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Town of Lake Lure

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MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE LAKE LURE TOWN COUNCIL AND THE LAKE ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD MONDAY, MAY 3, 1999, 6:30 P.M. AT THE LAKE LURE MUNICIPAL CENTER

PRESENT: Mayor Jack Powell
Commissioner Carolyn Cobb
Commissioner Gene Sheffield
Commissioner Jack Stanier
Commissioner Rose

Town Manager H. M. Place, III

Lake Advisory Committee:

Bob Washburn, LAC Chairman
Richard P. Conrad, LAC member
David Morgan, LAC member
Robert Turner, LAC member
E. Charles Watkins, LAC member

ABSENT: Carey Appling, LAC member
Marcia Hardy, LAC member

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Powell called the joint meeting with the Lake Advisory Committee to order at 6:30 p.m. in order to discuss lake issues. LAC Chairman Washburn, also called the Lake Advisory Committee meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Cobb gave the invocation.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Powell announced that IIMC has designated May 2-8, 1999 as Municipal Clerks Week. The Mayor recognized/expressed appreciation on behalf of Town Council to Town Clerk Mary Flack and Deputy Town Clerk Anita Taylor.

DISCUSS LAKE ISSUES

Dredging Proposal:

Bob Washburn, LAC Chairman, said he had received a letter of April 29, 1999 from a Mr. James L. Deck, Deck Sand Co., Inc. about a proposal to operate his dredge equipment in the river for a sand operation. Mr. Washburn said that Mr. Deck's proposal would be discussed further during the Lake Advisory Committee meeting. He wanted Council members to be advised about this request. (Copy of letter attached). Mr. Washburn said that the Lake Advisory Committee would be happy to help pursue Mr. Deck's proposal. He stated that Mr. Deck does not want any monetary compensation from the Town.

Town Manager Place stated that he had been asked by Town Council at a previous Town Council Retreat meeting to contact other dredge operators about the possibility of hiring a dredge operator to do some dredging with Town equipment on a contract basis. Mr. Place also agreed that Mr. Deck's proposal should be considered.

Purpose of Joint Meeting:

Mayor Powell said one of the main reasons for holding this joint meeting with the Lake Advisory Committee was to discuss how to approach the Lake Use Study. The Mayor also listed other items for discussion which included: relationship between the Town Council and Lake Advisory Committee; whether to raise or lower the lake; and any other matters pertaining to lake issues.

Interaction Between Council and LAC:

The Mayor stated that he would like to see improvement in the relationship between Town Council and the Lake Advisory Committee. Mayor Powell said the function of the LAC liaison was defined in the 1992 resolution establishing the committee. He then asked Lake Advisory Committee members, if they felt it was beneficial to have a Council liaison?

Mr. Washburn, LAC Chairman, explained that for the past years, a Council liaison played an important role of informing the LAC regarding thoughts/issues which Town Council is concerned about. He said the LAC appreciates the guidance of the Council liaison and welcomes their input.

Town Council members and LAC members shared their input regarding procedures/protocol regarding correspondence, agendas, minutes, and reports.

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The Mayor mentioned the following ideas for protocol/procedure. LAC should submit their recommendations in the form of a written report or memorandum to Town Council prior to the Town Council Meeting agenda deadline. Town Council's options are: 1) to place the request on the agenda for consideration; (a) to confer with the LAC Chairman, Council liaison, or whom ever to get more information to determine if Town Council is ready to undertake the matter); 3) hold a joint meeting with LAC to discuss the item(s); or 4) defer the item. In addition, the Mayor suggested when ever a recommendation has been made by the LAC, that is not placed on the Council agenda, a response should be made in writing to LAC by either the Mayor, Council Liaison, or Town Manager.

Mayor Powell announced that records (correspondence, memorandums, minutes, & etc.) regarding the lake are being compiled chronologically into notebooks for future reference. He said these notebooks would be maintained by the Town Clerk and made available for review.

Town Manager Place was asked to draft a protocol/procedure policy regarding the Lake Advisory Committee for review by Council and LAC.

Lake Level:

Town Council members and LAC members discussed the pros/cons about whether or not to lower the lake. The Mayor said this item will be on Tuesday, May 11, 1999 regular Town Council Meeting agenda for discussion.

Lake Use Study:

Mayor Powell stated that Council's position is that it is their responsibility to first develop goals/objectives of the study and to oversee the approach including the possible engagement of an outside consultant.

The Mayor asked both Council members and LAC members to share their opinions about the methodology of pursuing a Lake Use Study. They were also asked to give advice/input on how to approach a Lake Use Study and the goals/objectives of this study.

Commissioner Cobb stated she was in favor of the Lake Use Study and recommended that the Town hire an expert totally unrelated to the Lake Lure area as soon as possible. She explained her reason for hiring an outside consultant was so the Lake Advisory Committee would not be burdened.

Commissioner Sheffield recommended first asking the Lake Advisory Committee to consider doing the Lake Use Study. If the LAC is not willing to undertake the study alone, then ask LAC to consider working directly with an outside consultant.

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Commissioner Stainer suggested that Council members along with LAC members first set goals before talking with a consultant. Mayor Powell stated that Council had already been requested to set forth their goals/objectives and to submit them to Town Manager Place for consolidation and further discussion.

Commissioner Rose recommended bringing in an consultant who is unbiased, and preferably familiar/experienced with small lakes. Also, Commissioner Rose reported that she had found four names on the internet.

Mayor Powell distributed copies of a handout produced by him and presented at the March 16, 1999 Council meeting regarding the use of the lake. (Copy attached).

Mr. Washburn stated the Lake Advisory Committee had abided by the resolution adopted by Town Council. He also mentioned that the LAC had done a lot of work developing a lake management plan for the Town.

The Mayor asked the LAC members to develop goals/objectives independently from Town Council's goals/objectives regarding the Lake Use Study. Mayor Powell said after these goals have been compiled, he suggests that these goals be consolidated and reviewed again in a joint meeting with the Lake Advisory Committee. Mr. Washburn agreed to ask the LAC to develop goals for this study with the understanding that more time would be needed to develop these goals. Commissioner Rose asked Mr. Washburn if 30 days or 60 days would be enough time? Mayor Powell asked the LAC if 60 days would be sufficient time. Mr. Washburn said that 60 days should be ok.

Town Manager Place explained the role of a consultant and gave suggestions as to what type of information needs to be provided for a consultant in order to make a study. Specifically, he stated that the town should prepare a request for proposal (RFP) listing the scope of the project or study, the local resources available, the time frame for the project or study, and the qualifications of the consultant. Consulting fees may or may not be included at this time.

Mayor Powell announced that he had asked Town Manager Place to call a meeting of the Lake Lure Commercial Users in order to discuss issues relating to water skiing and other commercial operations on the lake; potential problems; and ways that everyone can enjoy the lake without unduly jeopardizing the safety or peace of others on the lake. The idea is that self-policing by the group may negate further safety concerns at this time. He said that Mr. Place will be the facilitator at this meeting.

At this point, the Town Council and LAC members split up into separate sessions.

Schedule Special Meeting:

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Town Council agreed by consensus to schedule a special Town Council meeting on Thursday, May 6, 1999, 9:00 a.m., at the Lake Lure Municipal Center for purpose of considering a proposal from Andrew Givens, Cardinal Energy Service, Inc. regarding his recommendation that the Town hire an attorney to represent the Town before the North Carolina Utilities Commission in NCUC Docket E-7, Sub 646.

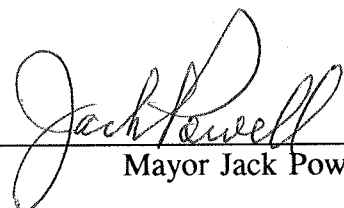
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cobb moved, seconded by Commissioner Sheffield, to adjourn the Town meeting at 9:45 p.m. The vote of approval was unanimous.

ATTEST:




Mary A. Flack, CMC/AAE
Town Clerk



Mayor Jack Powell