



**OAK RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.
OAK RIDGE TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Members Present

Spencer Sullivan, Mayor
Jim Kinneman, Mayor Pro Tem
Ray Combs
George McClellan
Mike Stone

Staff Present

Michael Thomas, Town Attorney
Bill Bruce, Planning Director
Sam Anders, Finance Officer
Bruce Oakley, Town Manager
Sandra Smith, Town Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Spencer Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

A. Invocation.

The invocation was given by Dr. Roy Carter, pastor of Central Baptist Church.

B. Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVE AGENDA

Councilman George McClellan made a **motion** to approve the meeting agenda. **Mayor Pro Tem Jim Kinneman** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

3. APPROVE MINUTES

- A. August 6, 2015, Meeting.**
- B. August 6, 2015, Closed Session.**
- C. September 3, 2015, Meeting.**

Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman made a **motion** to approve the meeting minutes. **Councilman McClellan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

4. RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman announced that the Lions Club golf tournament would be held on October 17; players and sponsors are needed.

5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Bruce Oakley reported that the park has been successful and its use continues to grow, but the workload of Town staff is at the maximum. He asked the Council for approval to hire a permanent part-time groundskeeper for 25 hours per week. He also asked for approval to increase the hourly rate paid to the current part-time groundkeeper and the new part-time groundskeeper from \$9 to \$10 per hour.

Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman made a **motion** to approve the addition of a part-time groundskeeper to the park staff, and to increase the hourly rate for part-time groundskeepers from \$9 to \$10 per hour. **Councilman McClellan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

7. MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Finance Officer Sam Anders presented the financial report, which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes.

Councilman McClellan made a **motion** to approve the financial report. **Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

8. COMMUNITY UPDATES

A. Board of Adjustment

Chair Nancy Stoudemire reported that the Board met in September to discuss a variance for an accessory structure. Because of the topography and trees on the property, the Board voted in favor of the request.

B. Historic Preservation Commission

HPC chair Ann Schneider reported:

- The Commission had taken out an ad in the Northwest Observer about the historic district as part of its community outreach.
- Oak Ridge resident Frank Whitaker had written an editorial in the Northwest Observer in support of the historic district; Schneider thanked him for his support, said he had been a supporter of the district since its creation and that he owns the largest piece of open land in the district.
- She had attended a historic preservation conference in Salisbury, where she spoke with Myrick Howard, president of Preservation N.C., and he mentioned his strong opposition to HB 799, a bill which would affect all historic districts in the state. Schneider said there had been a huge outpouring of emails regarding HB 799, which had been referred to the House Finance Committee, and said it might also come up next year in the legislation's short session. She requested the Council approve a resolution in opposition to HB 799 or similar legislation.

- Michelle Davidson had resigned from the Commission, and Schneider thanked her for her service.
- The approved changes to the CrossFit building had been completed, and she said the building looks terrific.

Mayor Sullivan asked Schneider if she would draft a resolution in opposition to HB 799 for the Council to consider.

C. Fire Department

In light of recent hurricanes that had hit other states that were causing heavy rains here, Assistant Chief Sam Anders urged everyone to be cognizant of the weather and not drive through standing water, or over downed power lines or partially downed trees. In case of an emergency, call 911. He also urged residents to make sure their house numbers are on a marker near the end of their driveways and that they can be read from both directions. Anders also invited all to the Fireman's BBQ on October 10.

D. Parks & Recreation Commission

Chairman Bill Edwards reported:

- Phase II construction is a little behind schedule due to the recent heavy rains.
- The final Music in the Park event, which had been scheduled for October 3, was rescheduled for October 24 and would feature The Tyler Millard Band.

E. Finance Committee

No meeting

F. Planning & Zoning Board

No meeting

9. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

10. COUNCIL COMMENTS

- **Councilman Ray Combs** said it was good to be home after being away for two months, and said it was nice to be sitting at the other end of the dais instead of in the mayor's seat. He said while he was away, he had done some math and realized he pays more in Rotary Club dues than he does in Oak Ridge taxes. Since he is not seeking re-election, he said he planned on having a great next few years watching the Council's actions.
- **Councilman McClellan** said the legislature had ended its session with HB 799 still in committee. He said he was grateful for the opposition to this bill from Oak Ridge,

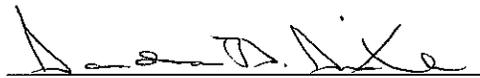
and that it would affect all historic districts in the state. McClellan also thanked all the volunteers who serve on the Town's committees

- **Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman** stressed the importance of voting, and urged residents to take time and investigate the candidates. He announced an upcoming blood drive at Central Baptist Church and urged people to give blood. Kinneman said he agreed with the comments about CrossFit, saying the changes – especially the addition of windows on the front of the building – had made a huge difference.
- **Councilman Stone** also spoke about the upcoming election and urged attendees to vote. He noted the many community events going on in the next few weeks, and said they were a great opportunity to meet others. He thanked the Town's volunteers and staff.
- **Mayor Sullivan** also thanked the committee members, and thanked Chad Gimbert for leading the efforts to bring CrossFit into compliance. He said Oak Ridge United Methodist Church was also having a blood drive. He urged residents to be careful during the upcoming inclement weather and to look out for their neighbors, particularly if power goes out.

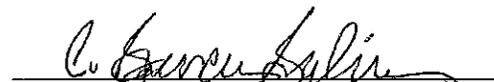
11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted:



Sandra B. Smith, CMC, Town Clerk


C. Spencey Sullivan, Mayor