

**MINUTES OF THE
SUMMERFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
SUMMERFIELD TOWN HALL
December 20, 2004
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 by Mayor Dena Barnes at 6:31 PM.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Dena Barnes
Bob Williams
Carolyn Collins
Mark Brown
Jane Doggett
Michael Stewart

Bill Trevorrow, Town Attorney
Dianne Laughlin, Town Clerk

Collins announced that she would not be present at the January 4, 2005 meeting because her husband is having knee surgery that day and Bill Trevorrow stated that if she has a cell phone, she can vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. ADOPTION OF A CABLE REGULATORY ORDINANCE FOR THE TOWN OF SUMMERFIELD. (First Reading)

Bill Trevorrow explained this document is the principal which will guide the process later on. He confirmed that once this is adopted, after two readings, this being the first, the Town will be entitled to receive cable franchise fees that are presently going to Guilford County. He explained that it was not unusual for a contract to be twenty years or more; as it's a long term relationship.

In response to Jane Doggett's question of how long before the adoption is official, Bill Trevorrow stated that there are no ad specs for this agreement and it could be adopted at the February 1, 2005 meeting.

There was discussion about which local towns have an Ordinance such as this and Trevorrow stated that Oak Ridge is working on one and he's not sure where Stokesdale stands on the issue. There was also discussion about cable service, outages and areas affected and it was stated that all could get cable unless it is not cost effective.

Becky Strickland asked if the franchise fees on her bill would increase and Trevorrow replied he could not speak for Time Warner, and the Utilities Commission must approve all increases on utilities.

Mayor Barnes spoke to the question of why the Town has waited eight years to claim these franchise fees; explaining that the County Commissioners had recommended the Town not take the cable fees or they (the Commissioners) would find another source to replace this income; i.e., taxes, etc. Barnes stated that since they have taken the sales tax revenue that once came to the town; we are now in a position where we can move forward with collecting these types of fees for the Town; declaring it to be political and that the intent is not to have consumers pay more.

After some discussion, Bill Trevorrow stated that the document will move forward, unchanged, to the January 4, 2005 meeting.

Mark Brown suggested obtaining help from someone such as Dave Harris, PTCOG, when moving forward with the water business to hopefully avoid problems in the future.

Barnes reported there is someone with PTCOG who has done this type of project and that Oak Ridge is also looking for persons with expertise in this area.

Bill Trevorrow stated it is a good move to do due diligence on a subject; and as per Aqua NC attorney, any agreement must be blessed by the Utilities Commission. He reported that they are a large substantial company.

Carolyn Collins asked if there would be an “out” in case they (Aqua NC) didn’t hold up their end and Barnes replied that this is in place and the Utilities Commission will hire someone to look after it.

With no other business before the Town Council, a motion was made by Jane Doggett at 7:00 PM to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Carolyn Collins and passed unanimously.

Dena Barnes, Mayor

Dianne Laughlin, Town Clerk