

Minutes of the  
Spring Hope Board of Commissioners Meeting  
October 13, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Mayor Buddy Gwaltney, Commissioners Marion Clark, Clyde Best, Bill Newkirk and Stanley Hawley. Commissioner Lee Bissett was absent.

Also present: John Holpe, Town Manager; Betsy Boykin, Town Clerk; Mark Edwards, Town Attorney; Ken Murchison, Spring Hope Enterprise; Amanda Clark, Nashville Graphic.

Mayor Gwaltney called the meeting to order and the invocation was given by Commissioner Clark.

Public Forum: Helen Marshbourne Bissett and Betty Marshbourne regarding a lot at 223 East Nash Street. Mrs. Bissett read a letter from her sister Mary Anne M. Saadeh, the owner of the property at 223 East Nash Street. Mrs. Bissett wanted to know who had been complaining about that property. Mayor Gwaltney stated that he was one of them. He stated that the property had an overgrowth of weeds that was creating rats, snakes, deer and other animals going on his property. They were asked to clean up that property in a letter dated January 31, 2008 and another letter dated September 22, 2008 stating that she was in violation of the Code of Ordinances. She stated in her letter that she had been working on it, but it would take more time than the town ask for.

C. T. Clayton was present for the award of contract for the Sewer Rehabilitation Project work in regards to the Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant. He stated the bids for this project was opened on October 7, 2008. Six contractors that bid on this project were:

- Ormund Utilities, LLC
- L-J Inc.
- T.A. Loving Company
- Kenneth R. Green- Utility Contractor, Inc.
- Atlantic Coast Contractors, Inc
- Portland Utilities, Inc.

He stated that the town had \$ 595,753 available from the grant. The original plan was to replace 3, 953 feet of eight inch sewer pipe and another 2,360 feet of 10-inch sewer pipe by pipe bursting, and insertion of new pipe, installing a new six foot deep manhole, replace 8 existing manholes, demolish and replacing the old Montgomery Street pump station, perform a video inspection and clean all sewer lines, renovate the pump station located at The Country Inn and provide extra spare pump for five other pump stations. Mr. Clayton stated that he was almost certain that the town would not have enough money to do all of that, so he asked the bidders to come up with alternate bids on various parts of the project. Commissioner Best made a motion to award the bid to Ormund Utilities pending reference check. Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Joey Elias with the Heaton Construction Company had a conflict and could not be here regarding the Town Hall drainage solution. It was tabled until next month.

Kevin Varnell, Stocks Engineering spoke on digging a new well or re-doing the Poplar Street Well. He suggested not opening the old well on Poplar Street and opening another well on the other side of town or look at some property, negotiate prices or swap property. Commissioner Best made a motion to explore property for a well site and negotiate prices and bring it back to the board. Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Allen Barbee, Chairman of the Revitalization Board presented the Town Seal that was drawn up by artist John Morris of Rocky Mount. He stated that the town could keep one in the Museum and one in the Town Hall. Mayor Gwaltney thanked the Revitalization Board and Allen Barbee for this project.

The approval of the tax releases would be voted on next month.

Commissioner Newkirk made a motion to accept a donation for curtains for the Spaulding Auditorium with the permission of the Nash Rocky Mount School. Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Newkirk made a motion to approve the Identify Theft Prevention Program. Commissioner Best seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Tim Denton, Police Chief gave an update on the Police Department. He stated that a Community Watch Program was held September 11, 2008 in the Community Building. On September 22, 2008 he gave a presentation about the Taser to the Chamber of Commerce along with Lt. Brantley of the Nash County Sheriff's Office. He reported that a Fire Extinguishers Training was held on September 24, 2008. The chief introduced Adam Whitley as the new police officer to the board.

Commissioner Newkirk thanked the town manager for seeing that the Railroad Tracks at Ash Street and Pine Street were repaired. He also stated that there was some confusion of the phone tree messenger regarding the tree limbs removal policy letter. A revised letter needs to be sent.

Commissioner Clark thanked the town employees for doing a really good job for cleaning up the town after the Pumpkin Festival. Also Commissioner Best thanked the outside help for cleaning up after the Pumpkin Festival. He also asked the chief whenever he and his officers were riding around town and if they see things that need to be done to let the manager know about it.

Commissioner Hawley made a motion to go into a closed session for contract negotiations, seconded by Commissioner Newkirk and it passed unanimously.

After some discussion, Commissioner Hawley made a motion to go out of closed session, and back to the regular session, seconded by Commissioner Newkirk and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Best made a motion to accept the town manager new plan for the Personnel Operation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, to hire Mandy Hall as Operator of Responsible Charge of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. (She will also serve as back ORC for the Sewer Collection System; as well as enforcing the Sewer Use Ordinance and the Grease Education Program and also Well Operations). Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There being no more further business, Commissioner Clark made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Hawley and it passed unanimously.