

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, October 4, 2016
7:00 p.m.

China Grove Town Hall
China Grove, North Carolina

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Withers called the regular meeting of October 4, 2016 to order and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Withers called roll. All council members were present. There was a quorum.

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

Mr. Phillips added to Other Business goal planning for 2017-18 and an update on the EDC meeting.

Mr. Upright added to Old Business an update on the railroad project and an update on lighting Hwy 29.

Mr. Upright also added a closed session on Personnel Matters.

Mr. Linn made a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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

CITIZEN COMMENT

Gene Miller thanked the mayor and Town Council for being here. He stated he is running for the School Board, seat number five for Salisbury. He stated even though the South Rowan area does not have a member up for reelection, your vote still helps the County. He stated he would appreciate the vote come November 8th.

RECOGNITION

Mayor Withers recognized Darrell Harwood with a proclamation for Darrell Harwood Day and a plaque honoring him for his musical accomplishments and all he does for his community. Mayor Withers thanked Darrell Harwood for all he does for the Town.

Darrell Harwood thanked the Mayor and Town Council. He stated the wild party start May 1, 2010 at a benefit concert for his brother-in-law. He stated he met a lot of friends along the way that are here in support along with his family. He thanked everyone in the room and stated because of them this would not be possible. He was congratulated with a standing ovation and applause.

NEW BUSINESS

- I) Mayor Withers introduced Greg Edds, Rowan County Commissioner. Mr. Edds stated the Rowan County's Declaration of Interdependence is something that we have been working on for a couple of years. He stated creating a successful and thriving community takes a leap of faith and new habits of civic behavior. He stated each community needs trusted partners to thrive. He stated the ten communities in Rowan County have not had a strong history of working together. He stated we can accelerate Rowan's emerging innovation economy if we align our core goals and beliefs. In pursuit of this, a group of people have drafted the Rowan County's Declaration of Interdependence. He asked for the Council to support the declaration.

Mayor Withers read the declaration aloud.

Mr. Phillips stated it is phenomenal the leadership that Mr. Edds is showing in the county.

Mr. Phillips made a motion to support the Rowan County's Declaration of Interdependence. Mr. Linn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- II) Adopt Ordinance amendment Ch. 38 Offenses & addition Ch. 43 Alcoholic Beverages

Mr. Deal stated in an ongoing effort to update the Ordinances we are looking at amending the alcoholic beverage ordinance to allow the functions at the Community Building to have alcoholic beverages. He stated it also would allow businesses to have alcoholic beverages outside their business in a designated area. He stated it would also allow vendors to set up a beer garden during events. He stated he is not looking for approval at the moment but would like the Council to discuss the changes to the ordinance.

Mayor Withers asked if the ordinance covers off premise sales of alcohol at events. Mr. Deal stated it does. Mayor Withers stated the Town is not endorsing alcoholic beverage we are just sponsoring the event.

Mr. Upright asked if the beer garden area would be roped off and that you cannot leave the area with an alcoholic beverage. Mr. Deal stated yes.

Mr. Linn stated he disagrees with the amendment and is not supportive of it.

Mr. Stroud stated he also is not supportive of having alcoholic beverages at public at events.

Mr. Upright stated he is supportive of the amendment, he feels it is progressive for the town.

Mayor Withers stated the ordinance amendment will be tabled until the November meeting.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

I) Fire Department

Mr. Baker stated the new engine is still on for December delivery. He stated the Centerview Street fire in town was handled very well.

II) Police Department

Lt. Walther stated the Police Department is fully staffed again with promotions and the addition of another officer.

III) Public Works Department

Mr. Ketner stated leaf season will begin October 17th. He stated Hanna Park will be reseeded this week. He stated the Public Works Department moved flower pots around downtown.

IV) Administration

Mr. Deal stated we meet with the South Rowan art class and brick laying class on the Memorial wall. He stated we will be meeting with a contractor about the Hanna Park stage for a price.

a) Finance

Mrs. Bopp stated the audit went well. She stated the reports will be in soon. We have collected 44% of property tax so far and sales tax continues to go up.

b) Event Coordinator

Ms. Price stated we changed the format of the calendar that is sent out to the Churches every month. She stated the Roller Mill will be on the Tour of Homes this weekend. She stated the last Cruise In of the season will be October 15th. She stated the Downtown Trick or Treating will be held October 31st from 4:00 to 5:00.

Mayor Withers asked about Christmas in the Grove. Ms. Price stated she is already working on it and that a fireworks demonstration will take place on October 5th to determine the fireworks site.

V) SRU

Mr. Wilson stated there was a leak last week that town staff was able to make them aware of. He stated it was fixed fairly fast.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Upright asked for an update on the Railroad project. Mr. Deal stated Blythe is filling pipes on North Harris Street and they should be paving that section and Church Street should be open on October 7th.

Mr. Upright asked if a traffic light is in the plans at Kimball Street and Main Street. Mr. Deal stated yes.

Mr. Upright asked about the intersection at Church Street and Hwy 29. Mr. Deal stated he talked with Carl and Tom McInnis about getting special funding for widening the intersection to place a turn lane in.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Phillips stated the EDC meet last Friday and identified some sites around China Grove for development. He stated this was a great meetings with good direction and discussion.

Mr. Phillips stated he would like to start with goal planning, to get 5 to 10 goals together that the town wants to accomplish in 2017-18 year. He stated he would like to look at applying for grants. He stated Rowan County has grant writer now.

Mayor Withers stated he would like to discuss having a second meeting on the 3rd Monday of the month.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Upright made a motion to go into closed session. Mr. Linn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

No action was taken.

Mr. Upright made a motion to come out of closed session. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela L. Mills
Town Clerk

Lee Withers
Mayor