



**OAK RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 4, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.
OAK RIDGE TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Ray Combs, Mayor

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Roger Howerton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

• **Invocation**

Howerton led meeting attendees in a moment of silence.

• **Pledge of Allegiance**

Howerton asked members of the General Nathaniel Greene Young Marines and Boy Scouts to come forward and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVE AGENDA

Councilman Danny Yanusz made a **motion** to approve the October 4, 2012, agenda. **Councilman George McClellan** seconded the **motion**, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2012, MEETING

Councilman McClellan made a **motion** to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2012, meeting. **Councilman Spencer Sullivan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

4. RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Proclamation.** Mayor Pro Tem Howerton asked the Young Marines to again step forward for the presentation of a mayoral proclamation. He then asked Councilman McClellan to read the proclamation on behalf of Mayor Combs:

PROCLAMATION

**IN SUPPORT OF RED RIBBON WEEK
OCTOBER 23-31, 2012
AND THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFICKING AND USE**

WHEREAS, Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug prevention program in America in which many young people pledge to live drug-free lives; and

WHEREAS, since its 1988 establishment by the National Family Partnership in which President and First Lady Nancy Reagan served as honorary chairpersons, Red Ribbon Week has helped educate the public on the seriousness of drug abuse as well as paid tribute to DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena; and

WHEREAS, Camarena, an 11-year DEA veteran and former Marine, was close to cracking a multi-billion dollar drug pipeline from his assigned post in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 1985 when he was kidnapped, tortured and murdered by Mexican drug traffickers; and

WHEREAS, the death of Agent Camarena opened the eyes of many Americans to the dangers of drugs and the extent of the international drug trade; and

WHEREAS, Red Ribbon Week is a way for communities to take a stand against illegal drugs and show their intolerance for illicit drug use;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ray Combs, Mayor of the Town of Oak Ridge, recognize the week of October 23-31, 2012, as

Red Ribbon Week

in the Town of Oak Ridge and support the General Nathaniel Greene Young Marines organization in its efforts to educate the public on drug abuse and honor the work of fallen DEA Agent and former Marine Enrique "Kiki" Camarena.

Howerton and the Town Council recognized the Young Marines in attendance.

- **Announcement.** Howerton announced that the date of the next Council meeting has been changed to November 8, due to Early Voting which will be held at Town Hall.

5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Bruce Oakley presented:

- **Funding for USGS monitoring well.** Oakley said he had received a request from the U.S. Geological Survey to continue funding the groundwater monitoring well located on Town property. Oakley said the \$5,000 cost would be included in next year's budget.

Yanusz asked if the fees charged by USGS are usual and customary for towns comparable to Oak Ridge; Oakley said USGS has increased the cost to towns that are installing groundwater monitoring wells now.

Councilman Sullivan made a **motion** to approve the \$5,000 annual fee for groundwater monitoring to be included in next year's budget. **Councilman McClellan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

6. NEW BUSINESS

- **Carolina Field of Honor Presentation:** Bill Knight, past mayor of Greensboro, explained that the Carolina Field of Honor is an 8-acre area in the 425-acre Triad Park to honor veterans. The estimated cost of the project is \$5 million, and Knight said \$1 million to \$1.5 million more is still needed to reach that goal. The memorial will honor all branches of the military – past, present and future – and emergency responders. It will be the largest memorial of its type east of the Mississippi River except for in Washington, D.C. Knight said many municipalities had or were planning donations and that the local Fox 8 TV station had taken the Field of Honor as its station project. Organizers would like to have fundraising completed by the end of 2012, Knight said. Engraved bricks are also being sold so individuals can be honored, and Knight said he would leave information and forms at the Town Hall.

Knight showed a short video, then thanked Council for letting him speak, saying it was extremely important to get the word out about the project. He invited citizens to visit Triad Park and see where the Field of Honor will be located.

Yanusz asked veterans in the audience to stand; meeting attendees applauded.

Howerton recognized the Boy Scouts in attendance at the meeting from Troop 600, and they also received applause from the audience.

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Jim Kinneman spoke on behalf of Preservation Oak Ridge, which is working to restore the historic Ai Church. The organization will be having a fundraiser dinner and silent auction on Oct. 13 at the Oak Ridge Military Academy dining hall. Kinneman said tickets can be purchased from any member of the group.

Howerton recognized members of Preservation Oak Ridge who were present at the meeting.

8. MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Finance Officer Sam Anders presented:

- The Town continues to have a strong financial position, with a little over \$3.4 million in assets.

- Utilities franchise receipts were received for the fourth quarter of last fiscal year.
- Operating expenses were fairly normal for the previous month, and included bills from Guilford County for planning services and animal control.
- He continues to shop for the best rates on CDARS.
- The audit should be finished soon and the report will be given by the auditor at the November Council meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Howerton made a **motion** to accept the monthly financial report as submitted. **Councilman McClellan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

9. COMMUNITY UPDATES

- **Parks & Recreation Commission**

Bill Edwards reported that Marcy Cook has applied to be a member of the Commission; she brings experience with non-athletic activities, and Edwards said he felt she would be a good fit. The Commission recommended her appointment.

Howerton thanked Cook for applying to serve, saying citizen volunteers make Council members' lives easier. He thanked all those who serve on Town committees.

Councilman Sullivan made a **motion** to appoint Marcy Cook as a full member of the Parks & Recreation Commission (the meeting agenda incorrectly said this was an alternate position). **Councilman Yanusz** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

Edwards continued his report, saying at the last meeting the Commission had reviewed, discussed and voted on the park usage agreement for Oak Ridge Youth Association. Once ORYA has approved, it will come back for final Council review and approval.

Edwards said the Commission had also found a volunteer that proposed helping create mountain biking trails in the park. The volunteer had spoken at the last Commission meeting, and he plans to tour the park to see if there is room for a good mountain bike trail system. Edwards said he anticipated another report to Council on the issue soon.

Edwards announced a rabies clinic at the park on Saturday, Oct. 6, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost for each vaccination was \$5.

- **Planning & Zoning Board**

No report

- **Board of Adjustment**

Jim Kinneman requested that a training session be set up for the Board on an annual basis, and requested Council and staff consider going on and scheduling one in the next couple of months. The Historic Preservation Commission and Planning & Zoning Board members might also like to attend. Kinneman said the Board of Adjustment has some new members that could benefit from the training, and experienced members could also use a refresher.

- **Finance**

No report

- **Pedestrian Plan**

No report

- **Fire Department**

Fire Chief Steve Simmons reported that the month of September was busy with 74 medical, fire and service-related calls. Department members had completed 171.5 hours of training, installed three car seats and attended three public education events. The average call response time was 4.5 minutes.

Simmons said that as fall approaches and temperatures begin to drop, it is a good opportunity to have heating systems serviced. For houses with chimneys, it is also a good time to have them checked out. Gas logs can put off carbon monoxide if not properly vented, and wood-burning chimneys could have a crack in the flue that might cause a house to burn down. All types of heating systems can benefit from cleaning and service, and fire alarms often go off this time of year because dust in the heating system causes smoke.

Simmons reminded meeting attendees of the Firemen's Barbecue scheduled for October 20. They will begin serving plates at 4 p.m.

Howerton expressed sympathy to Simmons, whose father recently died, but also congratulated him on his recent wedding. Simmons said he appreciated the support of the tight-knit community after his father's death.

- **Historic Preservation Commission**

Kinneman said the Commission had heard two Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) cases in September, and the Commission wanted to thank the Town Council for their support.

The first COA case heard involved a request for a sign at Oak Ridge Elementary School. Kinneman said although the Commission wanted to approve the case, the request was not quite in line with the ordinance. He said the Commission had tried to express that the request is unique and may take some creativity in order to approve. He said the Commission had encouraged the applicant to come back with alternatives that fit the ordinance.

Kinneman said the second COA request involved CrossFit, which has been a long process. He said the Commission was able to approve several items, but there was still much work to be done. The items approved enabled the Town to give CrossFit a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (CO), but the applicant will be required to return at a special meeting on October 17 to present solutions and request final approval of other items on the list. If the COA is not approved, Kinneman said the Town would revoke CrossFit's Temporary CO. Kinneman said the Commission was trying to work with the applicant to "get to yes," but the Commission has a responsibility to make sure the Town's ordinances are adhered to.

9. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

10. COUNCIL COMMENTS

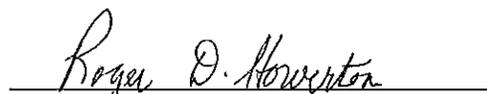
- **Councilman McClellan** thanked the Historic Preservation Commission, saying that it does a very professional job. In addition to Preservation Oak Ridge's fundraiser, McClellan reminded attendees of the Great Pumpkin Event to be held on Oct. 27 from 3 to 5 p.m. at Oak Ridge Commons.
- **Councilman Sullivan** thanked park staff for getting the duck weed problem under control at the pond in the park and for doing so without affecting the water used for irrigation. He reminded everyone to vote in the upcoming election and that Early Voting will be available at Town Hall.
- **Mayor Pro Tem Howerton** agreed with Sullivan, saying Early Voting starts October 18. He thanked all those present at the meeting, and said although he did not break Mayor Combs' record for a short meeting, he did think he had broken Combs' record for meeting attendance.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman McClellan made a motion to adjourn at 7:44 p.m. **Councilman Yanusz** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

Respectfully Submitted:


Sandra B. Smith, Town Clerk


Roger Howerton, Mayor Pro Tem