



**OAK RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 4, 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.**

Andy Lambert, 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. Councilwoman Ann Schneider seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).*

**3. APPROVE MINUTES**

*Councilman George McClellan made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2019 regular meeting and the March 22, 2019 special meeting. Councilwoman Schneider seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).*

**4. RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Kyle Smith of the NC Forest System presented the Town the 2018 Tree City USA award. Mayor Sullivan said in celebration of the event, he had issued a proclamation naming April 4, 2019 as Arbor Day in the Town of Oak Ridge. Nancy Stoudemire, a member of the Tree City Committee, announced a Treasure Tree Program and invited residents to nominate notable trees of any species.

**5. REPORT FROM GUILFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

- Sgt. Whittington from the District 1 office of the Guilford County Sheriff's Office reported that there were 67 calls for service in Oak Ridge in March. Of those, there were four larcenies, one of which had been closed by arrest. Whittington encouraged citizens to always lock their vehicles and to keep valuables out of sight.

## 6. **REPORT FROM OAK RIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- Chief Steve Simmons reported the department responded to 83 calls in March – 40 of a medical nature and 43 of a fire/service-related nature – and said department members received 238 hours of training. Simmons reminded residents that the number one reason for vehicle crashes is distracted drivers. He said distractions could include cell phones, eating or drinking, holding conversations, or just not paying attention.

## 7. **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **REVIEW/APPROVAL OF DRAFT OAK RIDGE STREETScape VISION PLAN.**

Kelly Larkins and Anna Leonard, planners with the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments, presented the plan, which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes. They explained that a group of volunteers who were appointed by the Town Council had created the plan over the course of about nine months. They said there was considerable public outreach in the way of presence at public events and a survey. The plan includes such elements as sidewalks, lighting, bicycle racks, benches, planters and trash receptacles. The plan was designed to show how the Town Core area might be developed to make the area attractive and help encourage walkability. The draft plan had also been made available for comment.

Mayor Sullivan opened the public hearing.

- Joe Seganish, 8536 Rosedale Drive, spoke in support of the plan as a member of the Streetscape Plan committee. Seganish said the committee also recommended in the plan the installation of traffic circles as a way to move vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians through the Town while at the same time slowing down traffic. He said the traffic circles could also be a big part of visual planning for the Town, and he encouraged Council to adopt it.
- Ben Walraven, Muscadine Lane, asked if a budget had been estimated for the capital involved for the plan, and at what stage will Council have ongoing maintenance costs. Mayor Sullivan said he thought an implementation plan would be recommended like was done for the Strategic Plan. Councilman Kinneman said adoption of the plan does not include any funding.
- Van Tanner, 6605 Ashton Park Drive, asked if there were any plans as to using this facility to coordinate any and all expansion or anything that Council wanted to be done should a roundabout be installed. Sullivan said designated funds had been set aside for intersection beautification, which would incorporate elements of this plan if and when it is implemented. He said the Town still did not know if a roundabout would be installed at the NC 150/NC 68 intersection because that decision is up to NCDOT.

- Terry Hammond, 1815 Oak Ridge Road, said she had participated in the surveys and was excited by many parts of the plan, but was concerned about certain elements shown, such as a park bench facing NC 68. She said she was also concerned about the NC 150/NC 68 intersection discussion as it relates to the historic structures on the Oak Ridge Military Academy campus. Hammond said she was typically in favor of roundabouts, but three in such close proximity to each other as had been discussed seemed like overkill. Councilman Kinneman said that the roundabouts were in the intersection plan, not the Streetscape Vision Plan.

Mayor Sullivan ended the public hearing.

*Councilman Kinneman made a motion to approve the Streetscape Vision Plan as presented. Councilman McClellan seconded the motion. After discussion, the Council's vote in favor of approving the plan was unanimous.*

## **8. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **A. Committee/Board appointment/reappointment.**

*Councilman McClellan made a motion to recommend that Theresa Hammond be reappointed as the Oak Ridge representative on the Guilford County Historic Preservation Commission. Councilwoman Schneider seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).*

### **B. Draft budget release announcement.**

Town Manager Bill Bruce reported that, after being vetted by the Finance Committee, a draft of the Town's 2019-20 fiscal year budget would be available the following day on the Town website and at Town Hall. Mayor Sullivan said public hearings on the proposed budget would be held in May and June.

### **C. Water study update.**

Bruce presented a memo, which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes, giving an update on the Northwest Guilford Water Feasibility Study.

### **D. Discussion of Conservation Easement Committee.**

Bruce presented a memo, which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes. He recommended appointing Ron Simpson, Miles Foy, Debbie Shoenfeld and Nancy Stoudemire to work with staff to form a Conservation Easement Committee.

*Mayor Sullivan made a motion for the creation of the working group and appoint the four citizens named for its initial membership. Councilwoman Schneider seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).*

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Van Tanner, 6605 Ashton Park Drive, thanked the Town Council and Town Manager Bruce for the newly installed speed limit signs in the Ashton Park and Oak Ridge Lakes neighborhoods, which lower the speed limit to 25 mph.

**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.

*Councilwoman Schneider made a motion to accept the Finance Officer's report as presented. Councilman McClellan seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).*

**11. COMMUNITY UPDATES**

**A. Finance Committee.**

No report

**B. Planning & Zoning Board.**

Chair Ron Simpson said the Board had discussed the Streetscape Vision Plan and unanimously recommended approval. He complimented Nancy Stoudemire for her work on the Tree City Board.

**C. Mountains-to-Sea Trail Committee.**

Co-chair Bill Royal said every year the Friends of the MST had an annual meeting. This year, Oak Ridge had been recognized for its work on completing a section of the trail. In addition, a grand opening of the newly completed trail will be held on May 3.

**D. Merchants of Oak Ridge.**

No report

**E. Board of Adjustment.**

No meeting

**F. Historic Preservation Commission.**

Chair Debbie Shoenfeld said there was no meeting, but the Commission is working on several projects. She said three applications for Historic Heritage Grants had been received and all appeared worthy. The work for the grant from last year at the Old Mill has been completed and the reimbursement grant money has gone out.

**G. Special Events Committee.**

Member Caroline Ruch reported the committee is continuing to work on a parade and a veterans' memorial.

**H. Oak Ridge Youth Association.**

ORYA President Tom Collins reported on several different activities that ORYA had planned for this spring. He said this time of year is the peak for ORYA sports.

**I. Parks & Recreation Commission.**

Town Clerk Sandra Smith announced the first Music in the Park of this year was scheduled for April 13.

**J. Oak Ridge Military Academy.**

Steve Wilson, chairman of the Board of Trustees, reported that a pedestrian had been struck on NC 150 after a school activity; he asked that the Town move forward with its plan for a lighted crosswalk on NC 150 in front of the school. He said the school has purchased reflective bands that are to be worn by all cadets at night. He said the aviation center needs to be rezoned and plans for that are progressing. Wilson said ORMA had hired a marketer and summer camp enrollment is increasing. ORMA has also hired a domestic recruiter and an international recruiter. He said the school is preparing for Mother's Day activities and graduation, which will be on May 18.

Mayor Sullivan said the Town has already initiated the process for the lighted crosswalk in front of ORMA.

Councilwoman Schneider also said she had failed to mention that the Merchants of Oak Ridge is offering a scholarship to a current cadet.

**12. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Van Tanner, 6605 Ashton Park Drive, said he was commenting as a citizen as also as a part of Oak Ridge Youth Association. He said he was thankful for the wonderful playing fields and other facilities at the park, but said the Redmon house was sitting empty and that the facility could really help Oak Ridge Youth Association as a place for staging before a game and to store snacks. He said ORYA was in a crisis mode and he recommended Council work with ORYA because it does not have years to wait.

**13. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Most of the Council members specifically addressed comments by Tanner.

- Councilman Kinneman said he was not in favor of a quick process for determining the use of the Redmon House, which would need many updates to even make it usable. He said a process is in place and a citizen committee had been tasked with coming up with possible uses for the house.
- Councilman Nodine said he was lukewarm on keeping the house, but if the Town decides not to demolish it, he could think of no better use for it than by ORYA.
- Councilwoman Schneider said the Town needed to think about all the constituencies that might want to use the house for different purposes. She said if it was converted into indoor rental space, ORYA would be welcome to use it along with others, but that it would not be used as a storage facility.

- Mayor Sullivan said there was no greater advocate for youth sports but him, but said parents carrying equipment and snacks in their vehicles was what having a child in sports was all about. He said the Redmon House had been gutted, and it would likely take \$100,000 to \$150,000 to make it usable. Sullivan said ORYA had an immediate fix for its issues, which is for it to better utilize its part of the maintenance building at the park. He added that the fact that only about six ORYA sports directors have keys is not an issue to be decided by the Council, but by ORYA. He added the due diligence needed to be done as part of the park master planning process and to consider all possible uses.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

*Councilman McClellan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Councilman Kinneman seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).*

Respectfully Submitted:

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Sandra B. Smith, NCCMC, CMC  
Town Clerk

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Spencer Sullivan  
Mayor