

TOWN MANAGER
Ken Deal

TOWN CLERK
Amanda Eller

TOWN ATTORNEY
Tom Brooke



MAYOR
Don Bringle

TOWN COUNCIL
Brandon Linn
Charles Seaford
Steve Stroud
Mike Upright
Lee Withers

TOWN OF CHINA GROVE
A special meeting of the China Grove Town Council

Monday, February 23, 2015
6:00 p.m.

China Grove Town Hall
China Grove, North Carolina

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bringle called the special meeting of February 23rd, 2015 to order and called roll. All council members were present with the exception of Mr. Linn. There was a quorum.

The meeting started at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Mayor Bringle stated that the purpose of meeting is for budget planning.

Mr. Deal brought forth the item of sidewalk extension on Patterson Street.

Mr. Withers stated that he previously brought it up because there was a comment for reaching Millers Grove for a walking path. He said that the bridge would have to be accessible for a vehicle for emergency purpose and the cost would be very high. He said that reaching South Rowan High School and SR YMCA from Patterson is why he had brought it up in the sidewalks or at least making a lane for bicycles.

Mr. Upright asked what the need is in this area for a sidewalk.

Mr. Withers said that there are residents in that area that are begging for a sidewalk. He said it was presented to the previous administration as a safe way to schools grant.

Mr. Deal stated that if the area ever became a ballpark at the creek, it would connect that as well.

Mr. Withers stated the problem at this time, after talking to Chris Corriher, there is not curb and guttering on Patterson Street and DOT regulations require that it would have to be behind the

drainage ditch and it could extend past the DOT right-of-way. He said DOT is willing to give an estimate but the Town would have to pay for it. He said funds are available for discretionary spending from DOT and MPO possibly, at max an 80/20 split.

Mr. Deal stated we also looked at the section at N. Bostian Street and Hardees.

Mr. Upright stated there are many areas that do not have sidewalks and residents may begin asking.

Mayor Bringle stated his concern, that we have a mile or so of sidewalks in town that are difficult to maintain. He said if funds are available, it would be up to the Council to decide at that time.

Mr. Withers stated that is what this is about is talking about issues down the road.

Mr. Seaford stated that we would need a set of plans for what we would want to do.

Mr. Withers stated that DOT knows pretty much what it would cost with an estimate without needing a design. He said the north side would require the least acquisition and least trees needing to be removed. He said the sidewalks stop at Clinton St. on one side and Elizabeth St. on the other side.

Mr. Deal stated that they next wanted to talk about parks. He has been in touch with David Hartigan about the property at the creek on Patterson Street. He said that there are grants available and would like to research options for split funding. He said that the Carolina Thread Trail will also be running through this area. He said that the Canon Field is bursting and there isn't much more room for this to grow. He said this is around 30+ acres.

Mr. Seaford asked if the Canon park given to the town with stipulations?

Mayor Bringle stated that it can only be used as park-type services.

Mr. Deal addressed the roads and that the Town is going to have to face this issue. He said his priority is to take care of these roads. He said that they are looking to raise the gas tax but by the time it gets back to the Town, it will not help us much. He said it would take around \$10 million to redo all of the roads and restripe them as well.

Mr. Withers stated that we have to restripe no matter what because the lines are almost gone. He asked if they would entertain diagonal parking. He said you could do it down one side of the road, but would like to know if it would fit more cars.

Mayor Bringle stated there are parking spaces behind the F&M ATM, at Town Hall,

Mr. Deal stated there have been talks about purchasing the building across from CG Family House for parking and other uses. He said the owner is asking \$250,000.

Mr. Withers stated that it could be used for many purposes, something to put on the table to think about.

Mr. Upright asked if we could get a grant for this?

Mr. Withers stated that you never know if it is worded right and depending on what the use is for.

Mr. Deal stated that the owner of the mill site is still looking to sell his property for \$1 million. He said annexation is dead, so we need more businesses in Town.

Mr. Upright asked if there is any good news about money coming in?

Mr. Deal stated that should be revenue neutral next year.

Mayor Bringle stated that we are waiting on the revaluation, it could be positive or short. The County needs to let us know.

Mr. Upright stated that we should be getting them soon.

Mr. Deal stated that big issue will be purchasing a fire truck – getting rid of the tanker and purchasing a engine.

Mr. Deal stated that Extension of water/sewer. We are still trying to close the lift-station on Centerview/Hwy 29.

Mr. Upright asked if there is anyone asking for water/sewer on Bostian Road?

Mr. Deal stated that he has not heard anything from residents on Bostian Rd or Patterson Street. We get \$50,000 a year from SRU for extensions, so this will need to be discussed.

Mayor Bringle stated that we will definitely have a list of things to look at for future planning.

Mr. Deal stated that he met with Duke Energy, to change our 300 street lights to LED's it would cost the Town \$15,000 but the power bill should go down \$300 each month. He said the investment would pay for itself over the years. He said he has talked to DOT about lights on Hwy 29 and the realignment at Hwy 29/Lentz Road. He has been in contact with the Congressmen concerning this item for funding. If the lights are approved to LED, the funds saved could be used for future lighting.

Mr. Upright stated that it is so dark on Hwy 29. Even if we only added 1-2 on each end per year it would help.

Mr. Deal stated that it isn't inviting.

Mr. Withers stated that exit 68 should begin in 2016 and complete in 2019 which would not have an hourglass ramp any longer. He has not seen the final plans for this project.

Mayor Bringle stated that will be at least four roundabouts.

Mr. Withers stated that there will be funds available in 2020 for the Old Beatty Ford Road interchange.

Mr. Upright asked how are we doing with income on our current budget?

Mr. Deal stated that we are in good shape right now. Sales Tax is still questionable, waiting on it to come in. Reserve Funds are still good.

Mayor Bringle asked if there were any other issues?

Mr. Withers stated that there was an email that came from Rowan Transit to increase funding.

Mayor Bringle stated that he would like to see census of ridership.

Mr. Deal stated that he told them last year that we were not going up.

Mr. Stroud stated that those buses ride up and down the road with only 2-3 people and feels it is a waste of money.

Mr. Withers stated that he can get the figures from the MPO. They have secured funding for two years. He said that east Rowan has completely lost their service. He would like to see an abbreviated schedule. He would like it to continue because it is useful for many people to get to doctor visits, from here to Charlotte.

Mr. Deal stated that he said he would be in touch with Jerry Price.

Mayor Bringle asked if the garbage contract seem to be working well.

Mr. Deal stated that there have been no complaints

Mr. Withers stated that speak about the status of the fire truck.

Mr. Deal stated that Mike told him that the truck was made too large for the scale of the truck, overweight with water and staff. He is very concerned to keep using this as a tanker and needs to get an engine. He feels confident that the truck will be requested during the budget process for around \$500,000.

Mayor Bringle stated that there was \$50,000 put in the contingency plan.

Mr. Withers stated that we could continue the \$50,000 to go toward payments plus a down-payment.

Mayor Bringle stated that they could push it out as long as possible.

Mr. Upright asked what is the status of the Community Building?

Mr. Deal stated that we have worked with the COG for a grant. The amount to pay the COG to even find grants was very expensive. He has mentioned to David Hartigan about this building as well.

Mayor Bringle asked if we have we had issues with the Community Building?

Mrs. Eller stated that there have not been any issues.

Mr. Deal stated that he will let the Council know when all of the hotspots are complete.

Mr. Linn came in at 6:45pm.

Mr. Seaford asked about the tennis courts.

Mr. Withers stated that he would like to see it removed all at one time with a plan to do something in its place.

Mayor Bringle stated that all schools have courts that are accessible. He said we could put 4-5 holes of disc golf. He said this is well-used and friendly to the younger crowd. He said this is a low-cost project.

Mayor Bringle stated that roads & fire truck are most immediate needs.

Mr. Stroud asked if there is a grant-writing school. He stated that we should consider hiring a college-boy who knows how to write grants. That person's salary could be paid for.

Mr. Deal stated that is what David Hartigan does

Mr. Withers stated that we can work toward this. We could make the recommendation that we would be willing to help fund a grant-writing position.

Mr. Withers stated that he wanted to address meeting times. Was brought up in November to change to 6:30 and he made the request not to, due to civic stuff and then missed a meeting and it was changed. He said that Tuesdays at 7pm works just fine for him. He stated that he cannot do Tuesdays at 6 or 6:30pm. He wanted to reassure that the change was not made out of disrespect.

Mayor Bringle stated that the item went both ways.

Mr. Withers made a motion to change the meeting time back to Tuesdays at 7pm. Charles seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1 with Mr. Upright casting the opposing vote.

Mayor Bringle stated that at Tuesday's meeting, we need to plan to look at budget times in March and asked Ken to bring back dates to the Council then.

Mr. Withers stated that the community has two new state wrestling champions, one at Carson & another at South Rowan.

Mayor Bringle asked to have them here in April to recognize them.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Stroud made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda A. Eller
Town Clerk

Don Bringle
Mayor