



OAK RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 4, 2014 – 7:00 P.M.
OAK RIDGE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Members Present

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

Staff Present

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

Members Absent

Ray Combs, Mayor

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

A. Invocation

B. Pledge of Allegiance

2. APPROVE AGENDA

Councilman George McClellan made a motion to approve the meeting agenda.
Councilman Jim Kinneman seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 7, 2014 MEETING

Councilman Kinneman made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman McClellan seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

4. RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Councilman Kinneman announced the date of the Oak Ridge Lions Club's annual golf tournament has been changed to October 11. He said the tournament is the club's primary fundraiser, and players and sponsors are needed. All money raised is used locally, primarily to help people with eye exams, eyeglasses and hearing aids.
- Mayor Pro Tem Sullivan announced that a new school year has begun, and he invited Dr. Danny Nobles, president of Oak Ridge Military Academy, and Denise Francisco, principal of Oak Ridge Elementary School, to share information about their respective schools.

Nobles said ORMA has been part of Oak Ridge for 163 years, and it is postured to be there another 163 years. The faculty is young and innovative, the teacher-to-student ratio is about 1:8, and SAT scores have climbed dramatically. To ensure a holistic education, the school has partnered with groups such as HorsePower. While the school has about 80 cadets, if the goal is met, there will be about 130 by January and 200 within five years. Nobles said students are also receiving a cultural education because there are students from many different countries attending the academy. He said he hoped to tear down the "invisible wall" between the school and the community. He invited Oak Ridge residents to a Welcome Home celebration the following weekend and to dress parades on the academy campus.

Councilman Mike Stone encouraged ORMA to email dates of upcoming events to Town staff, who can share them with the Council. Kinneman asked Nobles about cadets giving a monthly status report at the Council meetings and sometimes lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sullivan said Francisco was hosting an open house at Oak Ridge Elementary that night and would arrive and give her report later during the meeting.

5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. **Litter Sweep.** Town Manager Bruce Oakley announced that the DOT's Fall Litter Sweep would be held September 20-October 4. For more information on participating, contact Town Hall or the DOT.
- B. **Board member appointment.** Oakley recommended Pam Morrison be appointed to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Councilman McClellan made a **motion** to appoint Pam Morrison as a Parks & Recreation Commission alternate. **Councilman Kinneman** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

- C. **ABC Board appointment.** Oakley recommended Sandra Smith be appointed as the Town's representative on the Triad Municipal ABC Board.

Councilman McClellan made a **motion** to appoint Smith. **Councilman Stone** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

6. NEW BUSINESS

Appoint Land Use Plan committee. Planning Director Bill Bruce said at the last meeting he had outlined the process for updating the Land Use Plan and the makeup of the committee, which would include members from all Town boards and commissions and various community groups as well as three Council-appointed citizens. Bruce said staff had requested nominations from the boards and commissions and had solicited applications for the at-large positions.

Councilman Kinneman made a **motion** to appoint the following to serve on the Land Use Plan committee:

- Ron Simpson and Nancy Stoudemire – Planning & Zoning Board
- Larry Stafford – Planning & Zoning Board/ETJ
- Ann Schneider – Historic Preservation Commission
- Jay Cumbus – Board of Adjustment
- Phyllis Anders – Parks & Recreation Commission
- Mickey Tingen – Merchants Association of Oak Ridge
- Bob Dischinger – Building/Real Estate industry
- Sandra Smith – Agricultural/Longtime residents
- Ed Treacy, Rich Spiker and Brian Eichlin – At-large appointees

Councilman McClellan seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Denise Francisco, Oak Ridge Elementary School principal, apologized for being late. On behalf of herself and the entire school community, she thanked the Council for providing money to hire deputies to help with traffic control the first two weeks of school. As a result, this school year had begun very smoothly, she said. Francisco said enrollment at the school is strong this year, with 49 more students than projected being enrolled. As a result, the school will most likely be adding a couple more teachers, she said.
- John Gudat spoke to the Council about a recent concern about solicitors in his neighborhood who claimed to be selling magazines and then aggressively asked for donations. He said he had called the police, who responded but said they couldn't really do anything because Oak Ridge does not have an ordinance against solicitation. Gudat said earlier in the year someone had gone through his neighborhood claiming to be window washers, but they had no ladder, and Gudat said he feared for the safety of residents. Since the Town does not have an ordinance banning such activity, Gudat asked the Council for help in enacting one to help protect citizens.

Mayor Pro Tem Sullivan said at least an interim solution would be to post "no solicitation" signs in developments and in individual yards. Gudat said he hesitated to do that because his neighborhood does not have a homeowners association that he could ask for permission. Sullivan asked staff to look into the situation and see if anything could be done.

- Doug Nodine announced that Preservation Oak Ridge, which is working to restore Ai Church, will have a dinner and silent auction on Oct. 3, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Oak Ridge United Methodist Church fellowship hall. He encouraged meeting attendees to buy tickets, donate items to sell, and attend the event. Nodine said a generous donor had offered to match the proceeds made at the event up to \$50,000.

8. 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. He reported:

- The finance report was in a slightly different format because of the new accounting software being used.

- The Town maintains its strong financial position, and received \$458,990 in property tax collection in August.
- A representative from Wells Fargo was present at the meeting in order to get signatures from Council members to open a new account.
- His office is continuing to work with Black Mountain Software, and overall he has been pleased.
- The annual audit is still scheduled for the week of September 15.
- Dixon Hughes, the Town's auditors, recommended Bruce Oakley and Sandra Smith be named Deputy Finance Officers in order to be able to sign checks if Anders is unavailable. The change was needed because of a new interpretation of a state law.

Councilman McClellan made a **motion** to approve the financial report. **Councilman Kinneman** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

Councilman Kinneman made a **motion** to appoint Bruce Oakley and Sandra Smith as Deputy Finance Officers. **Councilman Stone** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

9. COMMUNITY UPDATES

A. Fire Department

Sam Anders reported that Chief Steve Simmons was unable to attend the meeting due to a family emergency. He announced the Firemen's BBQ will be held on Saturday, October 4. He advised citizens to check the batteries in their smoke detectors when the time changes, and urged them to keep well hydrated during hot weather. He also said the fire department teaches CPR classes at no charge to residents.

B. Planning & Zoning Board

Chairman Doug Nodine said the Board approved a 3-lot subdivision as well as a site plan for the Lowes Foods expansion at its last meeting. The Board also nominated three of its members to serve on the Land Use Plan Update committee.

C. Finance Committee

No meeting, no report

D. Board of Adjustment

Chairwoman Beth Walker reported that the Board met to discuss an unusual variance request; although the vote to grant the variance was 3-2 in favor, the motion failed because a supermajority did not vote in favor. An appointee to the Land Use Plan Update committee was also nominated.

E. Historic Preservation Commission

HPC member Ron Simpson reported:

- That the Commission had considered a request for a COA from JPC Monroe for Lowes Foods. The case was continued and the applicant will resubmit the request for the next meeting.
- Ann Schneider was selected to serve on the Land Use Plan Update committee.
- Mac McAtee and Sandra Smith worked on the display on Lake Carolina, which is in the display cabinet in Town Hall.
- The Council and citizens were invited to a historic marker dedication ceremony at the J.L. Sawyer house, 2421 Oak Ridge Road, on September 13 at 3 p.m.

F. Parks & Recreation Commission

Chairman Bill Edwards:

- Thanked the Council for appointing Pam Morrison as an alternate to the Commission.
- Said a meeting had been held with Stewart, the planner chosen for Phase II of park construction. He hopes to be able to use the same blueprints for the restroom at Shelter 2 for the new restroom to be constructed.
- Reported that another Eagle Scout project was presented and approved by the Commission for a second bridge on the mountain biking trail.
- Said the Bark Park subcommittee met and discussed exercise/agility equipment for the dog park.
- Announced that the final Music in the Park event for the year will feature The Tyler Millard Band on September 20.

Councilman McClellan asked when ground would be broken on Phase II of the park. Edwards said a tentative timeline had been created, and the ultimate goal is to have the elements of the project completed in time for RidgeFest 2015. In response to a question from Councilman Kinneman, Edwards said the design would be presented to the Historic Preservation Commission and the Planning & Zoning Board before coming to the Town Council for final approval. Kinneman also asked about Council approval of the agreement with Stewart, and Oakley said a contract had not been signed yet.

10. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Beth Walker said she appreciated the detailed nature of the Town's Finance Officer.

11. COUNCIL COMMENTS

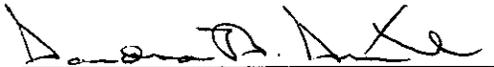
- **Councilman McClellan** read from an email he had received from Mo Green, superintendent of Guilford County Schools, and reported that 14 high schools in the county had a graduation rate of over 90 percent, including Northwest High School. He thanked meeting attendees, committee members, and those who volunteered to serve on the Land Use Plan Update committee.
- **Councilman Kinneman** thanked those in attendance. He said he was excited to see Oak Ridge Military Academy becoming more stable, and said he looked forward to hearing a report from them each month.

- **Councilman Stone** read a list of upcoming events in Oak Ridge, and said there was plenty to do in the Town. He commended those who participated in the Ice Bucket Challenge for ALS at the Northwest Observer recently. He thanked John Gudat for bringing the issue about door-to-door solicitors to the Town Council, and agreed it was something the Council should be concerned about.
- **Mayor Pro Tem Sullivan** thanked the Town's volunteers and encouraged others to volunteer. Since the new school year has begun, he urged drivers to be aware of school buses on the roads, to pay attention, and to be careful in order to protect the students.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman McClellan made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. **Councilman Stone** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

Respectfully Submitted:


Sandra B. Smith, Town Clerk


C. Spencer Sullivan, Mayor Pro Tem