

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE LAKE LURE TOWN COUNCIL HELD FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2005, 9:30 A.M. AT THE LAKE LURE MUNICIPAL CENTER

PRESENT: Mayor Jim Proctor
Commissioner Blaine Cox
Commissioner Lea Hullender
Commissioner Dick McCallum
Commissioner Chuck Watkins

Town Manager Chuck Place
Finance Director Sam Karr

ABSENT: N/A

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:30 a.m. by Mayor Jim Proctor.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Dick McCallum gave the invocation.

APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Blaine Cox made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion, and the vote of approval was unanimous.

DISCUSS PRELIMINARY BUDGET ITEMS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006

Town Manager H. M. Place III and Finance Director Sam Karr reviewed and answered questions pertaining to budget items for fiscal year 2005-2006. Also, staff members including Public Works Director Tony Hennessee, Utilities Director William Grimes, Golf Course Manager Jeff Hine, Fire and Emergency Coordinator Ron Morgan, and Police Chief Mike Bustle were present to answer questions about the proposed items in the budget for their departments.

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Town Manager Place explained that the proposed budget being presented is basically the same level of services and the tax rate remains the same at .28 per \$100 valuation.

Town Council held a discussion regarding disposal of the town's dredge. A motion was made by Commissioner Cox to sell the town's dredge, negotiate a trade with all monies, or services received to further the silt management program. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and the vote of approval was unanimous.

Mr. Place said that two additional employees were requested for administration and community development. He explained that one of these individuals will be classified as assistant zoning administrator who would be qualified in zoning, responsible for permitting, as well as, field inspections. The code enforcement clerk would be responsible for work inside the office preparing minutes and clerical duties for the board of adjustment, the lake structure appeals board, and the zoning and planning board. Mr. Place said effective as of July 1, 2005, the community development division will be referred to as the community development department. The second new individual will be classified as finance clerk who would be qualified with some accounting and bookkeeping experience to assist Finance Officer Sam Karr. This individual will sit at the front counter by the receptionist and would be responsible for the cash drawer, performing the end-of-day procedures with centralized collections program, balancing and submitting daily deposits, as well as, other duties. Mr. Place said he was currently reviewing the administration building for possible office space to relocate the community development department to a central location.

Commissioner Cox suggested that, at a later date, the town look into relocating the police department to another location in order to expand the administration building for much needed space.

Mr. Place said the proposed budget included a 3.3% cost-of-living increase based on the 2004 consumer price index (CPI). The town employee's health insurance coverage rates remained the same as last year. Commissioner Cox supported the 3.3% COLA increase mainly due to the increased gasoline prices.

A motion was made by Commissioner McCallum to recess this meeting at 12:00 noon and reconvene the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion and the vote of approval was unanimous.

Mayor Proctor called the meeting back to order at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Place introduced the new Golf Course Superintendent Jeff Hine. Mr. Place said Sheila Spicer has been promoted to pro-shop manager and David Chrysler has been hired to fill Jeff Hine's former position as greens keeper maintenance technician. Jeff Hine is currently exploring ways to market the town's golf course like an amusement park for children and adults.

Council members reviewed the budget requests from Bill's Creek, Chimney Rock, and Fairfield Station number's one and two. The Hickory Nut Gorge EMS requested \$2,500.00 to be

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used toward the maintenance and upkeep of the EMS boat. After discussion, it was the consensus of Town Council to budget these funds as requested based on the fact that the boat is solely used for Lake Lure. Also, the town owns the EMS boathouse and maintains the upkeep of this structure.

Police Chief Mike Bustle and Lake Advisory Committee Member Russ Pitts justified the need for the purchase of a new police boat with an enclosed cab including heat and air condition to protect the lake patrol officer year round from exposure of the weather. Mr. Bustle said the town currently owns a boat trailer which could possibly be used for the new patrol boat. Mr. Pitts told council members that he would be willing to raise funds to buy a new patrol boat in addition to the town budgeting funds for this purchase. After discussion, council members agreed to budget \$50,000.00 to be used towards the purchase of a new police boat. These funds might come from the sale of the town's dredge to purchase this boat.

Police Chief Bustle stated that he needed additional personnel to serve as a police detective and more training equipment for the police department. Town Council agreed to consider this request sometime in the future.

Town Council reviewed a request from Doug Long on behalf of the Hickory Nut Gorge Olympiad Steering Committee to suspend the town's sign ordinance and wave permit fees in order to allow signs and banners to be erected during the 2005 Olympiad event. Mr. Place explained that based upon approval, these signs would be erected and remain in place until August 17, 2005. One of the sign descriptions is a 4' by 4' made of painted wood with the appearance of their logo and the second sign is a 4' x 8' oil cloth banner which includes the logo and information such as the date, contact phone numbers and website. One of the signs would be located in front of the Lake Lure Municipal Center and another one at the intersection of Highway 64/74 and Highway 9. Mr. Place said Mr. Long has asked to place five to six power pole banners along Memorial Highway from the town beach to the bridge and Mr. Long will obtain approval from the power company for these banners.

After discussion, Commissioner McCallum made a motion to approve the request from Doug Long on behalf of the Hickory Nut Gorge Olympiad Steering Committee to suspend the town's sign ordinance contingent upon prior approval being obtained from the Town Manager H. M. Place and Commissioner Cox regarding the erection of these signs and banners for the 2005 Olympiad event and waive the sign permit fees for this event. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion and the vote of approval was unanimous.

With no further items of discussion, Commissioner McCallum made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 p.m. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion and the vote of approval was unanimous.

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ATTEST:

Anita H. Taylor, MMC
Deputy Town Clerk

Mayor Jim Proctor