MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAKE LURE TOWN COUNCIL HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2003, 7:00 P.M. AT THE LAKE LURE MUNICIPAL CENTER

PRESENT: Mayor Jim Proctor

Commissioner Blaine Cox Commissioner Lea Hullender Commissioner Dick McCallum Commissioner George Pressley

H. M. Place III, Town Manager

ABSENT: J. Christopher Callahan, Town Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Proctor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Commissioner McCallum gave the invocation.

APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the agenda as amended adding an item as 10 i. to consider a contract with Custom Communications for services to be provided to the town in order to negotiate and develop a cable franchise renewal agreement. Commissioner Hullender seconded the motion and the vote of approval was unanimous.

Mayor Proctor announced the postponement of the special called meeting of the Lake Lure Marine Commission, which was to follow the town council meeting.

The Mayor also mentioned that he would recess the town meeting (after Judge Laura Bridges administered the oaths of office) for a reception honoring incoming and outgoing Mayor and Commissioners.

PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ZONING REGULATIONS

Public notices were duly given and published in the Forest City Daily Courier newspaper.

Town Manager Place stated that there was a correction which needed to be made on page

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1 of the proposed ordinance referencing the public hearing date. The date should read: "November 18, 2003 instead of October 14, 2003."

Mayor Proctor opened the public hearing to consider amendments to the Zoning Regulations relating to signs (Sections: 92.145 Intent; 92.146 Purpose of Sign Regulations, 92.147 Definitions; 92.150 Height of Free-Standing Detached Signs Defined; 92.155 Signs Exempt from Permit Requirements; 92.156 Signs Prohibited; 92.157 Signs Permitted and Regulated; 92.159 Sign Maintenance and Abandoned Signs; 92.160 Non-Commercial Messages; and 92.161 Permits, Fees, Nonconforming Signs, and Enforcement) and invited citizens to speak during the hearing. No one requested to speak during the hearing.

Zoning Administrator Terri Potts answered questions pertaining to proposed amendments to the Zoning Regulations.

Council members thanked the Zoning and Planning Board members and staff members for their work on the proposed amendments being recommended for adoption. Also, thanked citizens and businesses for their input.

After discussion, Commissioner McCallum made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion and the vote of approval was unanimous.

ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 03-11-18 AMENDING THE ZONING REGULATIONS RELATING TO SIGNS (SECTIONS: 92.145 INTENT; 92.146 PURPOSE OF SIGN REGULATIONS, 92.147 DEFINITIONS; 92.150 HEIGHT OF FREE-STANDING DETACHED SIGNS DEFINED; 92.155 SIGNS EXEMPT FROM PERMIT REQUIREMENTS; 92.156 SIGNS PROHIBITED; 92.157 SIGNS PERMITTED AND REGULATED; 92.159 SIGN MAINTENANCE AND ABANDONED SIGNS; 92.160 NON-COMMERCIAL MESSAGES; and 92.161 PERMITS, FEES, NONCONFORMING SIGNS, AND ENFORCEMENT)

After review, Commissioner Hullender made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 03-11-18 as amended. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion and the vote of approval was unanimous.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 03-11-18

AN AMENDMENT TO TITLE IX, CHAPTER 92, THE ZONING REGULATIONS OF THE TOWN OF LAKE LURE RELATING TO SIGNS

WHEREAS, the Town of Lake Lure Zoning and Planning Board, upon thorough review of the Zoning Ordinance, has recommended amendments regarding the sign provisions in the zoning regulations;

AND WHEREAS, the Lake Lure Town Council, after due notice, conducted a public hearing on the 18th day of November 2003, upon the question of amending the Zoning Ordinance in this respect:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LAKE LURE, NORTH CAROLINA MEETING IN REGULAR SESSION AND WITH A MAJORITY OF COUNCILMEN VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE:

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SECTION ONE. Amend §92.145, "Intent," as follows:

§92.145 Intent and Application.

This subchapter is established to regulate and control all existing and future signs throughout the zoning jurisdiction of the town. The provisions of this subchapter shall apply to the display, construction, erection, placement, alteration, use, location, illumination and maintenance of all signs, except as specifically exempted in the subchapter. A sign may be erected, placed, established, painted, created or maintained in Lake Lure only in conformance with the standards, procedures, exemptions and other requirements of this subchapter. All signs not expressly permitted by this subchapter are prohibited. This subchapter shall provide for the enforcement of the provision of this ordinance and establish a limited variety of signs in other zones, subject to the standards and permit procedures of this ordinance. Internally lighted signs are acceptable, however, to improve the environmental setting the town would prefer that signs be externally lighted whenever possible.

SECTION TWO. Amend §92.146, "Purpose of Sign Regulations," as follows:

It shall be the purpose of this subchapter to promote the safety, health, peace, dignity and general welfare of the people and the town in a manner consistent with the <u>unique</u> natural beauty of the area that <u>distinguishes</u> the town through the regulation of the posting, displaying, erection, use and maintenance of signs. Further, it is recognized that the standards and regulations for signs will address the following purposes: [Remainder of section unchanged]

SECTION THREE. Amend §92.147, "Definitions," as follows:

To amend:

<u>Freestanding Detached Sign</u>: A sign supported by a sign structure secured in the ground and which is wholly independent of any building, fence, vehicle or object other than the sign structure for support.

<u>Seasonal/</u> <u>Holiday Sign</u>: A sign used for the celebration of any <u>historic American national or religious</u> holiday which is erected for a limited period of time.

To Add:

Amortization: The method of eliminating a nonconforming sign by requiring the termination of sign after a specified period of time.

Externally Illuminated Sign: Any sign that is lighted by an outside light source.

<u>Internally Illuminated Sign: Any sign which has light transmitted outward through its face or any part thereof.</u>

Neon Type Signs: Signs made from tubes filled with neon, argon, xenon, or other luminous gasses and producing various colors of light.

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SECTION FOUR. Amend §92.150, "Height of Free-Standing Detached Signs Defined," as follows:

§92.150 Height of Free-Standing Detached Signs Defined

- (A) The height of a free-standing detached sign shall not exceed the maximum height set forth in this subchapter. The height of a free-standing detached sign shall be measured as the vertical distance from the uppermost point of the sign or sign structure, whichever is higher, and the base of the sign at grade to the base of the sign at street grade or adjacent parking area grade. However, when the base of a sign at grade is located below the adjacent street grade, the height of the sign shall be measured from the uppermost point of the sign or sign structure to the street grade. Where the grade of the parking area is lower than the street, the measurement will be taken at the street grade at the driveway entrance, or in the case of two entrances, at the upper entrance.
- (B) The height of all other signs shall be measured as the vertical distance to the uppermost point of a sign measured from the ground level of the structure to which the sign is attached.

SECTION FIVE. Amend §92.155, "Signs Exempt from Permit Requirements," as follows:

To revise:

- (A) Private Traffic Directional Signs. Signs containing information to direct pedestrian or vehicular traffic shall be located on the premises for which directions are indicated. Directional signs shall not contain any advertising or logo, shall not exceed three square feet per face, two faces per sign, and shall not exceed three feet in height if free-standing or six feet in height if attached to the principal or an accessory structure. The maximum signs allowed per lot shall be four. These signs may be indirectly or directly illuminated as prescribed by standards set forth in §92.159.
- (B) <u>Incidental Signs.</u> Signs containing information necessary or convenient for persons coming on to a premises shall be located on the premises to which the information pertains. No advertising may be affixed to such a sign and these signs shall be single-faced only and wholly attached to a principal building (including the windows or doors). These signs may not be illuminated.
- (C) <u>Political Signs.</u> Political signs advertising candidates or issues shall be allowed in any zone. However, no such sign shall be placed within any public right-of-way or on any public property or attached to any utility pole or tree. The property owner and the political candidate shall be equally responsible for the proper location, maintenance and removal of political signs. All political signs must be removed within seven calendar days following the election to which the sign pertains. <u>Political signs shall not exceed four square feet in area per display face and two faces per sign.</u>

To add:

(J) Works of art that do not include a commercial message.

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SECTION SIX. Amend §92.156, "Signs Prohibited," as follows:

- (P) Political signs on public property and within public rights-of-way. <u>The Town may remove these signs immediately.</u>
- (R) Neon type signs, in all instances, except for window signs as provided in §92.155, (I).

SECTION SEVEN. Amend §92.157, "Signs Permitted and Regulated," (B), as follows:

(5) No signs in this division (B) shall exceed a height of 16 feet. The maximum height of signs shall be 16 feet.

SECTION EIGHT. Amend §92.159, "Sign Maintenance and Abandoned Signs," as follows:

(A)

- (5) If illuminated, signs shall be illuminated only by the following means:
 - (a) By a steady stationary light of reasonable intensity, shielded and directed solely at the sign.
 - (2) Light sources to illuminate signs shall be shielded from all adjacent residential building and streets and shall not be of such brightness so as to cause glare hazardous to pedestrians or auto drivers or so as to create a nuisance.
 - (c) Internally lit signs shall have the same requirements as divisions (A)(5), (a) and (b) above.
 - (d) Electrical requirements pertaining to signs shall be as prescribed in local codes.
- (6) (5) Any sign which violates the maintenance provisions listed above shall be in violation of this chapter and shall be repaired or removed as required by the applicable sections of this chapter.

(C)(B) Abandoned Signs.

- (3) This section shall be enforced in accordance with § 92.161 (E).
- (C) Unlawful Cutting of Trees or Shrubs. No person may, for the purpose of increasing or enhancing the visibility of any sign, damage, trim, destroy or remove any trees, shrubs or other vegetation located within a public right-of-way of any road or highway.

SECTION NINE. Amend §92.160, "Non-Commercial Messages," as follows:

§92.160 Non-Commercial Messages In General

- (A) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, any sign, display or device allowed under this article may contain, in lieu of any other copy, any otherwise lawful non-commercial message that does not direct attention to a business operated for profit, or to commodity or service for sale, and that complies with size, lighting, height and other requirements of the district in which its located.
- (B) If illuminated, signs shall be illuminated only by the following means:
 - (1) A steady stationary light of reasonable intensity, shall be shielded and directed solely at the sign.

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- (2) <u>Light sources to illuminate signs shall be shielded from all adjacent residential building and streets and shall not be of such brightness so as to cause glare hazardous to pedestrians or auto drivers or so as to create a nuisance.</u>
- (3) Internally lit signs shall have the same requirements as divisions (A)(5), (1) and (2) above.
- (4) Electrical requirements pertaining to signs shall be as prescribed in local codes.
- (C) <u>Unlawful Cutting of Trees or Shrubs. No person may, for the purpose of increasing or enhancing the visibility of any sign, damage, trim, destroy or remove any trees, shrubs or other vegetation located within a public right-of-way of any road or highway.</u>

SECTION TEN. Amend §92.161, "Permits, Fees, Nonconforming Signs, and Enforcement," as follows.

- (C) Nonconforming Signs.
 - (3) With the exception of off premise signs for which a current, valid permit has been issued by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, any nonconforming sign shall either be eliminated or brought into conformance within 7 years of such date the date it became non-conforming.

SECTION ELEVEN. The Zoning Administrator shall make all the necessary corrections and additions to the Zoning Ordinance and shall henceforth enforce the ordinance hereby amended.

SECTION TWELVE. This ordinance shall be effective upon its adoption.

Adopted this 18th day of November 2003.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Proctor invited the audience to speak on any non-agenda item and no one requested to speak.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Proctor presented the consent agenda and asked if any item should be removed before calling for action. A motion was made by Commissioner McCallum to approve the following consent agenda items as presented and Commissioner Hullender seconded the motion. Therefore, the consent agenda, incorporating the following items was unanimously approved:

- a. minutes of October 14, 2003 (regular meeting and closed session) and October 22, 2003 (special workshop meeting);
- b. awarded bid to Bob Runde to purchase surplus town property in the amount of \$4,000.00 and authorized the town attorney to prepare the appropriate documents to finalize the sale;
- c. request from Christy Justice to suspend the Town Alcohol Ordinance in order to serve beer,

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wine, and champagne during a wedding reception inside the Community Hall of the Lake Lure Municipal Center on June 26, 2004, from 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m.; and

d. adopted Resolution No. 03-11-18 approving a modification agreement between the Town of Lake Lure and Branch Banking and Trust Company ("BB&T") amending the financing agreement (changing the interest rate from 8.88% to 2.09%) and the deed of trust dated as of November 15, 1994 as submitted by the finance director. (Copy of Modification Agreement attached.)

Resolution No. 03-11-18 Approving Terms of Re-financing

WHEREAS, the TOWN OF LAKE LURE, NORTH CAROLINA (the "Town") has determined to change the terms of the Payment Schedule to the Financing Agreement and Deed of Trust (the "Original Agreement") granted to F. Louis Loyd, III (the "Deed of Trust Trustee") for the benefit of Branch Banking and Trust Company ("BB&T") dated as of November 15, 1994, and recorded in Book 459, Page 745, Rutherford County Registry; and

WHEREAS, the changes to the terms of the Payment Schedule include revising the interest rate from 8.88% to 2.09%;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Lake Lure, North Carolina, that the proposed changes to the Payment Schedule of the Original Agreement are hereby approved and the officers designated to sign financing documents are hereby authorized and directed to take such action as may be necessary to effectuate such changes. All other terms and conditions of the Original Agreement and the Payment Schedule thereof remain in full force and effect.

Adopted this 18th day of November, 2003.

End of Consent Agenda

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Update on Water System Improvements Project

Joel Storrow, president of McGill Associates, updated Council members on the town's water system improvements project. Mr. Storrow also distributed and reviewed a report furnished by him comparing financing options for water system improvements for the Town of Lake Lure. (Copy of Report attached.)

Town Manager Place read into the record excerpts from his memorandum of November 13, 2003 regarding the water system improvements project for the Town of Lake Lure. (Copy of memorandum attached and reports prepared by McGill Associates including: a project summary, Lake Lure water system improvements cost estimates, and water system improvements cost increase due to Ingles site.) Mr. Place stated that the original scope of the water system improvements project (approved just over one year ago by Town Council) has been revised.

The following is a project summary report prepared by McGill Associates on the water system improvements for the Town of Lake Lure.

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The Town of Lake Lure applied to NCDENR for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan in the amount of \$1,905,560.00 to fund this project in October of 2002. The project included the construction of two storage tanks, two water supply wells and miscellaneous water lines. The estimated project cost was \$1,915,560.00. In May of 2003, the project scope was revised to eliminate one of the storage tanks (Boys Camp Road) and to add several segments of new water line (work associated with abandoning Pool Creek Reservoir and connecting Powers Well to Chimney Rock tank). The revised net project cost was \$1,956,100.00 and a revised application was submitted for this amount for either a DWSRF loan or a high unit cost grant. This application received adequate priority points to receive grant funds, however these were limited to a portion of the estimated project cost, or \$1,272,188.00, with the remaining funds to be provided in the form of a state low interest loan. The funding breakdown is as follows:

Total Project Cost: \$1,956,100.00 Grant Award: \$1,272,188.00 State Loan Award: \$683,912.00

Due to the inability of the town to find a parcel of land to site the proposed Snug Harbor tank, the project cost has increased in order to build an elevated storage tank on town property at a location approximately 9,600 feet from the end of the proposed 8" line on US 74. Additionally, a third well has been added to the project due to the recent development of a proposed Ingles store on Highway 9 just north of the proposed elevated tank. As a result of these changes, the project cost estimate has increased to \$2,618.900.00. This increase leaves a balance of \$662,800.00 above the funds currently allocated to the project. This balance is proposed to be funded through a DWSRF loan; therefore the project-funding summary will be as follows:

Total Revised Project Cost: \$2,618,900.00 Grant Award: \$1,272,188.00 State Loan Amount: \$ 683,912.00 DWSRF Loan Amount: \$ 662,800.00

It is worth noting that due to the difference in interest rates between the state low interest loan and the DWSRF loan, it may be advantageous for the town to borrow the difference between the project cost and the grant amount exclusively from the DWSRF program. At this time, the DWSRF loan has an interest rate of 2.33 % whereas the state low interest loan has an interest rate of 2.66%.

In summary, the total revised project, which includes the original project scope as well as the additional work associated with the revised tank location and the Ingles development, is eligible for funding through a combination of the high unit cost grant, the state low interest loan and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

Town Manager Place recommended that Town Council approve the revised program and authorize proceeding with the necessary steps to put this program into effect.

After discussion, Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve going forward with the revised program of the water system improvements project as outlined by McGill Associates of Asheville and to proceed with the engineering study. Commissioner Pressley seconded the motion and the vote of approval was unanimous.

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NEW BUSINESS

a. Oath of Office - Mayor Jim Proctor

Judge Laura Bridges administered the oath of office to Mayor Jim Proctor.

NEW BUSINESS:

b. Oath of Office - Commissioner Richard McCallum

Judge Laura Bridges administered the oath of office to Commissioner Richard McCallum.

NEW BUSINESS:

c. Oath of Office - Commissioner E. Charles Watkins

Judge Laura Bridges administered the oath of office to Commissioner E. Charles Watkins.

Mayor Proctor recessed the meeting (fifteen minutes) for a reception honoring incoming and outgoing Mayor and Commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS:

d. Present Award of Appreciation

Mayor Proctor presented Commissioner George Pressley an award in recognition of his dedicated public service and outstanding contributions as town commissioner of the Town of Lake Lure (term 1999-2003). The Mayor said a tree will be planted on town property in honor of Commissioner Pressley. A plaque (dedicated to Commissioner George H. Pressley for his years of service) will be placed in front of this tree.

Mayor Proctor thanked Lynne Place for her work setting up flowers and refreshments for the reception held during the break.

e. Appoint a Mayor Pro Tem

A motion was made by Commissioner Cox to reappoint Commissioner Dick McCallum as Mayor Pro tem. Commissioner Hullender seconded the motion and the vote of approval was unanimous.

f. Request from Tim Turner for Approval of a Sewer Connection Outside of the Town of Lake Lure City Limits

Town Manager Place stated that Tim Turner has submitted all the appropriate paper work required by the town and he recommends that Town Council approve Mr. Turner's application as

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presented for a sewer tap in Chimney Rock.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cox to approve the application submitted by Tim Turner to tap into the town's sewer system. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and the vote of approval was unanimous. (Copy of sewer tap application and documents relating to sewer tap attached.)

g. Request from Raymond McClinton Regarding Seawall Removal/Replacement; Changes to the Existing Shoreline

Raymond McClinton stated that he had submitted an application for a Lake Lure permit to take down a section of his existing seawall and reconstruct a new seawall that would arch back on his lot. The new arched seawall would be approximately sixty-five feet long and would be approximately ten to eleven feet behind the existing seawall onto his property in the center of the arch. Mr. McClinton furnished Council members with a copy of his plat and a drawing showing how the new seawall would project onto his lot. Mr. McClinton stated that he would like to remove some lake sand that has drifted into his boathouse which is preventing his boat lift from properly lowering to a distance that allows the boat to float from the rack. Mr. McClinton said he would like to use some of the lake sand removed from his boat house to be placed in front of the area of his new seawall. In addition, he would like to build up the sandy area to a point where he would have a small sand beach about twenty-five feet long. He explained the removal of the old seawall and construction of a new seawall would be done while the lake is lowered beginning in December 2003. He said this project would be completed prior to the lake water being returned to its normal level. (Copy of letter and drawings attached.)

Town Manager Place agreed to contact the Army Corp. of Engineers concerning Mr. McClinton's request to change the existing shoreline by moving dirt from his boathouse to another location near the lake shore.

After discussion, Commissioner McCallum made a motion to approve Raymond McClinton's request as outlined in his letter and drawings as submitted to Council members. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion and the vote of approval was unanimous.

h. Presentation Regarding the Development of a Community Appearance Ordinance

Zoning Administrator Terri Potts gave a brief report on the status of the Zoning and Planning Board activities pertaining to the development of a community appearance ordinance.

Commissioner Hullender mentioned that the zoning fee rates had not been revised since the 1990's and needed to be reviewed once again.

i. Consider a Contract with Custom Communications for Services to be Provided to the Town in Order to Negotiate and Develop a Cable Franchise Renewal Agreement

Town Manager Place distributed and reviewed copies of a report dated November 14, 2003 from David H. Harris with Custom Communications regarding the renewal of the cable television franchise with Northland Cable; a letter of November 14, 2003 from Mayor Jim Proctor to Lee Johnson of Northland Cable; and a contract prepared by David Harris. (Copies of the report, letter, and contract attached).

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After discussion, Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the contract with Custom Communications for services to be provided to the town in order to negotiate and develop a cable franchise renewal agreement and authorize the mayor to sign this contract. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and the vote of approval was unanimous.

STAFF REPORTS

Town Manager Place reported on the following:

- 1. Announced the retirement of Personnel Officer/Tax Collector Betty Hinson effective as of February, 2003. Customer Services Supervisor Anita Taylor will be filling the position as Personnel Director; and Customer Services Clerk Linda Ward will be filling the position as Customer Services Supervisor.
- 2. Hydro-Plant Operator William Grimes informed Mr. Place that the power plant is running ok and continues to produce income at record levels at this time.
- 3. Duke Power has turned on the five lights on Buffalo Creek Road as Town Council has previously authorized. Mr. Place said he had been made aware of more lights on that road which have also been turned off for several years. These lights are owned by Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation. Mr. Place said he had spoken with a representative who agreed to make an assessment of their lights and report back to him.
- 4. The town dredge was delivered this morning to the manufacturer Gulf Atlantic Pump and Dredge Company in Florida to be inspected and refurbished. Mr. Place said they will retrofit the dredge with a new winch system and a total soundproofing package. Representatives from this company will conduct a training program for town personnel once the dredge has been returned back to the town. Mr. Place said he would try to find a new dredge operator before training is provided to town personnel pertaining to operating the dredge.
- 5. Mr. Place said he was pursuing the passive sand/gravel collection systems produced by Streamside Systems for application in the river above the area to be dredged and possibly in other locations as well. Mr. Place mentioned that Russell Pitts had met with a representative of Streamside about the lake.
- 6. Mr. Place thanked Mr. Russell Pitts on behalf of the town for his volunteered service to the town with regards to the silt removal program. Mr. Place stated that Mr. Pitts, who is not currently serving on a town board or committee, has spent numerous hours researching equipment and systems for silt removal. In addition, Mr. Pitts drove to Florida to interview David Smith from Gulf Atlantic on behalf of the town and toured their facility to explore alternatives for the town regarding silt removal.
- 7. Mr. Place briefed council on the status of the new file server computer previously ordered. He said this computer was delivered to Manatron, who provides the town with computer/software support in Michigan. They will install their operating system and software on the new file server computer and will send it back to the town.
- 8. The new merit system is in effect and department heads will be submitting their first employee evaluations by December 1, 2003.

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9. Mr. Place requested that a date be set for Council members to tour various town facilities, departments and personnel.

After discussion, Council members agreed to tentatively schedule this tour on Tuesday, December 9, 2003, at 9:00 a.m.

10. Welcomed Commissioner Chuck Watkins on behalf of town staff members.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

After discussion, it was the consensus of Council members to appoint Commissioner Chuck Watkins as the designated representative for the Town of Lake Lure to attend the Rutherford County Economic Development Commission meetings periodically in 2004. Mayor Proctor agreed to go to these meetings whenever Commissioner Watkins was unable to attend.

Commissioner Cox gave a brief report on activities of the Lake Lure Municipal Golf Course.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items of discussion, Commissioner Cox made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion and the vote of approval was unanimous.

ATTEST:	
Mary A. Flack, MMC Town Clerk	Mayor Jim Proctor