



OAK RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 9, 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
Terry Lannon, Parks & Recreation 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 January 9, 2014, meeting agenda. **Mayor Pro Tem Spencer Sullivan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2013, MEETING AND DECEMBER 5, 2013, CLOSED SESSION

Councilman Mike Stone made a **motion** to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2013, meeting and the December 5, 2013, closed session. **Mayor Pro Tem Spencer Sullivan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

4. RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

5. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Bruce Oakley presented:

- Consider adopting changes to Animal Control Ordinance

Because the Town contracts with Guilford County for animal control and law enforcement, the county has requested changes to the Animal Control Ordinance be adopted by the Town to avoid confusion with enforcement. The changes have to do with tethering of dogs.

Councilman George McClellan made a **motion** to adopt the changes. **Councilman Stone** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

• **Parks & Recreation Commission appointment**

Councilman Stone made a **motion** to move John Thomas from an alternate to a full, voting member of the Parks & Recreation Commission. **Mayor Pro Tem Sullivan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

• **Appointment to Piedmont Triad Regional Council**

Mayor Combs made a **motion** to appointment Councilman Stone as the Town's delegate to PTRC. **Mayor Pro Tem Sullivan** seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously (5-0).

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Jimmy Morgan, who had spoken at the December Council meeting about large, 53-foot tractor trailers and double trailers using the rural roads in and around Oak Ridge and Colfax, thanked the Council for getting involved in the issue. He also thanked the Northwest Observer for the article on the matter.

7. MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Oakley said Finance Officer Sam Anders was not at the meeting because he was attending a Fire Department training session.

Councilman McClellan made a **motion** to approve the financial report as included in the packet. **Councilman Kinneman** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

8. COMMUNITY UPDATES

A. Fire Department

No report. Fire Chief Steve Simmons was also attending Fire Department training.

B. Finance Committee

Chairman John Jenkins announced the first budget meeting on January 28 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall. The public is welcome to attend.

C. Board of Adjustment

No meeting

D. Planning and Zoning Board

Ron Simpson reported the Board had met on December 12 and approved two subdivisions. One was for an 8-lot addition as Phase 7 of Arbor Run, and the other was on Oak Ridge Road and included the Village Vet office. A right-of-way waiver was also granted in the second case due to physical hardship because an existing structure is located too close to the road.

E. Historic Preservation Commission

Mac McAtee reported that at the January meeting, Ann Schneider and Debbie Shoenfeld were re-elected as chair and vice chair. Successful historic marker dedications were held in November at the Old Mill of Guilford and in December at St. James AME Church. A marker dedication at the Stafford-Benbow House is planned in spring.

Councilman Kinneman reminded those in attendance that the Commission needs volunteers to serve as alternates.

F. Parks and Recreation Commission

Chair Bill Edwards presented:

- **Green space/trail permit fee.** Edwards presented a revised policy to address concerns voiced by the Town Council regarding exclusivity, large groups, penalty enforcement and concurrent use. The tiered policy is based on group size (\$100 for 1-20 members, \$200 for 21-50, and \$300 for 51+), with permits issued semi-annually on January 1 and July 1.

Councilman Kinneman made a **motion** to approve the revised policy as presented. **Mayor Pro Tem Sullivan** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

- **Resolution to authorize the mayor to submit the PARTF grant application.** Edwards reported that the grant application deadline is January 31. The Town was awarded a matching \$500,000 grant for construction of Phase I of the park, and this grant would be for construction of elements in Phase II. Edwards presented a slide show which included Phase I background, accomplishments since Phase I, Phase II overview, cost projections, funding opportunities, projected timeline, operations and maintenance, rationale, long-term vision, public input and feedback, public support and partnerships, and benefits to the community.

Councilman McClellan asked where an amphitheater had ranked on the survey of residents, and Edwards said he was not sure but that it was in the top 10. He said music events, movies and RidgeFest were the top three events people wanted to see in the park. McClellan asked if the amphitheater would have electricity, and Edwards said yes. McClellan

asked if the amphitheater would be able to hold as many people as attended the movie in the park in 2013, and Edwards said yes.

Mayor Pro Tem Sullivan asked if the Commission was considering any specific design details at this time, and Edwards said that would be done after the award was granted.

Councilman Kinneman asked if the Commission planned to recommend that the amphitheater or other elements be approved in the 2014-15 fiscal year budget; that way, if the grant is not awarded, plans can still move forward with Phase II without waiting another year. Edwards said the Commission could put together a reasonable alternative contingency plan in the next couple of months. Oakley said about \$198,000 would be included in the budget to match the grant; if the grant is not received, the \$198,000 could still be spent on park construction.

Councilman Stone asked if the additional parking lot was necessary except during RidgeFest. Edwards said the additional parking would ease congestion in the main parking lot, but it would also serve Shelter 2, which is underused because there is no good way to access it. A proposed future suspension bridge would also help connect the two sides of the park. Parks & Recreation Director Terry Lannon added that it is currently difficult to schedule additional activities in the park because people attending tournaments use the majority of the parking spaces; sometimes cars are parked on Lisa Drive and Linville Road, Lannon added.

Councilman Stone also asked about the location of the septic field for the additional restroom, and Edwards said it was too early to determine where it will be located.

Mayor Combs asked about the proposed future spray park, and Edwards explained that it would contain sprinklers for children to play in. Mayor Combs asked if the grant request would just be for Phase IIA and does not encumber the Town for anything else, and Edwards said yes.

Councilman McClellan made a **motion** to approve the resolution authorizing the mayor to apply for the PARTF grant. **Councilman Kinneman** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

9. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

10. COUNCIL COMMENTS

- **Councilman McClellan** said applying for the PARTF grant was part of a long-term plan. The additional amenities being planned would give people a reason to come to

the Town, where they will also eat, shop, etc. As well as a form of economic development, it is also progress, McClellan said.

- **Mayor Pro Tem Sullivan** said the Council was in favor of improvements to the park. In case the grant is not awarded, Sullivan said the cash reserves are available to build Phase II, even if it is done over a period of 1-3 years.
- **Councilman Kinneman** said he appreciated the Parks & Recreation Commission, who took time to answer his questions about Phase II of the park. He said building Phase II is a positive step forward, and it makes prudent and wise use of Town money. Kinneman said he also appreciated all those who attended that night's meeting.
- **Councilman Stone** thanked all the Town volunteers, and said he is grateful for small-town Oak Ridge.
- **Mayor Combs** said he remembered when he and former Councilman Roger Howerton had looked across the road at an empty field and said one day it would be a park. He added that he had just received a text message from County Commissioner Linda Shaw, who said the commissioners had just appointed two Oak Ridge residents as ETJ representatives to county boards as requested.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Stone made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. **Councilman Kinneman** seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted:


Sandra B. Smith, Town Clerk


Ray Combs, Mayor