



**OAK RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2013 – 7:00 P.M.
OAK RIDGE TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Members Present

Ray Combs, Mayor
Roger Howerton, Mayor Pro Tem
Danny Yanusz
George McClellan
Spencer Sullivan

Staff Present

Sandra Smith, Town Clerk
Bruce Oakley, Town Manager
J. Michael Thomas, Town Attorney
Sam Anders, Finance Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ray Combs called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

• **Invocation**

Howerton led meeting attendees in a moment of silence and asked for prayers for local churches that had recently experienced fire and the ones responsible for those fires.

• **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. APPROVE AGENDA

Councilman Danny Yanusz made a **motion** to approve the January 3, 2013, agenda. **Mayor Pro Tem Roger Howerton** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2012, MEETING

Councilman George McClellan made a **motion** to approve the December 6, 2012, meeting minutes. **Councilman Spencer Sullivan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

4. RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Bruce Oakley reported:

- The end of West Harrell Road at N.C. 68 North was scheduled to be closed by N.C. DOT on January 7; Oakley advised everyone to be aware of the new traffic pattern that would result.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Jimmy Morgan presented photos to Council of his daughter's black Labrador retriever, which had suffered severe lacerations and a broken leg by a pack of coyotes. With development, habitats for coyotes are being destroyed and are bringing the animals closer to humans. Morgan expressed concern about the threat coyotes pose, especially to children and pets, and said citizens need to protect themselves.

Combs asked Morgan if coyotes could be hunted, and Morgan said yes. Problems had become so severe in some areas that cities had resorted to bringing in hunters to help eradicate the animals, Morgan said. He added that he didn't recall seeing coyotes in this area until 10-15 years ago, and advised residents to beware.

7. MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Finance Officer Sam Anders presented:

- The town continues to maintain a strong balance sheet position.
- Total assets are \$3.48 million, total liabilities are about \$25,000, and total net assets are about \$3.46 million.
- A wire transfer of \$70,412 was received from the Guilford County Tax Department, representing all collections as of December 31, 2012.
- Revenues from property tax receipts, sales tax and quarterly utility franchise taxes were received for total of about \$115,000. Total expenses were \$39,523, resulting in about a \$75,000 addition to the fund balance.
- The wire transfer to make the park loan payment on January 18, 2013, has been set up with BB&T.

Councilman McClellan made a **motion** to accept the monthly financial report as submitted. **Mayor Pro Tem Howerton** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

8. COMMUNITY UPDATES

- **Schools**

Billy Yeargin, interim president and headmaster of Oak Ridge Military Academy, introduced himself and Mel Morris, the academy's vice president of operations. Yeargin, who graduated from ORMA in the 1950s, said it was wonderful to return to the school. He also graduated from Duke University and the University of Oxford, and spent his career in the media, in politics and now in education. He said that although the school has hit some "bumps," the only time it closed was during the Civil War when the students all went off to war. Yeargin said the school was strong and planned to stay strong, and that it was growing in

numbers of students, goals and determination to continue. He invited Council to visit any time.

Combs told Yeargin to let the Town know if there was anything it could do. Yeargin said the school and community could work together to make both larger, prouder and more productive.

- **Parks & Recreation Commission**

Bill Edwards reported that the Commission has been working on budget numbers for next fiscal year and for Phase 2 of construction. A meeting had been held previously that evening of a new subcommittee that is hoping to create a dog park within the Town park.

Councilman Sullivan said he had noticed some new trails in the park, and Edwards said those were the mountain bike trails that were being created with the help of a town volunteer. The trails intersect the walking trails in a couple of places, which is likely what Sullivan had seen. Preparation is also being done on a new walking trail and a Boy Scout is planning to build bridge in that area for his Eagle project.

- **Planning & Zoning Board**

No meeting, no report

- **Board of Adjustment**

Oakley reported that a meeting had been held on December 12, 2012, and had been continued to February 14, 2013.

- **Finance**

John Jenkins reported it was time to begin the annual budget process. A meeting will be held February 5, which is open to the public, and the Committee will begin reviewing this year's finances and looking at next year's.

- **Pedestrian Plan**

No meeting; next meeting scheduled for January 8

- **Fire Department**

Fire Chief Steve Simmons reported that the department:

- Responded to 46 calls in December; 23 were medical, and 23 were fire/service related
- Underwent 178 hours of training
- Installed three car seats
- Attended two public service events
- Maintained an average response time of 4 minutes

Simmons commented on the recent church fires in the Stokesdale area and reported that an attempted fire had been discovered at a church in Oak Ridge the previous evening. Fortunately there was no significant damage. The case is

under investigation by the sheriff's department and fire marshal's department to see if there are any similarities in this attempt and the previous church fires. He advised residents to call 911 immediately if they see anything suspicious.

- **Historic Preservation Commission**

Ann Pitz reported:

- The Commission met on December 12 and received a report from Oakley regarding the status of the CrossFit COA and outstanding compliance issues.
- The Historic Inventory/Marker subcommittee had presented a draft 5-year plan for markers, which was approved by HPC. The Commission will also present the plan to Council for its approval.
- The proposed changes to the Historic Guidelines are being reviewed by Oakley and Thomas; once their review is finished, the changes will be presented to Town Council for its approval.

9. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Randy Floss, a member of the Merchants Association of Oak Ridge, thanked the Town for its cooperation with last year's RidgeFest, and said this year's event is scheduled for May 31 and June 1. Floss extended a personal invitation for Council members to attend and be involved in the event, particularly in the dunking booth.

10. COUNCIL COMMENTS

- **Mayor Pro Tem Howerton** thanked the Town's board and committee members, saying he supports their efforts 100 percent.
- **Councilman Yanusz** wished everyone Happy New Year and said he is looking forward to another year.
- **Councilman McClellan** also thanked the Town's volunteers. He added that a Finance Committee, Parks & Recreation Commission and Council meeting had all been held in different parts of Town Hall that evening and that it was great to see such activity.
- **Councilman Sullivan** thanked the committee members. Sullivan said he also shares concerns expressed earlier in the meeting regarding coyotes, which he said are elusive and hard to shoot.
- **Mayor Combs** welcomed Billy Yeargin and Mel Morris to Oak Ridge.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Yanusz made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m. **Mayor Pro Tem Howerton** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted:



Sandra B. Smith, Town Clerk



Ray Combs, Mayor