



OAK RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 5, 2013 - 7:00 P.M.
OAK RIDGE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Members Present

Ray Combs, Mayor
Roger Howerton, Mayor Pro Tem
Danny Yanusz
George McClellan

Staff Present

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

Members Absent

Spencer Sullivan

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 George McClellan made a **motion** to approve the September 5, 2013, meeting agenda with the addition of a closed session. **Mayor Pro Tem Roger Howerton** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 1, 2013, MEETING AND AUGUST 1, 2013, CLOSED SESSION

Councilman Danny Yanusz made a **motion** to approve the August 1, 2013, meeting minutes and the August 1, 2013, closed session minutes. **Councilman McClellan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

4. RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jim Kinneman announced the Oak Ridge Lions Club would hold its annual golf tournament the following Saturday.
- Mayor Combs recognized a Boy Scout who was in attendance.

5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Bruce Oakley presented:

- Recommendations for Board/Commission appointments

Councilman McClellan made a **motion** to appoint of Phyllis Anders and Paul Greiwe as alternates to the Parks & Recreation Commission, and Madeline Bagby as Parks & Recreation Commission youth advisor. **Councilman Yanusz** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

Councilman Yanusz made a **motion** to appoint Patti Paslaru as an alternate to the Planning & Zoning Board. **Councilman McClellan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

- USGS has asked the Town to renew the contract for the monitoring well on Town property. The cost will be \$5,000, which would be included in next year's budget.

Councilman McClellan made a **motion** renew the contract for the USGS monitoring well. **Councilman Yanusz** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Presentation and Review of Draft Comprehensive Pedestrian Transportation Plan

Oakley introduced Jesse Day of the Piedmont Triad Regional Council of Governments, who was lead planner for the draft plan. Day gave Council members an executive summary and presented highlights of the plan. He said the draft plan had been presented to and approved by the Planning & Zoning Board, and that the plan has been submitted to N.C. DOT for comment.

Proponents:

- Jim Kinneman spoke in favor of the plan.
- Randy Schmitz also spoke in favor, and asked the Council not to simply adopt the plan and then put in on the back burner.

Opponents:

- None

Council discussion:

Howerton said he found it surprising that no one over age 60 spoke in support of the plan. He said he would support the plan as long as funding came from outside sources, and said he would rather see citizens taxed to bring municipal water to Oak Ridge than to pay for sidewalks. Howerton said he had supported and even made the motion to complete a sidewalk between Oak Ridge Elementary School and the Town park, but said he had a problem with looking at how the Town's rural atmosphere could be turned into another Greensboro. He added that he had a hard time visualizing some of the long-term plans presented in the draft. He said he would support the plan, but with some reservation.

Yanusz said he respected Howerton's position, but that issues such as the opening of I-73 could have a different impact than was currently realized and that it might or might not make the Town more walkable. Yanusz said many people live a sedentary lifestyle, and sidewalks might encourage them to walk more.

McClellan said this was a long-range plan, and that sidewalks attracted new businesses. He said sidewalks are a public safety issue, and that he would support the plan and its implementation provided the money was there.

Combs said the Council would not vote on whether to approve the plan until DOT had signed off. If Council approves the plan, nothing more would happen until Council determined the time was right. He encouraged Council members to thoroughly study the plan prior to the next meeting.

B. Proposed text amendment: To consider text changes to Sec. 30 relating to the Board of Adjustment as required by S.L. 2013-126.

Combs said a new law regarding the Board of Adjustment would take effect October 1, and the Town needed to change its ordinance, which required a public hearing. The Planning & Zoning Board had met just prior to the Council meeting, and Combs said he assumed they had recommended approval.

Thomas said he had explained the new law as a "major tweak" of the Board of Adjustment statutes. It was largely rewritten to reflect case law and make the standards more specific. He said the statute changes were significant enough that he requested rewriting the ordinance and recodifying it. Combs said he trusted Thomas would spend time explaining the changes to BOA, and Thomas said he would, and that the BOA chairman had attended the meeting when the Planning & Zoning Board voted to recommend the ordinance change.

Proponents:

- None

Opponents:

- None

Mayor Pro Tem Howerton made a **motion** to accept the text amendment changes to the ordinance as recommended by the Town Attorney. **Councilman McClellan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- None

8. MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Finance Officer Sam Anders had to unexpectedly leave the meeting, so Mayor Combs asked that his report be postponed until he returned.

9. COMMUNITY UPDATES

A. Parks and Recreation Commission

Chair Bill Edwards reported:

- The Commission's fall events include a Movie at the Park sponsored by Summit Church on September 5, and Music at the Park events on September 6 and September 14.
- A Community Yard Sale is still being discussed; no date has been set.
- Some clearing where the dog park will be located is going on.
- Several softball tournaments are planned.
- The Commission appreciates the Town Council appointing Phyllis Anders, Paul Greiwe and Madeline Bagby.

B. Historic Preservation Commission

Vice Chair Debbie Shoenfeld reported:

- COAs were approved for the Oak Ridge Foundation for an addition to Holt Hall and a brick seating wall.
- The historic marker subcommittee has been working on dates for the marker dedication ceremonies.
- HPC member Mac McAtee is working with staff on purchasing an artifacts display case for Town Hall, which will have changing exhibits.
- Alternates are still needed to serve on the Commission.
- No meeting will be held in September.

C. Finance Committee

No report

D. Planning and Zoning Board

Chair Doug Nodine reported:

- No meeting was held in August, but a special meeting was called immediately prior to the Town Council meeting. The P&Z Board had:
 - Recommended approval of Patti Paslaru as a Board alternate.
 - Approved the site plan for the Holt Hall addition at Oak Ridge Military Academy.
 - Recommended approval of the BOA text amendment change.

E. Board of Adjustment

No report

F. Fire Department

No report

8. MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE (Continued)

Finance Officer Sam Anders reported:

- The Town is in a strong financial position with \$2.235 in liquid assets.
- The Town added about \$16,000 to its fund balance in August.
- About \$266,000 of property taxes collected through August 31 would be transferred to the Town.
- Saying he had sought quotes from several banks and financial institutions, Anders asked Council to add Wells Fargo to the institutions the Town can do business with.
- Auditors visited his office for four days recently to work on the annual financial audit. The process is going well and is ahead of where it was last year at this time.
- The annual workers compensation audit is underway.

Councilman Yanusz made a **motion** to add Wells Fargo to the list of institutions the Town does business with. **Councilman McClellan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

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

10. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Melissa Stallings, Oak Ridge Elementary PTO president, asked for the Town's consideration to assist with the school's traffic situation. She explained that as drivers in the car rider line leave the school and attempt to turn left, they get caught at the traffic light at Linville and Oak Ridge roads, which makes the car rider line back up.
- Denise Francisco, Oak Ridge Elementary principal, said the school has an enrollment of about 700 plus 75 staff members. She said the students' safety was the most important issue to her, and that incidents such as the one at Sandy Hook Elementary had made her view issues in a different light. She was trying to limit the number of adults who come onto campus each day, and had asked all parents to either use school buses to transport their children or to send them through the car rider line rather than parking and walking them into the school. An editorial in the Northwest Observer had included information that was not accurate, and she had taken personal and professional offense. In response to questions from Council, Francisco said she hoped the Town might support a request to DOT to make the exit from the car rider line onto Linville Road a right-turn-only exit. She said DOT and the Guilford County Schools' transportation department were also working on a solution.
Combs and Council members assured Francisco they would do what they could, and commended her for taking such responsibility.
- Nancy Goldfinch, a parent of an Oak Ridge Elementary School student, commended Francisco and Stallings for the way they had handled the situation and were working to make it tenable. She asked Council to publicly support them, as some parents had yelled, screamed and threatened them.

11. COUNCIL COMMENTS

- **Mayor Pro Tem Howerton** said he could confirm the traffic problem at Oak Ridge Elementary, since traffic backed up in front of his house every morning.
- **Councilman Yanusz** said he sometimes gets caught in the traffic on his way to work and that the issue needs to be fixed.
- **Councilman McClellan** said school personnel were doing a thankless job under difficult circumstances, and that some people had gotten extreme. He said the PTO and staff were doing a great job, and that they had the support of the Council.
- **Mayor Combs** asked if the school had a School Resource Officer, and Francisco said they had access to one at Northwest High School. Stallings said she didn't think one was needed inside the school, but one was needed outside and having someone direct traffic would be helpful. Stallings said the PTO was working with Francisco on the issue in the school improvement plan. Francisco said Capt. Byrd of the sheriff's department had been very supportive and helpful. Francisco said support from law enforcement would be needed if the DOT agrees to make the car rider line exit right only onto Linville Road. Combs asked if the situation would diminish as the school year continues; Francisco said yes, but it still will take 45-50 minutes to complete the car rider line each day.

12. 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 Yanusz made a **motion** to go into closed session at 8:35 p.m. **Mayor Pro Tem Howerton** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

Councilman Yanusz made a **motion** to return to open session at 8:48 p.m. **Councilman McClellan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

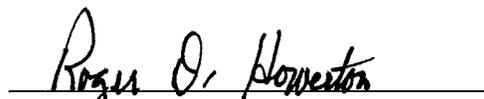
13. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Howerton made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. **Councilman McClellan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

Respectfully Submitted:



Sandra B. Smith, Town Clerk


Roger O. Howerton, Mayor Pro Tem