



C O U N C I L M I N U T E S      J U N E 9, 2015, 6:30PM, SFD COMMUNITY CENTER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Tim Sessoms. The invocation was led by Linda Southard, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The following were present:

Council

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

Staff

Scott Whitaker, Town Manager  
William Hill, Town Attorney  
Katrina Whitt, Finance Officer  
Valarie Halvorsen, Town Clerk  
Jeff Goard, Parks & Rec Manager

CONSENT AGENDA

Flowers requested that consideration of Trails and Open Space Committee re-appointments be moved to the July council meeting. Barnes motioned to approve the consent agenda, including the meeting agenda as amended, open and closed session minutes for 5/12 and open for 5/28, and the financial report. The motion was seconded by McClellan and carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers stated Golden Antiques and Treasures will re-open by the end of the month in their new location off Simpson Rd.

Whitaker announced the following: 6/13 Children’s Fishing Derby event, 8:30am at SCP; 7/11 Music in the Park featuring Blackwater Rhythm & Blues Band, 6:00pm at SCP; 6/11 meeting to review draft Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, 1:30am at 2602 S. Elm Eugene St., Greensboro.

Sessoms stated the 6/6 Music in the Park featuring the Patrick Rock Band was well attended.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Adrian Williamson of 3901 Lewiston Rd. felt all have a right to speak about their ideas and will lose it if they don’t speak or vote. He was against the budget and stated park expenses are too high and cost all taxpayers.

COMMITTEE / EVENT REPORTS

- A. **Finance:** Whitt stated there were no May or June meetings; the next meeting would be 7/20.
- B. **Historical:** Southard stated there was no May meeting; the next meeting would be 6/25.
- C. **Public Safety:** Crawford stated there were no May or June meetings; the next meeting would be 7/17.
- D. **Trails and Open Space:** Doggett said they met twice in May and enjoyed planning and participating in Founders’ Day; the next meeting would be 7/22.



- E. **Founders' Day:** Whitaker said the committee met as an event follow-up and discussed feedback from vendors, citizens, and others. A subcommittee was formed to re-examine venue, dates, times, and components and would bring back recommendations to the committee. Flowers requested a copy of the after-action report.

### PUBLIC HEARING/ACTION REGARDING FY15-16 BUDGET

*Sessoms opened the public hearing at 6:49pm.*

Dwayne Crawford of 1106 NC 150 W. said he was agnostic about trails but taxpayer money could be spent elsewhere, the idea for trails was sold to us from outside Summerfield and not endorsed by all 10,000 residents; said SAP still operates at a loss; felt fire protection is a fire department/county issue; and stated the government serves itself more than it serves citizens.

Adrian Williamson of 3901 Lewiston Rd. said he was against more spending on parks and against spending down the fund balance.

Elizabeth Ingram of 3301 Tanner Ct. complimented the manager and staff on the professionalism and helpfulness of the budget document, stating it was one of the best that she had ever seen in her considerable years of dealing with budgets.

*Sessoms closed the public hearing at 6:59pm.*

Whitaker said the proposed budget total was \$1,960,529 with the tax rate remaining at 2.75¢.

### Council discussion

Flowers agreed with Ingram about the quality of the budget document; felt the tax rate is artificially low because funding is coming from the fund balance, which after spent down, may result in a tax increase; requested removal of the \$25,000 for fire protection study as the directive from council during the 2/10 meeting was to discuss the matter with the town attorney and fire district board member Rierson, not to put money in the budget for such, that the fire district encompasses more than just Summerfield, it was a county issue, and the fire district did not disclose their financials when asked, which is a requirement per town policy. Flowers also requested that money placed in line items that are not used, specifically training for Zoning Board and Board of Adjustment members, either be removed or that the training be a requirement.

Regarding the fire protection study item, Whitaker stated approved 2/10 council minutes reflected the directive to bring back a recommendation to consider the matter during the new budget after broadening the scope and he referred to the minutes' mention of potential cost-sharing (with the fire district) for such a study; he budgeted for it order to avoid a budget amendment should council decide to take action and participate in a study.

Flowers asked Whitaker if he was referring to the written minutes (Whitaker replied affirmatively), then quoted from recorded meeting audio. Sessoms felt it should remain in the budget as a placeholder. Flowers and McClellan noted the fire district contracts with the county and it is not a town issue. There was discussion about the fire district not sharing financials as required by town policy; Whitaker stated that would not come into play unless funds were specifically requested.

Barnes felt keeping the item in the budget would show that the town is at least willing to consider the matter and would go a long way in keeping good relations with the fire department, but it could

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

also be done later as a budget amendment if council so chose. Flowers and McClellan felt keeping it in the budget sends a message that the town will pay if such a study is conducted and that there is too little information to consider it at this time.

Adams said he would like the town to have some input if a study were to be done, which may require some cost-sharing and suggested reducing the amount from \$25,000 to \$9,500. Sessoms said we may be able to give input without obligating funds and agreed it was a county issue that wasn't being addressed. Flowers added that the county does not see it as an issue to address.

McClellan motioned to remove line item "7011310 Water and Fire Protection Study" from the budget, seconded by Flowers.

Adams made a substitute motion to reduce the amount for the study from \$25,000 to \$9,500, seconded by Barnes, which carried 3 to 2, Flowers and McClellan opposed.

There were follow-up questions about planning revenue and fees and parks revenues and expenses. Flowers inquired about adding an environmental impact fee; Whitaker said that may be considered in the future.

Barnes motioned to adopt FY15-16 budget as amended, seconded by Adams, which carried 3 to 2, Flowers and McClellan opposed.

#### **BUSINESS FROM TOWN MANAGER**

**A. Committee re-appointments (Finance, Historical, Public Safety):** Flowers motioned to re-appoint Don Wendelken to the Finance Committee, seconded by Barnes, which carried unanimously.

McClellan motioned to re-appoint Bill Heroy, Anna Heroy, and Elizabeth Ingram to the Historical Committee, seconded by Flowers, which carried unanimously.

Flowers motioned to re-appoint Cheri Pikett and Don Wendelken to the Public Safety Committee, seconded by Laughlin, which carried unanimously.

**B. Finance Committee appointment:** Whitaker said there were four applicants for one seat. Flowers said it was hard to choose between such qualified applicants and Barnes stated she was impressed by the credentials and interviews.

Flowers motioned to appoint Christine Henson to the Finance Committee, seconded by Barnes. Laughlin thanked Flowers and Barnes for vetting committee applicants; Adams stated he was thankful there are so many willing to serve the town. The motion carried unanimously.

**C. Trails and Open Space Committee appointment:** Flowers motioned to appoint Guilford County Parks representative Matthew Wallace as an ex-officio member of the Trails and Open Space Committee, seconded by Adams, which carried unanimously.

**D. Rescindment of separate Adverse Weather and Hazardous Conditions Policy:** Whitaker stated there were two separate policies in place related to bad weather. He felt it should only be in the personnel manual and requested that the stand-alone policy be rescinded, especially after the January retreat discussion about streamlining operations. Following brief discussion, council

decided by consensus to add items 4) a-d from the old (stand-alone) policy to the adverse weather section of the personnel policy and rescind the old policy.

- E. **Future town welcome signage locations:** Whitaker requested input from council on general geographic locations of monument-style welcome signs. Following brief discussion, the following locations were decided by consensus: 1) northern interchange of US 220 and I-73; 2) southern location of US 220 and Strawberry Rd.; and, 3) a smaller sign (not necessarily a "welcome" sign) near US 220 and Hwy. 150.
- F. **Reports, updates, or comments:** Whitaker introduced Parks and Recreation Manager Jeff Goard, who requested to use remaining budgeted funds from other park projects to purchase a motorized field rake to better maintain ballfields. Following brief discussion, Barnes motioned to approve the purchase, seconded by Flowers. Barnes amended her motion to approve the purchase in an amount not to exceed \$13,000, seconded by Flowers, which carried unanimously.

Whitaker reported the following: regarding the Vineyard trail repair, GroundWorks had not yet submitted a quote; everything was on schedule with the A&Y RFQ; the property owner on Rhondan Rd. was considering the paving project and a section was to be flagged by NCDOT to better indicate details for this property owner.

#### BUSINESS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

- A. **Consideration of audit contract:** Sessoms recommended approval; Hill said the contract is legally sufficient. Adams motioned to contract with Rouse, Rouse, Penn & Rouse – \$8,905 for audit and \$2,620 for preparation of financial statements, seconded by Barnes, which carried unanimously.
- B. **Reports, updates, or comments:** Flowers asked about the bollards for the SCP main gate area; Whitaker replied they have been delivered and will be installed soon. Barnes did not attend the MPO meeting as she was in a car accident. Laughlin asked about town hall parking lot lights; Whitaker replied it was in process.

With no further business, a motion was made at 8:22pm by Barnes to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Adams and carried unanimously.

  
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Tim Sessoms, Mayor

  
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Valarie R. Halvorsen, Town Clerk