

REGULAR BOARD MEETING of December 3, 2008, with Mayor Don Mullen and Comms. Amy Patterson, Hank Ross, Dennis DeWolf, Larry Rogers, and John Dotson present.

Also present were Richard Betz, Bill Coward, Joe Cooley, Bill Harrell, Selwyn Chalker, Lamar Nix, Kim Lewicki, John Shearl, Melody Spurney, Jack Bournemann, Alan Marsh, and others.

I. Call to Order.

The Mayor suggested that, since the posted agenda had a closed session as the first item of business, the meeting begin early for that purpose; he therefore called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

MOVED BY COMM. DOTSON, SECONDED BY COMM. DEWOLF, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO G. S. '143-318.11(A)(6) TO CONSIDER A PROPOSED CONTRACT FOR EMPLOYMENT FOR A TOWN MANAGER. The Board then left the meeting room and convened in the adjoining small conference room with the Town Attorney and the Town Administrator.

The Board considered a proposed contract for employment for a Town Manager.

MOVED BY COMM. DEWOLF, SECONDED BY COMM. ROGERS, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO GO INTO OPEN SESSION. The Board reconvened in the meeting room at 7:15 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda.

Copies of the agenda had been distributed by mail. The Town Administrator requested that one item of New Business be deleted, a proposal from Green T Recycling, and that one item of New Business be added, approval of the Fire Department's election of a Fire Chief and representative on the Firemen's Relief Fund.

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

III. Approval of Minutes.

Copies of the minutes of the November 19 Regular Board Meeting had been distributed by mail.

MOVED BY COMM. DEWOLF, SECONDED BY COMM. DOTSON, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS DISTRIBUTED.

IV. Public Comment Period.

1. Jack Bournemann was present and made some comments about the search for a Town Manager that were incomprehensible to those present.

V. Reports.

1. The Mayor reported that the Board had reviewed many candidates for the position of Town Manager and had agreed to contract with James R. Fatland for the position. While copies of his CV were distributed to the Press, he briefly described Mr. Fatland's credentials and said that he would begin work on January 5, 2009.

MOVED BY COMM. ROSS, SECONDED BY COMM. PATTERSON, AND UNANIMOMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE A CONTRACT FOR EMPLOYING JAMES FATLAND AS TOWN MANAGER.

2. Comm. Ross reported that he and Comm. Dotson had met twice with Planning Director Joe Cooley and Wilbur Smith on the Parking Study, which was still in the analysis stage.

Comm. Ross also said that, with employment of a Town Manager, the work of the Organizational Review Committee which had begun over two years ago had ended. He said that he was gratified by the way the Town had moved forward, and at the same time praised Town Administrator Richard Betz, who had resigned effective February 28, 2009. The Mayor reiterated Comm. Ross's comments.

3. Town Attorney Bill Coward was present but had no report.

4. Each Board member had received a copy of the Town Engineer/ Public Services Administrator's report for the

month. Lamar Nix was present and described progress on the Harris Lake Sewer Project.

5. Each Board member had received a copy of the Police Chief's report for the month; Bill Harrell was present, and reported that the Town had again received the AAA award for the Safest community under 10,000.

6. Each Board member had received a copy of the Recreation Director's written report for the month; Selwyn Chalker was present.

7. Each Board member had received a copy of the Town Planner/ Zoning Administrator's written report for the month; Joe Cooley was present.

8. Each Board member had received a copy of the Treasurer's Report for the month. He reported that the expected decline in sales tax revenue had not yet begun to show up, but that ad valorem tax revenues were lagging behind schedule.

MOVED BY COMM. PATTERSON, SECONDED BY COMM. ROGERS, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ACCEPT THE REPORT.

9. The Town Administrator reported that he and the Town Engineer had met the previous week with Joel Storrow and J. P. Johns of McGill & Associates concerning an upcoming February 1 deadline for Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant funds for stormwater items identified in the Stormwater Master Plan. Lamar Nix then reviewed a proposal which had been distributed with the agenda package for improving road crossings on Laurel and Fifth Streets; he recommended that the Town consider Option 3 in the proposal, which consisted of culvert removal and upgrades with CON/SPAN structures designed for a 100-year storm. The cost was estimated at \$350,000, with \$291,00 being provided by the grant and \$59,000 in match. The cost of the CWMTF grant preparation would be \$7,000, and the Board agreed to discuss this at the January 7 meeting.

VI. Old Business. None.

VII. New Business.

1. The Town Administrator reported that he had solicited contracts for mowing the Cemetery, Recreation Park, and Zachary Park; when factoring in the hourly rates, J & J Lawn Service would be awarded the Cemetery and Recreation Park contracts, and Zoellner Landscaping would be awarded the Zachary Park contracts.

2. The Town Administrator submitted a proposed Holiday Schedule and Meeting Schedule for 2009. He said that he again had included an eleventh holiday, Martin Luther King Junior Day, scheduled for January 19, because it was consistent with holidays observed by most states, municipalities, and the federal government; the post office and banks were also closed on that day, so business could not be carried out in the Town Office. He commented that progressive vacation and holiday schedules helped attract and retain qualified employees. Comm. Patterson said she did not object to the holiday if another were removed; she thought that it was important for government to be responsive to the people, and she felt that eleven days of holidays was too much. The Mayor said that he agreed with the Town Administrator and thought the holiday should be observed. Comm. Ross agreed; he said that he took offense that the day was not observed by the Town and felt that it was long overdue.

MOVED BY COMM. ROSS, SECONDED BY COMM. DEWOLF, AND CARRIED TO APPROVE THE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE WITH THE ADDITIONAL HOLIDAY, AND THE MEETING SCHEDULE, AS PRESENT. Comms. Ross, DeWolf, and Rogers voted "aye," and Comms. Patterson and Dotson voted "nay."

3. The Town Administrator recommended the same Christmas bonuses approved last year, as follows:

- Less than one year of service.....\$200.00
- Between one year and ten years of service.....\$250.00
- Between ten years and twenty years of service....\$300.00
- More than twenty years of service.....\$350.00
- Part-time employees.....Hams

MOVED BY COMM. PATTERSON, SECONDED BY COMM. ROSS, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE BONUSES. The Town Administrator thanked the Board on behalf of all employees.

4. The Board agreed by consensus to cancel the December 17 Board meeting unless there was an emergency.

5. It was reported that the Fire Department had recommended James Manley as Fire Chief and Olan Vinson as the Department's representative on the Firemen's Relief Fund.

MOVED BY COMM. PATTERSON, SECONDED BY COMM. DEWOLF, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENTS.

6. Comm. DeWolf said that he had appreciated working with Richard Betz over the years.

VIII. MOVED BY COMM. PATTERSON, SECONDED BY COMM. DEWOLF, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was declared by the Mayor to be adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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Richard Betz, Town Clerk