



**OAK RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 12, 2018 – 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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Spencer Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

A. Invocation.

Former Mayor Pro Tem Roger Howerton offered the invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance.

2. APPROVE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Kinneman made a motion to approve the amended meeting agenda after removing approval of the June 19, 2018 special meeting minutes. 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 June 7, 2018 regular meeting and the June 19, 2018 closed session. Councilman McClellan seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman made a motion to unseal the closed session minutes from August 3, October 19, and December 11, 2017, and the January 4, January 9, January 12 and January 23, 2018 meetings.

4. RESOLUTIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Senator Trudy Wade presented Council members with a joint senatorial statement on the 20th anniversary of Oak Ridge's incorporation, which was read at the state legislature on June 28. Mayor Sullivan read the statement aloud and thanked Wade for

her support. Councilwoman Schneider presented Sen. Wade with a T-shirt celebrating the Town's 20th anniversary.

- Annette Joyce, a member of the Canine Capers committee, presented checks for \$650 each to Ruff Love Rescue, Project No-Kill Animal Shelter, and North Star Bloodhounds. The money was raised for the nonprofits at this year's Canine Capers event.

5. REPORT FROM GUILFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- Deputy Self of the District 1 office of the Guilford County Sheriff's Office reported that there were five Part 1 crimes in Oak Ridge and 24 in the district during the month of June. He said crime was down from this time last year.

6. REPORT FROM OAK RIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Chief Steve Simmons reported the department responded to 57 calls in June – 25 of a medical nature, and 32 of a fire/service nature – and personnel received 283.5 hours of training. He also gave safety tips, including not to do any open burning on Code Red or Code Orange days (air quality may be checked at NCDENR.org) and to be vigilant about pool safety this time of year. Regarding the Town's 20th anniversary, Simmons said the department had responded to 811 calls last year, compared to 296 calls in 1998. He added that 70 percent of calls received last year were between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., and that only 1 percent of calls were for structure fires.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Consider the financed purchase of real property located at 1921-2035 Oak Ridge Road, Guilford County Tax Parcel #0165112, owned by Frank O. Whitaker, Jr.

Mayor Sullivan stated that the Council had approved the purchase of 58 acres in April, but when the Town issues a promissory note, it is required to hold a public hearing. He explained the rules and opened the public hearing.

Proponents:
None

Opponents:
None

Sullivan closed the public hearing

Sullivan made a motion that the Council approve the execution by the Town of the revised purchase and sale agreement, which has already been signed by Frank and Claudia Whitaker. Councilman McClellan seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously (5-0).

Sullivan then announced that as a part of the Whitaker property purchase, the Council has approved the purchase of another piece of property which consists of roughly 3.7 acres on Scoggins Road and which adjoins the Whitaker property. He

said the only access to the Whitaker property from Scoggins Road was a 60-foot-wide easement, which is situated in the middle of a curve and a dip. At the June 19 special meeting, the Council voted unanimously to make an offer to purchase the 3.7 acres for \$110,880. The closing is set for September 4, after a period of due diligence. Sullivan said since the Town was paying in cash for the property, there was no need for a public hearing.

8. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Update on hiring deputies for Oak Ridge Elementary School.

Town Manager Bill Bruce reported that the Town has traditionally paid for the services of the Guilford County Sheriff's Office to handle traffic control during the first two weeks of school. Bruce said he had made arrangements for the Town to offer that service again this year.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None

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 noted that in June, the Council had given him authority to make adjustments necessary to balance the budget for 2017-18. He reported on the \$1,800 adjustments he had made, asked for approval of that budget adjustment, and requested approval of a budget amendment for 2018-19 for the annual payment on the Whitaker property.

Councilman McClellan made a motion to approve the budget amendment for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

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

Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman made a motion to approve the budget adjustments that the Finance Officer had made for the prior fiscal year. Councilman McClellan seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (5-0).

Anders noted that a portion of the park property was formerly subject to a life estate but that it had terminated with the death of Linda Redmon, and that the property will be removed from the tax rolls. He said upon recordation of the deeds for the Whitaker and McCandless property purchases, those properties would also be removed from the tax rolls in January.

11. COMMUNITY UPDATES

A. Finance Committee.

No meeting

B. Planning & Zoning Board.

No meeting

C. Mountains-to-Sea Trail Committee.

Committee member Bill Royal reported that the MST Facebook page had been set up. He added that two successful trail hikes at the Cascades Preserve had been held and another hike was scheduled. He said the committee was beginning to plan construction of the trail spur that would connect the Cascades to Haw River Road.

D. Merchants of Oak Ridge.

Merchants of Oak Ridge Board Member Ann Schneider reported that with the money earned from RidgeFest and the Glow Run, Merchants of Oak Ridge had donated \$2,000 to Next Step Ministries and \$500 each to Preservation Oak Ridge, Oak Ridge United Methodist Church teen/youth program, Summit Church youth program, Backpack Ministry, Good Samaritan Ministries and Oak Ridge Youth Association for scholarships, for a total of \$5,000 being given back to the community.

E. Board of Adjustment.

No meeting

F. Historic Preservation Commission.

Town Clerk Sandra Smith reported that the Commission did not meet in June, but members are working on updating the historic architectural inventory and on the historic marker dedication.

G. Special Events Committee.

Chair Patti Dmuchowski reported that the Committee's participation at the last Music in the Park had gone well with games and activities for kids. Other events scheduled to celebrate the Town's 20th anniversary +include participation at Heritage Day, a lawn party at the Charles Benbow house, a birthday party at the Old Mill, and an insert in the Northwest Observer.

H. Parks & Recreation Commission.

No meeting

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None

13. COUNCIL COMMENTS

14. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Kinneman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 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