



Town of Summerfield – Council Minutes

Summerfield Town Hall – Special Called Meeting

March 19, 2013 | 6:30PM | 4117 Oak Ridge Road

Town Council: Mayor Mark F. Brown

Mayor Pro-Tem Dena Barnes

Alicia Flowers

Dianne Laughlin

Valarie Halvorsen (Clerk) | Elizabeth McClellan

Carol Carter (Planner) | John W. Wray, Jr.

Scott Whitaker (Manager)

The meeting was called to order at 6:34pm by Mark Brown, with the following in attendance:

Council

Mark Brown, Mayor

Alicia Flowers

Dianne Laughlin

Elizabeth McClellan

John Wray

Staff

Scott Whitaker, Town Manager

Katrina Whitt, Finance Officer

Valarie Halvorsen, Town Clerk

Laughlin made a motion to formally excuse Barnes, seconded by Flowers, and carried unanimously.

AGENDA

Flowers made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, seconded by McClellan, which carried unanimously.

COUNCIL FY2013-14 BUDGET PLANNING SESSION

Whitaker discussed the tax rates from 2004 forward. He noted the current healthy fund balance, but stressed that investment income is not being realized in the current market and the revenue reduction is substantial. Whitaker requested Council direction on key priorities and potential capital projects for the coming year.

Regarding land for a new town hall, McClellan noted Linda Southard stated she had no interest in selling her property adjacent to the current town hall; Whitaker stated neighboring property owner Patrick Jenks had expressed interest in selling property, but no pricing had been discussed. Flowers felt the next-door property should be acquired, regardless of whether anything is built in the near future.

Flowers was concerned with the lack of interest income. She would like all needed facility repairs to be undertaken, work to move forward on the development ordinance, and new staff to have time to settle in prior to undertaking new projects. Wray agreed that projects currently underway need to be completed before new projects are started, and expressed a desire to pursue property for a new town hall and trails. He did not want a tax increase, but also stated taxes are needed due to the lack of interest income from investments. He stated taxpayers want taxes to remain steady so they can plan for the future. Brown agreed about the property purchase and recommended beginning a process for architectural design work for a town hall based on citizen input. He stated there was a need for additional parking at SAP that he would like to see addressed, as well as the need for additional site access and recommended looking into the suitability of adjoining property.

There was discussion about investment policy and opportunities, and the request from the Finance Committee for increased information about council priorities to better judge investment needs.

McClellan's primary priority was that town hall repairs need to be done in the coming year, followed by SAP Field House repairs, along with continuing trails progress. She stated that taxpayers are not looking for "gold-plated trails," but trails that could be constructed for a reasonable expense.

Flowers agreed with Wray that there has been much discussion about projects but little action in the past, and she also wanted to see projects completed. Whitaker agreed. Regarding town hall repairs, he noted the need for definitive answers and repair plans.

Regarding the Development Ordinance rewrite, Flowers wanted to see it completed, but wants it to be done well and thoroughly. Whitaker noted recent Town Attorney concerns, and that it will take further time and expense for a fuller review.

Whitaker stated his hope for *balance* during the coming fiscal year, explaining that he wanted to exercise caution with starting new projects until several on-going ones are completed. He also viewed the coming months as a period of acclimation and training of newer staff with an eye on efficiency and process improvement.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was brief discussion of the manager evaluation form. It was decided that each council member should make revisions and bring them March 28.

With no further business before the Town Council, a motion was made at 7:55pm by Flowers to recess until 6:30pm March 28. The motion was seconded by Wray and carried unanimously.



Mark E. Brown, Mayor



Valarie R. Halvorsen, Town Clerk