



**OAK RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 7, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.
OAK RIDGE TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Members Present

Spencer Sullivan, Mayor
Jim Kinneman, Mayor Pro Tem
George McClellan
Doug Nodine
Ann Schneider

Staff Present

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

A. Invocation.

Christi Taylor, associate pastor of Oak Ridge United Methodist Church, gave the invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem 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

Councilwoman Ann Schneider made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2019 meeting. Councilman Doug Nodine seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

4. RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- None

5. REPORT FROM GUILFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- Lt. Jeremy Fuller from the District 1 office of the Guilford County Sheriff's Office reported that the number of crimes reported in Oak Ridge was low the previous month. He said there were 72 calls for service in Oak Ridge in February, including

one vehicle theft and four larcenies. Fuller said there had been increased patrols on NC 68 and they had put the radar speed devices out along the road. He said they will be bringing them back to remind drivers of the speed limit change.

6. REPORT FROM OAK RIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Chief Steve Simmons reported the department responded to 68 calls in January – 28 of a medical nature and 40 of a fire/service-related nature. He said department members received 283 hours of training in February. Simmons reminded attendees of the change to Daylight Savings Time that weekend and urged them to change the batteries in their smoke detectors – even those that are hardwired.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

TEXT AMENDMENT. Amendments proposed to Chapter 30, Article II, Division 1, Section 30-35 of the Oak Ridge Code of Ordinances to make procedural clarifications in the Town’s public notice procedure.

Planning Director Sean Taylor presented the proposed ordinance, which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes. Taylor said the text amendment was being presented after receiving comments from the public regarding the notice period for rezonings. He said the change would require staff to mail out a notice no less than 21 days prior to the scheduled public hearing to property owners within 500 feet. The notice would also be posted on the Town’s website no less than 21 days before the public hearing. At the advice of the Town Attorney, wording regarding waivers would be removed from the proposed ordinance since it was not applicable.

After discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Councilman McClellan seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

8. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

A. Committee/Board appointment/reappointment.

Councilwoman Schneider made a motion to appoint Minako Partyka as an alternate to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Councilman McClellan seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

B. Approve Urban Archery Season: January 11-February 16, 2020.

Councilman McClellan made a motion to approve Urban Archery Season 2020. Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

C. Approve Parks & Recreation Commission ordinance change.

Bruce presented changes to the Parks & Recreation Commission ordinance that were recommended by staff, which are hereby incorporated by reference and made

a part of the minutes. The changes included changing the name to Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and expanding the membership from five to seven members, with one of the new seats designated for the Oak Ridge Youth Association president.

Councilwoman Schneider made a motion to approve the ordinance changes as presented for the Parks & Recreation Commission. Councilman McClellan offered a friendly amendment, which was accepted by Schneider, to approve the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board ordinance change. Councilman Nodine seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

D. Discuss/approve a Resolution of Support for the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST) grant application.

The resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION R-2019-01

**A RESOLUTION
OF COMMITMENT TO DEVELOP THE MOUNTAINS-TO-SEA TRAIL**

WHEREAS, the Town of Oak Ridge, North Carolina is committed to the development of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail (MST) through Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Oak Ridge is applying for a North Carolina Recreational Trails Grant (NCRTP) related to the construction of trail and a trailhead parking lot with a kiosk on the MST segment connecting Linville Road and Pepper Road in Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Ridge Town Council has committed funds for the Linville Road to Pepper Road trail and trailhead parking lot with kiosk in both the Town's Capital Improvement Plan and its proposed FY 2019-20 budget; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Oak Ridge has committed to the 25 percent match required by the NCRTP grant and is committed to completing the project within three years, as required by the NCRTP grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Oak Ridge, North Carolina declares its commitment to the funding and the construction of trail and trailhead facilities on the Linville Road to Pepper Road segment of the MST in Oak Ridge.

Adopted this 7th day of March, 2019.

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

E. Voluntary annexation update.

Bruce told Council that the period to accept voluntary annexation requests ends April 1. He said about 25 requests have been received so far.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None

10. MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Finance Officer Sam Anders presented the financial report, which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes.

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

11. COMMUNITY UPDATES

A. Oak Ridge Military Academy.

Steve Wilson, chairman of the Board of Trustees, reported that the academy is now the oldest military boarding school in the United States and one of only a few that accept women. He said about 20 percent of the corps of cadets is now made up of women. He reported on several new programs such as an aviation simulation program in the old post office building, which will teach students to fly by playing games, aviation classes that can be used for applying for a pilot's license, and a possible government grant to offer cybersecurity courses in conjunction with High Point University. Wilson said Councilman McClellan was also working with Rep. John Faircloth on possible legislation to create a scholarship program.

B. Finance Committee.

Chairman John Jenkins announced that the next meeting was March 11 at 6 p.m. Citizens are welcome to attend.

C. Planning & Zoning Board.

Chair Ron Simpson said the Board had discussed the text amendment approved by Council earlier in the meeting and had approved a site plan for The Summit Church.

D. Mountains-to-Sea Trail Committee.

Co-chair Bill Royal thanked the Council for its continued support and for passing the grant resolution earlier in the meeting. He said the Cascades Preserve to Haw River Road trail is now officially recognized by the Friends of the MST and will be included in their trail guidebook. He said the formal dedication for that portion of the trail would be May 3, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Royal said the committee is now working on the second section of trail which will connect Pepper Road to Linville Road.

E. Merchants of Oak Ridge.

Councilwoman Schneider reported that she is head of the organization's College Scholarship Committee. Scholarship applications are being accepted until March 29. Councilman McClellan announced the next MOR meeting is March 14 at 7:45 a.m.

F. Board of Adjustment.

No meeting

G. Historic Preservation Commission.

Vice Chair Caroline Ruch reported that the Commission had approved three Certificates of Appropriateness at its last meeting. She said Oak Ridge Military Academy had asked to revise its application for a grant that was awarded last year.

H. Special Events Committee.

Chair Patti Dmuchowski said the Committee had discussed projects for 2019 at its last meeting and had held a brainstorming session for a possible veterans' memorial.

I. Oak Ridge Youth Association.

ORYA President Tom Collins reported on the number of youth registered for spring sports. He also discussed several different activities that ORYA had planned for this spring.

J. Parks & Recreation Commission.

No report

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Diane Paige, 4573 Peebles Road, commended the Council on the recent open house held at Town Hall regarding road improvements on NC 68 and NC 150. She said the meeting was very helpful to citizens.

13. COUNCIL COMMENTS

14. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Councilwoman Schneider seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted:

Sandra B. Smith, NCCMC, CMC
Town Clerk

Spencer Sullivan
Mayor