

**TOWN OF LONG VIEW  
TOWN ALDERMEN MEETING  
December 13, 2010**

The Town of Long View Board of Aldermen met on Monday, December 13, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers of the Government Center in Long View, North Carolina.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** The following members of the Board were present: Mayor Pro Tem Vernon Moyer, Alderman John McDaris, Alderman Randall Mays, and Alderman Jackie Bowman.

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** The following member of the Board was not present Alderman Ken Bumgarner.

**STAFF PRESENT:** The following members of staff were present: Town Administrator David Epley, Town Clerk Stephanie Watson, Town Attorney Redmond Dill, Finance Director James Cozart, Town Planner Charles Mullis, Public Works Director David Draughn, Water Plant Superintendent Rani Holland, Fire Chief Eric Shepherd, Police Chief Cecil Rogers and Police Officer Justin Roberts.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Carolina Thread Trail Community Coordinator Randi Gates was present.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** Mayor Pro Tem Vernon Moyer called the meeting to order and Alderman Jackie Bowman gave the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mayor Pro Tem Vernon Moyer asked for approval of the minutes. Motion was made by Alderman Randall Mays, seconded by Alderman Jackie Bowman to approve the November 8, 2010 minutes and Closed Session minutes. The vote was unanimous, by all Board members present at the respective meeting.

**RESCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS CHAPTER 72, TRAFFIC SCHEDULES OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF LONG VIEW, NC**

Mayor Pro Tem Vernon Moyer explained that the public hearing would need to be rescheduled due to it not being advertised in time for the current meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Vernon Moyer asked for a motion to reschedule the Public Hearing to discuss Chapter 72, Traffic Schedules of the Code of Ordinances to the January 10, 2011 Board of Aldermen Meeting.

Motion was made by Alderman Jackie Bowman, seconded by Alderman John McDaris to reschedule the Public Hearing to discuss Chapter 72, Traffic Schedules of the Code of Ordinances to the January 10, 2011 Board of Aldermen Meeting. The vote was unanimous by all members present.

**GUEST SPEAKER RANDI GATES TO DISCUSS THE CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL**

Guest speaker Randi Gates informed the Board that she was present at tonight's meeting to speak about the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan for Catawba County communities. The Carolina Thread Trail is a plan to connect 15 counties with greenways and trails; 11 counties in North Carolina and 4 counties in South Carolina. It should affect 2.3 million people. Currently a planning process is

underway in each of the 15 counties to plan where routes of the Carolina Thread Trail will be located. One hundred and twenty-five miles of trail has been proposed for Catawba County.

The planning process occurs in each of the 15 counties. Catawba County is the 9<sup>th</sup> county on the list. The beginning of the process started with a resolution of support that Long View has already adopted.

A local steering committee made up of members from the local communities has been developed. Town Planner Charles Mullis was appointed to be a part of the local steering committee that was put together for this area.

In November of 2009, Catawba County was awarded a \$60,000 grant from the Carolina Thread Trail to hire an outside planning consultant.

In January of 2010, the first round of public meetings was held. Approximately seventy-one people attended. Citizens were asked where they would like the trails to be located and what destinations they would like to connect. Also discussed was who would be using the trails (joggers, equestrians, bikers, etc).

In June of 2010, the second round of public meetings was held. Approximately 51 people attended.

The Carolina Thread Trail group also met with the surrounding counties to make sure that the trails just didn't stop at the county line.

In July through September of 2010, consultants worked on the draft documents for this plan. During this time presentations were also made to local communities.

At present all the local communities have adopted the plan. Included in the communities are Catawba, Claremont, Conover, Hickory, Maiden, and Newton. Ms. Gates will be presenting the plan to the Catawba County Commissioners on December 20, 2010.

Ms. Gates apologized for not being able to attend a Long View Board Meeting earlier in the year.

Ms. Gates explained that at the first public meeting, a targeted plan exercise was given to the committee. It was established that the Henry Fork River connector was an essential route to the draft plan and an unpaved hiking trail was the most desirable type of trail for our local community.

Ms. Gates presented to the Board the draft map of the Carolina Thread Trail for Catawba County. She explained that it is still a draft because the organization has not spoken with the owners' of the properties that the trail would go through.

She explained that the next step once adopted would be to define where the trails would likely be located. This would depend on where right-of-ways are located and whether or not land owners on the proposed trail would be agreeable.

One hundred twenty-five and nine-tenths miles of trail are being proposed. Three and three-tenths miles of the trail are already in existence. Forty-five percent are along stream or river corridors, twenty-one percent are along existing or proposed sidewalks, five percent are along utility right-of ways, and twenty-four percent are along road right-of-ways.

Within a quarter mile walking distance of the proposed trail plan there are 9 cultural/recreational sites, 9 downtowns, 27 parks, 2 colleges/universities, 6 historic districts, 24 local schools, 6 libraries, and 3 YMCAs. Thirty-seven percent of all county residents will live a half mile from the proposed Carolina Thread Trail in Catawba County.

Ms. Gates briefly explained what area makes up the three Forks Corridor.

Ms. Gates explained that she is asking the Town of Long View to adopt the whole plan tonight. Adopting the master plan at this time does not commit the Town to any funding whatsoever. The Carolina Thread Trail staff will continue to work toward finding outside grant sources. The Carolina Thread Trail is conducting a private capital campaign with a long term goal of raising \$40 million dollars to help the community develop the trail; \$25 million in cash and \$15 million in land donations. Seventeen million dollars in cash has been raised so far. \$1.5 million has been given back into the community in the form of grants.

Ms. Gates acknowledged that the private capital campaign will not be able to fund all 15 counties worth of trail. The Carolina Thread Trail is willing to help local communities to find funding. She mentioned possible grant opportunities and stimulus funding.

Mayor Pro Tem Vernon Moyer asked how the Regional Trails Plan connects with the Carolina Thread Trail. Ms. Gates explained that the Regional Trails Plan includes Caldwell, Alexander, Catawba, and Burke counties. The Carolina Thread Trail will be incorporated to tie into those regional systems.

Mayor Pro Tem Vernon Moyer asked what kind of usage of the trail would be anticipated. Ms. Gates gave examples of positive feedback for areas that have already been developed. She said that she did not have exact numbers to calculate the amount of usage for those trails but she estimated that usage was in the thousands.

Town Administrator David Epley asked that once the land is procured and once it has been developed into the trail, who is responsible for maintaining and policing the trail. Ms. Gates explained that once adopted the plan belongs to the Town. It will be up to the Town to maintain and police the trail. She said that in some locations volunteers maintain the trails. Some trails go along existing sidewalks and are already maintained by the Town.

Ms. Gates explained that the Carolina Thread Trail is a nonprofit organization. Its three roles are to work with communities to develop the plan, provide funding and seek out grant funding, and provide an education on how to raise funds.

Alderman Jackie Bowman asked if the portion of the proposed trail is located on one of the Town's right-of-ways. Ms. Gates explained that there is a sewer right-of-way that the proposed trail is located on. It is probably already maintained by the Town. Utility right-of-ways make good trail systems.

Town Administrator David Epley said that the proposed area is in a remote area and that was why he was concerned about the policing of that area. Ms. Gates said that a lot of times trails help to clean up areas in regards to crime. The Town will still need to keep up with policing the area.

Randall Mays asked if the Town would assume liability for the trail. Ms. Gates explained that North Carolina has recreation statutes that claim per state that for anyone using trails for recreation, users of trails are treated as trespassers even when the Town has opened up the trail for public use. The recreation statute helps to protect communities.

Alderman Jackie Bowman was concerned where the trail will hook in from the Burke County side. Ms. Gates said that information will be gathered in the next step. It would be discussed in the design phase. The routes are not set in stone and probably will need slight changes in the future as they contact property owners.

Attorney Redmond Dill explained that all that will be adopted at tonight's meeting will be the concept of having the trails. This would be a long term plan.

Alderman Randall Mays spoke briefly about a greenway trail that Hickory proposed previously.

Ms. Gates once again stated that the Carolina Thread Trail would have to get permission from property owners along the proposed trail before it could be approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Vernon Moyer requested a motion adopt the proposed Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan and the map.

Motion was made by Alderman Jackie Bowman, seconded by Alderman John McDaris to adopt the proposed Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan and the map. The vote was unanimous.

The Board thanked Ms Gates for her presentation.

### **APPOINT WESTERN PIEDMONT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS 2011 POLICY BOARD DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE**

Mayor Pro Tem Vernon Moyer requested nominations for the position of the 2011 Policy Board Delegate and Alternate.

After a brief discussion, it was the decision of the Board to nominate Alderman Vernon Moyer as the 2011 Policy Board Delegate and Alderman Randall Mays as the 2011 Policy Board Alternate.

Motion was made by Alderman Jackie Bowman, seconded by Alderman John McDaris to elect Alderman Vernon Moyer as the 2011 Policy Board Delegate and Alderman Randall Mays as the 2011 Policy Board Alternate for the Western Piedmont Council of Governments. The vote was unanimous.

### **FINANCE REPORT**

#### **Finance Report**

Finance Director James Cozart informed the Board that Revenues in the General Fund as of October 31, 2010 with 33 percent of the fiscal year complete Revenues totaled \$979,246.83. The Town had collected nearly 33 percent of its Revenue at October 31<sup>st</sup>. Expenditures in the General Fund totaled \$889,034.73.

In the General Fund, the Ad Velorum and the Sales and Use Tax Collections were stronger this year than last year. Revenue exceeded Expenditures in the General Fund by \$90,212.10.

In the Utility Fund, Revenues totaled \$610,314.76. The Town had collected just over 32 percent of its budgeted revenues. The Expenditures totaled \$543,849.69. Revenues exceeded Expenditures by \$66,465.07.

Finance Director James Cozart explained that it was the continual efforts of the Department Heads to curbe day to day expenses have helped to keep the General Fund and Utility Fund stable.

Alderman Randall Mays wished to thank the Department Heads for their dedication to helping to keep expenses down. The rest of the Board was in agreement.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

### **Projects Report**

**Frye Creek Pump Station** – Town Administrator David Epley informed the Board that the bid has been awarded for the Frye Creek Pump Station Renovation. There will be a preconstruction conference on Thursday, December 16, 2010.

**Sidewalk Project** – Town Administrator David Epley informed the Board that the engineer feels like the Town is close to getting approval from the D.O.T. for the sidewalk project.

**Western Piedmont Council of Governments Building** – Town Administrator David Epley informed the Board that the Town has received the plans for the Western Piedmont Council of Governments' building.

Mayor Pro Tem Vernon Moyer informed the Board that the anticipated date for construction to start is in May of 2011. They hope to have the building completed in October or November of 2011.

Town Administrator David Epley informed the Board that sewer and water service will be available to the building.

**19<sup>th</sup> St Sewer Project** – Town Administrator David Epley informed the Board that the Town is still awaiting paperwork on the 19<sup>th</sup> St Sewer Project.

**Christmas Party** – Town Administrator David Epley reminded everyone that the Town of Long View Employee Christmas Party was on Tuesday, December 14, 2010.

**Alderman Ken Bumgarner** – Town Administrator David Epley informed the Board about the status of Alderman Ken Bumgarner's illness. He asked the staff to keep him in their thoughts.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS A LEGAL MATTER AND PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

Motion was made by Alderman Jackie Bowman, seconded by Alderman Randall Mays to adjourn to closed session at 8:17 p.m. to discuss a legal matter and property acquisition. The vote was unanimous.

Motion was made by Alderman Randall Mays, seconded by Alderman Jackie Bowman to adjourn the closed session and return to the regular meeting at 8:36 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Motion was made by Alderman Randall Mays, seconded by Alderman John McDaris to enter into an acquisition of the property at 1230 13<sup>th</sup> St SW of Hickory in the amount not to exceed \$65,000.00. The vote was unanimous by all Board members present at the respective meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Jackie Bowman wished to send his best wishes to Alderman Ken Bumgarner.

Alderman Jackie Bowman wished to thank Long View staff for their continuing efforts.

Alderman Randall Mays wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Alderman John McDaris wished a Happy Birthday to all employees that celebrated one this month.

Alderman Vernon Moyer wished everyone to stay warm during this time of cooler weather.

There being no further business, motion was made by Alderman Randall Mays, seconded by Alderman John McDaris to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

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**Stephanie C. Watson**  
**Town Clerk, CMC**

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**Vernon Moyer**  
**Mayor Pro Tem**