

**TOWN MANAGER**  
Ken Deal

**TOWN CLERK**  
Pamela Mills

**TOWN ATTORNEY**  
Tom Brooke



**MAYOR**  
Lee Withers

**TOWN COUNCIL**  
Brandon Linn  
Rodney Phillips  
Charles Seaford  
Steve Stroud  
Mike Upright

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

**Tuesday, August 2, 2016**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**China Grove Town Hall**  
**China Grove, North Carolina**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Withers called the regular meeting of August 2, 2016 to order and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Withers called roll. All council members were present with the exception of Mr. Stroud and Mr. Upright. There was a quorum.

The meeting started at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Mr. Phillips asked to remove item number I from old business. Mr. Seaford made a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Linn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Linn made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**RECOGNITION**

Mayor Withers recognized Mr. Kluttz who retired from the Chief of Police position and presented him with a plaque. Mayor Withers stated when he was on the Town Council for the second year the town was having some leadership issues at the Police Department. He stated former Mayor Bringle and he asked Mr. Kluttz to come and lead the Police Department in the right direction. Mr. Kluttz was congratulated with a standing ovation and applause.

Mr. Upright arrived 7:05.

Mr. Kluttz thanked everyone and stated he did not want to say much but asked that prayer be brought back before the meeting. He stated we say the Pledge of Allegiance, we have In God we Trust on the wall and feels that is the one thing missing.

Mayor Withers opened the floor to anyone that would like to say a few words to Mr. Kluttz.

Mr. Bringle stated the town has come a long ways in the past couple of years. He stated the town did have some internal problems and Mr. Kluttz brought discipline and order to the department. He stated Mr. Kluttz is highly regarded and respected by many. He stated we were truly blessed to have Mr. Kluttz as police chief and we are blessed he will remain a part of this community. He congratulated Mr. Kluttz on his retirement and congratulated Mr. Andrew Deal who will be fulfilling the Chief of Police position.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Deal stated the town has received an offer of \$15,000 to purchase 206 E. Washington Street also known as Rowan County Tax Parcel 101 089. He stated the property has an abandoned well located on it, the town does not use the property and he recommends to accept the offer.

Mr. Upright asked if the formula used on the upset bid processes is what we always use. Mr. Deal stated as far as he knows yes.

Mr. Brooke stated this is an upset bid process. He stated we are accepting her bid for the property but for a period of 10 days if anyone should upset the bid then the process starts again until no further qualifying upset bids are received. He stated at that time the Town Council may accept the highest bidder.

Mr. Linn made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the upset bid procedure of N.C.G.S § 106A-269 for 206 E. Washington Street. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

## **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

### **I) Fire Department**

Mr. Zimmerman stated the Fire Department had a lot of activity in July. He stated he spoke to the company yesterday and they are still on schedule for the arrival month in December.

### **II) Police Department**

Chief Deal stated he included in his reports a first year analysis.

### **III) Public Works Department**

Mr. Ketner stated the leaf machine has been ordered and the chipper truck is being worked on.

### **IV) Administration**

#### **a) Finance**

Mrs. Bopp stated she updated the financial report that was sent last week since more tax money in and the figures are close to the figures of the audit. She stated the town is \$144,000 to the good, this in not using any of the \$126,000 reserve money that was budgeted.

#### **b) Event Coordinator**

Ms. Price stated Farmers Day went really good this year, we had a steady crowd all day. She thanked the staff and volunteers for all their work. She stated the next event is Music at the Mill on August 19<sup>th</sup> and Bout Tyme will be playing. She stated August 20<sup>th</sup> is the Cruse In from 3:00 to 7:00. She stated the Southern Rowan Christmas Parade will be held on November 22<sup>nd</sup> this year and will be accepting applications now.

Mayor Withers asked when the rescheduled fireworks would be set off. Mr. Deal stated we are looking at doing it during Christmas in the Grove.

V) SRU

Mr. Wilson stated the Centerview Street project has been complete. He stated it was a very successful project.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Upright asked how the county meeting went about the tax refund from Tuscarora. Ken stated the documents are being prepared and a reimbursement for 2014 and 2015 taxes are expected.

Mr. Upright stated the Railroad has done a lot of work with the underpass at Kimball Road. He asked how long Centerview Street will be closed. Ken stated 60 days.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Mr. Deal announced Mr. Andrew Deal will be fulfilling the Police Chief position. Mr. Deal asked Clerk of Superior Court Jeffrey Barger to step forward to administer the oath. Mr. Barger stated the law enforcement has been under a lot of heat lately. He stated he wanted to personally thank Eddie for his work in law enforcement not only for the Town of China Grove but also Rowan County. He acknowledged Brandy Cook, Rowan Counties elected District Attorney for being here to support both Andrew and Eddie. He asked Chief Deal's family to step forward.

Mr. Barger administered the Oath of Office to Chief Deal. Mrs. Deal pinned the chief insignia pins on his shirt. Mayor Withers removed the Lieutenant badge and pinned on the Chief badge.

Chief Deal thanked the Town Council and Town Manager with selecting him as the Chief. He thanked the citizens of China Grove and stated he grew up here. He stated he is fortunate to become the Chief when the leadership was great. He thanked his wife, family and friends for being here. He stated he received an opportunity to come and work in his home town when he became Lieutenant. He read a quote from Man in the Arena a speech from Theodore Roosevelt. He thanked everyone again and stated God bless you. Chief Deal was congratulated with a standing ovation and applause.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Respectfully Submitted,**

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**Pamela L. Mills**  
**Town Clerk**

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**Lee Withers**  
**Mayor**