



OAK RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.
OAK RIDGE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Members Present

Ann Schneider, Mayor
Jim Kinneman, Mayor Pro Tem
George McClellan
Doug Nodine
Martha Pittman

Staff Present

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ann Schneider called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

A. Invocation/Moment of Silence.

Pandit Sri. Damodar Bhattar, priest at Triad Hindu Temple, offered the invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance.

2. MAYOR'S STATEMENT CONCERNING THE EMERGENCY

Mayor Schneider said the Town encourages people to wear masks in town hall. She said meeting agendas were available for those attending the meeting in person, and all meeting materials had been posted on the Town website. The public had been invited to join either in person or by viewing the livestream, and instructions had been widely publicized. By doing this, she said the Town was meeting all statutory requirements.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Kinneman made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, and Councilwoman Martha Pittman seconded. The motion was passed unanimously (5-0).

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Councilman George McClellan moved that the minutes of the November 4, 2021 regular meeting be approved, and Councilwoman Martha Pittman seconded. The motion was passed unanimously (5-0).

5. RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

6. REPORT FROM GUILFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Deputy Secor reported that for the month of November, there were 53 calls received for service. During the holiday season, Secor encouraged residents to be sure to lock their doors, to be aware of porch pirates, and to use their exterior lights. When shopping, he urged them to keep purses and purchased packages hidden and their vehicles locked.

7. REPORT FROM OAK RIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Ken Gibson reported that that there were 69 calls in Oak Ridge during November, 37 of which were EMS calls. He said department members had undergone 728 hours of training, four employees had completed a driver-operator class at GTCC, and two more were enrolled. He said there was currently a statewide burn ban, so no outdoor burning was allowed. He said the department is considering erecting a training facility at the rear of the property at Station 15. He said some residents had expressed concerns about air pollution, but there was no hazard as there are rules regarding what materials can be burned. He said they were planning to plant trees around the facility to screen it from Heritage Farm Park. He asked anyone with questions to contact him.

8. OATH OF OFFICE FOR RE-ELECTED MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Council members Ann Schneider and Jim Kinneman took the oath of office, which was administered by Judge Stuart Albright.

9. ELECTION OF MAYOR

Town Clerk Sandra Smith accepted nominations for the office of mayor.

Councilman George McClellan nominated Ann Schneider. With no other nominations, the vote for Schneider for mayor was unanimous (5-0).

10. ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM

Town Clerk Smith accepted nominations for the office of mayor pro tem.

Councilwoman Martha Pittman nominated Jim Kinneman. With no other nominations, the vote for Kinneman for mayor pro tem was unanimous (5-0).

11. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Board/Committee Appointments/Reappointments.

Councilwoman Martha Pittman moved to approve the reappointment of Nancy Stoudemire to Planning & Zoning Board and Board of Adjustment and appointments of Mike Kimel as full member of Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and Chelsea Young as alternate to Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Councilman George McClellan seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

B. Consideration/approval of Oak Ridge Youth Association 2022 Usage Agreement.

Bruce said the agreement was substantially the same as the one approved last year with the addition of girls' field hockey.

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Kinneman moved to approve the 2022 Usage Agreement for the park with Oak Ridge Youth Association. Councilwoman Martha Pittman seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

C. Discussion/approval of 2022 Meeting Schedule and Holiday Schedule.

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Kinneman made a motion to approve the 2022 Meeting Schedule and Holiday Schedule. Councilwoman Martha Pittman seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

D. Any other business.

Bruce gave an update on the NC 68/150 intersection project, which is supposed to be started in fall 2022, and the progress on the Heritage Farm Park project.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Kristin Law, 7809 Front Nine Drive, Oak Ridge, addressed the Council on behalf of Northwest High School and its PTSO. Law said next year marks the 60th anniversary of the opening of the school, and she invited citizens to get involved in the Mobile Makeover project. The project will repair and renovate some of the school's mobile classrooms, which have been in place for more than 20 years. Law said she had left information on how to become a sponsor at the table in the back of the room.

13. 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 George McClellan made a motion to accept the financial report as presented, and Councilwoman Martha Pittman seconded. The motion was passed unanimously (5-0).

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Water Advisory Board.

No report

B. Historic Preservation Commission.

Chair Debbie Shoenfeld said no meeting was held in November, but the Commission continues work on its book on historic Oak Ridge.

C. Planning & Zoning Board.

Town Clerk Smith read the report, which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes.

D. Mountains-to-Sea Trail.

Town Manager Bruce reported that there was no meeting in November, but the Committee was moving forward with its trail signage plan. The Committee's December meeting was moved to December 14 to avoid conflicts with holiday travel. Bruce said the trail parking lot on Linville Road would be completed within the next week.

E. Conservation Easement Committee.

No report

F. Special Events Committee.

Chair Patti Dmuchowski said the Committee had raised more than \$49,000 for the Veterans Honor Green. She said they anticipated receiving updated drawings from the landscape architects on December 10. She reminded citizens about the Light Up the Night event with 1,000 luminaries to be held December 4 in the park.

G. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

Co-chair John Browning reported on the November 18 meeting, saying they had received and approved a request for use of the park from Piedmont Forest School. He said the group had 91 children in its program. The Committee had also voted to recommend approval of the 2022 ORYA Usage Agreement.

H. Finance Committee.

No report

15. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. Oak Ridge Youth Association.

Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman read the report, which began with the organization's fall season and its upcoming basketball season at Oak Ridge Military Academy. The Teen Leadership Team had been busy, holding the Terror Trail at the park in October, its first movie night at the amphitheater, its annual Thanksgiving Eve flag football games, and the first Turkey Trot 5K, which raised money and collected canned goods for local charities. It thanked the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and Town Council for working with them on the 2022 Usage Agreement.

B. Oak Ridge Military Academy.

No report

C. Oak Ridge Elementary School.

No report

16. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Patti Dmuchowski, 7320 Hidden View Drive, thanked all the volunteers involved with putting up luminaries for the Light Up the Night event. She said the committee had discussed the possibility of adding lights on Linville Road and installing additional outlets, and she asked the Council to consider that during budget discussions.
- Carol Kinneman, 8502 Hollow River Court, said she worked at an outpatient medical facility in Greensboro and had several conversations with patients and their parents who said they love to come to tournaments at Oak Ridge Town Park and that they appreciated that the restrooms were clean. She said everyone on staff should be commended.

17. COUNCIL COMMENTS

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Kinneman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m., and Councilman George McClellan seconded. The motion was passed unanimously (5-0).

