

C O U N C I L M I N U T E S JUNE 11, 2013, 6:30PM, SFD COMMUNITY CENTER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Mark Brown. A moment of silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The following were present:

Council

Mark Brown, Mayor
Dena Barnes
Alicia Flowers (excused absence)
Dianne Laughlin
Elizabeth McClellan
John Wray

Staff

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

Wray made a motion to formally excuse Flowers, seconded by McClellan, carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Brown stated there was no need for a closed session and recommended removing it from the agenda.

Barnes made a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended, including the meeting agenda, open session minutes for 5/14 and 5/28 (FY13-14 budget presentation) and closed session for 5/14, financial report, and finance officer budget amendment #4 (FY12-13). The motion was seconded by Laughlin and carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brown stated plans were in the works for a fall recycling event.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cheri Pikett, 7804 Robinson Road, noted the total proposed expenditures were double the expenditures of the current year budget.

Rich Lipinski, 5850 Stanley Huff Road, stated his neighbor falsely accused him of a crime then failed to show up to the court hearing, felt that citizen questions about the budget should be answered, and hoped that citizens would become involved during the upcoming elections.

Gail Dunham, 5805 Snow Hill Drive, asked for documents relating to the non-profit status of the Summerfield Youth Council, asked for a breakdown of the \$14,500 in the budget for NGOs, and felt there is insufficient opportunity for public budget input.

Dwayne Crawford, 1106 NC Highway 150 West, spoke about population growth.

Lee Haywood, 7203 Macintosh Place, felt Summerfield runs the risk of becoming what Greensboro is, and that the town was incorporated to avoid that.

Robert Jones, 5704 Snow Hill Drive, felt the budget as presented is a prudent and reasonable approach to running the town, noting it is time to invest in the town, facilities, and livability. He liked the format and presentation.

COMMITTEE / EVENT REPORTS

- A. **Finance:** Whitt reported on the last meeting, during which the draft budget was reviewed and the committee came to a consensus regarding their investment recommendation.
- B. **Historical:** No report.
- C. **Public Safety:** No report.
- D. **Founders' Day:** Whitaker gave an overview of the event and stated the committee would hold a follow-up meeting in the near future.

PUBLIC HEARING/ACTION REGARDING FY13-14 BUDGET

Brown opened the public hearing at 6:55pm.

Gail Dunham, 5805 Snow Hill Drive, stated only 55% of the budget is spent each year and this year there will still be a surplus even with the loss of interest income; therefore, there is no need to tax citizens. She felt the budget contains too many projects and lacks focus. Rather than constructing new town facilities, Dunham suggested using Laughlin for its meeting space.

Jane Doggett, 7986 Highfill Road, thanked council and staff for their hard work on the budget and appreciated that the tax rate will remain the same and the allocation funds for trails.

Alice Patterson, 5804 Bunch Road, felt the budget was well executed and was appreciative of funds allocated towards trails, noting that trails build community.

Trudy Whitacre, 5115 Bunch Road, stated the need to "strike while the iron is hot" regarding trails and that trails raise property values and have health benefits.

Dwayne Crawford, 1106 NC Highway 150 West, stated reasons given in years past for budget expenditures.

Robert Jones, 5704 Snow Hill Drive, felt it was a prudent budget with decreases in 8 of 10 major line items. He felt the town is wise to invest in trails and other community facilities.

Eric Long, 7230 Summerfield Road, asked why \$600,000 was needed for land acquisition when Laughlin could be used for meetings. He did not agree with funding trails, noting his feeling that most people drive and trails would not increase community involvement.

Lee Haywood, 7203 Macintosh Place, felt decisions about trails and new meeting facilities had already been made and requested that maintenance costs information be disclosed in the future. He felt that spending money does not enhance a sense of community and a 4% poverty rate does not justify levying a property tax.

Brown closed the public hearing at 7:13pm.

Responding to speakers, Whitaker clarified the following: While the proposed total budget is much higher than last year, \$1.2M of the total is allocated for priority capital projects. Aside from those capital projects, the operating expenses are actually \$47,000 less compared to the current budget after the same adjustment. Regarding the breakdown of the \$14,500 requested by Dunham, Whitaker clarified that agency requests have traditionally been grouped together within a single line item, but that individual request letters were available and had been discussed at a previous public budget meeting. He also added that the proposed capital projects and priorities stemmed from council consensus and most were tied to citizen-identified items within the Comprehensive Plan.

McClellan asked about the \$5,000 budgeted for Music in the Park events. By consensus, council agreed to reduce that line item to \$2,500.

Brown felt it was a responsible budget with a realistic project list. McClellan was not opposed to reducing the tax rate. Wray felt a consistent tax rate is important for citizens to plan expenses and that trails are used a lot and were requested by citizens through feedback from the Summerfield Road Plan and Comprehensive Plan. Wray supported the budget as presented. Laughlin was happy with the proposed budget and agreed that the town needs its own meeting space. Barnes thanked Whitaker and Whitt for their hard work on the budget.

Wray made a motion to approve the FY13-14 budget with a 3.5¢ tax and amended line item 6011389 "Music in the Park Events" from \$5,000 to \$2,500, as agreed by council. The motion was seconded by Laughlin and carried unanimously.

BUSINESS FROM TOWN MANAGER

A. Committee re-appointments (Public Safety and Historical):

McClellan made a motion to reappoint Don Wendelken to the Public Safety Committee, seconded by Barnes, which carried unanimously.

Wray made a motion to reappoint Timothy Pitts to the Public Safety Committee, seconded by Barnes, which carried unanimously.

Barnes made a motion to reappoint Elizabeth Ingram to the Historical Committee, seconded by McClellan, which carried unanimously.

Wray made a motion to reappoint William Heroy to the Historical Committee, seconded by Laughlin, which carried unanimously.

McClellan made a motion to reappoint Anna Heroy to the Historical Committee, seconded by Laughlin, which carried unanimously.

B. Finance Committee investment recommendation:

The Finance Committee had been exploring investment options to improve the revenue stream following maturation of higher-return CDs. The committee continues to explore options that meet statutory requirements, LGC approval, and fit within the town's Cash Management and Investment Policy in regard to safety, liquidity, and yield. The Finance Committee recommendation was to invest \$2.5 million for 12-18 months in CDs. This recommendation was offered as an initial investment step now that capital project items had been more clearly identified within the budget.

Whitaker stated that Whitt had acquired rates and information from seven banks, with Bank of North Carolina offering 0.3% on a 12-month CD.

Wray made a motion to approve investing \$2.5 million in a 12-month CD with Bank of North Carolina. The motion was seconded by Barnes and carried unanimously.

C. Sale of Brookbank Road right-of-way to NCDOT

Whitaker explained the intent to sell right-of-way to NCDOT to allow for the future realignment of Brookbank Road and construction of I-73. The transaction involved a 3.927-acre area within the town-owned northern and southern tracts along Brookbank Road. The negotiated price was \$98,000. Whitaker recommended accepting the offer with a plan to close the transaction in early July.

McClellan made a motion to accept the offer from NCDOT to purchase right-of-way on town-owned tracts of land on Brookbank Road for \$98,000. The motion was seconded by Wray and carried unanimously.

D. 7300 Summerfield Road property (town lot beside fire department)

This property was offered to Summerfield Fire District Incorporated as a land donation. Its board of directors agreed to the donation, but with certain conditions.

By consensus, council agreed to keep the property and Whitaker was instructed to notify the fire department of council's decision to retain the property.

E. Reports, updates, or comments:

Whitaker asked council for direction regarding the Bugle Boy marker/monument on Oak Ridge Road; by consensus, council agreed to minimal upkeep of the property if agreeable by Duke Energy. Work was progressing on Summerfield Academy; there had been many recent planning requests from citizens and businesses.

BUSINESS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

A. NC Domestic Violence proclamation: Brown read the proclamation, hereby incorporated:

PROCLAMATION: NC DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROCLAMATION 100 DAY

WHEREAS, the Town of Summerfield is concerned about the teens and young adults in our community, as statistics show that youth are subject to dating violence as early as age 13; and,

WHEREAS, on average three women are murdered by their intimate partners every day, and surveys show that only 33% of teenagers who are in abusive relationships ever tell anyone; and,

WHEREAS, Mothers on a Mission Domestic Violence Outreach Organization has vowed to educate the community as to the seriousness of domestic and teen-dating violence; and,

WHEREAS, this organization strives to bring awareness and reduction in domestic and teen-dating violence, and the Town of Summerfield supports this admirable and worthy endeavor.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark E. Brown, Mayor of the Town of Summerfield, do hereby proclaim Saturday, June 15, 2013, to be designated as:

"NORTH CAROLINA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROCLAMATION 100 DAY"

during which parents, educators, students, elected officials, church leaders, other organizations, and Summerfield residents are encouraged to promote Teen Safe Dating Practices and increase awareness of teen-dating violence.

Proclaimed this the 11th day of June 2013.

B. Consideration of audit contract:

Whitaker stated the proposal from Rouse, Rouse, Penn & Rouse, LLP was \$10,450, an increase of \$500 from last year. If the town prepares the financial statements, footnotes, and supplemental schedules, the fee would be discounted \$1,000, which would total \$9,450. The intent is to prepare those statements internally as has been done in the past.

Laughlin made a motion to approve the audit contract with Rouse, Rouse, Penn and Rouse, LLPs. The motion was seconded by Barnes and carried unanimously.

C. Manager evaluation form:

Brown stated a subcommittee had reviewed and edited the form. Council approved the form by consensus. Brown asked that council complete the form and return to him within a week and a half and that Whitaker send council a list of goals and objectives.

With no further business, a motion was made at 8:49pm by Wray to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Laughlin and carried unanimously.



Mark E. Brown, Mayor



Valarie R. Halvorsen, Town Clerk