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June 12, 2012

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**MINUTES OF THE
SUMMERFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
SUMMERFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER
JUNE 12, 2012
6:30 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by Mark Brown.
A moment of silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Council:

Mark Brown, Mayor
Dena Barnes
Alicia Flowers
Dianne Laughlin
Elizabeth McClellan

Staff:

Scott Whitaker, Town Manager
William Hill, Town Attorney
Dana Luther, Finance Officer
Valarie Halvorsen, Town Clerk
Carrie Spencer, Town Planner

Laughlin made a motion to formally excuse Wray. The motion was seconded by McClellan and carried unanimously.

Brown recommended moving item 12B Consideration/Approval of Changes to Finance Officer Contract from the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Flowers made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, including the meeting agenda, minutes and Closed Session minutes of the May 9 and June 4, 2012, and minutes of the May 23, 2012 meetings, Financial Report, and Finance Officer Budget Amendment #3 FY2011-2012. The motion was seconded by Barnes and carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spencer stated the Draft Development Ordinance will be presented to Town Council, Zoning Board and Board of Adjustment July 25, 2012, 6:30 pm at the Community Center.

Brown announced the Summer Cycle recycling event June 30, 2012 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm at Laughlin School.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Don Wendelken, 3406 Windswept Dr welcomed new manager Scott Whitaker.

Gail Dunham, 5805 Snow Hill Dr thanked Luther for her hard work as Interim Town Manager and welcomed Whitaker, thanked Wendelken for his automated calls notifying residents of the reception for Whitaker, noting that it was not well advertised.

Dwayne Crawford, 1106 NC Hwy 150 West compared attendance and quorums of the Development Ordinance meetings to that of the Comprehensive Plan meetings, noting the Comp Plan was well attended by all members whereas the Development Ordinance was not.

Paul Lambrecht, 7707 Summerfield Rd thanked Council for including money in the budget for construction of the A&Y Greenway and expressed interest in serving on a future trails committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Finance: Luther stated the committee would not meet in June or July; the next meeting is August 20, 2012, 7:00 pm at Town Hall.

- B. Historical:** Elizabeth Ingram reported on the Veterans Appreciation Event which had the highest attendance yet with over 140 guests. The committee will not meet in June.
- C. Public Safety:** Don Wendelken stated the committee would not meet in June, the CPR training class June 16 still had openings for those interested in attending, and urged Council to consider implementing safety measures at 220 and Strawberry Road as there was increased car and pedestrian traffic there.
- D. Founders' Day:** Spencer stated this year's event was a great success and it is anticipated that the rides will run on both Friday night and Saturday again next year.
- E. Development Ord.:** Spencer restated the Draft Development Ordinance would be presented July 25, 2012.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2013 FISCAL YEAR OPERATING BUDGET

Luther recommended the following changes to the budget: moving \$3300 from this year to next as the final work for the Development Ordinance rewrite will not be done in the current fiscal year, and increase administrative unemployment by \$400.

Brown opened the Public Hearing at 6:48 pm

Don Wendelken, 3406 Windswept Dr stated Guilford County may reduce their property tax rate slightly and requests that Summerfield consider doing so as well.

Gail Dunham, 5805 Snow Hill Dr stated she is a fiscal conservative and feels government should be as well. Dunham spoke of the following: her feeling that the Assistant to the Manager position was too expensive to fund as a 30 hour per week position and recommended starting with 19 hours per week; her disappointment with nondisclosure of potential staff pay raises; her assertion that last year's budget resulted in a surplus of \$127,000, that only 42% of the 2012 FY budget has been spent so far and there may be a surplus with the proposed budget, thereby she requests another "tax holiday" as it does not seem legal to levy a "just in case" tax.; her recommendation that needed items such as additional parking and repairs at SAP be considered before wanted items such as picnic shelters.

Paul Lambrecht 7707 Summerfield Rd acknowledged that the Town has lots of money in the fund balance, but noted residents get a big bang for their buck, further stated there will be big changes based on the upcoming reduction in interest income, and feels the Town does a great job fiscally.

Dwayne Crawford, 1106 NC Hwy 150 West feels spending is out of control, noting Council has an opportunity with this budget to not tax its citizenry.

With no other speakers, Brown closed the Public Hearing at 7:00 pm.

Luther, responding to remarks by Dunham, stated the following: the budget for the Assistant to the Manager position is in the proposed budget at 30 hours which includes ¾ benefits but it is unknown if the person hired will select all available benefits; as to the assertion that there was a \$127,000 budget surplus last year, the figure being referenced includes loan proceeds – there was actually a loss of \$347,751.78 – and a net loss for all years a tax has been charged after removing donations of land, materials and loan proceeds.

Flowers stated the budget includes both necessities and non-necessities, and there should be a thorough consideration of maintenance costs when making decisions. She recommended contracting for event planning rather than hiring someone, and feels that the budget should address needs rather than wants, in keeping with citizen input during the Comprehensive Plan process, during which citizens made it clear they want limited government and limited services. She further noted the Town has lots of money in the bank but continues to tax, saying the Town is "giving" something to the citizens when in fact the Town is not "giving", the citizens are paying. Flowers stated she cannot vote for a budget that levies taxes while there is such a large fund balance.

Laughlin discussed cable and power franchise income, noting the funds may not be remitted, that changes in county and state budgets and circumstances will trickle down and affect the Town. She also stated just

because there is money budgeted for items does not mean each will be undertaken and money spent. She is satisfied with the budget as presented.

McClellan noted during her campaign she stated she would work towards lowering taxes. She feels adjustments need to be made to become more efficient with current amenities and recommends cutting back on items that we are unsure citizens want or will use, such as SAP picnic shelters, but has no problem allocating money for items citizens have stated they want, such as the A&Y Greenway.

Barnes stated Council needed to look closely at needs and direct the Finance Officer to make changes to the proposed budget as needed.

Luther stated the proposed budget was written based on feedback from Council and items that were included in facility master plans, that there are lots of capital projects in the works, and the 3.5¢ tax rate was largely due to loss of interest income.

Brown urged Council to approve the budget as presented, as many of the items are continuations of plans made in the past for existing facilities, and the Assistant to the Manager position may be more administrative in nature than planning events.

Flowers stated the budget that first included the position passed 3 to 2; she did not vote for it then and would not now.

Luther stated specific items could be removed now and added back in later if warranted, or the amounts could remain, noting Council would still need to vote on anything costing more than \$10,000. She added that the Assistant to the Manager person is intended to do mostly administrative duties and will assist all staff; event planning is secondary.

Barnes recommended removing the \$76,000 for SAP picnic shelters and focusing on repairs and additional parking first. McClellan agreed. Flowers stated Council needed to concentrate on what has to be done.

McClellan made a motion to remove the \$76,000 for SAP picnic shelters from Capital Outlay. The motion was seconded by Barnes and carried unanimously.

Following brief discussion, McClellan made a motion to reduce the proposed tax rate to 3¢. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

Barnes made a motion to amend the 2013 Fiscal Year Operating Budget as follows: removal of the \$76,000 as previously motioned and passed, decrease Music in the Park from \$8,000 to \$6,000, increase the Development Ordinance line item by \$3,300 for the Development Ordinance rewrite final payment, and increase administrative unemployment by \$400. The motion was seconded by Laughlin and carried unanimously.

Barnes made a motion to approve the 2013 Fiscal Year budget as amended. The motion was seconded by Laughlin and carried 3 to 1. Flowers opposed.

BUSINESS FROM TOWN MANAGER

A. Committee Reappointments and Volunteer Appreciation

Barnes made a motion to reappoint Roxanne Gilgallon to the Public Safety Committee, which was seconded by Laughlin and carried unanimously.

Barnes made a motion to reappoint Rick Hall to the Public Safety Committee, which was seconded by Laughlin and carried unanimously.

Barnes made a motion to reappoint Robert Johnson to the Public Safety Committee, which was seconded by Laughlin and carried unanimously.

McClellan made a motion to reappoint Mary Jane Gordon as an ex-officio member of the Historical Committee, which was seconded by Barnes and carried unanimously.

Barnes made a motion to reappoint Patricia Juszczak to the Historical Committee, which was seconded by McClellan and carried unanimously.

McClellan made a motion to reappoint Linda Southard to the Historical Committee, which was seconded by Barnes and carried unanimously.

Barnes made a motion to reappoint Ronnie Stafford to the Finance Committee, which was seconded by Laughlin and carried unanimously.

Barnes made a motion to reappoint Mildred Hoffler-Foushee to the Finance Committee, which was seconded by Laughlin and carried 3 to 1. Flowers opposed.

Barnes made a motion to reappoint Dail Perry to the Finance Committee, which was seconded by Laughlin and carried unanimously.

McClellan made a motion to reappoint Jane Wilson to the Finance Committee, which was seconded by Flowers and carried unanimously.

Brown read and presented (to those in attendance) certificates of appreciation to the following retired/resigned committee members:

Finance Committee: Phyllis Meyer

Founders' Day Committee: Bob Williams, Delane Williams, Reece Walker

Historical Committee: Dianne Laughlin, Willie Laughlin

Parks & Recreation: Sue Beeson, Carla Bluit, Jeff Chalmers, Jane Doggett, Conrad Hayter, Sherrie Joseph, Suzanne Hock Vandergrift, Reece Walker, Don Wendelken, Bob Williams, Scott Wood

Break from 8:15 pm to 8:21pm

B. Discussion/Approval of SAP Safety Netting

Brown stated that as many athletic facilities are in small spaces, foul balls can come from fields other than the one a spectator is seated at, presenting additional safety hazards. Whitaker noted dents caused by foul balls at SAP, including on the concession building and the concession refrigerator, with Luther adding that the concessioner and his wife were both struck by foul balls. Flowers feels the safety netting should have been considered during the original construction.

Barnes made a motion to approve the SAP Safety Netting contract in an amount not to exceed \$15,000. The motion was seconded by McClellan and carried unanimously.

C. Discussion/Approval of Audit Contract

Flowers made a motion to approve the Audit Contract with Rouse, Rouse, Penn and Rouse in an amount not to exceed \$9,000. The motion was seconded by McClellan and carried unanimously.

BUSINESS FROM TOWN COUNCIL AND MAYOR

A. Appoint Don Wendelken and Robert Lovell to Board of Adjustment

Flowers made a motion to appoint Don Wendelken to the Board of Adjustment. The motion was seconded by Barnes and carried unanimously.

Barnes made a motion to appoint Robert Lovell to the Board of Adjustment. The motion was seconded by Flowers and carried unanimously.

B. Consideration/Approval of Changes to Finance Officer Contract

Removed from Agenda

C. Report on Meetings or Activities

Brown discussed his attendance at Town Hall Day in Raleigh June 6.

Brown read the reasons for entering into Closed Session as follows:

CLOSED SESSION:

A) consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee as provided under NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6); and

C) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged as provided under NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3)

Barnes made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 8:39 pm. The motion was seconded by Laughlin and carried unanimously

Flowers made a motion to return to Open Session at 9:23 pm. The motion was seconded by Laughlin and carried unanimously.

With no further business before the Town Council, a motion was made at 9:23 pm by McClellan to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Barnes and carried unanimously.



Mark E. Brown, Mayor



Valarie Halvorsen, Town Clerk