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October 11, 2011

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**MINUTES OF THE
SUMMERFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
SUMMERFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER
OCTOBER 11, 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 6:32 pm by Mark Brown.
The invocation was led 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
Chris Anderson, Town Planner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brown announced that Brandt would be leaving the Town of Summerfield for a position as the Manager of the Town of Mayodan. He thanked Brandt for his many years of service.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Brown recommended adding item 12C Discussion of Special Call Meeting to the agenda. He further stated Discussion of the CIP was not on this agenda as it was decided to wait to talk about this until a new manager was selected.

Barnes made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda *as amended*, including the meeting agenda, minutes of the September 13, 2011 meeting, the September 26, 2011 Special Call meeting, and Financial Report. The motion was seconded by Wray and carried unanimously.

Flowers asked Luther to provide a monthly breakdown of operating costs associated with SAP, SCP and Town Hall.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Finance:** Luther said the committee has not decided whether they will hold the scheduled October meeting.
- B. Historical:** Linda Southard said the next meeting is October 27 during which the committee will discuss hosting a Christmas Tea at Town Hall.
- C. Parks & Rec:** Sherrie Joseph spoke about the upcoming Fall Fun Fest and Petrified Woods Haunted Trail, and the Open House presentation of the A&Y Feasibility Study to be held October 20.
- D. Public Safety:** Bob Johnson stated the committee has added new members and would be electing officers during their next meeting.
- E. SFD Rd/Development Ord.:** Wray stated the next committee meeting is October 17 during which citizen comments from the Open House would be reviewed. Barnes said the next meeting is October 18 during which the committee would continue reviewing articles.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Gail Dunham, 5805 Snow Hill Dr. feels that the presence of a Sheriff Deputy at the meeting is oppressive, and suggested the Town ask for a refund of the \$2340.60 check issued June 29 to SYC for their involvement in Founders' Day. While there was an agreement in place with the town, the group lost their IRS certification in the interim: prior to the date the check was drawn, the IRS had revoked the group's 501(c)3 designation. Dunham also feels that questions and items presented for citizen comment during the October 4 Summerfield Road Special Area Plan Open House were misleading, and the plan amounts to an "expensive sidewalk survey".

Don Wendelken, 3406 Windswept Dr. mayor candidate, also spoke of the Open House, noting no costs were included as he had recommended, which was very frustrating.

Beth Kaplan, 7979 Highfill Rd. thanked the Summerfield Road Special Area Plan committee for their hard work and is dismayed that the Town seems to be falling back into a pattern of dividedness and rumors. She feels comments about the plan such as "No taxes" and "No sidewalks" are not constructive. Kaplan further noted she was supporting Brown, Barnes, Williams, and Hayter in the upcoming election.

Richard Lovett, 7812 Spencer Brook Dr. says the candidates should run on their vision for Summerfield, not just a platform of lowering taxes, and so far none have disclosed such a vision. He stated financial stewardship and spending controls have improved over the last few years, that costs associated with SAP are high, but are effectively managed. He also discussed Town Hall, noting that Council should purchase suitable land if it becomes available, but any decision to construct a new Town Hall should be put to a referendum.

Becky Strickland, 3220 Pleasant Ridge Rd. says the Summerfield Road Special Area Plan members were selected and appointed in secret for the purpose of "stacking the quorum" to support wishes of a few. She says this is an affront to open government.

Dwayne Crawford, 1106 NC Hwy 150W, spoke of a letter that used the term "cave people", and email written by former Council member Jane Doggett to former Council member Becky Strickland, and a 2007 letter in the NorthWest Observer from Sheriff BJ Barnes regarding the then proposed Sheriff substation.

BUSINESS FROM TOWN MANAGER

A. Consideration/Approval of Zoning Board By-Laws

***By consensus, continued to the November 10, 2011 Council meeting.*

B. Consideration/Approval of Board of Adjustment By-Laws

***By consensus, continued to the November 10, 2011 Council meeting.*

C. Discussion/Approval of Transfer of Funds to Pay for Town Hall Repairs

Brandt recommended budgeting a total of \$125,000 for repairs to Town Hall, noting there is approximately \$20,000 remaining of the original \$25,000. An additional \$65,000 is recommended to be transferred from undesignated fund balance. The final \$40,000 is recommended to be transferred from P&R capital funds, to which SPARC is agreeable.

Barnes made a motion to approve the transfer of \$65,000 from fund balance and \$40,000 from P&R Capital funds to be used for Town Hall repairs. The motion was seconded by Williams and carried unanimously.

D. Report on Meetings or Activities

Barnes attended a NCDOT meeting during which road conditions in the Burlington area were inspected.

BUSINESS FROM TOWN COUNCIL

A. Appoint Timothy Pitts to Public Safety Committee

Brandt interviewed Pitts and recommends appointment.

Wray made a motion to appoint Timothy Pitts to the Public Safety Committee. The motion was seconded by Williams and carried unanimously.

C. Discussion of Special Call Meeting

It was decided by consensus to hold a Special Call Meeting Tuesday October 25, 2011, 6:30pm at the Community Center to discuss the process of hiring a new Town Manager.

BUSINESS FROM MAYOR

A. Certificates of Appreciation – Jean Yves Fichou, Mitch Fahrner, Peggy McPartlan

Brown read the certificates and thanked Jean Yves Fichou for service on the Parks & Recreation Committee, and Mitch Fahrner and Peggy McPartlan for their service on the Summerfield Road Special Area Plan Committee.

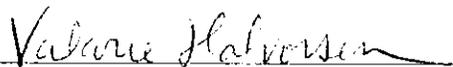
COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

In response to Wendelken, Wray noted the Summerfield Road Special Area Plan Committee meetings were open to the public and perhaps meeting attendance would result in a better understanding of the process. He further stated funding designations and cost projections were not provided because the plan, and the items to be included, was not finalized yet.

With no further business before the Town Council, a motion was made at 7:41 pm by Wray to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Laughlin and carried unanimously.



Mark E. Brown, Mayor



Valarie Halvorsen, Town Clerk