

**MINUTES OF THE
SUMMERFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
SUMMERFIELD TOWN HALL
March 10, 2009
6:30 P.M. Public Hearing**

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 6:32 by Mayor Mark Brown. He asked members of the audience who want to speak during the public hearing, or as a speaker from the floor, to sign up at the front table.

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

INTRODUCTIONS:

Council:

Mark Brown, Mayor
Dena Barnes
Becky Strickland
Bob Williams
John W. Wray, Jr.

Staff:

Michael Brandt, Town Manager
Dana Luther, Finance Officer
Blair Carr, Town Attorney
Carrie Spencer, Deputy Town Clerk

CONSENT AGENDA:

Brown introduced a letter dated Mar 5, 2009 requesting withdrawal of rezoning cases 01-09, 02-09, and 03-09.

Wray made a motion to accept the withdrawal of Case 01-09, Case 02-09, and 03-09 and to remove them from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Williams and carried unanimously. Barnes made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as modified. Flowers seconded, and the motion passed 5 to 1, with Strickland voting against.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brown thanked Girl Scout Katie Moore for her project to install bird houses in the town park.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Hearing no speakers, the agenda moved on to committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **Community Relations:** Mark Brown stated this year's Founders Day theme will be the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Summerfield Elementary School gym with a sock hop planned for the Friday night before at the gym.
- B. **Finance:** Dana Luther stated the next meeting is Tuesday March 16, 2009 at Town Hall at 7pm, to start preliminary budget discussions.
- C. **Historical:** Linda Southard stated the committee met on February 26, 2009 with 8 members and 1 guest. Brandt has received applications for a short term job opening to teach the committee how to record and organize donated items. Don Effrington has already moved ahead with work on a damaged picture. There is a sub committee to create a brochure for the

museum, with Bill and Mary Jane Gordon and Alice Patterson. Southard invited volunteers to help with a project for Saunder's Inn and stated there will be a table at Founders Day to generate interest.

The committee has asked council to approve the inclusion of the old gym (built in 1939) at the elementary school in the National Registry. Since the town is using the gym as a focal point for Founders Day, built in 1939, it would be a good time to start this process. If council approves, the next step is to ask the county school board's approval and initial inquiries indicated that there would not be a problem with it. Nora Miller, who helped write National Registry applications for us before, is available and her charge would not exceed \$2500. Summerfield High School Alumni has about \$500 to donate to the project. There is no money included in this year's budget for the project. Mary Jane Gordon stated that they will invite donations, and sell baked goods and drinks, at the sock hop. Brandt stated there are other governments that have registered a building they don't own. There would be no transfer of ownership. The property would become a national register property, owned by the Guilford County School system who has the ultimate authority to do with it as they wish. There would be about \$1000 left in this year's History Project Budget after other projects, and \$1200 in a reserve fund from fund raisers. Southard will request permission of the committee to utilize reserve funds. Brown suggested the committee discuss the budget and bring it back to the council for funding approval. Southard suggested the money could come from next year's budget.

Williams made a motion to allow the history committee to contact Guilford County Schools for permission. Wray seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Strickland added that the motion does not assume any promise of money, or time restrictions.

Flowers made some corrections to the History Committee minutes:

The phrase "has applied for 501 C non-profit status on-line" actually refers to Preservation Oak Ridge foundation applied online to incorporate.

"Meeting at Allen Tate real estate": actually refers to a meeting of the fund Raising committee. The Preservation Foundation meets at Oak Ridge Town Hall on fourth Wednesdays at 7pm.

- D. **Parks and Rec:** Sue Beeson said the committee met last Thursday night to discuss events of the park over the next year. The amphitheatre will not be ready for an April 25 opening ceremony
- E. **Public Safety:** no reports
- F. **SYC:** Reese Walker said the committee is still working on their calendar. Luigi's Pizza will donate 10% of proceeds to the SYC on the first Monday of the month.
- G. **Comprehensive Plan:** Michael Brandt stated they continue to meet the first Monday of the month and are working on the plan.
- H. **Athletic Advisory:** Brandt stated they have received bids on architectural design for the bathroom/concession building at the Athletic Field and expects to be ready to begin soon

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Ordinance Prohibiting Smoking in Public Buildings:

Michael Brandt presented the ordinance, stating that the hearing had been properly advertised. Mark Brown opened the public hearing. Hearing no speakers from the audience. Brown closed the public hearing.

Council Discussion:

Brandt stated that the effective date of the ordinance will be March 10, 2009. He added that the town of Oak Ridge adopted the same ordinance last week, had some confusion about the provisions in the ordinance, and confirmed that citizens are not prohibited from smoking in their cars. Blair Carr stated that public parks have not been included in smoking ordinances. She would have to research further to determine if areas open to the public in general, rather than those frequented primarily by children, can be included. Bob Williams stated that he would like to see the ball fields included in the future.

Becky Strickland made a motion to accept the ordinance prohibiting smoking in public buildings. John Wray seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS FROM TOWN MANAGER:

A. A resolution was passed to allow a deer bow hunting season in February, and there were 16 deer taken in Summerfield, 2nd highest count for participating towns. The resolution automatically renews itself unless the town says otherwise. The resolution was intended to cut down on the number of automobile accidents caused by deer.

B. The Public Safety Committee Ordinance has been reviewed by the committee and Mr. Brandt. Items "C" and "E" are the most different from other ordinances. Council may adopt it tonight, or put in on the April meeting agenda. Strickland asked if reviews included in "E1" would come to council so they would know what they are doing, and Brandt stated that people typically call his office for things like changing speed limits, and he refers them to the committee. The most common issue is speed limits, then parking in fire lanes. The committee must then bring requests to council for decision. There was some concern that issues like public water have been brought up by the safety committee, and discussion that the safety committee did not bring up the subject. It was agreed that the council would discuss it in April.

C. Parks and Recreation is seeking funding for programming in the park, to include a Summerfield arts program. They want to apply for a grant for a youth theater program that starts with three plays. The town has submitted a letter of intent to indicate interest in the grant, and the grant will not cost the town any money. The town would cover some administrative costs such as trash removal as they do with general maintenance of the park. The program would be headed by a Parks and Recreation Committee member who has 20 years experience in theatre. The grant would include purchase of sound equipment, a main stage show, 10 (small fee) workshops for children grades 4-12, two additional shows centered around Earth Day and Founders Day, advertising, and some administrative costs. The council only needs to approve the submission of the grant, and later approve the grant itself. Council agreed to keep moving forward. Brandt thanked Ms. Joseph and Ms. Rankin for their efforts.

D. The town has been approached by a group called Fun Together, in the process of establishing a not for profit to encourage community involvement in the triad area. They have asked Summerfield to consider running family friendly movies in the park: generally 8 to 11 in the evening. We are not going to open the theater in April, perhaps have a soft opening in June and a grand opening in September. Brandt recommends council approve 2 or 3 total movies

starting in July. The organization purchases equipment, gets licensing agreements, and seeks sponsors to host the event. The program would not create additional liability. Movies would rotate throughout the towns that accept the program. Oak Ridge has agreed to host movies every other Friday. There is very little cost to the town, and associated costs such as trash removal are included in park maintenance costs. There should be no effect on our dark sky ordinance. John Wray made a motion to move forward with movies in the park, and Bob Williams seconded. Discussion: Alicia Flowers is concerned what would happen if council later decides they do not like the details of the program, and Carr confirmed that the council is not obligating themselves with the motion. There was concern from the audience about who would choose the movie that the community would likely attend. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Brandt asked the council how to plan for ongoing and future park programs: when they need to come before council and what the responsibility of the manager is. He added that if the council establishes a policy to have programming in the park, the Parks and Recreation committee should have a programming budget. Brandt asked if council needs to approve further individual actions once the budget is approved. There was discussion that the committee is doing a good job. There was consensus that, as long as the council sees a list of activities and associated costs, they would only need further review if there are changes. It was suggested that Brandt start to develop a policy based on events that have occurred and are currently planned, and build on it as they progress.

Brandt thanked council for their attendance at the 3 budget meetings held thus far, and thanked the committees for their input.

Brandt will attend a meeting of the Greensboro Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) which covers most of Guilford County and the city of Greensboro. They are up for federal accreditation, and Brandt will raise concerns about how the town is treated within their organization particularly as they do not include the town at the table when discussing policies. Anyone is welcome to attend at 7:00pm Mar 16 at Greensboro city council chambers.

BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL:

Williams thanked Brandt for looking after the town's interest with the MPO. He thanked the Parks and Recreation Committee for their efforts.

BUSINESS FROM THE MAYOR:

Brown asked council to authorize funds to purchase 200 lapel pins of the town seal. He intends to give 80 to committee members, 10 to each council member, and keep the balance at town hall for special occasions or to sell. Total cost would be \$470. He recommends \$168 come from the volunteer appreciation budget, and asked Ms. Luther where the remainder could come from.

Luther suggested that the office supply and administrative misc. budget would be appropriate.

Wray suggested the pins would be a source of pride for volunteers. Barnes made a motion to approve the request not to exceed \$500 for lapel pins. Wray seconded, there was no further discussion, and the motion carried unanimously.

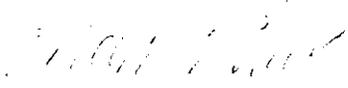
Brown had attended a meeting that included an interesting presentation on insider lobbyists. He also attended 2 Guilford County solid waste meetings.

OTHER BUSINESS: none

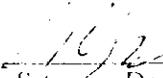
COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL:

Wray thanked all the committees for taking time from their families for their hard work, and for attending the budget workshops and meetings. Brown added that our committees work much harder than those in a lot of other towns.

Wray made a motion to adjourn, Williams seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.



Mark E. Brown, Mayor



Carrie Spencer, Deputy Town Clerk