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

MINUTES
A regular meeting of the China Grove Town Council

Tuesday, January 7, 2014 — **China Grove Town Hall**
7:00 p.m. — **China Grove, North Carolina**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bringle called the meeting of January 7th, 2014 to order and called roll. All council members were present with the exception of Brandon Linn. There was a quorum. The meeting started at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Mayor Bringle led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States.

Mr. Withers made a motion to adopt the agenda with an addition under Other Business I) MPO Project. Mr. Upright seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Seaford made the motion to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Upright seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Barbara Doby – 805 N. Main Street

Mrs. Doby thanked the Town, on behalf of the Historical Society, for the beautiful event held downtown for Christmas that included buggy rides. She stated that she hopes this event will continue and be supported through the budget and by merchants.

Mayor Bringle thanked staff, the Historical Society, Barbara Doby & downtown merchants. He asked the Town Clerk to send thank you letters to the sponsors of this event. He also stated that the event was new but thought it was well-attended.

Mrs. Doby thanked the Town Council and stated that she looks for 2014 to be a great year for the Town and expressed her appreciation. Mrs. Doby offered up a prayer.

NEW BUSINESS

I) School Resource Officer Grant Request for China Grove Middle School

Mr. Deal stated that there are two options 1) assign a current officer to this position as a temporary solution to the two year grant project or 2) hire new personnel using the spare vehicle. He stated that if a current Reserve Officer is hired, there is a savings due to uniforms and equipment or the position can be advertised, which would incur more expense.

Mr. Upright asked for the recommendation of the Manager and Chief.

Chief Kluttz stated that if you appoint a current officer to this position, there is a savings of around $30,000 and if you hired, it would cost the Town around $1,500. He stated that this position will also cover the elementary school. He stated that his preference is to hire personnel for this position.

Mayor Bringle stated that in past grants, the Town has hired new personnel, and after 2-3 years, the Town then bears the burden of this position, along with the fringe benefits that go with this hire. He stated that the person in this position is the one who suffers, or the position is taken in as an added cost in the future. He stated that while it is a two-year program, he feels the program ends up costing the Town money. He also mentioned the previous situation with the County pulling funding resources in the past. He believes that the need is great in the schools, the Council needs to consider the burden of the costs several years down the road. He stated that he leans toward the recommendation of the Manager and Chief.

Mr. Deal stated that he believes we should accept the funding, try with an officer that we currently have, once the money runs out, then consider the position. He stated that the position could begin in February. He stated that after the end of the school year, the Chief could determine the need for the extra hire.

Chief Kluttz stated that this is a two-year grant. He stated that he respectfully disagrees and believes that an officer should be hired.

Mr. Stroud stated that agrees with Mr. Deal and that with a low Fund Balance, doesn’t believe that the position should be hired out. He stated that he would like to accept the grant and fill the position with a current employee.

Mr. Withers stated that he agrees that if during budget planning, that this position is not cut.

Mayor Bringle asked Mr. Deal and Chief Kluttz to determine the best solution with accepting the grant.

II) Community Project – Fire Department

Mr. Deal stated that Chief Gledhill is not present due to sickness. He stated that the Fire Department has planned to present ideas for a walking trail at the park on the mill hill.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Bringle reviewed the Financial Summary Report provided by Mrs. Bopp.

OTHER BUSINESS

I) MPO Project

Mr. Deal stated that the MPO is finalizing projects that are requesting funding from the NCDOT. He stated that at a previous meeting, sidewalks were discussed that would connect Patterson Street to South Rowan High School and then out to Kimball Road to the YMCA and Library and possibly out to Main Street. He stated that the project should be minimal to no cost to the Town. He stated that this is a NCDOT project that the Town would be requesting solely from the NCDOT. He stated that some of the properties are in the Town of Landis, who he said are also in support of the project. He stated that he will be providing a Resolution of Support and outline for the project at the February meeting.

II) Salisbury-Rowan Utilities Update

Mr. Behmer gave an update to the Council. He stated that around 1,772 meters were changed out and the project is complete for the residential portion. He stated that lids for the meters will be replaced as soon as possible based on a list that they have collected based on safety issues being of prime concern. He stated that it took about three hours to drive through to read the meters, when it used to take three days, and have received very little complaints about this project.

Mayor Bringle thanked Mr. Behmer and the company contracted to complete this project.

III) 125th Anniversary

Mr. Withers stated that he would like to schedule a meeting with the Historical Society and asked staff to schedule this meeting within 10-14 days.

Mayor Bringle asked that invitations be sent to all surrounding town and city government officials and local and state representatives.

Mayor Bringle asked Council to RSVP for the Rowan Municipal Association meeting.

Mayor Bringle asked the Council to consider a date for the budget retreat and send preference to either Mr. Deal or Mrs. Eller.

Mr. Deal stated that the garbage contract was negotiated with North Davidson Garbage for five years for $14,800. He stated that the previous contract was with Crash Morrison, Inc. for $17,000.

Mayor Bringle thanked Mrs. Eller for the Town Christmas Party.

Mr. Upright stated that he has worked with other municipalities concerning vacant properties. He stated that the Town should consider selling vacant properties that the Town owns.

Mr. Withers asked if the Council would like to setup a work-group with Time Warner Cable for hotspots downtown.

Mr. Deal stated that he is waiting to hear back from TWC.

Mrs. Eller introduced Mrs. Nancy Litton who is present due to an assignment with Leadership Rowan. Mrs. Litton is employed by Red Cross.

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**