

**TOWN OF LONG VIEW
TOWN ALDERMEN MEETING
January 11, 2010**

The Town of Long View Board of Aldermen met on Monday, January 11, 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: Alderman Ken Bumgarner, Alderman John McDaris, Alderman Randall Mays, Alderman Vernon Moyer, and Alderman Jackie Bowman

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: The following member of the Board was not present: Mayor Norman Cook

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, and Police Major Jim Worrell.

OTHERS PRESENT: Town resident Harold Duckworth was present.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Mayor Pro Tem Vernon Moyer called the meeting to order and Mayor Pro Tem Vernon Moyer 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 Ken Bumgarner to approve the December 14, 2009 minutes. The vote was unanimous.

VOTE TO DECLARE MAYOR NORMAN E. COOK INCAPACITATED

Town Administrator David Epley gave a brief overview of Mayor Norman Cook's condition. Mr. Epley explained that Mayor Norman Cook was no longer able to attend to his duties as Mayor because his illness had taken a turn for the worse.

Upon the request of the Board, Town Administrator David Epley read over Statute 160A-70 which states:

“At the organizational meeting, the council shall elect from among its members a mayor pro tempore to serve at the pleasure of the council. [...] If the mayor should become physically or mentally incapable of performing the duties of his office, the council may by unanimous vote declare that he is incapacitated and confer any of his powers and duties on the mayor pro tempore. Upon the mayor's declaration that he is no longer incapacitated, and with the concurrence of a majority of the council, the mayor shall resume the exercise of his powers and duties.”

By unanimous consent, Mayor Norman Cook was declared incapacitated and his powers and duties were conferred to Mayor Pro Tem Vernon Moyer making him the acting mayor.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR GRAFFITI ORDINANCE

Town Planner Charles Mullis informed the Board that the Planning Department would like to submit the final draft of the proposed Town of Long View Graffiti Ordinance. The requests made at last month's meeting for the changes to the ordinance have been made. The change occurred in the Emergency Removal clause of the ordinance.

The original version stated:

“Where any public nuisance as set forth in this article requires immediate abatement to avoid and prevent an immediate and dangerous threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of the Town of Long View and would degrade adjoining properties as determined by the code enforcement officer, the nuisance may be summarily remove and abated by the town without prior notice to the property owner, but the owner shall be responsible for all abatement costs, administrative fees, and civil penalties.”

The new draft stated:

“Where any public nuisance as set forth in this article requires immediate abatement to avoid and prevent the degradation of adjoining properties as determined by the code enforcement officer, the nuisance may be summarily removed and abated by the town without prior notice to the property owner, but the owner shall be responsible for all abatement costs, administrative fees, and civil penalties.”

The public hearing was declared closed.

Attorney Redmond Dill stated that the ordinance was a step in the right direction but must be considered a work in progress. Each incident must be looked at on a case by case basis.

Upon the request from Alderman Randall Mays as to whether this ordinance would be useful in cases in which a person is caught in the act of applying graffiti, Major Jim Worrell said that it would be useful.

Mayor Pro Tem Vernon Moyer expressed that quickly getting rid of the graffiti in each instance will be the main goal.

After the brief discussion, motion was made by Alderman Randall Mays, seconded by Alderman Jackie Bowman to adopt the Graffiti Ordinance. The vote was unanimous.

RESOLUTION APPROVING FINANCING TERMS FOR FINANCING EQUIPMENT FOR A PUMPER TRUCK

Finance Director James Cozart informed the Board that in the purchase of the new Fire Truck, the equipment to supply the truck was not considered in the cost. The original Financing Agreement was for the cost of the truck only.

Mr. Cozart explained that BB&T was contacted and an attempt was made to refinance to cover both the cost of the truck and equipment. BB&T said that they would not be able to refinance at the same interest rate as the original loan.

The Resolution Approving Financing Terms for Financing Equipment for a Pumper Truck will allow BB&T to finance the amount of \$75,000 for the equipment for a Pumper Truck to the Town for an interest rate of 3.65%. For the initial loan for just the truck, the interest rate was for 3.55%.

Motion made by Alderman Ken Bumgarner, seconded by Alderman John McDaris to approve the Resolution Approving Financing Terms for Financing Equipment for a Pumper Truck. The vote was unanimous.

DECIDE ON DATE FOR BUDGET RETREAT

Town Administrator David Epley informed the Board that the Long View staff had been working on the budget preparation schedule for the 2010 – 2011 Budget. He requested that the Board pick dates to possibly have the Budget Retreat.

After a brief discussion, the Board suggested March 10th or March 17th as possible dates for the Budget Retreat. Mr. Epley said that he would check these dates to see if they were available and then inform the Board.

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Report

Finance Director James Cozart explained that in the General Fund, Revenues totaled \$1,163,637.63. Expenditures totaled \$1,093,952.21. Revenue exceeded Expenditures in the General Fund by \$69,685.42. Revenues are on target for the year. Local Government Sales Tax Revenue and Powell Bill allocation are down. Expenses are down from last year.

In the Utility Fund, Revenues totaled \$765,650.32. Expenditures totaled \$670,638.22. Revenues exceeded Expenditures in the Utility Fund by \$95,012.10.

Mr. Cozart said that in both the General Fund and the Utility Fund the Investment Earnings are down. It may be something that may need to be reviewed in the next few months.

In February, the Capital Management Trust account should start to improve.

Mr. Cozart informed the Board that the Town has met the budgeted amounts for water taps this year.

Amendment: Ordinance No. 02-10: Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 2

Finance Director James Cozart presented to the Board Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 2 which was to amend the General Fund Budgeted amounts. In Ordinance No. 02-10: Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 2, in Revenues the Fund Balance Line Item (10-399-0000) was increased by \$1,200.00. In Expenditures, the Fire Line Item (10-530-8100) was increased by \$1,200.00.

The purpose from the amendment was for the Long View Fire Department was awarded the NC Forest Service Volunteer Assistance Program Grant. The grant is a 50 – 50 matching grant. The awarded amount totaled \$1,200.00. The Town of Long View's matching portion would be \$1,200.00.

Upon request from the Alderman Randall Mays, Fire Chief Eric Shepherd explained what kind of equipment can be purchased with the grant money. He said that this year the Town may purchase items dealing with hose lines and nozzles that will be used for brush fires.

Motion made by Alderman Ken Bumgarner and seconded by Alderman John McDaris to adopt Ordinance No. 02-10: Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 2. The vote was unanimous.

Amendment: Ordinance No. 02-10: Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 3

Finance Director James Cozart presented to the Board Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 3 which was to amend the General Fund Budgeted amounts. In Ordinance No. 02-10: Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 3, in Revenues the Fund Balance Line Item (10-399-0000) was increased by \$3,400.00. In Expenditures, the Fire Line Item (10-530-8700) was increased by \$3,400.00.

The purpose from the amendment was to re-appropriate the funds remaining from the FEMA grant which the Fire Department received during the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Motion made by Alderman Randall Mays and seconded by Alderman Jackie Bowman to adopt Ordinance No. 02-10: Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 3. The vote was unanimous.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Project's Report

Finance - Town Administrator David Epley informed the Board that the State Shared Revenues are not meeting the revenue estimates that the state provided for budgeting purposes.

Mr. Epley informed the Board that the Town is doing everything it can to lower expenses and a Department Head meeting has been planned for January 12, 2009 to stress to Department Heads the importance of keeping cost down.

Maple Springs Laundry Project – Town Administrator David Epley informed the Board that Maple Springs Laundry now has ownership to the property in which the old Beagle Brand Hosiery building is located and the Town of Long View now has ownership of the property adjacent to it. Out of the 3.3 acres that the Town of Long View has obtained, Maple Springs will need 1.481 acres to make the project viable. The Town has had a survey done that will convey the 1.481 acres to Maple Springs Laundry.

Mr. Epley informed the Board that all grants have been approved and with the \$600,000 received, the Town will be able to make improvements to the road, the drainage, the water lines and the sewer lines in that area.

Mr. Epley said that Maple Springs Laundry is one of the Town's biggest water customers and this will be a positive addition to the Town.

1st Ave Circle NW Water Line Break – Town Administrator David Epley explained to the Board that there was a waterline break on 1st Ave Circle NW. Public Works was sent to fix the break. Once the repairs were completed the residents of that road complained of having low water pressure.

Public Works Director David Draughn explained what was hypothesized to have happened. When the 50 year old water line was cut to be repaired, a piece of sediment lodged in the line and blocked water flow. The residents now have 25 lbs of water pressure or less.

Mr. Draughn explained to the Board that letters have been sent to the affected residents explaining the problem and adding that it was being addressed.

Mr. Draughn felt that the water line was not repairable and suggested another option to get water to the residents. He added that Hickory Sand has been brought in to help with the problem.

Mr. Draughn explained that the Town is currently waiting for a locate of the gas lines before the Town moves further. He hoped to have those located the next day.

Alderman Randall Mays requested that Mr. Draughn and Public Works do whatever is necessary to get water back to residents as quickly as possible.

OTHER BUSINESS

Town resident Harold Duckworth asked that the Town request the repair of his street light.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Jackie Bowman said that his thoughts are with Mayor Norman Cook and his family.

Alderman Randall Mays wished to thank Long View staff for the excellent Christmas Program this year and all the hard work that they put into it.

Alderman Mays wished to add his best wishes to the Mayor and his family during this time.

Alderman Mays wished to thank the Town Administrator David Epley and the staff for all the work they have done to curtail costs in the Town and hopes to be able to maintain the stability that the Town is at for the rest of the year.

Alderman Ken Bumgarner noted that he was in agreement with the comments made by Alderman Randall Mays.

Alderman John McDaris thanked the Long View staff for their hard work.

Mayor Pro Tem Vernon Moyer commend staff for their work with the Maple Springs Laundry Project.

Motion was made by Alderman John McDaris, seconded by Alderman Ken Bumgarner to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Stephanie C. Watson
Town Clerk

Vernon Moyer
Mayor Pro Tem