

REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2006

The regular meeting of the Hope Mills Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Dees. Commissioners Luther, Legge, Gorman, Smith, and Collins were present.

Others present were Town Manager Roy Taylor, Town Attorney William R. Davis, Public Works Director Bruce McLaurin, Finance Director David Stafford, Parks and Recreation Director Anita Kilgore, Police Chief John Hodges, Fire Chief Chuck Hodges, Police Captain John Smith, and Natasha McCants Deputy Town Clerk.

Gary Plewes, Camden Christian Fellowship, gave the invocation and Commissioner Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA.

There were none.

2. STATUS REPORT ON HOPE MILLS LAKE/DAM PROJECT.

Mr. Taylor reported he expected to hear from the Office of Dam Safety sometime between April 7-21 regarding the 30-45 day review period for the permit application. Mr. Taylor said if any Board Member had any interest in hand delivering the permit to the Corps of Engineers in Wilmington, he did not see any objections to that at this time.

Mayor Dees remarked he would like to hand deliver the permit to Wilmington to let the Corps of Engineers know how serious the Town was regarding this project.

Mayor Dees asked if there was anyone present wishing to comment or ask questions on the project, and there being none, this portion of the agenda was closed.

3. STATUS REPORT ON RECREATION CENTER.

Mr. Taylor presented and briefly reviewed the minutes of the February 21, 2006 construction update meeting. Mr. Taylor reported the project was still on track, and addressed some of the concerns at this time. He stated staff had asked that keyed or tamper-resistant switches for gym equipment and light fixtures be installed if they were accessible by the general public and also asked that some rough areas now exposed on the brick columns be addressed. In addition, Mr. Taylor reported the Town had made application to Piedmont Natural Gas to extend their main line from Rockfish Road at Rockfish Elementary School to the Municipal Complex to serve this structure and all other town facilities. He stated construction of the supply line was expected to occur around the middle of April which would require boring under Rockfish Road. Mr. Taylor stated once the lines were installed and complete, existing above ground tanks would be removed from the premises. Mr. Taylor noted since the town was a current customer and the recreation center required natural gas, Piedmont would make this installation at no cost to the town and would also provide the town with a detailed map of their supply lines for future reference.

Mr. Taylor reported roofing and steel members had been delivered to the site and it was anticipated the steel would be erected during the week and possibly into the next week as well. In addition, Mr. Taylor reminded any Board members wishing to visit the site to feel free to do so, but must first report to the site superintendent's office to be issued a hard hat during the visit. Mr. Taylor reported the next construction meeting was scheduled for April 18th, and staff invited any Board Member to sit in on any of these meetings.

Commissioner Luther raised concerns regarding matching and weaving shingles. In response to questions, Mr. Taylor stated the building was constructed in 1983 and was re-roofed in 2000-2001. Commissioner Luther expressed concerns this should have been included in the contract documents and the shingles should not have to be matched or woven in. Mr. Taylor said the architect was confident this would be a consistent weave and match.

Commissioner Legge remarked the tamper proof switches should have been required in the

REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2006

original contract documents. Mr. Taylor said this was an oversight but it was necessary so that no one would tamper with the switches. Commissioner Legge said these should be tamper proof.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Michael Mitchell, 5411 Thompson Circle, stated he was a Fayetteville CPA, and would like to invite everyone to a press conference on April 15th, 2:00 p.m., at the lake gazebo, to introduce the Friends of Hope Mills Lake, Inc. Mr. Mitchell said the citizens group had been incorporated March 17th in support of the lake and adjacent park area. He stated the purpose of the group was to restore and preserve the lake. Mr. Mitchell said there would be several speakers, and invited the Town Board to attend and asked that they contact Lisa Waring with their response.

Mayor Dees remarked that additional information on this organization such as purpose, plans how to use these efforts for the betterment of the community and its future plans, would be shared at the press conference.

Alexis Board, 4347 Dominique Street, reported the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council met on April 2nd and elected officers. She stated the members of the Youth Council wanted to get involved in the Town, and would be participating in the Easter Festival on April 8th. Ms. Board stated the Youth Council wanted to make the Town proud of them.

Dan DeCriscio, 3604 Crampton Road, addressed the Board to follow up on his February 21st request for funding for the Hope Mills Sunshine Center. Mr. DeCriscio commented regarding a recent newspaper article on the Hope Mills Senior Citizens Club, and reiterated he felt the Town would be better served to fund only the two established senior centers, Hope Mills Sunshine Center and the Sycamore Tree Center.

Mayor Dees remarked the Board would take these comments under advisement during the budget consideration.

5. MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS:

a) MS Walk - April 22, 2006.

Mayor Dees remarked that Multiple Sclerosis was a subject near to his heart as two of his best friends had MS.

Mayor Dees read and presented the proclamation to Mrs. Pam Ray. Mayor Dees called upon all the citizens to make the fight against MS a personal one by making donations and participating in the MS Walk as there were many persons in the community who lived with MS, and further stated now was the time to walk and fund the mission to end the devastating effects of MS and that together, everyone could make a difference.

Mayor Dees presented Mrs. Ray with the MS Ribbon of Hope. He stated because Multiple Sclerosis impacted people's lives in vastly different ways and its debilitating symptoms were often unseen, the National MS Society had created the MS Ribbon of Hope. He stated as the prism ribbon seemed to change color when it reflected light, so it symbolized the unpredictable life altering effects MS had on people's lives. Further, Mayor Dees reported the ribbon was also symbolic of the hope the MS Society provided as those diagnosed with MS pressed forward toward the goal to end the devastating effects of MS forever.

b) Volunteer Week - April 23-29, 2006.

Mayor Dees read the proclamation and urged all citizens to recognize the valuable contributions made by volunteers and to participate in and support their various programs and projects. Mayor Dees commended the countless area volunteers for their faithful service to the Town of Hope Mills. Mayor Dees remarked the Town could not do everything that it did without the help of volunteers. Further, Mayor Dees stated a letter had been prepared to send to all the volunteers along with a copy of the proclamation.

REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2006

6. SPECIAL RECOGNITION - FORMER MAYORS PORTRAIT DISPLAY.

Mayor Dees remarked this had been an ongoing project over the past 15 years, and former Mayor Edwin Deaver had been very successful in obtaining most of the pictures which were now displayed. Mayor Dees reported that Mr. Deaver could not be present at the meeting due to a prior commitment with the Rotary Club. Mayor Dees expressed appreciation to Mr. Deaver for his work on this project. Mayor Dees stated the goal was to have all pictures of former mayors displayed, but at this time it was decided to display what had been obtained. Mayor Dees invited all former mayors present and their families to stand and be recognized.

Mayor Dees read the names and dates of service for the photos displayed:

Simeon Cotton, Mayor, 1891; Bert Jones, Mayor, 1927-1929; E. N. Brower, Mayor, 1939-1943, 1945-1947; L. C. "Buck" Bullard, Mayor, 1943-1945; John T. Henley, Mayor, 1947-1953; Ralph J. Deaver, Mayor, 1953-1959; James A. Gray, Mayor, 1959-1965; McKinley "Macky" Hall, Mayor, 1965-1969; Alfred N. Brafford, Mayor, 1969-1971, 1983-1992; William F. "Bill" Luther, Mayor, 1971-1973; J. Fulton West, Mayor, 1973-1979; Edward L. Herring, Mayor, 1979-1981; R. E. "Ed" Anglin, Mayor, 1981-1983; Edwin S. Deaver, Mayor, 1991-2005

7. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2006 REGULAR MEETING.

Commissioner Luther made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Gorman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

8. CONSIDERATION TO ACCEPT PROGRESS ENERGY EASEMENT AT LAKE #2 SITE.

Mr. Taylor reported that Progress Energy was responding to a need by the Public Works Commission to make needed upgrades to the sewer lift station located on Calico Street. He stated the existing station would be replaced with a 30 foot lift station that required phase three power to operate, and the existing lift station and scrubber system had posed problems for residents in the vicinity for several years. Mr. Taylor stated Progress Energy proposed to piggy back along the existing 30 foot PWC sewer easement that traversed town owned property at the lake #2 site. Mr. Taylor provided a map of the area for review and the easement agreement. He stated there would be very little clearing of brush required to install the utility because it followed the existing sewer easement, and all costs would be born by Progress Energy for the power installation. Mr. Taylor recommended the Board approve the easement proposal as this was a direct benefit to the citizens that reside in the area.

Commissioner Legge made a motion to adopt the easement agreement. Commissioner Collins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the easement is filed in the Book of Easements in the Town Clerk's Office.

9. OLD BUSINESS:

- a) Consideration to approve Website Contract with Fayetteville Publishing Company.

Mr. Taylor presented the proposed contract between the Town and Fayetteville Publishing Company for the website development. Mr. Taylor stated the contract had been prepared by Attorney Davis and the content of the contract was in keeping with the arrangements made between Mayor Dees and Mr. John Bius, Online Manager for the Fayetteville Observer. Mr. Taylor recommended the Board approve the contract so that the Town could proceed with the construction and development of the website as soon as practical.

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve the website contract. Commissioner Smith seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2006

A copy of the contract is filed in the Book of Contracts in the Town Clerk's Office.

b) Consideration to approve grant-in-aid appropriation for fencing MacRae Cemetery, South Main Development.

Mr. Taylor reported the Department of Cultural Resources had granted the Town a \$14,000 grant to provide for Historic Preservation. He stated the Department needed the Town's response so they could enter into a contract with the Town to process the award. Mr. Taylor stated if it was the consensus of the Board to erect a fence around the MacRae Cemetery, located at the end of Edward Maynor Drive in the South Main Development, as this had been determined to be an acceptable use of these funds. Mr. Taylor stated because this was purported to be one of the oldest cemeteries within Hope Mills, it was certainly deserving of preservation. Further, Mr. Taylor indicated he did not believe that vandalism would be an issue any longer because of the neighbors that resided nearby. Mr. Taylor briefly reviewed the proposal to provide an estimate for the installation of a cast iron fence. Mr. Taylor did note there would be a 20 foot opening at the front and rear of the cemetery to allow access through the cemetery to the Big Rockfish Creek. He indicated this would prevent people from trespassing across the property of others, and each cul-de-sac in the development was designed with a 20 foot access to the creek. Mr. Taylor stated the total cost of the installation would be \$14,098.32, and recommended the Board approve this grant in aid appropriation for this purpose, and adopt budget amendment No. 08-2006.

Commissioner Luther expressed concerns regarding leaving two openings in the cemetery as she felt this would encourage people to possibly vandalize the area and asked if there was another access to the creek besides a walk through the cemetery.

Mayor Dees remarked that visitors could walk around either side of the cemetery to get to the creek, and if gates were placed, he felt this would discourage access to the creek. Mayor Dees remarked he could not see this situation encouraging vandalism of the cemetery.

Mr. Taylor stated that originally the bids came in high and one of the reasons for not having gates was to lower the price, as well as not having gates would encourage trespassing on residential property. Mr. Taylor noted there were other accesses provided on the cul-de-sacs to the creek. Mayor Dees said hopefully there would be no problems with vandalism as this should be curtailed by the neighbors.

Commissioner Luther said she realized fencing the cemetery would be with grant money, but she could not see having a back gate as she felt this would encourage vandalism. Mayor Dees noted if gates were required then this would have to be funded by the Town. Commissioner Luther suggested closing the back side entrance to the creek as she felt the cemetery was a sacred place for loved ones.

Mr. Taylor noted the fence around the cemetery would actually be \$13,176 plus taxes, and the remaining \$824.00 would be used to erect a sign at the entrance of the cemetery. He noted the \$14,000 revenue would be recorded in the general fund and the expenditures would be reported as a capital outlay land improvement in the Parks and Recreation budget for fiscal year 05-06.

Mayor Dees stated it was his understanding the Board must approve expenditure of this money or the state would take back the funding.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the grant for fencing the cemetery and adoption of the budget amendment. Commissioner Gorman seconded the motion.

Commissioner Luther stated she would abstain.

Following brief discussion, Mayor Dees called for the vote on the motion, and stated the motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0. Mayor Dees noted that abstaining from voting was the same as a yes vote.

10. **INFORMATION ITEM: LEASE/RENTAL OF TOWN HALL OFFICE SPACE.**

REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2006

Mr. Taylor stated since Bragg Mutual Credit Union would vacate the premises at the end of April he thought it was important to inform the Board of some of the conversations staff had regarding future leasing of the space. He noted at this time staff did not have any definite plans to use the space, however, that could always change and at this point he wanted to inform the Board of how they could proceed if they chose to solicit this space for another tenant in the future.

Commissioner Gorman asked if there were any tenants in mind for the office space at this time. Mayor Dees remarked that the Board needed to decide if it wanted to advertise for tenants, or did it want to maintain the office space for future expansion. Commissioner Legge remarked he thought this area would be ideal to locate the Inspections and Planning Departments as it would have great public access. Mr. Taylor remarked this would be an ideal location for this type of use. In response to a question from Commissioner Legge, Mr. Taylor stated the Town Hall had zero growth, and the area would be very useful for large maps. He noted that probably it would be one year down the road before the area could be utilized, but this would be a very good work center. Mr. Taylor said there was a need for use of this area by town staff, and it may be advisable to keep the property vacant unless someone brought a very good offer to the table.

Mr. Stafford noted the Town would be losing revenue by not renting this property, and it would basically be taking \$12,000 from the budget.

Mayor Dees stated he would hate to see the Town enter into a long term lease for this office space. Commissioner Smith noted that this type of office space should rent between \$1,500 to \$1,800 a month, and if advertised, the Town should ask \$1,800 a month as he felt it was wise to rent the property out and it was well worth \$1,800.00 a month.

Commissioner Legge stated he agreed if the property was rented out it should be rented for the maximum rent. Commissioner Smith asked how many municipalities actually rented office space.

Following brief discussion, Commissioner Collins made a motion to seek a tenant for one year at \$1,800.00 a month with a \$1,500.00 minimum.

Mayor Dees said it should be noted that this included utilities, and Mr. Stafford stated that the Town did not pay for the burglar alarm in this area.

Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

Additional discussion ensued, and Mayor Dees stated he did not know of anyone who rented who did not pay their own utilities. Commissioner Collins stated the contract could be renegotiated after one year, and it should be noted the tenant would pay for the alarm system and cleaning the area.

Following additional discussion, **Commissioner Collins amended his motion to include the stated terms, and Commissioner Smith concurred. The motion carried unanimously.**

11. STAFF CONCERNS.

Mr. Taylor commented as follows:

1. Reminded the Board that dates and times were needed for budget work sessions; reviewed the tentative budget calendar, and reported letters had been sent to outside agencies requesting funding. Mr. Taylor suggested the budget workshop be set sometime between April 19-21.

Commissioner Legge made a motion to set a budget workshop, April 19, 7:00 p.m., in the Luther Board Meeting Room. Commissioner Gorman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2006

2. Mr. Taylor reported he would summarize the Recreation Center Agreement with the County for the Board and provide this information.
3. Stated he would provide a summary of the tax rate budget survey, and the storm water rate surveys and provide this information to the Board before the budget workshop.

12. OFFICIAL CONCERNS.

Commissioner Luther commented as follows:

1. On behalf of the former Mayors and families, expressed appreciation for the display of the former Mayors pictures. She said this was a very nice display and felt the families were very proud and it added a lot to the meeting room.
2. Stated she appreciated everyone's attendance and encouraged citizens to contact her with any suggestions and input.

Commissioner Smith commented as follows:

1. Thanked Mr. Plewes for bringing the invocation; thanked those that spoke under public comments.
2. Thanked Mrs. Ray for being present and accepting the proclamation and stated he attended church with Mrs. Ray and she was a very inspiring lady.
3. Thanked all the town volunteers for their hard work.
4. Congratulated all the former Mayors and their families and expressed appreciation for their attendance.

Commissioner Gorman commented as follows:

1. Expressed appreciation to everyone attending the meeting, for the past Mayors present, appreciation to all the volunteers, and appreciation to Mrs. Ray for attending the meeting.
2. Asked if there was any way the Town would report fire and police calls possibly through the Saturday Extra, giving the number of calls or the type of calls because there were a lot of things that happened in Town that the people would like to know about.

Mr. Taylor reported that the public safety departments issued monthly reports to the Manager.

Commissioner Gorman said he felt the citizens needed to know the activities of these departments and felt the citizens would like to see this information as well.

3. Expressed appreciation for everyone attending the meeting.
4. Stated he was glad to see the Mayor's Youth Council getting active and he was glad to see participation from neighboring schools on the committee as well.
5. Stated he was glad to see Mr. Mitchell and Friends Of The Lake group getting started and felt there was a lot of good that could come from these efforts.
6. Said he would be chaperoning the South View High School band students to Florida next week.

REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2006

Commissioner Legge commented as follows:

1. Thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
2. Stated the pictures of the former Mayors was a great project, and complimented Mayor Dees on the success of this project.
3. Thanked the citizens for their public comments.
4. Commended the outstanding job by the Police Department on helping with a problem of ATV's in his neighborhood.
5. Gave a \$50.00 donation to Mrs. Ray for the MS walk.

Commissioner Collins commented as follows:

1. Stated he was pleased with the Friends Of The Lake group and was glad to see the press conference and was excited about what was going to happen.
2. Stated it was good to see Alexis Board at the Board meeting.
3. Asked Mrs. Kilgore to give information on the Easter Festival.

Mrs. Kilgore stated the Easter Festival would be Saturday, April 8th, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., on Ballfield No. 1, and said she appreciated the help from the Mayor's Youth Council, the Chamber of Commerce, and Kiwanis, both of whom had helped sponsor the event this year.

4. Stated he appreciated Mr. DeCriscio's information on the senior citizen centers.
5. Congratulated all former Mayors for the fine job they had done for the Town through the years.
6. Stated he appreciated everyone attending the meeting.

Mayor Dees commented as follows:

1. Stated he appreciated everyone's attendance especially the former Mayors and their families.
2. Stated that Litter Sweep would be on Saturday, April 29th, and that 10 to 12 streets had been adopted. Mayor Dees reported that the Governing Body had adopted Rockfish Road from the town limits to the bottom of the hill.
3. Stated that the Mayor's Youth Council had adopted a portion of Main Street, Friends Of The Lake, and the South View High School softball team had also adopted a portion of Main Street, and basically all of Main Street was covered.
4. Said it was great to have volunteers and concerned citizens involved in the community. He stated he was especially excited about the Friends Of The Lake organization, and stated that he felt this would be a great time for all citizens to come together for a common cause.
5. Expressed appreciation to all the Town's volunteers, and especially the Mayor's Youth Council, and stated he knew they would not let him down.
6. Stated that he would be out of town a few days next week.
7. Thanked the Clerk, Staff, and Commissioners for all their help and support, and stated he felt that the Town was headed in the right direction.

REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2006

Commissioner Luther commented as follows:

1. Stated she was at a meeting on Saturday and spoke to someone who said if they won the lottery, they would donate half of the winnings to the lake restoration project.
2. Stated she was recently looking at a home video made in 1998 while she and Mr. Luther were attending a National League of Cities Conference in Boston, and with all the beauty that was shown in the video, Mr. Luther had commented it could not compare to Hope Mills Lake.

13. ADJOURNMENT.

At 8:40 p.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Luther, seconded by Commissioner Legge and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

EDDIE DEES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Phyllis C. Register, MMC, Town Clerk