

REGULAR BOARD MEETING of August 1, 2001, with Mayor Buck Trott and Commissioners Zeke Sossomon, Amy Patterson, H. N. James, Ron Sanders, and Mike Cavender present.

Also present were Richard Betz, Selwyn Chalker, Kim Lewicki, Mildred Johnson, George Gross, Stell Huie, Charlie McDowell, Alan Marsh, Bill Rethorst, and Donald and Patricia Hiott.

I. Call to Order.

The Mayor called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda.

Copies of the agenda had been distributed by mail. The Mayor reported that Stell Huie had requested permission to speak to the Board about the Highlands Community Foundation.

MOVED BY COMM. SOSSOMON, SECONDED BY COMM. JAMES, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

III. Approval of Minutes.

Copies of the minutes of the July 11 Regular Board Meeting and the July 25 Special Board Meeting had been distributed by mail. Comm. James felt that the statement the Board had made at the July 25 meeting regarding Maureen Lackey's resignation should be included in those minutes.

MOVED BY COMM. CAVENDER, SECONDED BY COMM. SOSSOMON, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.

IV. Reports.

1. The Mayor reported that he would be attending a League of Municipalities Board of Directors meeting in Raleigh the following week; much of the meeting would be devoted to the State's budget crisis.

2. Each Board member had received the Public Services Administrator's written report for the month. Lamar Nix was on vacation, but had reported to the Town Administrator earlier in the day; he understood that the West Shore Lake Sequoyah Project was complete except for final electrical approval, and that paving of Maple Street could begin as early as this coming Friday. The Mayor reported that equipment was being tested at Duke's substation site at US-64 and Mirror Lake Road; he felt Duke had done a good job screening the equipment from the road, and he had also been assured that the substation would provide improved service when complete.

Comm. James felt that the D. O. T. should be contacted immediately concerning a traffic light at the intersection of Maple Street and US-64, and the Board agreed for the Mayor to write a letter formally making the request; the Mayor said that he had already had some discussions with D. O. T. officials about the light.

3. Each Board member had received a copy of the Recreation Director's report for the month. Selwyn Chalker was present and reviewed the report with the Board. He said that softball and summer camp had gone well, and the contract janitorial service also seemed to be working. With many lifeguards returning to school, he would have to operate the pool only part-time during the month of August. He also reported that the Recreation Committee had met and had been reviewing some upgrades to the playground; he felt that the Board might want to consider replacing the entire playground rather than simply upgrading and repairing the equipment, and he said the Committee would be reviewing this option in the coming month. Funds had been budgeted for the playground upgrade in the FY 01-02 budget.

4. The Town Administrator reported that he had not had the opportunity to prepare a Zoning Administrator's report. He said that the office was managing well, and praised the assistance from the other employees in the Town Office. The position had been advertized with a deadline of August 15. Comm. James asked The Highlander newspaper to feature the position more prominently, and Ms. Lewicki agreed to do so.

5. Each Board member had received a copy of the Treasurer's Report for the month.

MOVED BY COMM. SOSSOMON, SECONDED BY COMM. JAMES, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

6. The Town Administrator reported that SpectraSite had informed him that Comair would be removing one antenna from the Big Bearpen tower, thereby reducing the annual rent from \$4000 to \$2000. Copies of a thank-you letter from the Peggy Crosby Community Service Center for the Town's recent \$20,000 donation were distributed, as well as a copy of a letter from Robin Minus, Executive Director of Chestnut Hill, to Charlie McDowell, objecting to statements he had made at the July 11 meeting.

V. Old Business - none.

VI. New Business.

1. Stell Huie was present to speak on behalf of the Highlands Community Foundation. He briefly reviewed the organization, which provided grants to 501(c)(3) organizations in Highlands; last year, grants totaling over \$39,000 had been given to the Performing Arts Center, the Community Players, the Literacy Council, the Presbyterian Child Care Center, and others. He said that the objective of the Foundation was to build an endowment of \$1 million to benefit this community. In order to make the public aware of the Foundation, he asked the Board to proclaim the month of August Community Foundation Awareness Month.

MOVED BY COMM. SANDERS, SECONDED BY COMM. CAVENDER, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING
HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, the Highlands Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina Inc., has been created to establish an endowment to receive and encourage gifts and grants by individuals and organizations in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation has supported a variety of worthy 501(c)(3) organizations in Highlands, last year returning over \$39,000 to the the Highlands community; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that the Foundation provides a vehicle for caring citizens to make a permanent investment in the future of their community; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Community Foundation wishes to increase public awareness of the Foundation and its objectives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Allen L. Trott, Mayor of the Town of Highlands, do hereby declare **The Month of August, 2001**, as

HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARENESS MONTH

in the Town of Highlands, North Carolina.

Allen L. Trott, Mayor
Town of Highlands

2. George Gross was present and reported on several potholes on State-maintained roads in Highlands. The Mayor assured him that he would personally draw the problem areas to the attention of the property D. O. T. officials.

3. Donald and Patricia Hiott, residents of Pierson Drive, were present to complain about several problems concerning property adjoining theirs. They said that the commercial property in front of their house, owned by Schmitt Building Contractors, needed cleaning up; it contained several metal sheds, junk vehicles, stacks of old wood, and trash. The residential property to the west contained camper trailers, boats, dump trucks, and trash. They said that they had spoken to the Mayor about the problem, as well as Maureen Lackey, previous Zoning Administrator; Ms. Lackey had told them that the Town had no jurisdiction over the problems, and had suggested they contact the Environmental Protection Agency. They also said that they had contacted Richard Betz, Interim Zoning Administrator. Mr. Betz said that he had investigated the complaint but had not yet had the opportunity to contact the property owners. He assured Mr. and Mrs. Hiott that there were local remedies for most of the problems in the junk vehicle, solid waste, and Zoning ordinances.

VII. MOVED BY COMM. CAVENDER, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was declared adjourned by the Mayor at 7:35 p.m.

Richard Betz, Town Clerk