

Minutes
Of the
Spring Hope Board of Commissioners Meeting
February 9, 2009
7:00 p.m.

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

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

Mayor Gwaltney called the meeting to order and Commissioner Clark gave the invocation.

Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 12, 2009, seconded by Commissioner Best and it passed unanimously.

There were several citizens present.

Public Forum:

Lillie Brodie- She stated that she had already taken care of her problem.

Gina Neil – She stated that she came to the meeting last month concerning her water bill. She wanted to know if the town board was going to give her an adjustment for a large water bill. She stated that she felt she did not use that much water. Mr. Holpe, Town Manager stated that there was no policy as far as making an adjustment when you do not have a water leak. Kevin Varnell, with Stocks Engineering, stated that he checked the meter out also and it was not leaking, so the water had to be used by the resident. Commissioner Best stated that he felt there was no justification to make an adjustment. No action was taken. Mrs. Neil stated that the Board had not heard the last of this; and then she stormed out of the room.

Commissioner Best made a motion to go into a Public Hearing regarding Planning Commission recommendation to grant a Special Use Permit to the Chamber of Commerce to operate a Farmers Market at the Depot. Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. After some discussion, Commissioner Hawley made a motion to go out of the Public Hearing and go back to the regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Clark and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hawley made a motion to give the Spring Hope Chamber of Commerce a Special Use Permit to operate a Farmers Market at the Depot. The Farmers Market will be held on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. This permit is good for a twelve month period effective now. Commissioner Best seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Kevin Varnell with Stocks Engineering discussed the following items regarding the \$ 485,000 grant from the Rural Center for the Sanitary Sewer Improvements.

- Capital Project Budget Ordinance
- Resolution affirming water and sewer rates
- The Project Schedule
- Certification of available funding and the ability to proceed
- Acceptance of the grant

Since the town had not received approval of the USDA grant application, the commissioners had to pass the budget ordinance in order to get the paperwork to the Rural Center. Kevin Varnell stated that the town had gone through all the reviews of the application with the USDA. He stated that if the USDA does not give us the \$ 485,000, which they are, the town will have to come up with the funds to match the project. Commissioner Best made a motion to accept the Capital Project Budget Ordinance and the Resolution affirming the water and sewer rates. Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.(see attached)

Greg Goddard with the Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments contacted John Holpe, Town Manager to see if the town had any infrastructure projects that could be funded through a national Economic Stimulus Program. Kevin Varnell, with Stocks Engineering, stated that he and the town manager have looked at every project and started going after grants. He stated that the town board had been talking about adding a new well, now was the opportunity to try to obtain stimulus funds to help fund the well. The board authorized Kevin Varnell to look into this program.

Kevin Varnell discussed a policy regarding installation of a drainage pipe on private property. He gave the objective and the procedure of this policy. Commissioner Best stated that we need to check with the town attorney to see if this policy needs to be done in ordinance form or as a resolution.

John Holpe, Town Manager, reported on the Safe Routes to School Project. There was a meeting with the school group concerning the sidewalk. The group felt that the sidewalk along McLean Street should be on the south side of the street. Commissioner Hawley stated that we needed to get input from the property owners on the south side of McLean Street from Walnut Street to Dodd Street. Mr. Holpe stated that there will be public hearings on this matter

John Holpe, Town Manager stated that he had sent a letter to Joey Elias with Heaton Construction Company concerning the town hall drainage. He stated that if the problem was not fixed to the town's satisfaction within two weeks from the date of this letter, that the town will consider his company to be in breach of their contract and the town will hire another contractor to fix the problem and charge his company the cost of making the repairs.

He also stated that Stephen Jones, son of Bobby Jones, deceased, was interested in selling Lots 1, 3, and 5 of his property located at the end of East Branch Street and also on First Street. He thought the town might be interested in purchasing the property that backs up to the cemetery located on the corner of Louisburg Road and Branch Street. The Board didn't have any interest in obtaining the property at this point.

Chief Denton gave an update on the Police Department. He stated that he had gotten back, from the New York City Police Department, the gun which had been taken from Ricky Tucker's residence on McLean Street. Also, he had an interview with a police applicant. One of the town's officers is working on making arrests with regards to the drug problem around town. He also stated that a Community Watch Meeting would be Thursday, February 12th at the community building at 7:00 pm.

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