

ADJOURNED SESSION BOARD MEETING of March 19, 2008, with Mayor Don Mullen and Comms. Amy Patterson, Hank Ross, John Dotson, and Dennis DeWolf present. Comm. Rogers was not present.

Also present were Richard Betz, Lamar Nix, Joe Cooley, Bill Harrell, and Selwyn Chalker.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. and noted that the meeting had been continued on March 12 to this time and this location, the Highlands Civic Center.

The Board discussed job descriptions and training with the Town Administrator and Department Heads.

The Board agreed by consensus that the meeting be continued to reconvene at 8:00 a.m. on March 26 in the Conference Room.

Richard Betz, Town Clerk

REGULAR BOARD MEETING of March 19, 2008, with Mayor Don Mullen and Comms. Amy Patterson, Hank Ross, Dennis DeWolf, Larry Rogers, and John Dotson present.

Also present were Richard Betz, Lamar Nix, Joe Cooley, Josh Ward, Melody Spurney, Kim Lewicki, Jim Lewicki, Cynthia Strain, Bob Kieltyka, Buck Trott, Eric NeSmith, Linsey Wisdom, Max Kimmel, Marc Pittman, Bill & June Hogue, Bill Nellis, Andrew Parker, and many others.

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 Town Administrator requested addition of two items of new business: parking passes for the Chamber of Commerce and a personnel matter. Comm. Patterson requested addition of one item: parking lot at the Performing Arts Center.

MOVED BY COMM. DEWOLF, SECONDED BY COMM. PATTERSON, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

III. Approval of Minutes.

Copies of the minutes of the March 12 Special Board Meeting and the March 12 Regular Board Meeting had been

distributed by mail.

MOVED BY COMM. PATTERSON, SECONDED BY COMM. ROSS, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS DISTRIBUTED.

IV. Reports.

1. The Mayor reported that the Highlands, Franklin, and Macon County governing boards had met in a very cordial dinner meeting the previous evening; meetings would be scheduled three times per year in future, and he felt they would be an important step in discussing common problems. He also said that the Board had attended the Chamber of Commerce retreat earlier in the day.
2. The Public Works Committee had looked at the sidewalk along Hickory Street at US-64 discussed at the previous meeting; they asked that this be placed on the agenda of the March 24 Special Meeting when the property owner could be present.
3. The Town Administrator reported that he had written letters discussed at the previous meeting to the D.O.T., the Corps of Engineers, and Congressman Shuler's office.

V. Old Business.

1. The Board again discussed the budget requests to Macon County, Jackson County, and the Chamber of Commerce, as discussed at the previous meeting. The Town Administrator was authorized to write the recommended letters after discussing the Macon County request with the County Manager to see how he wanted to handle it; the Recreation Committee offered to meet if necessary.

VI. New Business.

1. Max Kimmel was present from Mountain Environmental to present an assessment of the Big Creek Arm of Lake Sequoyah prepared by both his firm and Altamont Environmental. He distributed copies of the assessment, which consisted of mapping of the lake, consideration of options, and recommendations. The final recommendation consisted of hydraulic dredging of 42,000 cubic yards of silt, on-site centrifugal de-watering, and hauling de-watered sediment to the Macon County landfill as part of the close-out. The estimated cost was \$2,000,000, and he recommended dredging the entire 42,000 cubic yards. The operation would take four to six months and could be done in the off-season.
2. John Gaston, President of the Board of Trustees of Hudson Library, was present with plans for expansion. A survey and needs assessment had been completed, and Paul Schmitt had prepared plans for an addition; size would be increased from 8500 SF to 14,000 SF, with a 5,000 SF second-story addition. Mr. Schmitt presented the plans and reviewed them in some detail. 38 parking spaces would be created, some of them consisting of grass pavers; only 28 were needed. The required parking would be dependent on a request to amend Section 302 of the Zoning Ordinance to one space per 500 SF. Planning Director Joe Cooley had reviewed the request and said that most other public libraries had a similar parking requirement. Mr. Gaston said he would also be requesting funding for renovation of a multi-purpose room in the library before the April 1 deadline.

MOVED BY COMM. PATTERSON AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO SEND THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO THE PLANNING BOARD FOR REVIEW.

3. Bob Kieltyka was present on behalf of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce to request use of Pine Street Park and closing of all of Pine Street for an antique auto show on Saturday, September 13, benefitting the Hudson Library; the rain date was September 20. Bank of America and Macon Bank had also agreed to permit use of their parking lots

for the show, and there would be many side attractions.

MOVED BY COMM. DOTSON, SECONDED BY COMM. DEWOLF, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE CLOSING OF THE STREET AND USE OF PINE STREET PARK FOR THIS EVENT.

Mr. Kieltyka also requested renewal of permission to issue parking passes as it had in the past. He said that 107 had been issued last year, and Police Chief Bill Harrell had indicated that there had been no problems.

MOVED BY COMM. PATTERSON, SECONDED BY COMM. DEWOLF, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE PARKING PASSES FOR THE SEASON.

Each Board member had also received a letter dated March 19, which had been discussed earlier in the day at the Chamber retreat, requesting 1500 SF in the new Town Hall complex for the Chamber and the Visitor Center. It was agreed that the letter would be forwarded to the architects for the project.

4. Cynthia Strain was present to request use of Pine Street Park for Saturday and Sunday of both Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends for an arts and crafts show; setup would begin Friday, and booths would also be set up in Highlands Village Square, but would not involve Pine Street itself. The Highlander Newspaper had already reserved the park for Memorial Day, but Eric NeSmith was present and said they had agreed to share the space.

MOVED BY COMM. ROGERS, SECONDED BY COMM. PATTERSON, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE USE OF PINE STREET PARK FOR THIS EVENT.

5. Comm. Patterson, noting that she was a member of the Performing Arts Center Board, asked the Board to consider putting in more parking off Laurel Street, extending the rain garden into a retention pond in the rear of the property, and creating several parking spaces with grass pavers and sod. She thought that the grass pavers could be used as a demonstration site to see how they work in Highlands. She had already consulted with the Town Engineer on the project and she said most of the work could be done by Town forces; the cost was unknown, but paving would be minimal and could be included with the Spring paving contract. Comm. Rogers said he would like to see the site, and the Board agreed by consensus to defer a decision until the March 24 Special Meeting.

6. MOVED BY COMM. ROSS, SECONDED BY COMM. ROGERS, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO G.S.§143-318.11(A)(3) TO CONSULT WITH THE TOWN ATTORNEY ON POSSIBLE LITIGATION WITH OLD EDWARDS INN INC., AND PURSUANT TO G.S.§143-318.11(A)(6) TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL MATTER. All present left the room except the Town Administrator, the Planning Director, the Planning Code Enforcement Official, and Town Attorney Andrew Parker.

A. The Board consulted with Town Attorney Andrew Parker and gave him instructions.

B. The Board discussed a personnel matters.

MOVED BY COMM. PATTERSON AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO GO INTO OPEN SESSION.

VII. The Board agreed by consensus to adjourn.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was declared by the Mayor to be adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Richard Betz, Town Clerk