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June 14, 2011

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**MINUTES OF THE
SUMMERFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
SUMMERFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER
JUNE 14, 2011
6:30 PM**

NOTE: The official minutes are a CD recording of the meeting. The following is a summary of the events of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by Mark Brown.

The invocation was let by Linda Southard, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Council:

Mark Brown, Mayor
Dena Barnes
Alicia Flowers
Dianne Laughlin
Bob Williams
John Wray Jr.

Staff:

Michael Brandt, Town Manager
Dana Luther, Finance Officer
William Hill, Town Attorney
Valarie Halvorsen, Town Clerk
George Holub, Parks & Rec Supervisor

CONSENT AGENDA:

Williams made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, including the meeting agenda, Financial Report, Finance Officer Budget Amendment #4, minutes of the May 10 and May 24, 2011 meetings, and the Lyme Disease Awareness Month Proclamation. The motion was seconded by Barnes and carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brown announced the following upcoming events: June 15 Jordan Lake Rules Informational Meeting, June 25 Music in the Park, June 25 Summerfield Summer-Cycle recycling day at Laughlin Elementary, June 25-26 Ham Radio Field Day at SAP, July 9 Music in the Park.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Gail Dunham, 5805 Snow Hill Dr requested that the Budget Public Hearing be delayed based on her contention that lots of information relating to budget items had not been disclosed to the public.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. **Finance:** Luther said the next meeting is July 18, during which annual elections will take place as well as overviews of the budget process and Founders' Day.
- B. **Historical:** Linda Southard stated the Veterans Appreciation Event was very successful with about 50 attendees.
- C. **Parks & Rec:** Jane Doggett noted 75-80 people participated in the Take a Hike event, the July meeting date has moved from the 7th to the 14th, and Sherrie Joseph and Conrad Hayter would take over as co-chairs of the committee.
- D. **Public Safety:** Ron Marshburn said the next meeting was June 15, and the committee was planning a test run of the Town generator.
- E. **Founders' Day:** No report.
- F. **SFD Rd/Development Ord.:** Wray stated the next meetings are June 20 and June 21 respectively.

PUBLIC HEARING: 2011-2012 FISCAL YEAR OPERATING BUDGET

Brown asked Brandt for clarification about the proposed loop trail. Brandt stated the trail is intended to be a 10' gravel trail that would go East and South from the tower, through the gulley, then East along the wood line, up the rise on the other side of the gulley and then connect with the current trail. While there is a grassy field that can hold approximately 50 cars and would be used as overflow parking for Town events, there are no plans for a paved parking area and no paved parking lot access. He further stated that Harriett Drive would not be opened for vehicle access either. Brandt also stated that the \$475,000 loan payoff was previously shown in the budget as one line item and now is shown as 2 lines, a revenue and an expense, in the budget. There was also discussion of structural issues at Town Hall. Holub stated there were significant problems with the bricks and mortar and birds entering the building where bricks were missing. Following an inspection, a structural engineer recommended repointing, remortaring and replacing bad brick where needed and then applying a sealant on a regular basis, work which would be bid out and is expected to be expensive. Brandt recommends using the \$22,000 listed in the budget for a Town Hall sign for Town Hall repairs instead.

Brown opened the Public Hearing at 7:11 pm

Sue Beeson, 5112 Medearis Dr, supports the Parks & Recreation budget, noting that parks are important to citizen health.

Sherrie Joseph, 6988 Haw View Ct, supports the budget, specifically construction of the A&Y Greenway trail and the Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan, stating neighborhood connectivity is very important and a Master Plan will allow the committee to appropriately plan for short and long term goals.

Jane Doggett, 7986 Highfill Rd, supports the Parks & Recreation budget stating a Parks Master Plan is needed.

Gail Dunham, 5805 Snow Hill Dr, asked Council to defer voting on the budget based on her feeling that the public has not been adequately informed about budget issues and a Supreme Court ruling about conflict of interest. She further stated the loop road is not a priority, not needed, and the neighbors are opposed to it.

Dwayne Crawford, 1106 NC Hwy 150 W, requested Council answer several questions relating to small government and preserving quality of life in Summerfield.

Adrian Williamson, 3901 Lewiston Rd, asked several questions about specific budget items, then stated repairing Town Hall was more important than construction of a loop trail.

Mark Mortenson, 6110 Percheron Trail, expressed agreement with the previous speaker, and urged Council to be fiscally conservative.

Lee Haywood, 7203 MacIntosh Pl, agrees with previous two speakers, stating CIP items should be tabled for now and revisited when the economy improves.

Beth Kaplan, 7979 Highfill Rd, supports the budget and feels that Summerfield is not growing government, but rather government is growing with Summerfield.

Shirley Jennings, 5800 Frances Marie Ct, agrees that the economy is not healthy and that it would be absurd to construct a loop trail at this time. She feels the public hearing environment is hostile and speakers should give and get courtesy and try to work together to solve problems and disagreements.

Tim Wachendorfer, 5705 Snow Hill Dr. thanked Council for their hard work and making tough decisions, and asked several questions about the proposed loop trail.

Replying to Wachendorfer, Brandt stated there would be some grading involved with loop trail construction for ADA compliance and that the trail could accommodate cars, but was not intended to on a regular basis, just during Town events.

Elizabeth McClellan, 7103 Lentz Ct. was saddened and disappointed by the low meeting turnout. She asked about meeting notification, is against funding the loop trail construction, and urged fiscal conservatism.

Brown closed the Public Hearing at 7:44 pm.

Flowers asked several questions about specific budget items.

Laughlin asked about Planning Department duties.

Flowers noted according to a recent article in the Greensboro News & Record, 24.5% of North Carolina residents cannot afford food for their families, and asked how many of the 24.5% were Summerfield residents. She says people are losing jobs and homes and yet we tax and spend for non-necessities. Flowers stated she will not vote for this tax and spend budget, that Summerfield should cut back to bare bones and necessities.

Barnes stated several citizens have expressed their appreciation for the parks and that it is important to maintain them. She further noted in presenting this budget, the Manager has acted according to Council directives and stated goals.

Wray stated Council asked for a budget that was compatible with the Comprehensive Plan goals, which were items requested by the citizens. He feels Brandt did exactly what he was asked to do and commended him on keeping taxes low.

Williams made a motion to approve the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year Operating Budget. The motion was seconded by Wray. Brandt asked if that included moving the \$22,000 for the Town Hall sign to Town Hall repair. Williams amended his motion as follows: motion to approve the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year Operating Budget and re-designate the \$22,000 slated for a Town Hall sign to Town Hall Structural Repairs. Wray seconded the amended motion, which passed 3 to 2. Flowers and Laughlin opposed.

Break from 8:17 to 8:23 pm

BUSINESS FROM TOWN MANAGER

A. Discussion/approval of Auditing Contract

Flowers made a motion to approve the Auditing Contract with Rouse, Rouse, Penn and Rouse. The motion was seconded by Laughlin and carried unanimously.

B. Approval of FY13 P&R Events July-September 2012

Brandt stated the request was to pre-approve the events and the monies needed to pay deposits. Wray made a motion to approve FY13 P&R Events. The motion was seconded by Williams and carried 4 to 1. Flowers opposed.

C. Update on State Legislation and State and County

Brandt provided information about the State and County budgets, noting that Governor Beverly Perdue vetoed the State budget, but it was expected that the veto would be overridden.

D. Update on Structural and Phone Line Issues at Town Hall

In addition to the previously mentioned Town Hall structural problems, Brandt commented on problems with the phone lines and stated if the problem persists the phone wiring would need to be redone.

Brandt discussed a request from the Coalition Against Big Trucks, a lobbying group who is opposed to a proposed increase in allowable truck weight. They request a letter opposing the change from Council to Representative Howard Coble.

Flowers made a motion directing the Manager to draft a letter opposing the proposed increase in allowable truck weight to Representative Howard Coble to be mailed upon approval by consensus. The motion was seconded by Williams and carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

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

- 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);**

Wray made a motion to enter into closed session at 8:44 pm. The motion was seconded by Barnes and carried unanimously.

Wray made a motion to return to open session at 9:19 pm. The motion was seconded by Barnes and carried unanimously.

With no further business before the Town Council, a motion was made at 9:19 pm by Wray to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Laughlin and carried unanimously.



Mark E. Brown, Mayor



Valarie Halvorsen, Town Clerk