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June 9, 2009

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MINUTES OF THE
SUMMERFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
SUMMERFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER
JUNE 9, 2009
6:30 PM

NOTE: The official minutes are a CD recording of the meeting. The following is a summary of the events of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by Mark Brown.

The invocation was led by Linda Southard, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Council:
Mark Brown, Mayor
Dena Barnes
Alicia Flowers
Becky Strickland
Bob Williams
John W. Wray Jr.

Staff:
Michael Brandt, Town Manager
Dana Luther, Finance Officer
Blair Carr for William Hill, Town Attorney
Valarie Halvorsen, Town Clerk
George Holub, Parks & Rec Supervisor

CONSENT AGENDA:
Brown suggested removing 11F Council discussion / approval of artwork for Community Park gate per Flower's request, Strickland asked that 5D Resolution Adopting the Municipal Records Retention and Disposition Schedule be removed, Flowers asked for a wording change/clarification to the May 12, 2009 minutes, and there were questions about the Financial Report.

Wray made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda ***as amended***, including the meeting agenda, corrected minutes of the May 12, 2009 meeting, the minutes of the May 21 and May 27, 2009 meetings, May 12 and May 27, 2009 Closed Session Minutes, and Financial Report. The motion was seconded by Williams and carried unanimously.

Brown noted the agenda was quite long, and recommended stopping at 9:30 pm to go into Closed Session, then adjourning, and taking care of the rest of the business at a June 23, 2009 Special Call meeting. This was approved by consensus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
June 13 – 1st Annual Children's Fishing Event – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm SCP. Bob Flowers said 60 children were registered and thanked and listed all the donors: Wal-Mart, NC Fish & Wildlife, Anne Marie/Hairport 77, Awards of Excellence, Coldwell Banker/Linda Evans, Grioli's Italian Bistro, iCoffee, IH Caffey Distributing, K&D Realty, Lake Brandt Pharmacy, Lomax Construction, Luigi's Pizza, Northwest Observer, Pyramid Environmental, Remax Realty/Paul Milam, Southern States, Summerfield Family Chiropractic, Yost & Little Realty, Jimmy and Sue Beeson, Mayor Mark Brown, Dwayne Crawford, ROBERTFLOWERSART.com, Adam and Debbie Hoffman, Tom and Sherrie Joseph, and Shorty Wilson.

Etta Reid announced Debra Hoffman was awarded the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Conservation Medal for her vision and dedication to create a community park in Summerfield

Flowers stated the annual Tom Bush blood drive would be held June 22 from 8:00 am to 6:30 pm at Saint Paul's Church.

Brown spoke about the Ham Radio event that was scheduled for June 27 and 28, 2009.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR (limited to 5 min. on non-agenda items)
Chappell Hartsell, 1114 Buckingham Rd spoke in support of the proposed Children's Theater Program.

Eric Rankins, 7935 Highfill Rd, discussed the proposed Tax Holiday stating he is thankful it was not passed as everyone will benefit from what the tax provides, including Founders' Day, Touch-A-Truck, and the Fishing Tournament, which would not be possible without the tax. He stated he would rather have happy children than the $70 savings. Rankins also spoke in support of the Children's Theater Program.

Mary Jane Gordon, 305 Grassy Meadow Ct Greensboro, thanked council and Summerfield for their support of the Sock Hop, during which over $1200 was raised.

Beth Kaplan, 7979 Highfill Rd, praised the Parks & Rec committee for a job well done on the Touch-A-Truck event.

Dwayne Crawford, 1106 NC Hwy 150 W, stated the referendum two years ago to change the form of government to Council-Manager passed by only seven votes. He asked council to give citizens the chance to vote again and will gather petition signatures in support of this effort. Crawford requested a Special Call meeting at the end of July for council to be presented with the petition.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. **Founders' Day:** Brown stated the Founders' Day event was very successful, with a 20-30% higher turnout from previous years. He thanked all participants.

B. **Finance:** Ronnie Stafford said the next meeting would be July 20, 2009.

C. **Historical:** Linda Southard said there were 20 groups represented under the Founders' Day History Tent, the book raffle garnered $85, there were 45 to 50 people in attendance during the Veterans Appreciation event, thanked Alicia Cosgrove of the Northwest Observer for her help with the Veterans event, stated almost $2000 had been raised for the Rock Gym project, and said the curator at Town Hall would be finished cataloging items soon.

D. **Parks & Rec:** Sue Beeson discussed the Touch-A-Truck event and thanked all participants, gave Fishing Tournament information, and stated the tentative date for SCP Phase II opening was August 29.

E. **Public Safety:** Ron Marshburn said they did not meet in May, and at the next meeting June 17, they would discuss speed limit concerns.

F. **SYC:** No report.

G. **Comprehensive Plan:** Flowers reported 19 people attended the June 1 meeting, where they discussed wastewater policies and other issues. She noted the following meeting date changes due to holidays: the July and August meeting dates have been changed from the regularly scheduled first Monday of the month to June 29 and August 31.

H. Athletic Advisory: Brandt said the committee has not met recently, and issues relating to this committee were on the agenda for discussion later in the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2009-2010 FISCAL YEAR OPERATING BUDGET

Brown opened the Public Hearing at 7:12 pm.

Etta Reid, 7926 Highfill Rd, asked council to amend the proposed budget to include funds for highway markers.

Beth Kaplan, 7979 Highfill Rd, recommended approving the budget as presented.

Jane Doggett, 7986 Highfill Rd, requested full funding of Park & Rec requests, keeping the rest of the budget as it is, and feels the town has a responsibility to collect taxes.

Dwayne Crawford, 1106 NC Hwy 150 W, read a letter from Jeff Johnson requesting consideration of the property tax holiday.

Roxanne Gilgallon, 7500 Dickinben Rd, asked council to pass the budget as is and feels property tax should not be further reduced as it would necessitate dipping into the fund balance. She further stated there should be stipulations for fines for construction projects that are not completed on time.

Olivia Byrd, 407 Hannah McKenzie Dr Greensboro, spoke in support of the Children's Theater program, stating it gives kids opportunities outside of athletics.

Tori Galloway, 10 Independence Ct Greensboro, spoke in support of the Children's Theater program, noting it opens doors, is fun, and gives kids self confidence.

Jonathan Coberda, 123 West Avondale Dr Greensboro, supports theater, and sang a song.

Kate Rankins, 7935 Highfill Rd, thanked council and Parks & Rec for their hard work, thanked previous speakers for their support of the theater program, and recommended passing the budget as it is.

Councilwoman Flowers read a letter from Elizabeth Edmonds of Guilford Middle School endorsing the property tax holiday.

Brown closed the Public Hearing at 7:40 pm.

BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL

A. Consider adoption of Town of Summerfield 2009-2010 Fiscal Year Operating Budget

Council Discussion:

There was discussion about training and per diem funds for Board of Adjustment members, including the need for training, making it mandatory, in house vs. outside training, and legal obligations. Council discussed financial and other matters relating to the children's theater program, fund raising, movies in the park, highway markers, the proposed part time administrative assistant, and filling the planner position. Strickland feels the budget should mean something when it is passed, not to be amended multiple times later. Luther responded that items are not included in the budget when there is not enough information, not to encourage budget amendments.

Break from 8:22 to 8:29 pm

Brown recommended passing the budget as proposed. Flowers stated everything in the budget can still be accomplished with a tax rate of zero, and read from a prepared statement concerning the matter. She said she would not vote for the budget unless the tax rate was zero. Williams feels the budget should be accepted as presented.

Williams made a motion to accept the budget as presented. Wray asked for an amendment to add $600 for Board of Adjustment training and $500 for per diem expenses. Williams accepted the amendment, which was seconded by Wray.

Flowers made a substitute motion to approve the budget with a tax rate of zero, which was seconded by Strickland. Strickland feels this can be done for one year with the $75,000 saved by not having to purchase the rail/trail property and with interest earned from investments. Brown feels that county tax is much more of a concern, as it is 20 times higher than the town tax. Flowers stated council has no control over county finances, but does have control over what happens in Summerfield. Barnes is concerned about losing sales tax revenue and lack of consistency from budget year to budget year. Flowers noted that Brandt had said there would be no long term impact on Summerfield by having a zero property tax rate for one year. Barnes asked Brandt to confirm this statement, which he did, noting he was not speaking as a matter of policy, but giving financial information.

Brown called for a vote on Flowers' motion, which is to pass the budget with a zero tax rate and the addition of $1100 for Board of Adjustment training and per diem. The motion passed 3 to 2, with Williams and Wray opposed. Barnes made a recommendation that council direct staff to work with the Historical Committee on the highway marker project as time permits, planning on two markers per year. This was approved by consensus.

B. Discussion of CBO Requirements

Brown feels that if a 501 3(c) organization is being approached by the town to provide a service and it is not a large amount of money, then perhaps those organizations could be exempted from such onerous requirements. He asked council to consider requiring only a 990 and audit for such organizations, particularly Crime Stoppers, Piedmont Triad Partnerships, Piedmont Triad Council of Governments, NCLM, and Senior Resources. If the request is for a large amount of money, he feels that all documents should be submitted. Strickland says all documents should be required no matter what because it is public money being spent and many things can go wrong with non-profits, however she could acquiesce to some sort of exemption for Senior Resources, based on what they do. Flowers does not understand why this issue is being revisited again, as it has already been discussed and voted on.

Brandt clarified that PTCOG and NCLM are membership based organizations that the town pays membership fees to and receives services from, such as insurance and 401k, which is different from a CBO that provides services to the community. Luther noted that Senior Resources is an exception as it is a direct reimbursement of expenses, but otherwise, when requesting money for general operations, recommends requiring all the information. Strickland agrees with making an exception for Senior Resources.

Following discussion about the possibility of waivers and simplification of CBO documents and requirements, Strickland made a motion to exempt Senior Resources from all CBO documents except for an audit report and 990. The motion was seconded by Barnes and carried unanimously.

Due to the time, Brown recommended going into Closed Session and holding a Special Call meeting on June 23, 2009 to handle the remaining business, which includes the following: Discussion/approval of SAP well construction contract, Discussion of Summerfield Road Property,

Request to use Town Seal, Discussion of Manager/Committee organizational responsibilities, Discussion / approval of audit contract, Update regarding construction of Summerfield Athletic Park (SAP). Approval of allocating $3,500 from donations made to Parks and Recreation for purchase of audio/sound equipment for events at amphitheater and other town events, and Update Council regarding Summerfield Elm. School well/septic sites. Brandt stated the SAP well construction contract needed to be discussed tonight in order to move forward on that project. Council agreed by consensus.

BUSINESS FROM TOWN MANAGER

A. Discussion / approval of SAP well construction contract

Brandt made note of the following contingencies: 1) For each additional foot of well dug below 600 feet (140 maximum additional feet) an additional $15 will be charged. 2) D & Y makes no guarantee of locating adequate water to meet the needs required by the Town for irrigation. 3) If an additional well must be drilled due to lack of water at the first well site then the pricing for the second well will be the same as the first well. 4) The contracted price does NOT include the cost of purchasing and installing a pump for the well.

Following a brief discussion of well depths and water volume and associated costs, the possibility of having to dig an additional well, and capping the cost of each well at $15,000, Barnes made a motion to approve the contract with D & Y Well Drilling for an amount not to exceed $30,000, with the first well dug to a maximum of 740 feet. The motion was seconded by Williams. Strickland stated she feels uncomfortable voting on this as the final document was not distributed prior to the meeting. The motion passed 4 to 1, with Strickland opposed.

CLOSED SESSION:

A) Consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee as provided under NCGS 143-318.11(a) (6); and

Barnes made a motion to enter into closed session at 9:50 pm. The motion was seconded by Williams and carried unanimously.

Barnes made a motion to return to open session at 11:22 pm. The motion was seconded by Williams and carried unanimously.

Brown stated the Town of Summerfield lapel pins had come in and each council member was given 10 to distribute as they wished. There was brief discussion about the possibility of offering the remaining pins for sale to the public.

With no further business before the Town Council, a motion was made at 11:24 pm by Barnes to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Wray and carried unanimously.

Mark E. Brown, Mayor

Valarie Halvorsen, Town Clerk