



## COUNCIL MINUTES

JULY 14, 2016, 6:00PM, SUMMERFIELD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mark Brown. The following were present:

### Council

Mark Brown, Mayor  
Dena Barnes, Mayor Pro-tem  
Mike Adams  
Dianne Laughlin  
John O'Day  
Reece Walker

### Staff

Scott Whitaker, Town Manager  
Valarie Halvorsen, Town Clerk  
Dee Hall, Finance Officer

## CONSENT AGENDA

Barnes motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Adams, carried unanimously.

## WATER AND FIRE PROTECTION STUDY

- A. **Manager introduction of water and fire protection study:** Whitaker discussed what led up to the study including how it related to Policy Area 5 of the Comprehensive Plan. He stated Council's intent with the study was not to introduce a public water system, but to explore options for fire protection.
- B. **Presentation of study (John Grey, PE, of The Wooten Company):** Grey discussed the study options: 1) small tanks at strategic locations; 2) centrally-located ground storage tanks; 3) centrally-located elevated tank; 4) centrally-located elevated tank with lines and fire hydrants to serve key corridors; 5) connection to an existing water system, such as Rockingham County's; and, 6) use of existing Summerfield Elementary 72,000-gallon tank.
- C. **Council discussion:** Brown asked Fire Chief Chris Johnson about ISO requirements; Johnson stated new water point standards will be required in 2017. ISO ratings affect insurance rates and are calculated by water flow rate, quickness of accessing water, and staffing needed to get water. Johnson stated the desired flow is 1000 gallons-per-minute and Grey clarified with Council that the study's options were all based on that goal rate. Grey noted most towns looking to install elevated tanks are installing composite tanks and that tanks provide pressure using gravity.

## REGIONAL WATER INITIATIVE FOR WATER SUPPLY PLANNING

- A. **Mayor introduction of past water-supply efforts:** Brown said he was just informed that the newly-adopted state budget included \$14.5 million to "fund interconnection and extension of water lines" to be done by establishing a regional water authority that includes Guilford and Rockingham counties and "one or more municipalities within those counties." In order to receive the funds, the regional water authority would need to be formed prior to June 30, 2017.

**B. Council discussion of Rockingham County water MOU:** Brown said consideration of the MOU started prior to knowledge of the state funding, and the town attorney (not present) had recently recommended a motion expressing interest rather than signing the MOU at this time. Mayor Brown stated that joining the proposed regional water authority would give Summerfield an active vote on actions and decisions and how the funds would be spent.

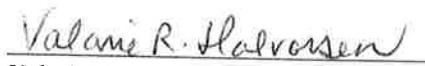
Whitaker noted that exploring water supply options was congruent with Policy Area 5.1 of the Comprehensive Plan that says the "town should work regionally on a broad range of water supply options and approaches for the long term." Barnes does not want to depend on Greensboro for future water needs and joining the proposed authority would give Summerfield the opportunity to give input into our own future water needs. There was discussion about implementation timeframes for the options presented in the study, flushing lines to reduce water stagnancy, installation based on projected future needs to eliminate replacement of systems, and the difficulty of projecting future needs.

Walker motioned as follows: I hereby move for a vote of support for this Council to explore the possibility of participating in a regional water authority along with Rockingham County and other jurisdictions. In making this motion, I am aware of our obligation to protect our citizens, which includes access to water to sustain growth and support our everyday lives. I am also aware of funds budgeted by the state of North Carolina for creation of such a regional water authority. At this time, my motion is that, we as a council, give a statement of intent to Rockingham County, to investigate and explore this possibility, without a pledge of any Town funds at the current time. After we gather all available information, we can then consider any and all financial obligations in this undertaking, in keeping with Policy 5.1 of the Comprehensive Plan.

Adams offered a friendly amendment, which was accepted by Walker to replace "in keeping with Policy 5.1 of the Comprehensive Plan" with "[new sentence] In accordance with Policy 5.1 within the Comprehensive Plan, Summerfield should investigate the potential opportunities of participating in such a regional water authority." Barnes seconded the motion. Adams read the amended motion per Brown's request. The motion carried unanimously.

With no further business, a motion was made at 7:45pm by Barnes to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Walker and carried unanimously.

  
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Mark Brown, Mayor

  
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Valarie R. Halvorsen, Town Clerk