



**OAK RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 6, 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
Sean Taylor, Planning Director
Michael Thomas, Town Attorney
Sandra Smith, Town Clerk
Sam Anders, Finance Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Spencer Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Sullivan noted that it was the 75th anniversary of the Normandy invasion in WWII.

A. Invocation.

Andy Lambert, senior pastor of Oak Ridge United Methodist Church, offered the invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVE AGENDA

Mayor Sullivan noted that approval of the May 21 special meeting minutes needed to be removed from the agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Kinneman made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as amended. Councilman George McClellan seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

3. APPROVE MINUTES

Councilman McClellan made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2019 meeting. Councilwoman Ann Schneider seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

4. RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- None

5. REPORT FROM GUILFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- Capt. Brian Hall from District 1 of the Guilford County Sheriff's Office reported that there were 76 calls for service in Oak Ridge in May, but there were no violent crimes reported. He said there were no crime trends to be noted.

6. REPORT FROM OAK RIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Chief Steve Simmons reported the department responded to 78 calls in May – 36 of a medical nature and 42 of a fire/service-related nature. Department members received 242 hours of training. Simmons reminded residents to practice water safety.
Simmons then awarded the Andrew Russoli Strength & Honor Scholarship to Amber Grace Long, who will attend Appalachian State University in the fall to pursue her goal of nursing.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. 2019-20 Fiscal Year Budget.

Mayor Sullivan announced that this would be the second public hearing on the budget, with the first public hearing being held at the May meeting of the Town Council.

Town Manager Bill Bruce said the budget and budget message had been presented in May, and since that time a few minor adjustments had been made since staff had now received updated figures on insurance rates, a notice that animal control costs would increase, and a change in the Historic Preservation Commission budget had been made for a total difference of approximately \$8,000. He said the fund balance in the budget presented reflects that appropriation. Councilwoman Schneider asked about the additional appropriation for the Historic Preservation Commission and whether it was for changes to the text of the Design Guidelines or just to change the layout. Bruce indicated the project would just entail a new layout for the Design Guidelines.

Mayor Sullivan then opened the public hearing.

- John Jenkins, 6700 Ashton Park Drive, spoke as a representative of the Finance Committee. Jenkins said the committee had gone over each line item on the proposed operating and capital budgets, and they had approved bringing the proposed budget to the Town Council for approval.
- Martha Pittman, 8018 Fogleman Road, said she had gone over the budget and talked about how much money the Town planned to spend on parks & recreation operations, for park capital expenses, and for construction of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail. It also included funds for sidewalk construction and intersection improvements. She said Oak Ridge had a deep commitment to parks & recreational opportunities, and it proposed spending 76 percent of the budget in the park. She said she hoped the proposed budget would be approved.

The Mayor closed the public hearing.

After discussion, Councilman McClellan moved to adopt the 2019-20 fiscal year budget for Oak Ridge. Councilwoman Schneider seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously (5-0).

B. Voluntary annexation requests.

Town Manager Bruce said the Council had directed staff to accept voluntary annexation petitions for the period of December 1-April 1. He reported that 39 petitions had been received, but only eight were eligible for annexation at this time. In response to a question, Bruce said the annexation would be effective June 30 if approved by Council. He presented Ordinance O-2019-07, which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes.

Mayor Sullivan opened the public hearing. No one spoke either in support of or in opposition to the voluntary annexation requests. Sullivan then closed the public hearing.

Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman made a motion to enact Ordinance O-2019-17, incorporated herein by reference, to extend the corporate limits of the Town of Oak Ridge under the authority granted by Chapter 160A, Article 4A, Part 1 of the North Carolina General Statutes. Councilman McClellan seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously (5-0).

Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman emphasized that the process was completely voluntary and that the Town could not require residents to be annexed into the Town. In response to a question, Town Attorney Michael Thomas said that, as with other petitions, the remaining petitions would be valid until they are withdrawn. He said there had been five rounds of voluntary annexation since he had become the Town's attorney and that each time Council approves an annexation petition, more residents have the option of coming in. He noted that there was no shelf life, but the property owner could withdraw the petition at any time. He said one wrinkle to that was that if the property were sold, it would require the signatures of the current property owners before the property could be voluntarily annexed.

8. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Informational: Upcoming meetings with NCDOT and Envirolink.

Town Manager Bruce reported that on June 4, Mayor Sullivan, Councilman McClellan and staff met with representatives of Envirolink to discuss possible future water system operations and logistics. A second meeting is scheduled for July 23, and information from that meeting will be shared. He also said a proposed meeting was planned with NCDOT to discuss intersection improvements at NC 68/NC 150, and DOT had been analyzing of traffic data.

B. Informational: Waste Industries merger with GFL Environmental.

Bruce announced that the Town's garbage hauler, Waste Industries, has merged with GFL Environmental. The company's local representative has said residents will see some rebranding but operations should be seamless and customers should see no changes.

C. Election filing fee.

Bruce directed Council to Resolution R-2019-03 in their packets, which would set the filing fee for the next municipal election as the Board of Election had requested municipalities to do. He said by statute, the minimum fee is \$5 and that is what the Town has set as its filing fee in the past. The resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION R-2019-03

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FILING FEES FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, The North Carolina General Statutes sets a minimum filing fee of \$5.00 for candidates seeking public office; and

WHEREAS, A municipal election is scheduled to be conducted for the Town of Oak Ridge, NC, in Guilford County, on Tuesday, November 5, 2019. The purpose of this election is to elect three Council members to each serve on the Oak Ridge Town Council for a 4-year term.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Town Council of the Town of Oak Ridge, North Carolina, hereby establishes a filing fee of \$5.00 for the 2019 Municipal Election, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be filed with the Guilford County Board of Elections.

Adopted, this 6th day of June, 2019.

Councilwoman Schneider moved to approve Resolution R-2019-03 Establishing Filing Fees for Municipal Elections. Councilman McClellan seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously (5-0).

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Rita M. Lewandowski, 5202 Golden Acres Road, said she had questions and concerns about the proposed municipal water system and said a lot of residents she had talked with shared those concerns. She said she loved her well, and her water was good. She asked questions about the current ordinance and said she felt the Town should remove that section of the ordinance before considering making changes. She asked why the Town needed a water system, and said it comes down to the almighty dollar.

Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman said the Council had said previously that there will be changes made to the water ordinance and that by North Carolina law a resident could not be forced to tie on to a water system if he has a functioning well. Kinneman said the current ordinance is out of date as of whenever the law was changed around 2015 or 2016. He said it would take some time to change the water ordinance and all meetings are open to the public.

Mayor Sullivan said the public comment period was not a time for questions and answers, and he would address Lewandowski's comments later in the meeting.

- Van Tanner, 6605 Ashton Park Drive, asked the Council to consider development of a citizen award. He said he had spent much time with Randy Floss recently while working at RidgeFest, he said Floss deserved such an award. He added that a citizen award would help foster volunteerism and altruism.

10. MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Finance Officer Sam Anders presented a budget amendment and the financial report, which are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes. Anders also asked for Council's approval to restrict donations for a veterans' memorial, to engage Dixon Hughes Goodman for the required financial audit, and to give him authority to adjust the budget at the end of the fiscal year.

Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman made a motion to authorize the Finance Officer to engage with Dixon Hughes Goodman for the annual audit. Councilman McClellan seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

Councilwoman Schneider moved to approve the budget amendments as presented. Councilman McClellan seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

Mayor Sullivan made a motion to restrict donations for a veterans' memorial. Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

Councilwoman Schneider moved to give the Finance Officer authority to adjust the budget through June 30 and report back to the Council on July 11. Councilman McClellan seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

Councilman McClellan made a motion to accept the Finance Officer's report as given. Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

11. COMMUNITY UPDATES

A. Mountains-to-Sea Trail Committee.

Co-chair Bill Royal reported:

- The committee had a successful booth at the RidgeFest celebration in which they talked about the trail to about 40 people and collected contact information from them.
- A photographer from the Greensboro News & Record visited the trail and a photo story was posted on the newspaper's website.
- The Committee members are almost ready to begin mapping the next segment of trail construction, and a group had walked the proposed area along Haw River from Linville Road to Pepper Road.
- They had kicked off the Oak Ridge Trails design contest to create a logo to be used on trail markers and signs.

B. Merchants of Oak Ridge.

Councilwoman Schneider, a Board member of the organization, reported that a \$2,000 scholarship had been awarded to a Northwest High School senior. The group also gives two smaller scholarships. Councilman McClellan, also a member, announced that the next meeting was Thursday, June 13 at 7:45 a.m. at Town Hall.

C. Board of Adjustment.

No meeting

D. Historic Preservation Commission.

Member Brian Hall reported:

- Two Certificates of Appropriateness (COAs) were approved at the May meeting.
- The fourth round of Historic Heritage Grants were approved for a total of \$6,000, which property owners will use to leverage more than \$23,000 worth of improvements.

E. Special Events Committee.

Chair Patti Dmuchowski reported:

- The committee is continuing to work on details for a Thanksgiving parade, and lots of volunteers will be needed.
- The group is also working on a plan for a veterans' memorial in the park, and some members had attended a Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting and discussed the memorial's inclusion in the upcoming Parks & Recreation Master Plan. In addition, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board member John Garrett will attend Special Events Committee meetings.

F. Oak Ridge Youth Association.

President Tom Collins said:

- The organization, which is now the Vikings, was launching a new logo.
- Spring sports were wrapping up.
- ORYA gives kids the opportunity to play advanced sports without the high price.
- During RidgeFest, an ORYA Appreciation Night was held.
- A new e-sports program was being planned.
- A Sponsorship Director is needed to serve on the ORYA Board. All other Board positions have been filled.

G. Parks & Recreation Commission.

Town Clerk Sandra Smith announced that Music in the Park would be held on June 8.

H. Oak Ridge Military Academy.

No report

I. Finance Committee.

No report

J. Planning & Zoning Board.

Board member Nancy Stoudemire announced that the Board met in May and approved a site plan for the Hindu Temple.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Rita M. Lewandowski, 5202 Golden Acres Road, said she thought it made more sense to remove the Town's water ordinance first than to just replace it with a new ordinance. She said she was very excited about the proposed veterans' memorial. Regarding the Redmon House, she said she would like for the Council to consider using it for a youth community center for all groups, not just ORYA. She also said she and her mom would love to see the Town install some horse trails, and she would like to see the Oak Ridge Horse Show held again.
- Micah Spencer, 6315 Nesting Way, asked how much larger the Town was as a result of the voluntary annexation. Mayor Sullivan responded that the Town had taken in an additional eight tracts. Spencer asked questions about the proposed veterans' memorial, and Sullivan said the group was still in the planning stages.
- Mike Stone, 8112 Hunting Cog Road, reminded attendees of the 75th anniversary of D-Day. He said the generation that fought in WWII was dying off, and he prayed that his generation would make sure the younger generation never forgets them.

13. COUNCIL COMMENTS

14. CLOSED SESSION

To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

Councilman McClellan made a motion to go into closed session at 8:41 p.m.

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

Councilwoman Schneider moved to return to open session at 8:46 p.m. Councilman McClellan seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

15. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. Councilman McClellan seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted:

Sandra B. Smith, NCCMC, CMC
Town Clerk

Spencer Sullivan
Mayor