

MINUTES

Regular Business Meeting of the Southern Pines Town Council March 11, 2014, 7:00 PM, Douglass Community Center, 1185 W. Pennsylvania Avenue

Present: Mayor David McNeill, Mayor Pro Tem Mike Fields, Councilmember Fred Walden, Councilmember Jim Simeon, Councilmember Teresa VanCamp

Absent: None

Call To Order

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Manager's Comments

Town Manager Parsons gave an overview of the items on the Consent Agenda.

2. Consent Agenda

- A. Adopt Worksession Minutes of January 27, 2014, Agenda Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2014 and Regular Business Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2014 as written.
- B. Board Appointments
 - Appearance Commission
 - Oscar Bell (2nd Term) 03/12/14 – 10/31/16
 - Costello Barnes 03/12/14 – 10/31/16
 - Teresa Lenahan 03/12/14 – 10/31/16
- C. Audit Contract Fiscal Year 2013-2014
- D. Budget Amendments
 - State Library Aid \$896
 - Weymouth Pass-Through Grant \$25,000
 - Downtown Park \$25,000
 - Contractual Services for Demolition \$4,500
- E. Demolition Ordinance – 735 S. Henley Street

Upon motion by Councilmember Simeon, seconded by Councilmember Walden and carried unanimously, the Consent Agenda was adopted.

3. Public Hearing

- A. Community Development Block Grant Application: TYR Tactical

Town Manager Parsons gave an overview of the application and a brief overview of TYR Tactical and commented the project will total \$360,000 and create 29 jobs. Town Manager Parsons continued by commenting that the grant will cover approximately 1,000 lineal feet of asphalt and sidewalk, 2,000 lineal feet of curb and gutter and a bio-retention basin.

Chris Smithson, 920 N. Saylor Street, inquired regarding the number of public hearings held for the proposed item.

Town Manager Parsons responded by commenting this is the second hearing in the process but is the first regarding a specific application.

Upon motion by Mayor Pro Tem Fields, seconded by Councilmember Walden and carried unanimously, the Public Hearing was closed.

4. Miscellaneous

A. Resolution Approving Administrative Guidelines and Policies for the Community Development Block Grant Economic Development Program to Serve "TYR Tactical"

Town Manager Parsons commented that a number of the guidelines and policies are currently in place but there is a requirement to reestablish the policies when a length of time has passed between CDBG applications.

Mayor McNeill inquired if there have been any CDBG projects in Commerce Park in the past. Town Manager Parsons responded by commenting a previous CDBG grant was approved but was not utilized.

Upon motion by Councilmember Walden, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Fields and carried unanimously, the Resolution Approving Administrative Guidelines and Policies for the Community Development Block Grant Economic Development Program to Serve "TYR Tactical" was adopted.

B. Joint Resolution of the Towns of Aberdeen and Southern Pines Regarding School Facilities Planning Priorities

Mayor McNeill gave a brief overview of the proposed joint resolution.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Fields to approve the joint resolution as presented. Motion was seconded by Councilmember VanCamp.

Mayor Pro Tem Fields thanked Town Manager Parsons for his efforts in drafting the resolution and commented that concerns raised were addressed in the resolution. Mayor Pro Tem Fields spoke regarding school over-capacity issues and commented over-capacity is a result from how district lines are drawn and due to empty seats in Southern Pines schools. Mayor Pro Tem Fields commented he is in support of the resolution.

Councilmember Walden commented he is in support of the resolution and that it addresses issues that have been discussed several times and he is glad to see it move forward.

Councilmember Simeon commented he is in support of the resolution and that it is appropriate to move forward.

Councilmember VanCamp commented she is in support of the resolution and she thinks it is important for Southern Pines and Aberdeen to present a consolidated front to the Moore County Board of Education.

The motion was carried unanimously.

5. Public Comments

Gene Maples, 280 Pee Dee Road, spoke regarding NCDOT roadside efforts in preparation for the 2014 U.S. Open and commented the new Roadside Environmental Engineer Mark Thompson is a breath of fresh air for the position and he is proud of what NCDOT has accomplished.

Chris Smithson, 920 N. Saylor Street, commented he is disappointed in the condition of Southern Pines schools and he doesn't see why Southern Pines Primary and Southern Pines Elementary are being considered for closing. Mr. Smithson continued by commenting he supports the joint resolution but there are more things occurring other than old buildings.

Mr. Smithson encouraged Council to be strong and united with the Town of Aberdeen for the communities in this effort.

Maurice Holland, Jr., Moore County NAACP Secretary, commented the language in the joint resolution seems to imply that people with means are enrolling their children into private schools and inquired why Council is now

concerned about people with means enrolling their kids into private schools and not concerned over the total student population.

Mr. Holland continued by encouraging Council to focus on available seats in Southern Pines and Aberdeen schools and to take care of everyone involved and commented the kids need opportunity, experience and exposure.

Dorothy Brower, 102 Eastman Road, commented she is in favor of new schools for Southern Pines and Aberdeen and for kids to be in schools that are safe and suggested a language substitution in the joint resolution to refer to the schools being more diverse.

Ms. Brower continued by commenting that if there is a delay in building the new schools that there may be more neglect in making repairs to the existing schools.

Marsh Smith, 568 Santee Road, spoke regarding the Moore County Schools System site selection process for new school construction and commented it is better to have schools in existing cities and towns instead of out in the country in regards to energy efficiency.

Mr. Smith continued by speaking in regards to long school bus routes and commented the Town should look into making school bus riding more attractive in an effort to remove the stigma and have discussions regarding transportation enhancement.

Mayor McNeill commented that Council is on the same page as those who spoke regarding the joint resolution with the Town of Aberdeen and that Council is becoming an advocate of Southern Pines schools. Mayor McNeill continued by commenting that it is imperative that Southern Pines is given strong consideration from the Moore County Board of Education regarding building new schools.

As so incorporated to these minutes of March 11, 2014 are exact copies as so recorded in the ordinance and resolution books of the Town of Southern Pines as fully set out in the minutes.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Phillip Britt
Town Clerk