

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

September 22, 2016

The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Cramerton met in workshop session on Thursday, September 22, 2016 at 6:00 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 Koutsoupias, Houston Helms, and Susan Neeley. Commissioner Donald Rice was absent.

Staff Present: David Pugh, Town Manager; Bill Brown, Town Attorney; Chief Greg Ratchford; and Wilene Cunningham, Town Clerk.

Call to Order and Determination of Quorum: Mayor Ronnie Worley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and determined a quorum was present.

Veterans Memorial: Information was presented to the Board regarding other possible locations for placement of the Veterans Memorial. The Town Manager stated that he and Richard Atkinson had met earlier this week and visited several areas. An e-mail from Commissioner Rice was distributed to the Board with his comments regarding placement of the Veterans Memorial. Discussion was held regarding Central Park as an option. Central Park is a destination point and is walkable, but it is surrounded by private homes and other activities could be an issue regarding peace and serenity. Commissioner Neeley stated the memorial needed to be handicap accessible. The Woodlawn Avenue roundabout site was discussed. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen stated he likes the accessibility of this site but parking could be an issue. The Board discussed two sites located at the C.B. Huss Sports Complex. The first site considered is the area behind the recreation building and the other site was where the playground is now located. Discussion was held regarding noise in the summer months from the pool area. Possible relocation of the playground equipment was an option. Commissioner Koutsoupias stated he felt the C.B. Huss Sports complex area represents parks and recreation.

The Board discussed the Woodlawn Avenue roundabout. Parking could be an issue along with traffic noise. The area could be landscaped and additional on street parking could be implemented. Parking is currently allowed from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. and there are five parking spaces. The Riverside Park would have plenty of parking but there were concerns about flooding. Mayor Worley stated if the memorial is stone then it could be cleaned when needed. The Board discussed how beautiful and serene this area is with the river being close by. Mayor Worley stated this is a passive park. This area has ample parking, visibility, and is accessible. One additional site at Riverside is located at the park trail. This area is remote. The Board agreed this site would be not appropriate for the memorial.

The area at Goat Island Park's trailhead located near the parking lot was discussed. This site is located in a neighborhood but would not have as many private activities. Commissioner Helms asked who owned the property behind the trailhead area. Mayor Worley stated there was a sewer right of way. The property at Lakewood Road was discussed. This area was deeded to the Town from Gaston County.

Mayor Worley requested a fifteen minute recess.

7:00 Board of Commissioner's Meeting:

Board Members present: Mayor Ronnie Worley; Mayor Pro Tempore Will Cauthen; Commissioners Demetrios Koutsoupias, Houston Helms and Susan Neeley. Commissioner Donald Rice was absent.

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

Adoption of Agenda for this meeting: Mayor Worley asked that the pledge of allegiance and invocation be added due to local unrest in the Charlotte area. A motion was made by Commissioner Neeley to adopt the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Mayor Worley thanked the Board for adding these items.

A motion was made by Commissioner Koutsoupas to amend the agenda to continue discussion regarding the grand marshal. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen and approved by all.

Invocation: Given by Attorney Brown.

Pledge of Allegiance: Given by all.

Public Comment: No one signed up to speak.

Proclamation in Recognition of Remembrance Day, September 11th: Mayor Worley read the proclamation in recognition of Remembrance Day, September 11th.

Proclamation for October as Dyslexia Awareness in the Town of Cramerton: Mayor Worley read the proclamation recognizing October as Dyslexia Awareness month in the Town of Cramerton. Mayor Worley stated he remembered being in school with students that possibly were dyslexic and how much more is being done for students with learning disabilities. He said Governor Easley was dyslexic and became very successful.

Agenda Items Not Requiring a Public Hearing:

- **Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes: Consider approval of the September 6, 2016 meeting minutes.** Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen stated a correction needed to be made to the motion to approve the bid for the Town Hall and gymnasium roof adding would be contingent based on the follow up of references by the Town Manager and Finance Director. A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen to approve the proposed September 6, 2016 meeting minutes with the proposed correction. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helms and approved by all.
- **ABC Store Update:** Mr. Wilks stated construction is almost complete at the New Hope Road store. The store opening is tentatively scheduled for October 8th and a reception will be held at the end of October. A store manager has been hired and inventory has been ordered.
- **ABC Board Appointment: Consider Mark Wilks application for reappointment to the ABC Board.** Mr. Wilks stated he has been serving since 2007 on the ABC Board. Mayor Worley and the Board thanked him for his service on the ABC Board. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen asked about the impact of the new store and the discussion of another ABC store being built in Belmont. Mr. Wilks stated the construction of a Belmont store would affect the mixed beverage sales. He stated the new store is located in a well-traveled area and should be profitable. Commissioner Koutsoupas thanked the ABC Board for all they give back to the community. Commissioner Neeley thanked Mr. Wilks for the excellent job he has done while serving on the ABC Board. A motion was made by Commissioner Koutsoupas to reappoint Mark Wilks to the ABC Board for a three year term ending October 6, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Neeley and approved by all.

Cramerton Board of Commissioners:

- **Cramerton Centennial and Cramerton Historical Society: Review Memo and Requests/Recommendations from Cramerton Historical Society regarding Centennial Plaque:** Commissioner Koutsoupas stated a meeting was held this week with the Town Manager, Jeff Ramsey, Mayor Worley, Eric Smallwood, Stephen Craft, and Ted Reece. Discussion was held regarding placement of the centennial plaque on the existing stone wall located facing Eighth Avenue. The Town's seal and centennial logo would be placed on each side of the centennial plaque. A wrought iron type sign that can be seen from several directions is being proposed. There are several cement benches from the Cramer home that could be placed in this location. The original plaque commemorating Stuart W. Cramer was placed there in July 1989 by the 45 Forever group. Commissioner Koutsoupas stated Mr. Reece had explained to the group the meaning behind the plaque. Commissioner Koutsoupas asked the Board to consider possibly changing the name of the town green area to Centennial Square with possible signage made of wrought iron. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen suggested possibly calling the area Centennial Green or Centennial Center. A motion was made by Commissioner Helms to rename the Town Center area to Centennial Center and to approve placement of the centennial plaque. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Koutsoupas and approved by all. The Town Manager asked the Board to confirm what would you call the down town area. The Board said to continue to call it the town center. A dedication ceremony is scheduled to be held on Saturday, October 15th, at 1:00 p.m. Chief Ratchford asked for clarification regarding that this area will not be considered a park. Attorney Brown stated this area was changed in name only and is not a park. The Board thanked the historical society for all of their work.
- **Discussion regarding Grand Marshal:** A motion was made by Commissioner Helms that David Young be this year's Town grand marshal. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen. Commissioner Koutsoupas stated that Attorney Brown is retiring and suggested he also be considered. Attorney Brown appreciated the consideration but others in Town should be considered. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Mayor Worley stated he would contact David Young.

Manager's Report:

- **Traffic study for Timberlake Neighborhood:** An update will be given at the October 4th Board meeting.
- **Eagle Road Delineators:** The Public Works Department has installed delineators on Eagle Road using a different anchoring system.
- **Roof Repair:** Building references for the Town Hall and gymnasium roof repairs have been received and reviewed by the Finance Director.
- **Planning Director:** Dave Pettine has accepted the offer for the planning director position.
- **Parks and Recreation:** Eric Smallwood's wife gave birth to their baby today.

Two Rivers Utilities: Mike Bynum stated TRU responded to eleven water meter related service requests, repaired four water leaks, responded to two sewer related calls, and completed two asphalt repairs. Thirty-three preventive maintenance service requests at the pump stations, sampled five water samples, 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 an evaluation of the right of way on Hamrick Road is being completed and this project may have to be done by a contractor outside of TRU. Commissioner Koutsoupas asked about the plastic bottles that ask for a water sample. Mr. Bynum stated that is someone trying to sell water softener systems and is not part of Two Rivers Utilities.

Town Attorney: Nothing to report.

Town Clerk: The clerk asked if the door hangers asking citizens for their responses were ready as Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen asked that the same information be placed on the Town's website. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen stated they have been printed along with a response card that citizens can fill out at Town Hall.

Police Department: Chief Ratchford stated Officer Marlow has been rehired.

Fire Department: Chief Foulk was absent.

Planning: Trees are being removed on the parcel at the corner of Wilkinson Boulevard and Peach Orchard for the apartments and dirt should be moved soon increasing the amount of truck traffic. The Lakewood Greenway project is getting ready to go out to bid. Work continues with US Infrastructure regarding the Cramer Mountain sidewalk project. The executed agreements have been received for the bike-pedestrian grant award and a firm will need to be chosen to work with the Town. Mr. Pettine stated he was glad to be part of the Town's staff and looked forward to working with the Board.

Finance Director: Additional revenue will be received from a 3.5 percent increase for assessed utilities. A background check of the proposed contractor for the roof repairs indicated he was consistent with his pricing and performed timely work. Purchase orders were prepared this afternoon for this project. A schedule for this work should be received within a few days.

Committee Reports:

- **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:** Commissioner Koutsoupas stated the next meeting will be held on Monday, October 3rd. A fishing tournament is scheduled for Saturday, September 24th, at Goat Island Park. The centennial dedication for the plaque will be on Saturday, October 15th, at 1:00 p.m. at the Centennial Center. The Art of Sip and Savor event will be on Saturday, October 8th, and is a partnered with the Gaston Gazette. The cleanup of the kudzu at Central Park was discussed with a local forest ranger and he stated a controlled burn was not recommended. A discussion was held regarding using goats to clear the area as some of the local municipalities have had success with this. Commissioner Koutsoupas stated natural surface trails are being mapped out for Central Park. Commissioner Helms stated he is working with the Bank of America regarding a volunteer project in Central Park. Commissioner Koutsoupas stated the website has been updated regarding athletic registrations. The next meeting will be on Monday, October 3rd.
- **Cramerton Historical Society:** Commissioner Koutsoupas stated the historical society will meet on Thursday, October 13th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Street on Julian Street.
- **Community Committee:** Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen said this committee has four applicants at this time and one more member 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 additional memberships are being encouraged. The CMA is going to be involved with the fall carnival offering free treats.

Topics of Discussion for Each Commissioner:

Commissioner Helms had nothing to report.

Commissioner Koutsoupas had nothing to report.

Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen stated he noted that Andrew Lineberger had purchased one of the buildings on Market Street and was cleaning it out.

He presented an ornament using the Goat in the Boat logo. He stated an order would need to be placed for a minimum of a 100. Profit from the sale of the ornaments could be used for the veteran's memorial or community committee projects.

Commissioner Neeley thanked the police department for their recent quick response to Carillon Assisting Living.

Mayor Worley showed the Board the award the Town received from the Urban Forestry Council Tree City USA. He stated the award was received today and he accepted this award in memory of Cyrus Reece.

Closed Session: 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 office^{3r} or employee. A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen to enter into closed session to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Neeley and approved by all

Adjournment: On return to open session, and there being no further business, Commissioner Neeley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Cauthen seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Ronnie Worley

ATTEST:

Wilene Cunningham, Town Clerk