

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

**February 2, 2016**

The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Cramerton met in regular session on Tuesday, February 2, 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 Donald Rice and Houston Helms. Commissioners Demetrios Koutsoupas and Susan Neeley were absent.

**Staff present:** David Pugh, Town Manager; Bill Brown, Town Attorney; Chief Greg Ratchford; 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 a quorum was present.

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

**Invocation:** Given by Attorney Brown.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Given by all.

**Public Comment:** Donnie Loftis, 1849 Gaston Day School Road, Gastonia, stated the township grant that was awarded by the county last week should assist in improvement of the walkability of Cramerton with the completion of the Cramer Mountain sidewalk. He thanked the Board for their interest in developing a Veterans Memorial as he had a thirty year career in the military. Mr. Loftis thanked the Mayor for speaking at the recent legislative breakfast.

**Proclamation Recognizing February as Black History Month:** Mayor Worley read the proclamation recognizing February as Black History Month in the Town of Cramerton.

**Agenda Items Requiring a Public Hearing:** None.

**Agenda Items Not Requiring a Public Hearing:**

- **Consider and approve January 5, 2016 meeting minutes:** A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen to approve the January 5, 2016 meeting minutes as proposed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rice and approved by all.

**Finance:**

- **Consider setting a date for Board of Commissioners and Department Head work sessions for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget:** The Board discussed either meeting with department heads on March 21<sup>st</sup> or March 28<sup>th</sup>. The Board agreed to meet on Tuesday March 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 8:30 a.m. for a full day session.
- **Budget Amendments:** The Finance Director stated there had been a rebate received from Smeal Fire Apparatus and funding would be provided for a skid unit to be installed on the new Ford brush truck. Commissioner Rice asked about the operational level of the UTV and basket installation. Mr. Lineberger stated Chief Foulk would address this later in the meeting. Commissioner Rice commented that the fire department was doing some in house door modifications at the fire station. A motion was made by Commissioner Rice to approve the budget amendments for \$8,800.00 to provide funds for a skid unit to be installed on the new Ford brush truck from Smeal rebate funds received on new fire truck and department operating funds; \$7,500.00 to redistribute budgeted funds between capital outlay line items; \$3,750.00 to increase grant revenues for additional grant amount to be received in excess of original budget and to provide additional funds for UTV and accessories installed; \$1,007.00 to provide funding for mobile water tank/pump/hose and other equipment to be used with UTV from hot chocolate and other donations to the fire

department; \$1,750.00 to recognize Department of Justice funds received for protective vest purchases; and \$850.00 to provide funds for vehicle repairs from EMC Insurance proceeds received on 12/7/15 for actual cost in excess of initial estimate paid. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen and approved by all.

### **Planning and Zoning:**

- **Consider the Approval of a Public Hearing at the February 18, 2016 Board of Commissioners Meeting on the proposed action as recommended by the Planning Board for Parcel ID #223684:** The Planning Director stated the Planning and Zoning Board voted four to one in favor of granting the rezoning request as proposed. A motion was made by Commissioner Helms to set the public hearing on February 18, 2016 for parcel ID #223684 for the rezoning request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rice and approved by all.

### **Marketing and Branding:**

- **Update from Steering Committee:** Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen stated the committee will meet again soon and he will update the Board at the first of next month.

### **Committee/Board Appointments:**

A motion was made by Mayor Tem Cauthen to appoint Beth Westmoreland to continue to serve on the Planning and Zoning Board for a term of three years with her term ending January 8, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helms and approved by all.

### **Manager's Report:**

. ***Veterans Memorial:*** Information was provided to the Board regarding three different memorials around the state. The memorial located in Broadway contained brickwork. Engraved bricks were sold as part of the fundraising. The Korean War veteran's memorial is located near Mint Hill and cost close to one million dollars. Benches and other larger items were purchased by corporate sponsors. The large pavers contain the names of businesses and private donors. The memorial located in Garner honors military veterans dating back to the Civil War. Their committee began with Board members and staff working with students to obtain designs. One of the professors at a local college recommended the project be set up as a non-profit. It was estimated that the cost for their proposed memorial would be \$500,000.00 with their population being 25,000 citizens. The fundraising consisted of selling engraved bricks and they had lost one of their local residents as a casualty due to the current conflict overseas.

Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen stated a professional needs to be involved that can assist with site selection, initial concept, and budget before this project is given to one of the town's committees. The Board asked the Town Manager to gather information regarding any local or state non-profit organizations that could assist with this process. The Town Manager stated he would follow up on this. Commissioner Helms stated the veteran's memorial is important and he wants one of the commissioners to be part of the process. Donations made to the non-profit organization could be tax deductible. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen stated Lexington, South Carolina donated the land for their memorial and maintained it until all parameters were met. Once the parameters were met the land was then maintained by the non-profit organization. Attorney Brown stated Cornelius sold off naming rights for their memorial. The Board recommended that the local American Legion Post be contacted for a possible partnership. County Commissioner Loftis stated he serves on the Caromont veteran's committee and will forward information to the Town Manager.

***iPads for Council Members:*** Information was received from Pharr Technologies for the cost of seven iPads including setup. The cost was \$5,874.20. Commissioner Rice stated he would like to see a comparison of cost using paper vs. paperless. Attorney Brown stated the pads would need to be used solely for town business. Commissioner Koutsoupas stated he wants to continue receiving his information in a paper format. The Board agreed to discuss this at a future meeting.

***Central Park Tennis Courts:*** The cost for demolition of the asphalt tennis courts and to reseed the area would cost about \$3,000.00. Mason Brothers provided the lowest bid for this service. Some work could be completed by town staff and would include rental of equipment and the cost of disposal of materials. Mayor Worley commented on possible safety issues. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen made a motion to empower the Town Manager along with the Parks and Recreation Director to work with the lowest bidder and not exceed \$4,000.00. Commissioner Rice stated the rusted fence needs to be removed. Mayor Worley stated this project will allow the residents to see

that this is not a forgotten area. Commissioner Rice seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

## **STAFF REPORTS:**

**Two Rivers Utilities:** Mike Bynum stated TRU responded to twenty-one water meter related service requests, three sewer related calls, repaired four water leaks, and completed fifteen lift station inspections, and completed two concrete patch repairs. Water quality samples were taken at three locations and all samples were in compliance with state drinking water quality standards. Operations are normal at the Eagle Road Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**Town Attorney:** Attorney Brown had nothing to report.

**Town Clerk:** The Town Clerk stated she would be absent at the next Board meeting as she will be attending the IIMC Region III Annual Conference and Business Meeting.

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

**Fire Chief:** Absent.

**Planning Director:** The plat that was recorded earlier for the Villages at Cramerton Mills was incorrect and corrections are being made. Mr. Krouse stated he would update the Board at the next meeting regarding this project. An update regarding the Lakewood Road pedestrian crossing will also be given at the next Board meeting.

The MPO will be holding a public meeting at the Gastonia Police Department tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m.

A site plan and proposed elevations of the ABC Store on South New Hope Road was presented to the Board.

Commissioner Helms asked about the status of the traffic calming devices in the Lakewood neighborhood. Mr. Krouse stated the order for the devices has been placed and the Public Works crew will install them.

Mayor Worley asked when the groundbreaking would occur for the new ABC Store. Mr. Krouse stated the information is being processed through the county. The Board asked that Sam Carpenter, general manager, be asked to attend the next Board meeting. The Town Manager stated he would contact Mr. Carpenter.

**Finance Director:** The Board was provided a cash report for review.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:** Commissioner Koutsoupias stated there was nothing new to report.
- **Community Committee:** Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen stated that the beautification committee remains on hiatus and the Board needs to move forward and accept applications and begin appointments. Commissioner Rice asked if this would be a reforming of the beautification committee and would the current members need to reapply. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen stated the community committee needs to have a fresh start and be a separate entity. He stated there would be overlapping of services that the beautification committee provided. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen recommended the suspended members be contacted to see if they would like to continue to serve. Commissioner Rice agreed with this suggestion. The Board discussed dissolving the beautification committee. The Town Manager asked how this would affect the codification process. Attorney Brown stated to dissolve the beautification committee will require an amendment to the code of ordinances and development of bylaws. The Planning Director stated amendments to the ordinance would be sent to American Legal. Mr. Krouse commented that there may be general statutes that apply to the beautification committee. Commissioner Helms stated he wanted to frame up what this committee would be providing as this is part of the Board's goals and objectives regarding community outreach. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen stated he would share with Commissioner Helms the prior document outlining a proposed action for community outreach that had been created listing possible projects. Commissioner Helms stated that

the beautification committee might be considered as a subcommittee. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen made a motion to dissolve the beautification committee and to begin formation of the community committee with bylaws. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helms and approved by all. Commissioner Rice recommended the goals and objectives of the community committee be put in writing and be given to the prior beautification committee members for review to see if they would like to continue to volunteer.

The Town Manager stated Jeff Ramsey had inquired about the status of the mural to be placed on the BB&T wall. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen stated he would like to see this project move forward as it was part of the Centennial celebration. Commissioner Rice stated that the mural could be updated with information from the marketing and branding process. Mayor Worley stated the artist who provided the artwork may not want to provide another revision. The Town Manager stated the Board may want to consider a possible adhesive style mural. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen stated this involves digital printing on thin vinyl and then adhering to the wall. Mayor Worley asked about possible monies from any profit from the Centennial being given to the ministerial association. The Finance Director stated there was no funding available from the Centennial event. The Town Manager stated he will update the Board regarding pricing for a vinyl mural and installation.

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

Commissioner Rice stated he was excited about movement on the Community Committee and getting the veterans memorial committee started again. He stated he would like to be appointed as the Board liaison for this committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen had nothing to report.

Commissioner Helms stated a lot of good discussion was held on Saturday at the goals and objectives meeting. He stated a visit was made to Central Park after the meeting and there is quite a bit of debris and growth in the drainage areas. He said he would like to have the board members assigned to different boroughs and address this at the next Board meeting. Commissioner Helms stated Patterson Street needs to be cleaned up as there is a lot of trash and debris near the pump station. Mr. Bynum stated Two Rivers Utilities does not own that easement so this area cannot be gated. The Planning Director stated that piece of property is owned by Nick Parker.

Mayor Worley stated he noted there is a piece of an automobile off the side of Lakewood Road and Eagle Road. He said it was between the recycling center and Eastwood on the Pinebrook swimming pool side.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen to enter into closed session after a five minute recess to plan, conduct, or hear reports concerning investigations of alleged criminal misconduct. Commissioner Rice asked to be recused due to the nature of the discussion. This was added to the motion. The Town Manager stated that he, Attorney Brown, Chief Ratchford, and the Town Clerk would be in attendance. Commissioner Helms seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On return to open session, there being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Helms to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen and approved by all.

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Mayor Ronnie Worley

**ATTEST:**

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Wilene Cunningham, Town Clerk