



C O U N C I L M I N U T E S *FEBRUARY 25, 2014, 6:30PM, SFD TOWN HALL*

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by Tim Sessoms. The invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The following were present:

Council

Tim Sessoms, Mayor
Dena Barnes
Alicia Flowers
Dianne Laughlin
Elizabeth McClellan
Mike Adams

Staff

Scott Whitaker, Town Manager
Katrina Whitt, Finance Officer
Valarie Halvorsen, Town Clerk

CONSENT AGENDA

McClellan motioned to approve the consent agenda, including the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Barnes and carried unanimously.

FY2014-15 BUDGET WORKSHOP

A. Public comments re: FY2014-15 budget:

Don Wendelken of 3406 Windswept Drive spoke about the minutes policy and 25-day period before information is disseminated. He felt that a quick release of information to the public is needed.

Dwayne Crawford of 1106 NC Highway 150 West spoke about property owners who do not want a trail going across their property. He said council should move forward with a decision.

B. FY2014-15 budget planning session (priorities focus):

Whitaker identified the following council priorities: 1) A&Y Greenway (South) design; 2) SAP entrance road; 3) 220 scenic corridor/median improvement plans; and 4) Gordon property improvements. The Finance Committee is supportive of these priorities and also discussed doing away with the SAP banner sales for our ball fields as a revenue source and asked staff to propose a new fee schedule with potential fee increases for SAP field rentals.

Flowers said the scenic corridor/median improvement plans are not a priority for her and the feedback she got from Finance Committee members did not seem supportive of the 220 improvements and/or beautification. Flowers would like the Finance Committee meetings to be recorded, particularly since the minutes are not released just after meetings. Whitaker stated he reviews the Finance Committee minutes prior to release, that accuracy is important, and clarified the policy as follows: "Draft meeting minutes shall be provided by the committee chair or secretary to the Town Clerk within fifteen (15) days of a committee meeting. Signed approved meeting minutes shall be provided by the committee chair or secretary within ten (10) days of the approval of the minutes." He added that the Finance Committee meetings could be recorded as requested.

Adams asked about the 220 improvements. There was discussion about the origin of the need for scenic corridor improvements, beautification, right-of-way fencing, and town signage (entrance or "welcome to" signage), along with the need for a plan as 220 construction progresses. The more recent primary interest has been fencing and potentially upgrading it select scenic corridor areas.

Council: Mayor Tim Sessoms, Mayor Pro-tem Dena Barnes, Mike Adams, Alicia Flowers, Dianne Laughlin, Elizabeth McClellan

Staff: Scott Whitaker (Manager), Jeff Goard (P&R Manager), Valarie Halvorsen (Clerk), Katrina Whitt (Finance Officer), (Planner position vacant)

Sessoms, McClellan, the manager, and NCDOT's Mike Mills had just met and discussed the needs and timing in further detail during a ride throughout the widening project. Sessoms expressed his interest in beautification. McClellan noted that 1% of the almost \$100M widening project is reserved for landscaping, which will be distributed along the full length of the project area. She added that landscaping needs would not be considered until much later (the widening is slated for 2016 completion). Sessoms responded that the mentioned 220 improvements aren't an immediate need during the FY14-15 budget year, but NCDOT does need the town's direction concerning town signage. There was further discussion about fencing; Mills will schedule a July meeting to discuss fencing. It was decided by consensus to scale this priority item back to progress on town signage for the upcoming budget.

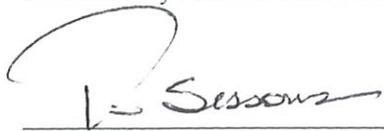
There was discussion about the proposed A&Y Greenway. Flowers asked about property acquisition. Whitaker stated there is a difference in approach/process between involved agencies (the county and the MPO), and the committee recommended moving forward with the design process prior to acquiring all easements along the proposed route. The rationale has to do with route feasibility and the possibility that the design process may lead to route modifications that would require changes. The design process would yield specifics that to pinpoint exactly what access would be needed. Whitaker noted there are some property owners along the proposed route who do not want the trail near their property, and ultimately council would need to decide how to proceed. Options presented were rerouting sections, negotiating access, or potentially even condemning property if no other alternative could be found. There was also discussion about costs and funding options.

Regarding the proposed SAP second entrance, Sessoms stated Mike Mills feels creating the new access is a solid idea, particularly based on 220 construction and how it will line up with Summerhaven. Whitaker stated the Finance Committee discussed this and there was a concern about being able to turn south from SAP onto 220. There are currently no plans for a traffic light at the newly-created intersection, but DOT has offered to revisit the need after 220 project completion.

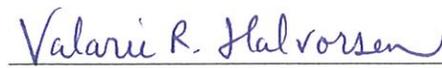
Regarding the Gordon property, Flowers asked if truck traffic could be stopped through the intersection. Whitaker stated there had been some beginning discussion with NCDOT, but there was nothing new to report. Whitaker further stated he would give a presentation and answer citizen questions on the purchase during the 3/11 meeting.

There was brief discussion of holding a council retreat for strategic planning, which will be discussed further during the 3/11 council meeting. Flowers asked that Zoning Board and Board of Adjustment training be provided and made mandatory four times per year.

With no further business, a motion was made at 8:11pm by Adams to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Barnes and carried unanimously.



Tim Sessoms, Mayor



Valarie R. Halvorsen, Town Clerk