



OAK RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 3, 2014 – 7:00 P.M.  
OAK RIDGE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

**Members Present**

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

**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 7:00 p.m.

**A. Invocation**

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. APPROVE AGENDA**

Mayor Combs asked to add a closed session to the end of the meeting. **Councilman Jim Kinneman** made a **motion** to approve the April 3, 2014, meeting agenda as amended. **Councilman George McClellan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

**3. APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 6, 2014, MEETING**

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

**4. RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Town Manager Bruce Oakley asked that the Council support a proclamation naming and declaring support for Arbor Day on April 27. Councilman Kinneman said the proclamation is a requirement for the Town to become a Tree City through the Arbor Day Foundation.

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

**5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

None

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**7. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None

**8. MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Finance Officer Sam Anders reported:

- The Town has \$2.686 million in assets, \$30,695 in liabilities, and total assets of \$2.65 million.
- A significant amount of the revenues received for the previous month were a result of quarterly franchise taxes.
- A total of \$57,735 was added to the fund balance in March.
- Investments have been renewed and updated, and we are in the middle of the budget process.

Mayor Combs asked Anders if the Town would be ready to switch to the new accounting software on July 1. Anders said yes, and that conversion work has started. Councilman Kinneman asked when staff training on the software would take place, and Anders said in June or July. Kinneman asked if a test conversion of data would be done, and Anders said no, because data will all be converted at one time. Kinneman asked if the old software can still be used if the data conversion does not go well, and Anders said yes.

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

**9. COMMUNITY UPDATES**

**A. Finance Committee**

Chairman John Jenkins reported the Finance Committee has completed its work on the proposed 2014-15 fiscal year budget, a copy of which was enclosed in Council's meeting packet and which would be posted on the Town website the following day. Jenkins said public hearings will be held at the Town Council's May and June meetings, and in June the Council will finalize and approve the budget. He thanked the Committee members for their work.

**B. Historic Preservation Commission**

No meeting, no report

**C. Parks and Recreation Commission**

Chairman Bill Edwards reported:

- The Dog Park subcommittee has planned the grand opening/ribbon cutting for the Dog Park on April 12, 12-2 p.m. Free food and gifts will be offered.
- Canine Capers will be held May 17. Registration starts at 8 a.m., and the events begin at 9 a.m.

**D. Fire Department**

Chief Steve Simmons was on vacation, but Assistant Chief Anders reported the children of the community are invited to the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the fire station on April 21.

**E. Board of Adjustment**

Chairwoman Beth Walker reported the Board met the previous month to swear in new members Bill Barbour and Gray Cassell. Walker was elected chair and Nancy Stoudemire as vice chair. The Board also needs volunteers to serve as alternates.

**F. Planning and Zoning Board**

Vice Chairman Ron Simpson said the Board met and approved one subdivision case, which was a resubmission from the previous month that had been approved with several conditions. The applicant chose to resubmit in an effort to reduce some of the conditions, and the plan was approved unanimously. Doug Nodine will continue serving as chair, and Simpson was elected vice chair.

**9. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

- Mike Criscuolo said he had addressed the Council in March about usage of the athletic fields at the park. Those behind the effort have now submitted an online petition to Oakley. After discussing the issue with some Parks and Recreation Commission members and at a subsequent meeting with the Oak Ridge Youth Association, Criscuolo reported they had found “a huge disconnect.” He had thought the two groups involved (ORYA and the Town) were so far apart that he said he felt it was important to create the petition so residents could discuss how the park could be better utilized. Criscuolo said they felt the kids of Oak Ridge and the youth association are taking a back seat to some organized adult leagues and tournaments.

Mayor Combs said he had read the online petition, and that it would be referred directly to the Parks and Recreation Commission. He added that Council had decided some time ago that it would not micromanage the park and would let the Commission handle decisions regarding it.

Criscuolo said he and others had met with Oakley, Edwards, Parks and Recreation Director Terry Lannon and Parks and Recreation Commission Barry Knight, who had suggested they also meet with ORYA representatives. He said the meeting with ORYA got “a little ugly” and there seemed to be a lot of “vitriol and frustration” between the groups. He added that there seem to be a lot of policies and contracts in place that are somewhat illogical and may need to be revisited. Combs said the Parks and Recreation Commission would discuss the issue and make a

recommendation if they feel policy changes are warranted. Criscuolo said about 125 people had signed the petition so far, and he felt it was an issue that needs to be addressed; Combs reiterated that any change would come as a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

- Alan Davis, the ORYA baseball director, said he supported Criscuolo and his efforts. He told the Council that ORYA was working hard to improve the fields at Oak Ridge Elementary School, but said many parents want to know why their children have to play on the school fields and not at the park. Davis said northwest Guilford County is in the “higher end” of the county economically, but the ORYA program is losing children because they have to play at the school. He said he had parents willing to do work on the fields at the school to improve them, and said perhaps the Council would back them if they go to the school system and ask for money to improve the fields.

#### 10. COUNCIL COMMENTS

- **Councilman McClellan** said he was excited after reading in the newspaper about the development in this area. He thanked the Finance Committee for their work, and said he was honored and thrilled to serve the people of Oak Ridge.
- **Mayor Pro Tem Sullivan** said he served on the Finance Committee, and this year was particularly interesting because there were some tough decisions to make. He thanked Jenkins for leading the Committee, and said he was glad spring had arrived.
- **Councilman Kinneman** thanked the Finance Committee and members of all the committees. He also thanked those who attended the Council meeting that night.
- **Councilman Stone** said RidgeFest would be held May 30-31, and that it is an excellent opportunity to get involved. Anyone interested in participating should contact Bill Edwards or Randy Floss. He thanked all the volunteers, not only those on the Town’s committees, but also ones on groups like ORYA.
- **Mayor Combs** said each spring he had thoughts about the annual Oak Ridge Horse Show held at Easter. The show will not be held this year and it is uncertain if organizers will be able to put it together in the future. Combs said the horse show was a tradition he hated to see go.

#### 11. CLOSED SESSION

A closed session was held to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3).

**Councilman Kinneman** made a **motion** to go into closed session at 7:29 p.m. **Mayor Pro Tem Sullivan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

**Councilman Stone** made a **motion** to go back into open session at 7:47 p.m. **Councilman Kinneman** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

Mayor Combs announced that no action had been taken during closed session.

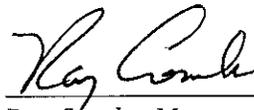
12. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Councilman Kinneman** made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. **Councilman McClellan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted:



Sandra B. Smith, Town Clerk



Ray Combs, Mayor