated he would follow up on this item.

Commissioner Ware asked about the status of painting a line on North Main Street to assist with parking. The Planning Director stated a fog line could be painted and NCDOT would need to be notified. Chief Ratchford stated the painting of a fog line would act as a visual barrier for drivers. Commissioner Koutsoupias asked about parked cars all facing the same direction. Chief Ratchford stated no enforcement is in place as a convenience to the current residents. Commissioner Koutsoupias asked if there would be enforcement once the fog line is in place. Chief Ratchford stated yes. The Board agreed and recommended the fog line be put into place.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lawrence to enter into closed session to discuss a personnel matter. Commissioner Ware seconded the motion and it was approved by all. A five minute recess was given.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Ware to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen and approved by all.

Mayor Ronnie Worley

ATTEST:

Wilene Cunningham, Town Clerk