

**Town of Farmville
Board of Commissioners
January 5, 2010**

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The Farmville Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building Courtroom with Mayor Robert L. Evans presiding. Present for the meeting were Commissioners Jamin Dixon, John Baker, John Moore and David Shackelford; Town Attorney Bill Lewis; Town Manager Richard N. Hicks and Town Clerk Amy B. Johnson.

Mayor Evans called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Pastor George Dupree of Saint James Free Will Baptist Church in Farmville offered the invocation which was followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mayor Evans recognized Town Clerk Amy Johnson to administer the oath of office.

Town Clerk Amy Johnson administered the oath of office to Commissioner Jake Barrow.

Mayor Evans recognized Steven Hardy-Braz, who resides at 3340 North Greene Street.

Mr. Hardy-Braz presented several suggestions for bicycle safety improvements. He suggested the following:

- Install bicycle racks at Town hall and Town parks
- Requesting DOT to install road signs to remind drivers of bicycle laws & safety
- Encourage the schools to teach bicycle riding/safety
- Encourage police officers to enforce state bicycle laws

Town Manager Hicks stated he had no comments at this time.

Finance Director, Amy B. Johnson gave the financial report for the month of November, 2009.

Paul Ellis, Donnie Greene and Dean Corbett gave their quarterly departmental reports.

Town Manager Hicks stated he had the following deletion to the evening's agenda:

- Table Agenda item #6

The Board indicated no issues with tabling the agenda item.

Public Hearings

1. Public Hearing on Proposed Closing of Ryon Drive

Town Manager Hicks stated Recreation Director Jeff Polaski has been preparing an application for the renovation and upgrade of the existing field and facilities. Hicks continued by stating at a previous Town Board meeting, it was suggested by members of the Recreation Board that the Town consider closing Ryon Drive and developing a larger baseball complex that would consist of 4 ballfields in a cloverleaf design with a concession stand in the middle. Hicks explained this public hearing was to gain input of the neighboring property owners prior to moving forward with such a proposal. Hicks requested for the Board to give Jeff guidance on which application to submit.

Mayor Evans declared the public hearing on the proposed closing of Ryon Drive open at 7:59p.m.

David Vendemia, a member of the Recreation Board, stated he lived at 4189 Dale Drive. He explained the two different grants to the audience and Board.

Lorraine Nemeroff, who resides at 3265 Daniel Drive, stated she is opposed to spending money for this grant due to other things/ideas not being completed like the swimming pool and the dog park.

Chris Edwards, who resides at 4128 Dale Drive, expressed his feeling of not wanting to close the street due to it being viewed as the main avenue into Eaglebrook Subdivision.

Steven Hardy-Braz stated something could be done in the short-term to make sure the children are safe.

John Wells, who resides at 3287 Daniel Drive, stated he was opposed to the closing of Ryon Drive due to it being easy access for Fire/Rescue calls.

Pam Strickland, who resides at 4128 Dale Drive, expressed her support for recreation but declared her displeasure with closing the street due to the street being the main one into and out of the neighborhood.

Josh Boberg, who resides at 4156 East Pine Street, expressed being opposed to the closing of Ryon Drive and expressed that the Town needed to make improvements to what they currently have which would be more cost efficient in this economy.

Paula Fitzgerald, who resides 4147 Dale Drive, stated she was opposed to the street closing.

Rick Langley, a resident of Farmville and member of the Recreation Board, explained the future vision of the ball park.

Patrick Hobbs, who resides at 3422 Greg Street, explained the reason behind the closing request and stated it was due to long range recreation planning.

There being no further comments, Mayor Evans closed the public hearing at 8:33 p.m.

Commissioner Moore made a motion to not close Ryon Drive and to continue with the original grant. The motion carried unanimously.

Items for Consent

2. Approval of Minutes

To approve the minutes from the following meeting(s):

- December 1, 2009 regular session

- December 15, 2009 special session
- December 22, 2009 special session

3. Adoption of Resolution Declaring Surplus Property

To adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Certain Property for the online auction.

4. Adoption of Ordinance Amending 2009/2010 Budget

To adopt an ordinance amending the 2009/2010 budget to transfer \$6,982 to the Recreation Fund contingency account from the sale of surplus lots around Town.

On motion by Commissioner Shackelford, the Board approved/adopted the following:

- *Approved the minutes from the December 1, 2009 regular session, the December 15, 2009 special session and the December 22, 2009 special session*
- *Adopted Resolution (2009) 1064, Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Certain Property on Online Auction*
- *Adopted Ordinance (2009) 664, An Ordinance Amending the FY 2009-2010 Budget Ordinance*

The motion carried unanimously.

Items for Decision

5. Request for Funding- EnPower Disciple Church Ministries Inc.

Pastor Randy Lee, of the En-Power Disciple Church Ministries, requested funding of \$10,000 from the Town Board for assistance with their youth program.

Mayor Evans explained how the Board used to give donations to the non-profit organizations like the Arts Council, the Girl Scouts and the Farmville Child Development Center, but these organizations must submit a request for funding to the Board only at budget time for consideration each year. Mayor Evans also went on to explain that no donations were given this past budget year due to the budget cuts and the economy.

Commissioner Dixon stated the Town had no money to give at this point without taking from Fund Balance. He further stated that the Town has a written policy on providing funding for community organizations.

Commissioner Moore suggested reconsidering this item at a later date once the Board has discussed how they wish to proceed with the non-profits and their requests for funding.

Commissioner Moore made a motion to deny the request for funding and to place this discussion item on the retreat agenda to see how the Board should proceed forward. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval of Restructure Covenants for Farmville Industrial Park
Tabled.

Mayor Evans called a brief recess at 9:27 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:32 p.m.

7. Approval of Funding for Dogwood Festival Director

Town Manager Hicks stated the Dogwood Festival Committee advertised in the Farmville Enterprise and the Daily Reflector for a part-time Festival Director. He further stated the committee received only 2 applications and one of the candidates withdrew. Hicks informed the Board the Dogwood Committee recommends Amy Johnson for the position, as was approved last year. Hicks asked for approval of funding \$10,000 of the Festival Fund Balance to hire the part-time director for the 2010 Festival.

Commissioner Moore made a motion to approve the funding of the Dogwood Festival Director for the 2010 Festival. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Evans asked for the future status of the Dogwood Festival Director to be added the retreat agenda.

8. Appointment to Dogwood Festival Committee

Town Manager Hicks explained the Dogwood Festival Committee currently has one vacancy for a Town Commissioner. He stated the Dogwood Committee is recommending the appointment of David Shackelford as the Town Board's other representative.

Commissioner Baker made a motion to appoint Commissioner David Shackelford to the Dogwood Festival Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Appointment to Mid-East Commission

Town Manager Hicks stated he has been serving as the Town's representative on the Mid-East Commission for the past twenty year. He suggested for one of the Board members to serve due to most the representatives being elected officials and due to his pending retirement.

Commissioner Baker made a motion to nominate Town Manager Hicks to serve on the Mid-East Commission until his retirement. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Request for Contribution

Town Manager Hicks presented a letter requesting a donation towards the establishment of the Daivid M. Lawrence Distinguished Professorship at the UNC School of Government. Hicks explained that Mr. Lawrence has been a fixture at the Institute of Government for many years and has been a valuable resource for towns and counties throughout the state.

The Board agreed to consider this donation at budget time.

11. Agenda Items for Retreat

Town Manager Hicks stated he was currently developing the agenda for the January retreat. He asked if there were any issues the Board would want to discuss.

Mayor Evans and the Board of Commissioners came up with the following items:

- *Future Organizational Structure (Dogwood Festival Director, EDC Director, Utility Director, Town Manager)*
- *Relationship to Chamber of Commerce/Downtown Partnership*
- *Long range Recreation plan/goals*
- *Revisit naming ordinance*
- *Funding of Community Organizations (Non-profits)*
- *Discuss Current Debt Levels/Projects*
- *Relationship to Pitt County Schools*
- *Availability Charge*
- *Industrial park*

12. Citizen Comments

Mayor Evans asked if there were any citizen comments at this time.

There were no comments.

13. Closed Session

On motion by Commissioner Barrow, the Board adjourned into closed session at 10:08 p.m. pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body. The motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Commissioner Shackelford, the Board returned into regular session at 10:40 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Moore recommended adding the availability charge to the retreat.

On motion by Commissioner Moore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:41 p.m.

Robert L. Evans, Mayor

Attest:

Amy B. Johnson, Town Clerk