



**OAK RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 11, 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.

A. Invocation.

Sam Anders offered the invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Kinneman made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Councilwoman Ann Schneider seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

3. APPROVE MINUTES

Councilman George McClellan made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2019 special meeting, the June 6, 2019 regular meeting, and the June 6, 2019 closed session. Councilwoman Schneider seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

Councilman McClellan made a motion to unseal the closed session minutes of June 19, 2018. Councilwoman Schneider seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

4. RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Annette Joyce and Casey Crossan presented proceeds from the 7th annual Canine Capers event to six participating rescue groups. The event was held in memory of Crossan's son, Conner, who passed away last year and who loved dogs. Each group received a check for \$700.

- Caroline and Ben Ruch, Todd and Ellen Dean, and Brian and Jennifer Barker hosted the Beeson Barn Jam at the Ruch's property on Memorial Day weekend. Over 300 people attended the event. Money raised was dedicated to the Town's future Veterans Memorial, and a check was presented to the Town in the amount of \$4,715.

5. REPORT FROM GUILFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- Lt. Jeremy Fuller from District 1 of the Guilford County Sheriff's Office reported that there were 82 calls for service in Oak Ridge in June. He advised residents to keep their doors locked, even if they were in the yard. He encouraged them to call 911 if they saw anything unusual.

6. REPORT FROM OAK RIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Chief Steve Simmons reported the department responded to 84 calls in June – 34 of a medical nature and 50 of a fire/service-related nature – and department members received 200 hours of training. Simmons reminded residents to not subject themselves to heat-related illnesses and to stay hydrated and take frequent breaks when they are outdoors during hot weather.

7. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Board/Commission appointments.

Town Manager Bruce, on advice from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, recommended appointments to that Board.

Councilman McClellan made a motion to approve the appointments of John Browning to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and Maureen Shepherd and Mike Kimel as alternates to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously (5-0).

B. Resolution of support.

Bruce presented R-2019-04, Resolution of Support for the Hybrid DOT Plan for the NC 68/NC 150 Intersection, as NCDOT's preferred alternative at the intersection. He reported that the Town had requested that NCDOT study the intersection for safety and access over four years ago. Two years ago, NCDOT had approached the Town about the possibility of installing a roundabout; the Town supported it in concept as a way of increasing safety and beautifying the Town Core, both of which are priorities in several adopted plans. Since then, NCDOT and its consultant, Stewart Inc., had analyzed the intersection, done preliminary engineering and gathered public input. NCDOT and Stewart presented the results of their analysis and their preferred alternative to staff, Mayor Sullivan and Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman in a meeting on June 19. Bruce explained the details of the preferred alternative shown on a map, which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes. He said that, as is typical, NCDOT had requested the Town adopt a Resolution of Support for the hybrid plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman made a motion to approve Resolution R-2019-04. Councilman McClellan seconded the motion.

A discussion ensued, with Council members saying they supported the NC 68/NC 150 roundabout, but McClellan, Kinneman, Schneider and Sullivan felt the current and projected traffic estimates did not support putting one there. Councilman Nodine said he thought the Council needed to study the issue further and that he had not had a chance to talk to the Town's consultant to get her perspective. He said that the Town had passed a Land Use Plan allowing development density of one unit per acre, and he thought Council should delay voting on the resolution until the August meeting to give him time to find out about what methodology NCDOT had used. Councilwoman Schneider disagreed, saying the Council could go ahead and vote in favor of the resolution and ask for the answers to any additional questions; she said Council could rescind the resolution later if it felt the methodology NCDOT used was flawed. Councilman McClellan agreed with Schneider, saying that Council had already had plenty of time to study the issue and should vote to approve the motion then. Mayor Sullivan said he had also been excited about the possibility of a roundabout and felt that option would be the most aesthetically pleasing, but the NCDOT's traffic analysis showed rush-hour delays immediately; in 10 years, rush-hour delays would be 8-10 minutes at the intersection. Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman said he had no problem waiting until the August meeting to approve the resolution in order to accommodate Nodine, but if the question was called he would vote in favor of it. Schneider said she was not sure what additional information could be gathered in three weeks and that she thought the traffic projections were unlikely to change. Councilman McClellan reminded Council that there was already a motion on the floor to approve the resolution.

Councilman Nodine made a substitute motion to table the matter until the August 1 meeting to give the Town the opportunity to talk to NCDOT to find out how they did their traffic projections. Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman seconded the motion.

Mayor Sullivan then said he was in the middle with two members of Council ready to vote on the resolution and two asking to wait. He said he agreed with Schneider that Council should have asked any questions it had in the previous 2-3 weeks since it had received NCDOT's recommendation. Nodine said he was just asking whether regional or state-wide demographics were used and if NCDOT had taken the Town's Land Use Plan into account. Sullivan asked Nodine if he would be ready to vote on the resolution August 1; when Nodine said yes, Sullivan said he was OK with waiting until the Council's August 1 meeting to vote on the resolution.

Council's vote on the substitute motion was 3-2 (Nodine, Kinneman and Sullivan voted in favor of tabling the matter until the August Council meeting; Schneider and McClellan voted in opposition).

C. Town attorney contract.

Bruce pointed the Council to Resolution R-2019-05 in their packets, which would modify the town attorney contract.

The resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION R-2019-05

**RESOLUTION
TO MODIFY TOWN ATTORNEY CONTRACT**

WHEREAS, The firm of Sparrow Dennis & Medlin PA is dissolving effective June 30, 2019, and the Town Council desires to retain the services of the individual attorney J. Michael Thomas as Town Attorney.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

That the Town Attorney Contract executed April 11, 2005, as revised through December 6, 2018, is hereby modified and amended as follows:

1. That the phrase "J. MICHAEL THOMAS" appearing in Sec. 1 "Parties" is modified and amended to read "J. MICHAEL THOMAS, ATTORNEY AT LAW";
2. That the phrase "AND SPARROW DENNIS & MEDLIN PA", appearing in Sec. 1 "Parties" and/or otherwise referenced is hereby deleted;
3. That the contract is otherwise re-affirmed and continued in full force and effect.

Adopted, this 11th day of July, 2019.

Councilwoman Schneider moved to approve Resolution R-2019-05. Councilman Nodine seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously (5-0).

D. Parks & recreation survey.

Bruce presented a revised proposal by McGill Associates to adjust the contract for the Parks & Recreation Master Plan to include conducting a mailed and electronic survey. The expanded survey scope was recommended by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman moved to approve the adjustment to the contract with McGill Associates to include a mailed and an electronic survey for a lump sum of \$14,600. Councilwoman Schneider seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously (5-0).

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Peter Pozzo, 6904 Aplington Road, said he had safety concerns about placing roundabouts at NC 150 and Marketplace Drive and at NC 68 and Linville Road, especially with school traffic mixed in.
- Martha Pittman, 8018 Fogleman Road, introduced herself as a candidate for Oak Ridge Town Council.
- Susan Pohlmann, 4591 Peebles Road, commented on the proposed water system, asking when information would be available and when the next formal meeting would occur.

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. He also reported on budget amendments made through the end of the fiscal year that had been authorized previously.

Councilman McClellan made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Councilwoman Schneider seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

11. COMMUNITY UPDATES

A. Merchants of Oak Ridge.

Councilwoman Schneider, a Board member of the organization, reported that RidgeFest was a success, allowing for donations to four local organizations. The \$2,000 scholarship winner had also been announced at the group's last meeting.

B. Board of Adjustment.

No meeting

C. Historic Preservation Commission.

Chair Debbie Shoenfeld reported:

- A paint day was held at St. James AME Church with more than 30 volunteers helping. The painting effort helped the church fulfill the requirements for a Historic Heritage Grant before the end of the fiscal year. Donations to defray unexpected expenses due to wood rot are still being accepted.
- HPC met in June and approved a COA for the new Rio Grande restaurant for an outdoor patio and front door.

D. Special Events Committee.

Town Clerk Sandra Smith said Chair Patti Dmuchowski was unable to attend the Council meeting due to a family situation.

E. Oak Ridge Youth Association.

President Tom Collins reported on many things going on with the organization, some of which included:

- Some summer camps were still being held, but fall registration for several sports is now open. The organization is teaming up with Destination Arts for its cheerleading program.
- All Board positions are now filled, and e-sports directors will start meeting soon.
- He had spoken with Parks & Recreation Director Terry Lannon about possibly using the overflow parking area for soccer.
- A president is being sought for the teen leadership group, and the challenge to the group is "What else can you do?"
- Football season will kick off on August 24, with games on both fields.

F. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

Vice Chair Phyllis Anders reported:

- The Board is now full with seven members and three alternates appointed by Council.
- Music in the Park would be held the following Saturday (July 13) with music by Barefoot Modern.

G. Oak Ridge Military Academy.

President Steve Wilson reported:

- Many activities were held surrounding the recent graduation.
- A Junior ROTC program was held at the academy with 200 cadets from across the state attending.
- About 70 cadets attended the school's summer camps, an increase from last year's 30 attendees.
- Two recruiters have been hired, and the academy has had about 20 family visits of potential cadets in the last three weeks. They are looking for a target number of 80 cadets by August-September.

Wilson asked for a progress report on the lighted crosswalk that the Town had promised to install on Oak Ridge Road at the academy. Mayor Sullivan said the Town is still awaiting NCDOT approval.

H. Finance Committee.

No report

I. Planning & Zoning Board.

No meeting

J. Mountains-to-Sea Trail Committee.

Co-chair Bill Royal reported:

- The proposed trail route from Pepper Road to Linville Road has been flagged and mapped via GPS.
- The committee has been working on a logo to use on all trails in Oak Ridge. They hope to unveil the final design at the next Council meeting.
- The committee has been communicating with the Oak Ridge Fire Department to ensure safety on the trails and ways to make them safer. Fire department personnel will attend the next MST meeting.
- The local MST Birthday Hike will be held in the Cascades Preserve on September 7 at 9 a.m. The hike is held throughout the state annually on the first weekend in September.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Mike Stone, 8112 Hunting Cog Road, announced a Cruise In of classic cars at Oak Ridge Commons on July 16, held the third Tuesday of every month. He also said that Oak Ridge Military Academy graduations are fabulous and very impressive. Stone finished by

announcing he was a candidate for Town Council and said he looked forward to serving the Town.

13. COUNCIL COMMENTS

14. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 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