

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the China Grove Town Council

**Tuesday, April 5th, 2011
7:00 p.m.**

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bringle called the meeting of April 5, 2011 to order and welcomed all in attendance to join in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Bringle called roll. All council members were present with the exception of Mr. Linn who is excused, there was a quorum. The meeting started at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Mayor Bringle thanked the Staff for their efforts in relocating the Administration and Police Departments.

Mr. Seaford made a motion to adopt the agenda for the regular meeting of the Town Council on April 5, 2011. Mr. Withers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Seaford made a motion to adopt the February 26, 2011 special meeting minutes. Mr. Withers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Withers made a motion to adopt the March 1, 2011 regular meeting minutes. Mr. Upright seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mayor Bringle welcomed the Boy Scouts from Grace Lutheran Church and wished them the best as they move through their ranks as Scouts.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no comments.

PUBLIC HEARING

I) Rezoning Request for Case #2011-01

Ms. Jackson presented the staff report to the Council and reviewed the case. She stated that staff and the Planning Board vote unanimously in favor of the rezoning.

Mayor Bringle opened the Public Hearing for the Rezoning Request Case #2011-01

Mr. Watson stated that the address listed is incorrect and lists his address.

Ms. Jackson stated that the parcel numbers are correct and only the correct parcel will be rezoned.

There were no further comments.

Mayor Bringle closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Upright made a motion that the request is consistent with Town plans and policies. Mr. Withers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Upright made a motion to approve to rezone Rowan County parcels 124 02101 and 124 095 from Suburban Residential to Heavy Industrial. Mr. Withers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

I) Code Enforcement Report

Mayor Bringle thanked Mr. Deal and Mr. Cline to clean up the list from previous months.

Mr. Upright stated that he received a call from a person on this list and that he has agreed to remove the banner on his property as long as other property owners are required to follow the same regulations.

Ms. Jackson stated that a temporary sign can only be placed on a property for thirty days.

II) Request by Rowan County Board of Elections to Close Precinct

Mayor Bringle stated that he received notification that the Board of Elections is wishing to close one of the precincts within the Town because of low turnout of voters. He stated that this would allow the school to stay open on election-day and would also be more economical for the Town and County. He stated that the precinct at the Community Building would remain open.

Mr. Deal stated that he would talk to Nancy Evans with the Board of Elections to be sure there are adequate polling booths for the Community Building location.

The Council agreed to the closing of the China Grove Middle School precinct.

III) Declaration of Surplus Property

Mr. Deal presented a list of surplus property that will either be sold or salvaged and asked for authorization.

Mr. Seaford made a motion to declare the listed items as surplus. Mr. Withers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

IV) Salisbury Rowan Utilities (SRU) Contract

Mr. Deal stated that the Town has been working with Salisbury-Rowan Utilities to transfer the water/sewer system to SRU. He stated that there was a conference called held with SRU along with the Town Attorney and himself to review the presented contract. He stated that the draft provided to the Council is what was given prior to yesterday's conference call. He stated that the revised draft will be given to the Council once they receive it from the attorney. He highlighted some of the major changes within a separate memo to the Council. He stated that he wanted to be sure that everything is in writing to prevent future issues.

Mayor Bringle stated that the sample contract is only for Council review this evening. He stated that there may be a need for a called meeting to adopt the contract.

Mr. Upright asked if any of the Council has received any feedback from the citizens.

Mayor Bringle stated that he has solicited feedback from citizens. He stated that some are completely unaware of the possible transfer. He stated some are for any change that will reduce their rates and others are against selling the system to Salisbury. He stated that he makes them aware that Salisbury basically owns the system and that it isn't fair to citizens to continue to take on this cost.

Mr. Deal stated that he was sure to have Salisbury agree that China Grove customers will be treated the same as all other customers within their system.

Mayor Bringle stated that customers will have to be informed of the reading difference from gallons to linear cubic feet.

Mr. Overcash stated that SRU wants to take over all of the water systems in Rowan County. He asked if Salisbury will recognize a problem with leaks.

Mr. Brooke stated that they will operate under the same policy as all customers under the SRU system.

Mayor Bringle stated that they do have a policy for leaks.

Mr. Deal stated that the City Council of Salisbury will also be under the same rate as any other customer in their system and it will affect their own personal rates as well.

Mr. Upright stated that once this happens there will be no turning back. He stated that he doesn't see any other way to handle this situation. He asked if there should be a citizen meeting held to get input from the residents.

Mayor Bringle stated that he is open to this option. He stated that he does not want to convey to the public that they are doing anything wrong, wants to remain transparent to the citizens. He stated that there will be a Public Hearing once this contract is open for adoption. He stated that the meeting might not be held until May.

Mayor Bringle stated that there will be mapping done and it seems as though the May meeting will be the time that the contract is approved. He asked that Mr. Deal keep them informed through the process.

OLD BUSINESS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Deal stated that they discussed May 5th, 10th and 19th as budget hearings at 5:30pm or time pleasurable to the Council.

Mayor Bringle set May 5th, May 10th and May 19th as budget hearing dates to start at 5:30pm.

Mr. Overcash stated that, thanks to Mr. Deal and town staff, the bathrooms and concession stands at the ball fields look brand new. He thanked them for getting them ready for the upcoming ball season. He stated that they have over 400 players and added teams this year to the program. He thanked the Town for what they did at the fields.

ADJOURN

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda A. Eller, Town Clerk

Donald E. Bringle, Mayor