

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

October 4, 2016

The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Cramerton met in regular session on Tuesday, October 4, 2016 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, Donald Rice, and Susan Neeley. Commissioner Houston Helms arrived later at 7:23 p.m.

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

Call to Order and Determination of Quorum: Mayor Ronnie Worley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and determined a quorum was present.

Invocation: Given by Attorney Brown.

Pledge of Allegiance: Given by all.

Adoption of Agenda for this meeting: A motion was made by Commissioner Neeley to adopt the proposed agenda. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Public Comment: No one signed up to speak.

Proclamation Recognizing October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the Town of Cramerton: Mayor Worley read the proclamation recognizing October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Agenda Items Not Requiring a Public Hearing:

- **Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes: Consider Approval of the August 18, 2016 meeting minutes.** A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen to approve the proposed August 18, 2016 meeting minutes. Commissioner Neeley stated the August 18th meeting minutes indicated the Art of Sip and Savor Event would be held on August 7th and 8th and it is going to be a one day event to be held on August 8th. The Town Manager stated the original planning of the event did cover the 7th and 8th. Commissioner Neeley asked that the minutes be amended to state that the Art of Sip and Savor event will be held on Saturday, October 8th. The motion to approve the amended August 18, 2016 meeting minutes was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen and seconded by Commissioner Neeley. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Planning: Neighborhood Traffic Calming Requests. Staff report update from CPD on traffic study in Timberlake neighborhood relation to request for traffic calming devices.** A speed study was conducted on Timberlake Drive on September 21, 2016 from 6:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on September 24, 2016. The posted speed limit on this road is 20 miles per hour. During the study 854 vehicles were evaluated traveling both directions. The average speed of the vehicles was 28 miles per hour. Six hundred twenty-one vehicles were traveling above the posted speed limit with eighty percent of those vehicles traveling between 26 and 30 miles per hour and during the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Mr. Pettine stated he would discuss possible options with this group. Mayor Worley stated he thought they would opt for speed bumps. Commissioner Koutsoupas asked for an update

on the traffic calming devices for Newport Landing Way. Mr. Pettine stated he will follow up with the police department regarding proposed installation locations. Rodney Baker with the Public Works Department is aware of this installation.

- **ABC Board: Update on the new ABC Store on New Hope Road.** Sam Carpenter, general manager, stated the cash registers were installed today along with the security system. All permitting is in place for cabling. A soft opening is being tentatively planned for October 28th. Approximately ninety percent of inventory has been completed. Final inspections for the building are scheduled for this upcoming Thursday. There was some erosion from last week's rain and additional material had to be brought in. The rear section of the building may need some additional sloping and materials. One side of the building has had shrubbery planted and additional plantings have been requested. The catch basin at the rear of the building will need to dry out before it can be completed. Hiring of staff is difficult due to the uncertainty of the exact date the store will be officially opened. Mr. Carpenter stated he is impressed with the computer software as it will be able to track the number of cases and then prepare the monthly order based on this information.

Mayor Worley asked about the construction budget for the store. Mr. Carpenter stated the land cost \$150,000.00 and the building construction was \$855,000.00. The cash registers and software was \$23,000.00 and alarm with camera monitoring system was \$15,000.00. Interior shelving is about 95 percent complete and no off site storage will be needed for this store. The store has been wired for a generator which will be purchased at a later date. The wiring cost for the generator was about \$15,000.00 to \$16,000.00 and the generator will cost around \$50,000.00. Invitations for the store opening will be sent out when a date has been confirmed.

- **Board of Commissioners: Veterans Memorial. Update of further specifics on possible Veterans Memorial Locations.** The Town Manager presented several documents regarding three proposed locations for placement of the veterans' memorial. Mayor Worley stated that the Town also owned the property on the other side of the railroad track off of Eighth Avenue that could be considered. The Town Manager stated that he and Richard Atkinson had visited Riverside Park, Goat Island Lakewood parking lot, and the area below Town Hall. Each of these sites were reviewed for access, utilities, handicap accessibility, degrees of peace and tranquility, competition with other attractions, natural beauty, and natural security. The Board discussed each of the sites. Riverside Park has natural beauty but is prone to flooding. Goat Island has a flat area at the Lakewood parking lot and the area could be cleared to provide a view of the river. Bathrooms are not in the immediate vicinity. The area below Town Hall has parking available and bathrooms are located at Town Hall. The area is monitored with security cameras. The property is owned by the Methodist Church.

Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen thanked the Town Manager for the detailed information regarding the proposed sites. He stated he liked the Goat Island site as it offers the least restrictions and costs as parking along with infrastructure is already in place. Chief Ratchford stated this area is patrolled frequently. The only patrol issue has been four wheelers in this area.

Commissioner Helms stated he likes the Riverside Park site as the bend in the river is beautiful and the area is tranquil. Infrastructure is in place and there is room for creativity. He said his second choice would be the Goat Island Lakewood parking lot area. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen stated he also liked the area below Town Hall but he likes the idea that the Goat Island Park area already has infrastructure in place and the architect stated this area has the most room for creativity with a minimal chance of flooding.

Commissioner Koutsoupas stated he likes the Goat Island Lakewood parking lot area, then the Riverside Park area. Commissioner Rice liked Goat Island and then Riverside Park. Commissioner Neeley stated she liked the handicap accessibility and infrastructure that is already in place at Goat Island. The consensus of the Board was Goat Island Lakewood

parking lot as the proposed site of the veteran's memorial. Mayor Worley suggested placement of a banner or some form of signage stating this would be the potential veteran's memorial location. The Board discussed placement of a sign or banner to allow citizens to give feedback.

Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen asked about Mr. Atkinson's continued role in this project. The Town Manager stated Mr. Atkinson encouraged the idea of using students reviewing the site as they will use these evaluations for their senior year theses. A budgeted amount will be specified. Mr. Atkinson informed the Town Manager he would be willing to continue to serve as the liaison for this project.

Manager's Report:

The Art of Sip and Savor Event: This event was advertised to occur rain or shine. The Gaston Gazette has rented a 20'x30' tent. Local vendors and distributors have been lined up. A Connect CTY message will be issued later this week. Letters have been delivered to the down town businesses regarding street closures. Due to the unpredictability of Hurricane Matthew this event may have to be postponed. The Town Manager stated even if the event has to be cancelled the process of beginning a relationship has been created for this event.

Two Rivers Utilities: Mike Bynum stated TRU responded to fourteen water meter related service requests, repaired three water leaks, and responded to two sewer related calls. Sixteen preventive maintenance service requests at the pump stations, sampled three water sample and flushed and sampled three fire hydrants to maintain water quality. All samples were in compliance with state drinking water quality standards. Mr. Bynum stated storm updates will be issued regarding preparations for Hurricane Matthew.

Town Attorney: Nothing to report.

Town Clerk: The Town Clerk stated she is receiving positive feedback from the businesses that are being highlighted in the Town's newsletter. She stated Alex Price with Edward Jones contacted Town Hall asking about joining the Cramerton Merchant's Association and plans to attend the upcoming meeting. Rachel Andrea has submitted her application for the Community Committee. Three members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board have been mailed a packet and asked to submit it back to Town Hall if they would like to be considered for reappointment. Their terms end December 31, 2016.

Police Department: Chief Ratchford stated road closures will be from 7:00 a.m. on Saturday morning until 5:00 p.m. for the Sip and Savor event. A Connect CTY message will be sent out informing the citizens on this event and road closures. Information was provided to the Board regarding the 2017 Citizens Academy. Commissioner Helms asked about the traffic vehicle counters that have been placed in the last few days around Town. The Town Manager stated NCDOT is taking traffic counts which is completed every two years.

Fire Department: Chief Foulk was absent.

Planning: Mr. Pettine stated he will be visiting the new ABC store location to complete the inspection needed for their certificate of occupancy. Mayor Worley asked if Jim Bailey had been in contact with him. Mr. Pettine stated no.

Finance Director: The permits and encroachment agreements for the Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant Phase II been completed per Eric Howard with TRU. Waynco Roofing will be making roof repairs to Town Hall the week of October 17th and this should take about two weeks. Some tiles will need to removed and stored during the process.

Parks and Recreation: The Town Manager stated Mr. Smallwood is out of the office for a few days. The Centennial dedication plaque has been ordered. The garden bench that belonged to Elizabeth Cramer is being restored and should be ready for pick up by next week. The Goat in the Boat fall merchandise has been ordered and should be available for sale at the fall carnival.

Committee Reports:

- **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:** Commissioner Koutsoupas stated the advisory board committee met last night. The fishing tournament had fourteen participants and there were several sponsors which provided the giveaways. The Fall Carnival is scheduled for Saturday, October 15th, and cakes and cookies are needed for the cakewalk. A “trick or treat” event is being hosted by the Cramerton Merchants Association. A dedication ceremony for the Centennial plaque will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 15th, at the Centennial Center. Discussion was held regarding using goats to assist in the cleanup of kudzu and unwanted growth at Central Park. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 7th, at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.
- **Cramerton Historical Society:** Commissioner Koutsoupas stated the historical society will meet on Thursday, October 13th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church. Memberships are still being accepted and a booth will be set up at the fall carnival.
- **Community Committee:** Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen said this committee has four applicants at this time and five is needed for a quorum. He asked to please let him know of anyone that might be interested in serving on this committee.
- **Cramerton Merchants Association:** Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen stated the “trick or treat” event at the fall carnival is being hosted by the local CMA businesses.

Topics of Discussion for Each Commissioner:

Commissioner Helms asked about the status regarding traffic calming devices for the Newport Landing neighborhood. The Planning Director stated he will be contacting that group tomorrow to discuss installation and whether they have purchased the devices. Rodney Baker with Public Works will assist in determining where the devices will be installed.

Commissioner Koutsoupas thanked the Public Works staff for the painting of the stop bars at the stop sign intersections throughout the Town. He asked about the status regarding the Eighth Avenue railroad underpass regarding possible installation of a mirror or some other type of device. Commissioner Koutsoupas asked about the Fit 2009 signs and is the Town still participating in this program. The Town Manager stated he would speak to the Parks and Recreation Director regarding this program. Commissioner Koutsoupas reminded everyone that October is GO month and local businesses are participating in this program and are offering discounts. He encouraged everyone to visit the local businesses and restaurants.

Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen requested an update regarding the placement of the permanent bathroom facilities for Goat Island Park. The Town Manager stated permits are being reviewed by McGill Associates. An update will be given at the next Board meeting.

Commissioner Rice had nothing to report.

Commissioner Neeley stated she is working at Carillon Assisting Living and they want to join the Cramerton Merchant’s Association and are interested in purchasing Goat in the Boat merchandise.

Mayor Worley had nothing to report.

Closed Session: N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) Consult with the attorney to protect the attorney-client privilege; N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) Consult with the attorney to protect the attorney-client privilege. Canipe v. Gaston County Board of Education et.al.; N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of business in the area served by this body; and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, condition of appointment of a public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee. A motion was made by Commissioner Helms to enter into closed session. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen and approved by all.

Adjournment: Upon return to open session with no action being taken and no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by Commissioner Helms to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen and passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Ronnie Worley

ATTEST:

Wilene Cunningham, Town Clerk