

TOWN MANAGER
Ken Deal

TOWN CLERK
Amanda Eller

TOWN ATTORNEY
Tom Brooke



MAYOR
Don Bringle

TOWN COUNCIL
Brandon Linn
Ron Overcash
Charles Seaford
Mike Upright
Lee Withers

MINUTES
A regular meeting of the China Grove Town Council

Tuesday, November 1, 2011
7:00 p.m.

China Grove Town Hall
China Grove, North Carolina

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bringle called the meeting of November 1, 2011 to order and called roll. All council members were present with the exception of Mr. Mike Upright, who was excused. There was a quorum. The meeting started at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Mr. Withers made a motion to adopt the agenda for the regular meeting of the Town Council on November 1, 2011. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Withers made a motion to adopt the minutes from the regular meeting of the Town Council on October 4, 2011. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Bringle opened the Public Hearing for the Ordinance Amending Chapter 26, Article II. Nuisances, for citizen comments.

There were no comments.

Mayor Bringle closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Withers made a motion to approve the Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 26, Article II, Nuisances with the stipulation of a license plate needed be removed. Mr. Linn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

I) Resolution of Opposition to Consolidation of Judicial and Prosecutorial Districts

Mr. Deal stated that there was discussion from state about combining DA's office but caseload would be overwhelming. He stated that Rowan County is large enough that they need a separate DA and feels that it would be best for the Council to approve the resolution.

Mr. Brooke stated that a consolidation would be a disaster.

Mr. Seaford made a motion to approve the Resolution of Opposition to Consolidation of Judicial and Prosecutorial Districts. Mr. Withers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

II) Altec Industries Voluntary Annexation Rezoning Request

Mr. Deal stated Altec has requested to be annexed into the Town and he believes this will be a good move for China Grove.

Mr. Seaford stated that it has been worked out with Bostian Heights with what it will cost the Town.

Mr. Deal stated that Jeff has been in contact with them.

Mr. Linn made a motion to approve the rezoning request by Altec Industries. Mr. Withers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

I) Ordinance Amending Chapter 58, Section 11. Penalties for Violation

Mr. Brooke stated that he has been in contact with Chief Kluttz and they are looking for the Board to make a decision. He stated that most places just have a parking fine in citation form.

Mayor Bringle stated that this goes back to standard penalty of violation.

Mr. Brooke stated that they need to set the amount of the fine and decide if this is something that they would take to small claims court.

Mayor Bringle stated that this was tabled from last meeting, which was when the public hearing was held. He stated that they need somewhere to start so that the officers can begin to enforce this ordinance.

Mr. Deal stated that they don't have software to keep track of subsequent penalties. He said that there should be a set fee for each violation.

Mr. Withers stated that he would like to see some action taken. He stated that most owners know that there is a current fine of \$50 and they are not affected by the fee. He stated that warning tickets have been issued and he doesn't feel as though \$10 fines will be a deterrent.

Mr. Seaford asked how often they could be issued a ticket.

Officer Briggs stated that the parking regulations are in effect from 9-5 Mon-Fri and can be issued every two hours.

Mr. Withers made a motion to reduce current penalty to \$10 and if not paid within 30 calendar days to \$50, 60 days \$100, 90 to \$150 not to exceed \$150 per violation. Mr. Linn seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-1 with Mr. Overcash casting the opposing vote.

II) Resolution to close Jackson Street

Mr. Deal stated that this wasn't brought to the Council's attention to avoid doing work on someone else's property. He stated that he doesn't see anything that the Town would be responsible for. He stated that they wanted to know if it should be left as it or should they survey the property and divide the property among the surrounding homeowners. He said they can also send around a petition to the homeowners to petition the street to be closed.

Mayor Bringle asked about the fees associated with surveying the property, advertising the street closing, etc.

Mr. Deal stated that the most economical thing is to let it die and not take action or to allow the property owners to petition the Town to close the street.

There was no motion to accept this resolution. The resolution died for lack of motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Withers stated that Rowan County and City of Salisbury have adopted a joint policy stating their willingness to work with EDC. He read an email from Robert Van Geons that asked for the Town's support through a general statement that they can use on behalf of the Town in offering incentives to new businesses and development. He stated that Robert would be willing to come to the next meeting to provide information.

Mayor Bringle asked Ken to get with Robert to draft this letter to bring back to the Council at the December meeting.

Mayor Bringle stated that one week from this day is elections. He encouraged all to come out to vote.

Mayor Bringle stated that Veteran's Day is November 11th and Town offices will be closed.

Mayor Bringle stated that the SR Christmas parade will be held November 22 at 3:00pm.

Mayor Bringle wished a Happy Thanksgiving to staff, council and audience. He stated that Town offices will be closed November 24 and 25.

Mr. Withers stated that CGES now officially has a Student Council consisting of 3rd/4th/5th graders. They are asking for a way to ride in the parade. He stated that it would be neat to allow them to participate with the Council. He asked about the liability standpoint and asked if we could facilitate this, that it would be 9 students.

Jason with SRU was present to answer any questions if needed. Mayor Bringle stated that he has heard complaints about the FOG program. He stated that it is State and Federal mandated. Jason and the SRU staff have been in touch with all business owners who will need to be regulated.

ADJOURN

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda A. Eller, Town Clerk

Donald E. Bringle, Mayor