

Town of Spring Hope
Board of Commissioners Meeting
Minutes for July 14, 2008

Members present: Commissioner Clark, Commissioner Hawley, Commissioner Bissett, Mayor Buddy Gwaltney, and Commissioner Newkirk. Commissioner Best and Town Clerk Betsy Boykin were absent.

Others in attendance were: Town Manager John Holpe, Sandra Morris, Town Attorney Mark Edwards, Amanda Clark, Nashville Graphic and Ken Murchison, Spring Hope Enterprise. There were several citizens present.

Mayor Gwaltney called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Hawley made a motion to appoint Sandra Morris acting town clerk for the purpose of taking the minutes. Commissioner Newkirk seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Newkirk gave the invocation.

Commissioner Hawley made the motion to approve the minutes of last months meeting as written, Commissioner Bissett gave a second and the motion passed unanimously.

There was no one signed up for the public forum.

Commissioner Bissett made a motion to go into public hearing, Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Discussion for the public hearing was whether or not to issue a temporary special use permit for the Chamber of Commerce to hold the farmers market in the downtown depot area. Discussion was to hold the market on the north and west side of the depot on Tuesday's & Fridays from 8 a.m. -1:00 until Pumpkin Festival time. The Chamber would be responsible for putting up parking signs showing patrons where available parking is located. With no more discussion, Commissioner Clark made the motion to return to open session and Commissioner Bissett gave a second. All were in favor, so the public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Bissett made the motion to grant the temporary special use permit to the Chamber of Commerce to operate a farmer's market on the North & West sides of the depot on Tuesdays & Fridays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Revitalization Chairman Joe Wilkinson showed the latest copy of the town seal. Some of the changes made were for font & color choices.

Next, Joe Wilkinson presented a water color sketch of the proposed improvements to the commons area of the depot. Improvements to the commons area included: brick pavers, a place for bands, speakers and an information kiosk. Other suggestions were for a fountain and street lights. It will take 3-5 years before all the renovations are done. Revitalization will seek grants to fund the project along with fundraisers. The estimated cost for the project is \$120,000.

Also from revitalization was the recommendation for the board of commissioners to approve 2 facade grants for a town share of \$330. These were approved by Revitalization on June 24, 2008. The 3 buildings belong to Jody Langford & G.W. Bunn, Jr. Two of the buildings are empty with only one being currently rented. Commissioner Bissett made the motion to approve the grants, Commissioner Newkirk gave it a second, and it passed unanimously.

Other Revitalization business included 2 available appointments to the revitalization committee. The town has 4 appointments, 2 for now & 2 for 2010, Joe Wilkinson, & Boo Langford then Tommy Toney and Allen Barbee, respectively. The chamber has 2 appointments that are already up, Harriett Cook & Karl Whetzel, with 2 more up in 2010 consisting of Brenda Bryan & Gay Sturgeon. Suggestions were Lottie Lou Dickens and Spring Toney. Chamber meetings are the 4th Monday, while Revitalization meets the 4th Tuesday. Commissioner Hawley made the motion to table this item until later with Commissioner Bissett giving a second and it passed unanimously.

The board agreed that Town Manager John Holpe should call a special meeting to get Bojangles on the way once the special order of consent is received from the state. At this point there is only a verbal consent.

A committee was formed to look for a dump truck. The committee consists of Commissioner Hawley, Fergie, Commissioner Bissett, John Holpe, and George Reams Jr.

Commissioner Bissett asked the status of the ditch at the railroad tracks on E Nash & Poplar St. Town Manager John Holpe will check on the status and report back. Commissioner Newkirk commended the town on the new phone system and thanked the board for voting to purchase it.

Commissioner Hawley made a motion to go into closed session for contract negotiations, Commissioner Bissett gave the second and it passed unanimously. Commissioner Hawley made a motion to go back into open session with Commissioner Bissett making the 2nd, it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Bissett made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel issues while Commissioner Hawley seconded, it passed unanimously. After discussion, Commissioner Bissett made the motion to go back into open session as Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

The Chamber of Commerce members were awaiting the commissioners as they came out of closed session. During closed session, the chamber members, were looking at the depot area and realized that the special use permit was not for the areas in which they intended it to be. After much discussion to clearly understand exactly what the Chamber wanted, Commissioner Clark rescinded the earlier motion for the Farmer's Market. Commissioner Bissett seconded and it passed unanimously. At this point, there was not a special use permit in place. With no more discussion and the board & the chamber both clear on the exact details of the farmers market, Commissioner Clark made a motion to give the Chamber permission to operate a farmers market on Tuesdays & Fridays form 8 a.m. til 1 p.m. in the entire commons area with the same conditions as earlier. Commissioner Hawley seconded and it passed unanimously.

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Hawley made the motion to adjourn and Commissioner Bissett gave a second. The motion passed unanimously.