



**OAK RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 2, 2024 - 7:00 P.M.
OAK RIDGE TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Members Present

Jim Kinneman, Mayor
Mike Stone, Mayor Pro Tem
Ann Schneider
Michael Greeson
Jim Harton

Staff Present

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jim Kinneman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

A. Invocation.

NC Representative John Faircloth from House District 62 of the North Carolina General Assembly offered the invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilwoman Ann Schneider made a motion to approve the agenda and Councilman Jim Harton seconded. The motion was passed unanimously (5-0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Jim Harton made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2024, regular meeting, and the minutes of the March 11, 2024, special meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stone seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

4. RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative John Faircloth presented a certificate of congratulations from the House of Representatives of the North Carolina General Assembly to the Town in recognition of the Town's twenty-fifth anniversary of incorporation. Representative Faircloth also presented a flag which flew over the State Capitol in honor of Oak Ridge's twenty-fifth anniversary to Special Events Committee Chair Patti Dmuchowski.

5. REPORT FROM GUILFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Detective Ryan Seals reported that the sheriff's office received 118 calls for service during the month of April resulting in nine formal case reports. He stated that vehicle break-ins at Town Parks were a major issue. He said that two break-ins occurred at Oak Ridge Town Park in March, three in April at Oak Ridge Town Park, and one in the Cascades Preserve parking lot. He explained that investigations have revealed the perpetrators are members of the Felony Lane Gang formed in Florida in the late 1990's. Seals described the incidents as crimes of opportunity not particular to Oak Ridge but rather rampant throughout the Triad area. He noted that the perpetrators typically surveil the park to identify opportunities for theft and advised park goers to not bring a purse or wallet to the park or to store these items in their vehicle's trunk before coming to the park. He cautioned against leaving valuables in plain sight in a vehicle as this encouraged offenders to break into the vehicle to grab the item(s).

6. REPORT FROM OAK RIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Captain James Hill reported a total of 66 calls were responded to during the month of April and noted 624 hours of training for personnel. Hill stated that the fire training facility was operational and that the fire chief was planning a date to invite the community to the facility. Hill cautioned against leaving open burnings unattended due to the present dry and windy weather conditions. Mayor Kinneman inquired about burn permits, and Hill confirmed that burn permits were advisable and were issued through the fire department.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC TRAIL EASEMENT CLOSING: consideration of the closing of the public trail easement in the Ashford subdivision.

Mayor Kinneman noted that a request had been made by the developer and his attorney to continue the public hearing until June.

Councilwoman Ann Schneider made a motion to continue the public hearing to June 2024, and Councilman Jim Harton seconded.

Town Manager Bill Bruce asked that the specific date of June 6 be added to the motion.

Councilwoman Ann Schneider amended her motion to continue the public hearing of the public trail easement closing to the next Town Council meeting on June 6 and Councilman Jim Harton seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lindsey Clark, 6816 Koala Drive, spoke about the ongoing disputes to remove the public trail easement from the Ashford subdivision plat. She said that she believed the final approved plat that included the easement was illegitimate as the preliminary plat, upon which the approval was based, did not include the easement. She commented that this deed constituted a breach of the ordinance, and the approval of the final plat should be revoked despite the ongoing efforts between property owners and MST committee members to establish an alternate easement route. Clark requested that Council define restrictions on public easements in the ordinance, such as the maximum permissible width of an easement and the minimum setback for neighboring properties.

Bill Goebel, 1402 Westridge Road in Greensboro, noted that he had successfully collected enough signatures to place him on the ballot for the school board as an independent candidate. He remarked that the process of collecting these signatures had revealed to him that citizens' interests were invested in children's education rather than in political affiliations.

9. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Consideration / Approval of reappointing Jason Streck to Planning & Zoning Board

Councilman Michael Greeson made a motion to reappoint Jason Streck to the Planning & Zoning Board, and Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stone seconded. The motion was passed unanimously (5-0).

B. Any other business

Bruce announced that the grand opening ceremony of Heritage Farm Park scheduled for May 4, 2024, had been postponed due to weather. He recognized Bar Construction, staff, and volunteers for their efforts in planning the ceremony but anticipated that the postponement would allow some pending issues to be addressed before the ceremony was to be rescheduled. He verified Mayor Kinneman's inquiry that power had been connected to the park and that final inspections were imminent.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation of FY 2024-25 Budget

Bruce introduced the proposed fiscal year 2024-25 budget and noted that the report would be available for public viewing and comment over the next thirty days. Bruce read the budget message outlining the proposed budget which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the record. Council members did not pose questions on the proposed budget, and Mayor Kinneman pointed out that the Finance Committee was comprised of citizen volunteers whose meetings were open to the public.

B. Consideration / Approval of Village Woods Conveyance Agreement

Bruce explained that the Village Woods Conveyance Agreement involved the purchase and sale of assets for the purpose of conveying the Village Woods water system to the Town. He stressed that the Water Advisory Committee had thoroughly reviewed the agreement and recommended its approval along with a request for a public meeting with Council to discuss the agreement and other important water system initiatives. To further outline the agreement's scope, Bruce cited points off the memorandum about the conveyance agreement which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the record. He added that servicing a smaller system like Village Woods on its own would cost more to operate than what would be received back in revenue. He said that adding the smaller system to a portfolio that would also contain larger systems would reduce potential revenue shortfalls. He defined a smaller system as one that would provide fewer than thirty connections, noting that Village Woods provided only twenty connections. To illustrate this point, he explained that once connected both Village Woods and the larger Honeycutt Reserve development would produce an annual net revenue over expenses of approximately \$25,000 which would be returned to the water enterprise fund for contingencies and building of reserves. Bruce pointed out that the agreement allowed a period of due diligence without penalty so that approval of the agreement would not commit the Town to purchase the system.

Harton added that as the council liaison to the Water Advisory Committee he recognized the need for an educational session to provide Council a working knowledge of the Town's water initiatives and supported the committee's request that a special meeting be held for this purpose. Kinneman added that the meeting would be open to the public and would afford the public an opportunity to learn about these initiatives as well.

Councilman Jim Harton made a motion to schedule a special called meeting to discuss the Village Woods Conveyance agreement and other water system initiatives. Councilwoman Ann Schneider seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

Harton commented on the efforts to build a customer base for the Town's water system and stressed the need to fund the engineering of the water main loop from NC Hwy 68 to Linville Road to support this growing customer base.

C. Consideration/Approval of contract for Park Security System

Bruce introduced the proposal for the Park Security System explaining that the proposal had been divided into four components and was the result of lengthy consultations with the Sheriff's office, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Co-Chair Adrian Eckenrod who has expertise in security systems, and careful study by staff and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. He stated that the proposal consisted of a security camera system with associated Wi-Fi and internet networking technology, electrical wiring, and power delivery to support the system. He pointed out that the system would place two cameras at each of the four existing entrances into Oak Ridge Town Park and Heritage Farm Park's parking lots to provide detail specific as well as aerial coverage information. He added that Wi-Fi would also be improved and expanded for more coverage. Bruce reported a cost of \$71,210 for the system and requested a 10 percent contingency for costs of related services and goods not yet acquired. He expressed confidence that the contingency requested would sufficiently cover these yet unknown costs.

Kinneman expressed his preference to continue discussion of the proposal to the following month's meeting, noting that the project costs had just recently been revealed and additional costs remained outstanding.

Schneider expressed her desire to move forward with the project, highlighting the correlation of increased break-ins with a warm weather. She believed the proposal to be thorough and properly appraised by both staff and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and added that funds to service the project were already secured. She believed that moving forward with the project would be the best way to safeguard the safety of the citizens.

Harton asked if the outstanding project costs would fall within the requested contingency, and Bruce replied yes. Bruce noted that Council could decide to cap the contingency in its motion to approve the proposal. Harton voiced his favor of moving forward with the project.

Greeson expressed his desire to suspend a decision until all costs were revealed.

Stone stated that he was unwilling to cast a vote in favor of the project and would prefer to see a proposal with solid numbers.

Kinneman expressed concern again over the short period of time during which the project costs were revealed. He suggested adding a discussion of the park security project to the Special Called meeting that would be scheduled to discuss the Town's water initiatives. He said that he did not believe the delay in approving the proposal would negatively impact the project's timeline.

Schneider conveyed reluctance to postpone the decision for another month until the next council meeting. She shared her discussion with Eckenrod who suggested being able to start the networking phase of the project immediately while awaiting costs for other related work. She voiced concern that suspending a decision on the proposal inferred a sense of mistrust of those responsible for constructing the proposal and stressed that managing outstanding expenses which fell within the

requested contingency was within the Town Manager's purview. Kinneman rejected the suggested notion of mistrust of staff and emphasized that his concern centered on the amount of time he felt necessary to responsibly consider the project and all of its associated costs. He said that he did not believe that a delay of two or three weeks would be consequential to the project.

Mayor Jim Kinneman made a motion to continue discussion of the contract for the Park Security System and Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stone seconded. The motion passed (3-2) with Councilwoman Ann Schneider and Councilman Jim Harton voting against.

D. Consideration / Approval of CORE grant recommendations from Conservation Easement Committee

Conservation Committee Chair Stephanie Ferrell reported that two CORE Grant applications had been received and were fully assessed by the Committee in collaboration with the partnering organizations Preservation North Carolina (PNC) and Piedmont Land Conservancy (PLC) to arrive at the costs for establishing conservation easements on the applicants' properties.

Ferrell reported that the first application requested a conservation easement on a historical structure, the Sanders-Blaylock House, which is located at 1815 Oak Ridge Road and is owned by applicants Roy Nydorf and Teresa Hammond. She explained that the application was subject to approval based on certain qualifying criteria. One criterion involved the structure's historical significance which Ferrell confirmed with the age of the structure having been constructed in 1815 with many of its original features residing intact. A second criteria pertained to the protection of the property from demolition for the purpose of development or protection from other forms of physical jeopardy. Ferrell confirmed that the house resided outside of the Historic District and thereby outside of its protection. Ferrell said that the property on which the house sat along adjacent property comprised of three acres were highly attractive for development. She stated that the cost to place a conservation easement on the structure in perpetuity assessed by PNC would be \$7526.

Kinneman asked if any other costs would be included and if the cost was a one-time cost, and Ferrell affirmed that the fee was a one-time all-inclusive cost.

Councilwoman Schneider added that the owners may incur personal cost to obtain legal guidance through the grant process or to obtain an appraisal of the property if they so choose. Stone questioned if the owners paid anything towards the easement procurement, and Ferrell replied that the \$7526 grant award covered endowment and recording fees along with monitoring fees. Stone asked what fees were paid by the owners, and Schneider reiterated that the owners assumed the private costs for legal counsel and appraisals but that the procurement of a conservation easement was of great benefit to the Town. Town Attorney Michael Thomas added that in addition to paying legal and appraisal fees necessary to assess property tax benefits, the owners were giving up interest in the cost of the deed to the property in granting the easement on their property. He explained that the presence of an easement on a property reduced the fair market value of that property in perpetuity. Schneider reinforced the understanding that a restrictive easement on a property would typically reduce its value. Thomas noted that the owners may derive tax

benefits from having an easement on their property, but they would receive less value for the property upon its sale.

Stone asked if funds were available to support conservation easements. Bruce reported that \$40,000 remained in a restrictive fund and \$20,000 was allocated to conservation easements in the current fiscal year's budget.

Kinneman expressed his understanding that owners would have at stake in the procurement of an easement. Ferrell responded that the owners were surrendering a significant value of their property in perpetuity to obtain an easement, and in this application, the owners were losing 30 percent of their property's value. Kinneman brought up that the owners would be paying less in taxes while living on the property. Thomas responded that from a legal standpoint, the surrender of value in personal property for the procurement of an easement was a significant stake to assume.

Councilwoman Ann Schneider made a motion to approve the award of the CORE grant in the amount of \$7526 to establish a conservation easement for Roy Nydorf's and Teresa Hammond's property on 1815 Oak Ridge Road. Mayor Jim Kinneman seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Schneider commented that the CORE Grant initiative would build on the Town's longstanding commitment to preserve its rural roots while advancing in development.

Ferrell introduced the second CORE grant application requesting a conservation easement for open space on 17 acres of former farmland located at 2120 Beeson Road and owned by Jack W. Blaylock. Ferrell noted that the property was located on the site of historic farmland in an area considered highly desirable for development. She noted the owner's request was to have the land remain undeveloped. Ferrell added that the applicant had included in his application an agreement to provide public access to the property for trail easements and possibly a trailhead. She stated that the cost to place a conservation easement on the property in perpetuity assessed by PLC would be \$18,050 and would include surveys and legal descriptions, baseline documentation reporting, legal and recording costs and fees and a stewardship endowment. She explained that easement placements for open spaces were typically more expensive than historic preservation easements. Kinneman pointed out that the costs outlined were estimates and asked if unspent funds would have to be returned. Schneider explained that the cost quoted should be written as a cost not to be exceeded, and that the final payout would not occur until actual costs had been determined. Kinneman asked what options would be available should costs exceed the estimate, and Schneider responded that PLC would likely offer additional financial assistance were costs to exceed the estimate. Schneider added that payment for the easement would not be made until all costs were expended by PLC thereby avoiding any need to return unspent funds.

Councilwoman Ann Schneider made a motion to approve the award of the CORE grant of up to \$18,050 for a conservation easement to be placed on the property of Jack W. Blaylock located at 2120 Beeson Road to preserve the open space for future generations. Councilman Jim Harton seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

E. Consideration/Approval of Response to Request for Funding from Guilford County Schools

Kinneman explained that a request had been made to the Town by Deena Hayes and Betty Jenkins, Chair and Vice Chair of Guilford County Board of Education, for a voluntary contribution of \$30,384 to support the County's tutoring program. Kinneman cited Council's general disfavor of supporting the request stating that funding of such a program should be the responsibility of the County and its Board of Education, rather than the responsibility of the towns and cities within the county.

Harton stated that the funding request had not been a consideration in the Town's strategic plan and suggested that the request was an attempt to revive a previously set priority item for the Board of Education.

Schneider recalled that Chairman of the Board of Guilford County Commissioner Skip Alston had alluded to making this request for funding in June 2023, but that no action had been taken since that time. She suggested crafting a response turning down the request but also recognizing the County's past support of the Town through ARPA and other funding grants and underscoring the Town's adoption of facets of Alston's One Guilford initiative in order to preserve the Town's relationship with the County. She noted her discomfort with funding programs in which the Town lacked expertise and oversight, noting that the Town's schools were typically overlooked for improvement due to their success in academic achievement.

Kinneman pointed out that members of the Board of Education were elected to represent the County citizens' interests and to fund and manage the school system. He did not believe the Town should take responsibility for funding programs for the school system and expressed concern that funds would be displaced as a result of such contributions from the towns and cities in the county. Kinneman expressed concern that a unified response from the Council could not be reached based on the varying opinions from each Council member. He offered to craft a simple response to turn down the request for funding. Town Attorney Michael Thomas suggested that formal action was not required and that a generalized statement by one council member on behalf of the Council would be considered a sufficient response. Schneider believed the opportunity to stress the positive relationship between the Town and the County should be included in the response.

Consensus was reached that Mayor Jim Kinneman would write a simple response turning down the request made by the Guilford County Board of Education for funds to support a tutoring program.

F. Consideration/Approval of Resolution R-2024-04 Memorandum of Agreement with the North Carolina League of Municipalities for Grant Services

Bruce introduced Resolution R-2024-04 as an ARPA-funded grant assistance program for local municipalities funded by the North Carolina League of Municipalities. He stated that the service would be provided by Witt O'Brien Consultants and would involve grant research, grant application, and grant award

management. He stated that the award would provide up to \$30,000 in assistance to the Town.

Kinneman inquired into the nature of Exhibit A included in the meeting packet. Bruce explained that the League uses a standard contract agreement for multiple services offered through the Municipal Accounting Services such as cybersecurity, technical services, and grant services. He noted that the Town would be interested in researching eligible grants for water and parks infrastructure. Stone inquired if the service would cost money, and Bruce confirmed that no cost to the Town would be involved. Kinneman clarified that the agreement would provide \$30,000 of consulting assistance for any grant.

Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stone made a motion to approve Resolution R-2024-04 Memorandum of Agreement with the North Carolina League of Municipalities for Grant Services. Councilman Michael Greeson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (5-0).

11. MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Finance Officer Sam Anders presented the financial report for the month of April, which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes.

Councilman Jim Harton made a motion to approve the financial report as presented by the Finance Officer, and Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stone seconded. The motion was passed unanimously (5-0).

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning & Zoning Board

Patti Paslaru reported on two subdivision plans reviewed by the Board. She stated that the Southern Pines subdivision on Forsyth Road was reviewed and conditionally approved, and that the subdivision would be applying for voluntary annexation into Oak Ridge. Paslaru noted that conditional approval was also given to the Manderley subdivision on Oak Ridge and Harrell Roads. She pointed out that new laws required a 96-foot dimension in a cul-de-sac and as a result the Manderley subdivision plan had an alternative turn around design to avoid the larger dimensions of the cul-de-sac cutting into outlying properties. She suggested that the Board would consider recommending an ordinance revision to accommodate the changes in the cul-de-sac plan.

B. Mountains-to-Sea Trail Committee

Stephanie Ferrell reported that the committee conducted two workdays in April which focused on repair and improvements on the Headwaters trail. She noted that over 7,000 pounds of gravel had been spread by volunteers on the second workday to repair areas of the trail. Ferrell noted that the Town's MST efforts had received recognition in a social media post by a popular blogger Field Marshall Hiking and in

an article on an eagle scout project at the Headwaters Trail published in the Greensboro News & Record newspaper.

C. Conservation Easement Committee

Chair Stephanie Ferrell reported that the committee was currently engaged in conversations with the owner of an important historic landmark in Oak Ridge about placing a conservation easement on the property.

D. Special Events Committee

Chair Patti Dmuchowski announced that construction on the Veterans Honor Green was slated to begin in June and would be completed by September 2024. She reported that \$950 in contributions had been made to the project during the month of April bringing the total donation amount to \$12,050. She added that the Memorial Day Observance would be held on May 27 and would feature Chris Castelli as its guest speaker. She concluded that active preparations were being made for the Light Up the Night event scheduled to take place on December 7, 2024. Councilwoman Schneider stated that the start of construction at the Veterans Honor Green had been moved to May 6.

E. Tree Committee

Chair Roy Nydorf reported that the Tree Committee identified four specific issues about which they had consulted with foresters at the agricultural extension agency. The first issue involved the protection of the grove of pine trees located behind Veterans Honor Green from construction damage to their root system. The committee determined that sufficient action would be taken by the construction company to protect this area as well as the walkway area planned in phase two of the project from potential damage. The second issue involved the three stands of pines at Heritage Farm Park aging and dying concurrently. Nydorf reported on the foresters' conclusion that the trees would naturally thin out through a process of self-selection. The third issue addressed the buckling of the asphalt walkway at Town Park by aligning River Birch root systems with identifying the tripping hazards in the areas which had buckled with spray paint. The last issue concerned the large line of Shumard trees along Linville Road at the park. Nydorf reported that the committee recommended a three-year pruning of the trees by a professional tree service.

F. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Co-Chair Adrian Eckenrod reported that a classic car cruise-in proposed by a citizen was approved to be included at the Next Music in the Park event scheduled for May 11. He noted that an estimated sixty classic cars were expected to participate weather permitting. He noted that damage had occurred to the concrete area around the amphitheater by unsupervised children and stated that the Board agreed to prohibit entry into the area when not in use for an event. Eckenrod added that the Board agreed to request that Bar Construction move the large mound of dirt located at Heritage Farm Park to the lower fields. He reported on the success of the first Music in the Park event which drew eight to nine hundred people and stated that

the grand opening ceremony scheduled for May 4 for Heritage Farm Park would be postponed due to inclement weather. Eckenrod ended by noting his expertise in security systems and offered his assistance in interpreting and explaining the Park Security Project to members of Council.

G. Finance Committee

Chair Stuart Mease reported that the committee had met three times this year to produce a fiscally responsible budget able to support the plans and investments the Town had projected. He pointed out that the Town ranked highly against other metropolitan areas in household median income and in median home prices. He pointed out that the median selling price of homes in Oak Ridge had increased by 47 percent from 2021 to 2024. Mease stressed that increases to the tax rate had not occurred since 2017 despite the post-Covid period of high inflation. He said that the Town was financially well positioned for the next 25 years.

H. Water Advisory Committee

Councilman Harton noted that most of the Water Advisory Committee activity had been previously addressed.

I. Historic Preservation Commission

Courtenay Benbow-Harton reported that the Commission approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for residential fencing at 2100 Oak Ridge Road.

12. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. Oak Ridge Youth Association

No report.

B. Triad Municipal ABC Board

Jimm Barbery reported that sales had increased during the last quarter for the Triad service area but had decreased in Oak Ridge. He stated that the Oak Ridge store ranked fourteenth out of sixteen stores in the system. He reported that the Board had received \$51,000 from the North Carolina Department of Transportation to fund a roundabout in Lewisville. He noted that future expenses for the Board involved the purchase of a new truck and increases in salary to remain competitive with other major employers in the area. Barbery reported a revenue check for \$45,511 from the Board for the last quarter, bringing the year's total to \$258,357 which surpassed the \$250,000 budget.

C. Oak Ridge Military Academy

Caroline Ruch, who had no official affiliation with Oak Ridge Military Academy, stepped forward to comment on the ongoing fundraising efforts to raise \$500,000 to

renovate Maple Glade. She explained that Maple Glade was an important historical landmark built in 1905 which required extensive restoration.

D. Oak Ridge Elementary School

No report.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Anders, 1829 Oak Ridge Road, offered remarks on the Triad Honor Flight in which he had participated in the past. He noted that the Greensboro based organization was a 501c3 organization funded wholly by donations in support of military veterans.

George McClellan, 2806 Oak Ridge Road, offered comments on the positive progress in the Town's various projects and initiatives.

District 3 Board of Education member Michael Logan, 5202 Rambling Road in Greensboro, pointed out that the letter to the Town requesting funding from the Guilford County Board of Education had been distributed without the Board's full acknowledgement. He reinforced the need for funding support for Oak Ridge Elementary School despite its exceptional standing among county schools for growth and academic achievement but noted that the funding should come from the county, state, and federal governments rather than from the municipality.

Caroline Ruch, 1976 Beeson Road, expressed her disappointment over the delay in approval of the Park Security Project. She noted her appreciation of Council's support of conservation easement efforts which she deemed valuable in ensuring the historical significance of structures and land in Oak Ridge.

Terry Hammond, 1815 Oak Ridge Road, noted her appreciation of Council's support of conservation easement efforts.

15. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Stone reinforced the value of working through projects slowly and steadily to ensure proper management of taxpayer money.

Harton expressed his appreciation for committees, reflecting on his own personal experience serving on various committees.

Schneider reflected on conversations held with other municipalities at a recent meeting and shared that these towns already had tax rates ranging from 30 to 50 cents and were planning on increasing their rates by 10 to 15 additional cents. She pointed out that out of 532 towns in North Carolina, Oak Ridge imposed the lowest tax rate at eight cents per \$100 while maintaining high quality of livability and increased property values. Schneider emphasized the need for greater cooperation among Council members to work together in an atmosphere of respect, civility, and trust in order to productively represent the best interests of the Town.

Kinneman spoke positively about the increased media exposure of the Town. He stated that careful and deliberate analyses of project details showed respect to those who worked diligently to construct the project and that it would be Council's obligation to perform due diligence on a project whether or not it is funded with grant awards.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Mike Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m., and Councilman Michael Greeson seconded. The motion was passed unanimously (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted:

Sandra B. Smith, CMC, NCCMC
Asst. Town Manager/ Town Clerk

Jim A. Kinneman
Mayor