



**OAK RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.
OAK RIDGE TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Members Present

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

Staff Present

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

Members Absent

Doug Nodine

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

A. Invocation.

The invocation was given by Steve Jolly.

B. Pledge of Allegiance.

2. MAYOR'S STATEMENT CONCERNING THE EMERGENCY

Schneider stated that in order to comply with the current Governor's Orders, the number of people gathering indoors is limited to 10 people, although government operations are exempt from that order. In addition to the in-person meeting, she said the meeting was being livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube, and the link to the recording would be posted on the Town website.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Kinneman motioned to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Councilman George McClellan seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously (4-0).

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Councilwoman Martha Pittman made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2020 meeting as written. Councilman George McClellan seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously (4-0).

5. RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- None

6. REPORT FROM GUILFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Master Corporal D.C. Brewer reported there were 99 calls for service in November. Of those, there were two assaults, two burglaries from a motor vehicle, two burglaries from a residence, one domestic call, two reports of fraud, one larceny, and two narcotics violations. He passed on a variety of holiday safety tips from a press release by Sheriff Danny Rogers.

7. REPORT FROM OAK RIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Ken Gibson reported that 71 calls were received in November, saying that 41 had been EMS calls. Firefighters took part in 157 hours of training, and six firefighters were taking part in a technical rescue class, to be followed by vehicle rescue and machinery rescue. Gibson presented safety prevention tips regarding Christmas trees, candles, holiday lights and fireplaces. He also advised residents not to leave home with their washers and dryers were running.

In response to a question from Councilman McClellan, Gibson said there had been a structural fire on East Harrell Road, but the occupant had not been harmed.

8. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Consideration/Approval of 2021 Meeting Schedule and Holiday Schedule.

Town Manager Bill Bruce presented the schedules, adding that, as in years past, the Town was following the same holiday schedule as the State.

Councilman George McClellan made a motion to approve the 2021 Meeting Schedule and 2021 Holiday Schedule. Councilwoman Martha Pittman seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously (4-0).

B. Request for budget amendment.

Bruce requested a budget amendment to allocate the \$5,300 raised at the previous year's Christmas at Maple Glade event be awarded to Oak Ridge Military Academy to be used for the purposes outlined in the award letter. He said the money was intended to be released in the previous fiscal year, but due to several delays, payment was held over. He said the budget amendment would allow the Finance Officer to award the money during the current fiscal year as previously authorized by Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Kinneman made a motion to approve the budget amendment as requested. Councilman George McClellan seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

9. NEW BUSINESS

Consideration/approval of 2021 Usage Agreement with Oak Ridge Youth Association.

Bruce presented the 2021 Usage Agreement, reporting that it followed the same structure as the 6-month agreement approved in mid-2020. He said there had been a long series of discussions and meetings before arriving at that agreement. He said the agreement being presented would provide a \$30,000 subsidy to ORYA to be used for field usage, lighting, field preparation and paint. It maintains a member of Town Council on the ORYA Board of Directors. It was recommended for approval by both the Youth Athletics subcommittee and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

Councilman George McClellan made a motion to adopt the 2021 ORYA Usage Agreement. Councilwoman Martha Pittman seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman clarified that the Town was not paying ORYA, but it was allowing the organization a \$30,000 annual credit. When they exceed their limit, ORYA will begin making payments to the Town. Kinneman said this was more than the roughly \$20,000-\$25,000 the Town had allowed in the past, and it showed the Town's investment in ORYA.

Councilwoman Pittman noted that the Town had always provided field usage to ORYA at no cost, and ORYA had paid for athletic field lighting. The Town has a fee schedule, but the Youth Athletics subcommittee, of which she and Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman were a part, wanted to quantify the dollar amounts since no one knew the actual value of the services or subsidy the Town provides to ORYA. She said she thought the model had worked well over the past 6 months, and she thought it would continue to be successful.

Schneider said the effort to quantify what is provided had also resulted in increased communications between Town officials and ORYA. She added that Kinneman now attends ORYA Board meetings, and ORYA has continued to have a representative on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. She said the Town was proud to be supporting youth athletics in this way.

After discussion, the motion was passed unanimously (4-0).

10. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Office Sam Anders presented the financial report, which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes. He also presented a budget amendment for consideration because the Town had decided to lease a large printer rather than purchase it. The amendment would simply move money from one line item to another.

Councilwoman Martha Pittman made a motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$3,110.31. Mayor Pro Tem Jim Kinneman seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

Councilman George McClellan made a motion to accept the financial report as presented by the Finance Officer. Mayor Pro Tem Jim Kinneman seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Anne Lang, 8015 Sapp Acres Lane, Oak Ridge, addressed the Council about attempting to get high-speed internet at her home. She introduced other neighboring homeowners – Karen and Keith Siler and Bill Ward – and said another neighbor who was out of town also wanted to be represented. Lang explained that Spectrum was the only company that had agreed to provide them with high-speed internet, but first Spectrum had to gain access to a utility pole that was located in another neighbor’s yard. That neighbor had refused, Lang said, unless she paid \$2,500 “to buy the air space.” She asked Council members if this was something that could be done and if they could offer any advice or assistance.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Special Events Committee.

Town Clerk Sandra Smith read a report into the record that was submitted by Patti Dmuchowski, chair of the Special Events Committee. The report is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes.

B. Conservation Easement Committee.

No report

C. Finance Committee.

No report

D. Water Advisory Board.

No report

E. Historic Preservation Commission.

Town Clerk Sandra Smith read a report submitted by Debbie Shoenfeld, chair of the Commission. The report is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes.

F. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

Town Clerk Sandra Smith read a report submitted by Phyllis Anders, co-chair of the Board. The report is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes.

G. Planning & Zoning Board.

No report

H. Mountains-to-Sea Trail Committee.

Town Manager Bill Bruce read a report into the record that was submitted by Bill Royal and Anne Steele, Mountains-to-Sea Trail Committee co-chairs. The report is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes.

13. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. Oak Ridge Youth Association.

No report

B. Oak Ridge Military Academy.

No report

C. Oak Ridge Elementary School.

Town Clerk Sandra Smith read a report submitted by Penny Loschin, principal of Oak Ridge Elementary School. The report is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None

15. COUNCIL COMMENTS

- During comments by Council members, Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman asked Town Attorney Michael Thomas if he had any comment regarding the concern expressed earlier as a public comment by Anne Lang, but Thomas responded that it was a private matter between neighbors. Mayor Schneider said she thought Council members could make phone calls to County Commissioners and help coordinate a strategy to resolve the issue.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Councilman McClellan seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously (4-0).

Respectfully Submitted:

Sandra B. Smith, CMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk

Ann K. Schneider
Mayor