



**OAK RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 3, 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.

Pastor Alan Mears of Bethel United Methodist Church offered 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 December 6, 2018 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 there were 87 calls for service in Oak Ridge in December. Four of those were for Part 1 crimes (which include breakings & enterings and violent acts such as arson, homicide and theft) – two breakings and enterings of motor vehicles,

one burglary of a business and one shoplifting. Regarding the recent break-in at the Clouds Tobacco store, Fuller said detectives were working on leads. Fuller encouraged residents to lock their vehicles and, if carry valuables, to keep them hidden.

6. REPORT FROM OAK RIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Assistant Chief Sam Anders reported the department responded to 80 calls in November – 56 of a medical nature, and 24 of a fire/service nature. Anders provided statistics from the past year, such as 45 percent of the department’s calls were to provide medical attention, and 14 percent were giving mutual aid to other departments. Only 1 percent were in response to structure fires. He said the safest day of the week in Oak Ridge is Wednesday. He said 66 percent of calls are received between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. He reported that there had been a 9 percent increase in calls over the previous year, and he attributed that primarily to weather events experienced, including a tropical storm and the recent snow. Anders said there had been no Christmas tree fires in 2018. For a fire prevention tip, he urged citizens to clean excess lint from their dryer vents and hoses.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

REZONING CASE # RZ-18-01: HB and AG to CU-TC-R. The property is located on the west side of NC Highway 68 North, approximately 800 feet south of the intersection with Fogleman Road, in Oak Ridge Township. It is Guilford County Tax Parcels #0162806, 0162815, and 0162821 (part), and consists of approximately 29.45 acres. It is located in the Greensboro (GW-III) Watershed and Scenic Corridor Overlay Zone, and is owned by Israel Family Limited Partnership and Larry J. and Kathy R. Mills. *(Note: The applicant has submitted a request to continue this case.)*

Planning Director Sean Taylor said that at the Planning & Zoning Board meeting, the applicant had requested a continuance due to concerns from adjacent neighbors. The Board had voted unanimously to continue the public hearing to its meeting on January 24.

Mayor Sullivan said it had been the Council’s practice not to hear rezoning cases without a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Board.

Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman made a motion to continue the case to the Council’s February meeting. Councilman McClellan seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

8. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

A. Strategic Plan implementation schedule.

Councilwoman Ann Schneider made a motion to approve the implementation plan for the Strategic Plan as presented. Councilman McClellan seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

B. Speed limit change.

Councilman McClellan made a motion to request NCDOT reduce the speed limit on Ashton Park Drive, White Ash Court, Stonecroft Drive, Peppermill Drive, Newhaven Drive and Elizabeth Drive in the Ashton Park and Oak Ridge Lakes subdivision to 25 mph. Councilwoman Schneider seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

C. Public notice update.

Bruce presented a memo, which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes, regarding the procedures for publicizing public hearings and the process for withdrawing a case coming before the Council. The memo included the state statutes, which include publishing a newspaper ad, posting the property and mailing letters to adjacent property owners. It also included what the Town currently does over and above those requirements, but Bruce said the Town is somewhat limited by statute on what else it could do. He presented two options, recommending one that would require an additional letter be sent to neighboring property owners and posting notice of the rezoning on the Town website.

After discussion, Councilman Doug Nodine made a motion to accept the second option in Bruce's memo with the addition of publishing an early notice in the Northwest Observer. Councilwoman Schneider seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

D. Committee/Board appointment/reappointment.

Councilman McClellan made a motion to reappoint Ed Treacy to the Planning & Zoning Board as an alternate. Councilman Nodine seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

E. Voluntary annexation update.

Bruce reported that Town Hall has received about 25 inquiries about the voluntary annexation letter that was mailed out to residents in the ETJ area; about 11 applications requesting voluntary annexation have been received.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Van Tanner, 6605 Ashton Park Drive, said he was the new community liaison for Oak Ridge Youth Association (ORYA), and asked if the organization could be included in the Community Updates section of the agenda. Tanner said the new vision of the organization for 2019 was to not only provide recreational outlets for local youth, but to also provide volunteer opportunities to meet the requirements for community-service hours.
- Tom Collins, 5244 Larue Court, Summerfield, introduced himself as the new president of ORYA. He gave Council a very detailed report on the different programs the organization offers and statistics on the numbers and ages of youth participating. He said the group is discussing an e-sports program, will help with the Haunted Trail at Halloween in the park, and wants to host a drive-in movie at the park.

- Patti Dmuchowski, 7320 Hidden View Drive, commended the Council for several items discussed at the meeting, including the voluntary annexation and the speed limit change in the Ashton Park subdivision.

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.

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

11. COMMUNITY UPDATES

A. Special Events Committee.

Chair Patti Dmuchowski said the Community Trees had been taken down at the park, then reported on the Volunteer Recognition Dinner to be held on Saturday, January 12. She said 131 invitations had been mailed out; so far, a total of 102 volunteers and their guests had responded that they planned to attend. She said the committee is starting to plan events for 2019.

B. Parks & Recreation Commission.

No report

C. Finance Committee.

Chairman John Jenkins said the first meeting this year of the committee will be held February 4 at 6 p.m., and the public is invited to attend.

D. Planning & Zoning Board.

Vice Chair Bobbi Baker said the Council had already discussed the public hearing notices and was glad additional notification of citizens would be done. She expressed concern about the size of the sign posted on property to be rezoned and asked the Town to consider changes. She said the Board had also approved the Whitaker Farms subdivision case at its last meeting.

E. Mountains-to-Sea Trail Committee.

Co-chair Bill Royal reported that work is essentially complete on the first trail, which connects the Cascades Preserve to Haw River Road, and mentioned a few minor items to be addressed before they officially announce the trail open. He said a trail workday was planned for January 12. Royal said the group is now turning its attention to the next phase of trail, which will connect Pepper Road to Linville Road along the Haw River. He said Town and trail committee representatives had walked to the route with Pilot Environmental staff to determine the best place for crossing

the wetlands. He said although they had determined the approximate location for a bridge, they did not know details such as the cost.

F. Merchants of Oak Ridge.

Councilman McClellan thanked the Merchants for providing the Santa for the Light Up the Night event and announced the next meeting date.

G. Board of Adjustment.

No meeting

H. Historic Preservation Commission.

No meeting

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Jason Streck, 8515 Rosedale Drive, who is an alternate on the Planning & Zoning Board, spoke about the size of the sign posted on property to be rezoned.
- Mike Stone, 8112 Hunting Cog Road, spoke about "being admonished by the Town Council" at its previous meeting for asking for its help on a case coming before the Planning & Zoning Board. He then spoke about an article published in the Rhino Times in which Councilman McClellan was quoted.

13. COUNCIL COMMENTS

14. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 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