

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, February 4th, 2014
7:00 p.m.

China Grove Town Hall
China Grove, North Carolina

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bringle called the meeting of February 4th, 2014 to order and called roll. All council members were present. 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.

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

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

CITIZEN COMMENT

Pete Kluttz – 908 Railroad Avenue

Mr. Kluttz stated that he would like to have the potholes repaired on Railroad Avenue and stated that it is in terrible shape. He thanked the Council.

NEW BUSINESS

I) Slow-Moving Vehicle Sign Request

Mr. Deal stated that it was requested of him to look at a signage request for slow-moving vehicles for intersections in Town. He stated that there are twenty five intersections and many options for the type sign that could be installed. He stated that he believes possibly \$1,500 has been paid toward permits for these type vehicles.

Mr. Upright asked how many registered vehicles there are at this time.

Mr. Deal stated that there are about nineteen vehicles.

Mr. Withers stated he had requested the signs and would like to see possibly five to six signs at certain entrances into Town for safety issues and advertisement of the program.

Mr. Upright asked for Chief Kluttz for his comments.

Chief Kluttz stated that he believes it would be advertisement, but should we install signs that restricts or tells everything about what we do in Town. He stated that there are questions asked and it could make people aware of the licensed LSV program. He stated that he does not believe this is necessarily a safety issue and just is not sure if this would generate more income or not. He stated that there are many entrances to the Town and would have to decide where to place them.

Mr. Brooke stated that there is not much liability issue.

Mr. Stroud stated that he feels it is clutter and that people do not pay attention enough as it is and does not feel that it is worth the expense.

Mr. Upright stated that if we were a location that had better weather year-round, he would see more purpose.

Mayor Bringle tabled this item for discussion at this point.

II) Approve/Deny the Ordinance for the Ban of All Tobacco Related Products in/on Town-Owned Buildings and Parks

Mr. Deal stated that this type policy/ordinance has been considered for quite a while. He stated that this would prohibit tobacco use in town-owned buildings and parks. He stated the employees are regulated under the Personnel Policy.

Mayor Bringle asked if there will be a place designated for employee and public use.

Mr. Deal stated again that the employees would be addressed under the Personnel Policy.

Mayor Bringle asked how this would be enforced and believes this is a confrontational policy. He stated that there are many forms of tobacco use that would be hard to enforce, especially at the Little League fields. He asked the opinion of Chief Kluttz.

Chief Kluttz stated that inside buildings is not an issue, he stated that the biggest problem would be the Little League.

Mr. Stroud stated that he feels this ordinance is a waste of time that will never be able to be enforced. He stated that he has never had anyone complain.

Mr. Upright requested to table the item until Mr. Brooke investigates if State Law covers Town-owned buildings.

Mr. Withers asked if they could consider the ordinance with a designated smoking area and Mr. Seaford agreed.

Mr. Upright requested to table this item.

Mr. Withers asked how long they plan to table this item.

Mayor Bringle tabled the item until further notice.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chief Kluttz stated that they are awaiting the school to give a date for interviews and should have someone in the school once someone is selected. He stated that they are ready to proceed with this program. He stated that this individual will be at both the middle school and elementary school. He stated that only China Grove officers are being considered for interview.

Mr. Deal stated that he has not received an update from Time Warner Cable.

Mr. Withers stated that he spoke concerning the “hot spots” and believes this is a sensitive item but has been in touch with a liaison/lobbyist with Time Warner Cable/Verizon and plans to meet with them soon with an update.

Mr. Upright asked for an update from Chief Gledhill about the community project that was presented last month.

Chief Gledhill stated that with the weather they have not been able to begin but hope to soon map out a walking trail at the park on the Mill Hill.

Mayor Bringle reviewed the Financial Report for Finance Director Mrs. Bopp.

Mrs. Barbara Doby provided an update on the 125th Anniversary Celebration to be held on March 8th, 2014. She stated that the celebration will begin at the Town Hall at 2:30pm. She asked how many of the Council knew that there is a time capsule in Town. She stated that there is one at the old Town Hall, now Police Department, and looks forward to the day that the

capsule will be open. She stated that she is very proud of the Council and staff and is thankful for the way business is being conducted. She stated that the celebration will take place in about four and a half weeks and is thankful for the past vision and where we have come since. She stated that after the celebration ceremony at the Town Hall, it will move to the Roller Mill for a program, tours, wagon rides and old fashioned weenie roast. She stated that she had prayed very hard before coming to the meeting tonight and is thankful for the respect toward each other. She also stated that she is representing the Historical Society and twenty-five years ago, the Historical Society was chartered, and believes it is possible because of the leadership of the Town and is thankful. She asked that they remember the forefathers that had a dream for the Town, First Baptist Church, and a vision that they love God and can grow together. She offered a prayer for the Town and Council. She reminded that they will be working with the businesses to bring them together with the Town Council.

Mr. Jason Wilson with SRU stated that everything is going well and are diligently working with customers during the cold weather and leaks that it has caused. He stated that typically there is a one-time adjustment allowed to the water/sewer bill if possible and in certain situations and they work with customers the best that they can.

Mayor Bringle thanked Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Withers spoke concerning the MPO funded the category was the greenway for Grant's Creek that connects to Landis. He stated that they have decided that no project will be 100% funded. He stated that they are requesting that the Council to pass a resolution of support that says the Town is open to leaving the project on the list with it not coming back to the Council for five to seven years down the road, or more, with the option to not participate in the project. He stated that this gives an understanding that the project can be considered at that time but they have the option to back out. He stated that the Town's share would be \$140,000 at the current time with the option of an 80/20 funding at a future date.

Mr. Withers stated that the funding for the Strategic Mobility Fund has come out. He stated that the project for the Old Beatty Ford Road interchange did not score very high on this study at 7.4. He stated that this is the four-way interchange funding to turn the bridge into an interchange. He stated that he has been in touch with Senator Hudson's office and plans to travel with an MPO representative to present this project for support and federal funding. He stated that this project is around \$10 million.

Mr. Withers made a motion to celebrate the Town of China Grove's 125th Celebration on March 8th, 2014. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mayor Bringle excused the audience for Closed Session for personnel matters.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Withers made a motion to go into Closed Session. Mr. Upright seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mayor Bringle brought the Council out of Closed Session.

There was no action taken.

Mayor Bringle requested an action plan from Mr. Deal to provide a monthly update to the Council to keep them up-to-date as a group for clear direction as much as possible.

Mr. Upright clarified that this would be a Council suggested plan that would be updated each month and could be resolved and removed at each monthly meeting.

Mayor Bringle addressed the roofing issues and reminded that the metal roof has been repaired many times and is still in disrepair. He stated that we have received a quote for repairing and/or replacing the roof. He stated that the roof needs to be repaired to protect the investment of the Town Hall/Fire Department remodel. He requested the Town Manager to receive bids for replacement of the roof.

Mr. Deal stated that there are so many fractures and cracks in the roof it makes it hard to track where leaks are coming from. He stated that the skylights would be removed.

Mayor Bringle stated that the EPDM roof is a good roof but a TPO roof is cheaper and is a rubber membrane that is good for southern areas and should be at least ten percent cheaper.

Mr. Deal stated that there should be a 15 year warranty on the roof.

Mr. Linn stated that he was a roofing manager and believes, as well, that the TPO roof is a good option.

Mayor Bringle stated that the Council needs to consider where the funds will be coming from and direction needs to be given as to where to take the money from.

Mr. Deal stated that he doesn't want to take money from the current budget and should consider using funds from Reserve Fund Balance.

Mr. Withers stated that Mr. Deal has identified properties that the Town owns and the Council should consider these sitting properties as potential revenue generators. He would like the Council to give direction on these properties at the Budget Retreat.

ADJOURN

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda A. Eller, Town Clerk

Donald E. Bringle, Mayor