

Minutes
Of the
Spring Hope Board of Commissioners Meeting
September 14, 2009
7:00 pm

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, Michele Collins, Customer Service Rep; Mark Edwards, Town Attorney; Ken Murchison, Spring Hope Enterprise; Amanda Clark, Nashville Graphic.

Mayor Gwaltney called the meeting to order and Reverend Elizabeth Polk from Gibson Memorial Methodist Church gave the invocation in Remembrance of 911.

Commissioner Hawley made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 10, 2009. Commissioner Newkirk seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

David Harris with RSM Harris Associates gave an update on the 2008 CDBG –Community Revitalization Project. It was not necessary to hold a Public Hearing since the board found out that the town had been awarded the Project. Commissioner Best made a motion to adopt the Grant Project Budget Ordinance, Resolution Authorizing Execution of Documents and the Financial Management Resolution for the 2008 CDBG. Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Kevin Varnell with Stocks Engineering was present regarding potholes repairs and paving. Commissioner Best made a motion to award the pothole repairs to Barnhill Contracting Company for \$ 28,083.26 with the first priority as West Main Street from Ash Street to May Street. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The board had requested that this project be completed before the Pumpkin Festival.

Commissioner Newkirk made a motion to enter into an agreement with the Rural Center for the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project for \$ 485,000. The town share would be \$ 25,000, USDA Loan would be \$ 280,000 and USDA Grant would be \$ 193,500. The total cost of the project would be \$ 983,500. Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

John Holpe, Town Manager, stated that the Town did not get the Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Grant. The existing right-of-way was not sufficient to provide an appropriate buffer between the roadway and the sidewalk in certain locations. Commissioner Best made a motion to give Kevin Varnell permission to resubmit the application in 2010, seconded by Commissioner Hawley and it passed unanimously.

Kathy Nall, Tommy Toney and Megan Bailey spoke on behalf of the Spring Hope Park Workgroup. The Workgroup, currently composed of ten members, wants to improve the town park on McLean Street by adding playground equipment, walking and biking trails. Kathy Nall, with the Downeast Partnership, stated that the group wants to get a site design from North Carolina State University. She stated once a design has been received and approved, Nash County Parks and Recreation would help guide the group through the application process at no cost. She stated that the group would like to order the site design by November, so they could have it by February 2010. Commissioner Newkirk made a motion to appoint the group as a committee, allow the group to meet with the public to determine the recreational needs of the community and agree to pay for a new site design by the North Carolina State University. Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Best made a motion to purchase a taser for the police department, seconded by Commissioner Clark and it passed 3 to 1 in favor. Commissioner Newkirk opposed. Commissioner Bissett was absent.

Commissioner Best made a motion to approve the Tax Releases:

- Charles Wayne Medlin- released \$ 256.50- Disabled veterans application received late at Nash County Tax Office
- Sarah Irvin- released \$ 256.50- Disabled veterans application received late at Nash County Tax Office.

Commissioner Newkirk seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

Commissioner Hawley made a motion to close the following streets for the Pumpkin Festival: Ash Street from Branch to Pine Street

Railroad Street from Walnut to Ash Street

West Main Street from Walnut to Poplar Street

State maintained Streets: Nash, US 64A, from Hopkins to Walnut

South Walnut, 581 South, from Nash to Branch

East Branch from South Walnut to Ashe Street

Commissioner Best seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

John Holpe, Town Manager, reported that Allen Barbee was stepping down as Chairman of the Revitalization Board. Commissioner Newkirk made a motion to recommend Tommy Toney as Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Hawley and it passed unanimously.

John Holpe, Town Manager reported on grass cutting for the downtown area. He stated that there was stimulus money available from the Upper Coastal Plain of Governments for anyone that was fifty-five years old and over that would qualify. He stated that the town could get the inmates for a contract at \$ 1.00 per day per inmate. He mentioned the Pumpkin Festival, Parade and Luncheon.

John Holpe, Town Manager stated that the 2009 General Assembly passed legislation that includes a requirement that all elected municipal officials complete at least two hours of ethics training within 12 months of being elected, appointed or reelected.

John Holpe, Town Manager, stated that beginning October 1, 2009, it will be illegal to discard rigid plastic containers such as soda and water bottles, laundry detergent containers and milk jugs in regular trash bins.

Police Chief Tim Denton gave an update on the police department. He thanked the town board for the approval of purchasing a taser for the department. He stated that in- service training would be held on September 19th and 25th. He was still working on an applicant, waiting for paperwork to come back from the Department of Justice.

Commissioner Clark stated that she was getting many complaints about limbs and trash not being picked up.

Commissioner Hawley made a motion to closed the regular session and go into closed session concerning a contract negotiation, seconded by Commissioner Newkirk and it passed unanimously.

After some discussion, Commissioner Best made a motion to go out of the closed session and enter back into the regular session, seconded by Commissioner Newkirk.

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