



OAK RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 7, 2015 – 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

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

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

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

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2, 2015, REGULAR MEETING AND THE APRIL 10, 2015, SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

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

4. RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Committee appointment.

Councilman McClellan made a **motion** to approve the appointment of Micah Spencer as an alternate to the Parks & Recreation Commission. **Councilman Kinneman** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

6. PUBLIC HEARING

2015-16 Fiscal Year Budget.

Proponents:

Finance Committee Chair John Jenkins presented the proposed 2015-16 fiscal year budget, which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes, and commended Oakley and Finance Officer Sam Anders for their work on it. Jenkins said the proposed budget showed revenues of \$1.3 million, expenses of \$1.1 million, and about \$200,000 to be added to the fund balance. He added that the Town's budget process is a good one. He said he was in favor of the proposed budget, and said the Finance Committee had done adequate due diligence in producing the budget.

Opponents:

None

Combs closed the public hearing.

Council questions/comments:

Councilman McClellan asked if the proposed budget included money for the grant program requested by Historic Preservation Commission, which could provide matching façade grants for properties of up to \$2,000. Oakley said yes, and McClellan said he was excited about that.

Mayor Pro Tem Sullivan said he had served on the Finance Committee and agreed with Jenkins' comments. He said the committee had done its due diligence and produced an excellent budget that does not increase the tax rate.

Councilman Kinneman thanked the Finance Committee, and said he was also supportive of the HPC grant program.

Councilman Mike Stone also thanked the Finance Committee, and said he would reserve further comments until later.

Mayor Combs announced the second reading of the budget would be held at the Town Council meeting in June before it is passed. He added that the budget is available on the Town website and at Town Hall.

7. NEW BUSINESS

New well at park.

Mayor Combs said the possibility of drilling a new well had been proposed by the Town Council. He said there are currently two wells at the park, but both are on the other side of the property. He said Council had known for some time that another well would be needed on the upper corner of the park, and it had become evident that the Council should probably go on and approve that expenditure. He said the cost was estimated at \$30,000, with \$25,000 going to drill the well and around \$5,000 for the hardware. Combs said the value of the well is obvious, and that the

cost was so great because the Town would be required to drill a commercial well and that it would likely be about 600 feet deep. He called for additional comments or questions from the Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Sullivan said the upper fields across from the town hall are usable but that it was difficult to get a good stand of grass because of the lack of irrigation available in that area. He said the new well would solve that problem. He said there were proposed future plans for a water feature at a later date on the upper corner of the park, and that the well could be used for that as well.

Councilman Kinneman asked if there were any concerns related to the neighbors or if a draw-down test would be done. Oakley said he did not think so because the Town would only be digging a commercial well, not a community well.

Councilman Stone said he had heard from parents and players about the condition of the fields at the front of the park, which would require work and water to improve. He said the well makes sense, and that if the Town has ideas about a future water feature/spray park, that would also require water on that side of the park. Stone said it makes sense to take care of the park, and that this is just another step in caring for this asset.

Mayor Combs said if a draw-down test is necessary, one will be done. He also said the expense for digging the well was a capital expenditure and it would not affect the budget.

Councilman Kinneman made a **motion** to approve the new well at the park and to instruct staff to continue efforts to make that happen. **Councilman McClellan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

8. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Randy Floss, a member of the Merchants Association of Oak Ridge (MAOR), said the annual RidgeFest celebration was started when the park opened. He said since then, MAOR has probably donated more than \$40,000 to organizations and causes in Oak Ridge, and that it takes hundreds of people to put on the event each year. He thanked Parks & Recreation Commission Chair Bill Edwards and Parks & Recreation Director Terry Lannon and his crew for their work in making the event happen. He outlined several of the events scheduled for this year, asked everyone to mark their calendars for May 28-30, and challenged Council members to participate in the dunk tank to raise money for charities.

9. MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Finance Officer Sam Anders presented the monthly 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 Sullivan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

10. COMMUNITY UPDATES

A. Fire Department

Chief Steve Simmons reported that the department had responded in April to 54 calls (24 medical, 30 fire/service related), had received 300 hours of training, and maintained an average response time of 5 minutes. His fire prevention tip for citizens for the month was to make sure dryer vents are kept clean, and to turn their dryers off when they go to bed or leave the house. He said the department gets credit on its fire service rating for spreading the word on fire prevention, which includes putting messages on its sign and having tips printed in the Northwest Observer. A lower fire service rating translates to decreased fire insurance costs for home owners.

B. Finance Committee

No additional report

C. Planning & Zoning Board

Doug Nodine, Planning & Zoning Board chair, said the Board met on April 23 and approved a three-lot subdivision.

D. Board of Adjustment

No report

E. Parks & Recreation Commission

Chairman Bill Edwards said Randy Floss had already reported on RidgeFest. He added that Canine Capers will be held on June 6 in the park, and Music in the Park events are scheduled beginning on June 20. He commended several Boy Scouts on the recent completion of their Eagle Scout projects in the park, and said he was looking forward to the start of Phase II construction.

F. Historic Preservation Commission

HPC chair Ann Schneider said the Commission met in April, with the meeting led by vice chair Debbie Shoefeld. The Commission had approved a fence around the outdoor seating area at Elizabeth's Pizza, and based on the sample wall provided, had approved the stone for the Lowes Foods renovation.

11. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

12. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman McClellan thanked the Finance Committee for its work on the budget, reported on several legislative bills in the state legislature, and thanked the Town's volunteers for their efforts.

Mayor Pro Tem Sullivan announced that he had attended a ceremony at Oak Ridge Elementary, which had recently celebrated its 90th anniversary. He said the school had almost closed in the 1970s, and would have without the concerted effort of parents and town leaders to prevent that from happening. He said the school is a strong institution and a vital part of the community.

Councilman Kinneman said he had also attended the anniversary celebration at Oak Ridge Elementary; he said it was attended by many people who had lived in the Town their entire lives and had made lifelong friends through their association with the school, and it was interesting to listen to their stories. He continued to encourage residents to give blood, and reminded them that Oak Ridge United Methodist Church has a blood drive every two months. He said he also appreciated the work of the Town's volunteers.

Councilman Stone thanked the Boy Scout leader who had brought his troop to the meeting; as someone who had earned the rank of Eagle Scout, he said his years in Boy Scouting had taught him skills that he still uses today. He thanked the community's volunteers, including those working with Preservation Oak Ridge to restore Ai Church. He reminded attendees about RidgeFest, which offers opportunities to volunteer, as well as Canine Capers and the classic car cruise-in at Oak Ridge Commons. He said things happen in Oak Ridge because of the folks who live here and in the community.

Mayor Combs reminded attendees that the state Secretary of Cultural Resources would be at the historic Oakhurst at 2 p.m. on May 12 to congratulate the Town for passing a resolution supporting the historic tax credit program and to encourage the Senate to approve it.

Town Manager Oakley announced that it was Municipal Clerks' Week, and asked attendees to join him in recognizing Town Clerk Sandra Smith.

13. CLOSED SESSION

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 7:42 p.m. **Mayor Pro Tem Sullivan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

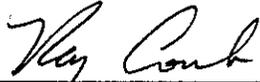
Councilman Kinneman made a **motion** to return to open session at 7:57 p.m. **Mayor Combs** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

14. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Kinneman made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. **Mayor Pro Tem Sullivan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted:


Sandra B. Smith, CMC, Town Clerk


Ray Combs, Mayor