

REGULAR MEETING, MONDAY, MAY 1, 2006

The regular meeting of the Hope Mills Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Bob Gorman. Commissioners Luther, Smith, Legge, and Collins were present. Mayor Eddie Dees was absent due to a prior commitment.

Commissioner Legge made a motion to excuse Mayor Dees from the meeting. Commissioner Collins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Police Chief John Hodges gave the invocation, and Mayor Pro Tem Gorman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS, ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA.

There were none.

2. MAYORAL PROCLAMATIONS:

a) Older Americans Month - May, 2006.

Mayor Pro Tem Gorman read the proclamation and presented copies to Ms. Pat Edwards, Director of the Sunshine Center, Ms. Paula Hamilton, Director of the Sycamore Tree Center, and Ms. Rveda Faulkner, President, Hope Mills Senior Citizens.

Mayor Pro Tem Gorman urged all citizens to pay special tribute to our Older Americans, the community treasures, for their contributions to the Town.

b) **Read To A Child Day - May 4, 2006.**

Mayor Pro Tem Gorman read the proclamation, and stated a copy would be presented to Mr. Steve Blackmon, a local news reporter for WFNC Radio. Mayor Pro Tem Gorman urged all residents to celebrate the joy of reading by reading to a child on that day.

c) **Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week - May 14-20, 2006.**

Mayor Pro Tem Gorman read and presented the proclamation to Police Chief John Hodges. Mayor Pro Tem Gorman called upon all citizens to honor and show sincere appreciation for the Hope Mills Police Officers.

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

Mr. Taylor distributed an April 24, 2006 update from the Office of Dam Safety. He reported that Dam Safety had spent 50 days conducting the permit application review for the spillway design plan. Mr. Taylor stated any questions relating to the drawings and specifications had been directed to the Town's engineers to be revised and or included on the plans for review. Mr. Taylor said Mr. Tim Labounty, Project Manager, would prepare responses, revise the plans, and resubmit all requested revisions to Dam Safety. Mr. Taylor noted Mr. Labounty would be able to consult with the Office of Dam Safety at the time plans were resubmitted to their office in the interest of saving time. He stated he would keep the Board advised of the outcome of the review when the information was made available.

On another matter, Mr. Taylor provided copies of a letter from the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources regarding the erosion control plan. He commented the letter stated the soil erosion and sediment control plan developed by the Town's engineers was received on April 13th and the fee for their review (\$400.00) was received by that office on April 10th. Mr. Taylor noted the 30 day review period for this part of plan design should

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have begun on April 10th, and DENR approval or disapproval was expected by May 10th. Mr. Taylor noted there were some items listed in the correspondence that would be addressed by the Town's engineers within the 30 day review period. Mr. Taylor said once land quality section was satisfied with the additional information provided to them, they would issue the erosion control permit. Mr. Taylor commented he did not see any additional information required as a great problem for the Town's engineers to address, and these erosion control measures were fairly straight forward and easy to accomplish.

Mayor Pro Tem Gorman remarked it was customary to give the citizens an opportunity for questions or comments, and opened the floor for public participation.

John Henley, 3651 Lakeshore Drive, addressed the Board concerning the delays on the project. He asked if anyone had contacted the Office of Dam Safety and determined why there had been so many delays. Mr. Henley stated the project had been set aside long enough, and the Town should not sit back another three years.

4. STATUS REPORT ON RECREATION CENTER.

Mr. Taylor reported the Recreation Center was on schedule and the contractor was working on the roofing system, the round porticos, and the steel construction of the roof. Mr. Taylor said this part of the project was slow going work.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

Mayor Pro Tem Gorman presented the consent agenda and asked if there were any items the Board wished moved to the regular agenda for additional discussion.

Commissioner Legge made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

A) **Consideration to approve Minutes of the April 17, 2006 Regular Meeting.**

Minutes approved as written.

B) **Consideration to approve travel over five days for Police Chief John Hodges, NC Police Executives Association meeting, Atlantic Beach, July 22-27, 2006.**

Mr. Taylor presented a request from Police Chief Hodges requesting to attend the North Carolina Police Executives Association meeting in Atlantic Beach from Saturday, July 22, through Thursday, July 27, 2006. Mr. Taylor reported it was Town policy that any travel over five days must be approved by the Board of Commissioners, and since this travel was within the current budget, he recommended the Board approve this request as submitted.

Travel approved.

“END CONSENT AGENDA”

6. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE SLATE'S COMPUTER CONSULTING NETWORK MAINTENANCE PROPOSAL FOR ALL IT SYSTEMS INCLUDING MAINTAINING NEW WEBSITE.

Mr. Taylor reported in keeping with the desire of the Board to maintain a new website, and to maintain computers and servers that provide the Town's information technology, he would propose the Board's consideration of the proposed Slate's Computer Consulting Network Maintenance Proposal. Mr. Taylor stated Slate's Computer Consulting had prepared the proposal for services and support for all IT systems owned or operated by the Town, and the proposed fee for this service would be \$18,200.00 per year. He stated if the Board approved the proposal, it would include the month of June and would also begin the next fiscal year. Mr. Taylor stated approval of the proposal

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would save a great deal of staff time that was now devoted to maintenance, thereby saving money, and allowing staff to carry on with their primary responsibilities. He stated Mr. Jim Slate had been working with Town staff for quite some time and his services were much appreciated by the staff, and further he was familiar with the Town's systems and extremely knowledgeable in his work. Additionally, Mr. Taylor stated the proposal presented an alternative to actually hiring an IT professional. He noted to hire someone with Mr. Slate's abilities would start in the \$40,000.00 salary range and higher, not including fringe benefits. Mr. Taylor said he thought this was a better alternative to accomplish the goal of keeping the systems operational and updated, and recommended the Board approve the proposal effective June 1, 2006 renewable on an annual basis.

In response to a question from Commissioner Legge, Mr. Taylor briefly explained the technology and software training section of the proposal and stated this would be all inclusive.

Mayor Pro Tem Gorman commented he hoped when the Town received all the new computers that everyone would be updated. Mr. Taylor stated the objective was to have the configuration as consistent as possible as the Town had a hodgepodge arrangement now.

In response to a question from Commissioner Luther, Mr. Taylor stated Mr. Slate was in the Town often and checked in frequently to make sure everything was up and running. Commissioner Luther remarked she supported maintenance contracts on equipment.

Commissioner Collins said the computers were unreliable at the Police Department and not compatible with other computers. He asked if there was anything that could be done about this in the current year.

Mr. Taylor remarked the computers definitely needed to be replaced, and he and Mr. Stafford were reviewing all systems to see if any could be outfitted for the offices and to better bring the work areas up to speed. Commissioner Collins stated he thought it was important to develop a plan to make all the computers compatible.

Mr. Stafford reported the computer system for the Police Department was bought in 2000, and briefly explained all software the Police Department used. Mr. Stafford said since 1999 he had done in house computer services, and further, the computers in Town Hall were purchased in 1998 but actually installed in 1999 and the operating system was very old and the systems were failing. Mr. Stafford stated Mr. Slate was very dependable and helped tremendously. Commissioner Collins stated there was a lot of down time at the Police Department, and Mr. Stafford said there was down time in the Town Hall as well.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the emergency services section of the contract. Mr. Stafford stated Mr. Slate would not do anything to cost the Town any more money.

Commissioner Smith commented the Town could not afford an IT position, and stated \$35.00 per hour was a very good rate.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Network Maintenance Proposal with Slate's Computer Consulting. Commissioner Legge seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the proposal is on file in the Book of Agreements in the Town Clerk's Office.

7. CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT REGIONAL LAND USE ADVISORY COMMISSION RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVE A \$35,000 APPROPRIATION TO SUPPORT THE RLUAC BUDGET.

Mr. Taylor reported Hope Mills was an active participant in the Regional Land Use Advisory Commission both by membership and annual dues. Mr. Taylor stated the Commission was established to protect the military installation boundaries from development encroachments that inhibit the mission of Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base. He stated the Commission was seeking additional funding on an annual basis from the North Carolina General Assembly in furtherance of

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this goal, and recommended the Town adopt the resolution requesting the North Carolina General Assembly to approve an annual and reoccurring appropriation of \$35,000 to support the RLUAC budget.

Commissioner Luther stated this was a very important committee and the Fort Bragg area must be protected. She stated the troops need areas for training, and the surrounding member counties of this organization wanted to protect Fort Bragg as well. Commissioner Luther commented regarding the All American Trail which recently opened and said when completed, it would be 70 miles long and would touch all surrounding counties.

Commissioner Luther made a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Collins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**TOWN OF HOPE MILLS
RESOLUTION SEEKING NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL
ASSEMBLY FUNDING FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE FORT
BRAGG/POPE AIR FORCE BASE REGIONAL LAND USE
ADVISORY COMMISSION (RLUAC)**

WHEREAS, the Fort Bragg / Pope Air Force Base Regional Land Use Advisory Commission (RLUAC) was organized in 1991 for the purpose of balancing the need to protect the military training areas from incompatible urban development, the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem from destruction, and the safety of the civilian population living near the bases;

WHEREAS, for nearly fifteen years RLUAC has been very successful in raising the public awareness of these important issues and encouraging sustainable land use practices;

WHEREAS, to become a permanent influence in the Fort Bragg region, RLUAC incorporated in September 2004 and achieved tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) corporation in February 2006;

WHEREAS, since RLUAC's membership is limited to Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base, seven counties, and eleven municipalities, its opportunities to raise funding in support its budget are very limited (local government dues only generate approximately \$11,000. Annually);

WHEREAS, RLUAC's modest budget obligations cannot be met without an annual appropriation from the North Caroling State Budget;

WHEREAS, the Town of Hope Mills is a member of RLUAC and supports its mission, as stated in the adopted Bylaws;

WHEREAS, the Town of Hope Mills intends to continue financially supporting RLUAC with its own annual payment of membership dues.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Hope Mills formally requests the North Carolina General Assembly to approve an annual and reoccurring appropriation of \$35,000.00 to support the RLUAC budget.

ADOPTED this ^{1st} day of May, 2006.

EDDIE DEES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Phyllis C. Register, MMC, Town Clerk

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8. OLD BUSINESS:

- a) Consideration to approve \$14,762.50 Sprint proposal for Recreation Center internal wiring for telephone and data equipment (tabled from April 17, 2006 meeting).

Mr. Taylor said as previously reported at the April 17, 2006 meeting the proposal was not part of the construction bid, but was included in the overall price package of the recreation center. He said since the Sprint proposal was through State contract as the provider, and the construction of the recreation center had taken this installation into account with provision of conduits, etc., it was necessary to move forward so the contractor will have plenty of notice that the installation could occur on or before July 10, 2006 as outlined in the construction schedule. Mr. Taylor pointed out the proposal was nearly one year old as it was prepared at the time plans were being finalized for the final design of the structure. He stated costs of materials and labor had increased, but Sprint was willing to honor this quote regardless. Mr. Taylor said approval of this proposal was needed in order that Sprint could move forward with ordering the materials and equipment so the installation would not interrupt the construction schedule. Mr. Taylor recommended the Board authorize this installation in the amount of \$14,762.50, not including sales tax.

In addition, Mr. Taylor stated the one year warranty would be effective with the certificate of occupancy of the building.

Commissioner Legge commented he felt comfortable that all his questions had now been answered.

Commissioner Collins remarked he attended the last construction meeting and all of his questions had been answered as well. He expressed appreciation to Mr. Stafford for his assistance.

Commissioner Luther stated all her items of concern had been researched and all questions had been answered.

Commissioner Legge made a motion to approve the Sprint Proposal to serve the Hope Mills Recreation Center, \$14,762.50. Commissioner Smith seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the Sprint Proposal is filed in the Book of Agreements in the Town Clerk's Office.

9. STAFF CONCERNS.

Mr. Taylor distributed a copy of the letter received from the North Carolina Department of Transportation regarding the 4th of July Parade. He stated basically the letter was not a denial of the parade route, but was merely a recommendation to conduct the parade along Rockfish Road instead of Main Street. Mr. Taylor stated a consensus of the Board was being requested to start the parade at Hope Mills Middle School down Cameron Road to Main Street to the Municipal Complex as had been done in the past.

Commissioner Legge commented he did not want to break tradition.

It was Board consensus that the July 4th Parade be along the Main Street route.

Parks and Recreation Director Kilgore reported that Saturday, April 29, was the Spring Litter Sweep. She expressed appreciation to everyone who participated in this event, and said there were approximately 40 people who helped and it was a great turnout and everyone did a great job. Mrs. Kilgore noted that the following groups participated in the Litter Sweep:

Mayor and Commissioners; Cub Scout Troop 725; Appearance Commission; SGA; Friends of The Lake; Mayor's Youth Council; Camden Christian Fellowship; and South View High School girls softball team.

10. OFFICIAL CONCERNS.

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Commissioner Legge commented as follows:

1. Thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
2. Thanked everyone who helped with the Litter Sweep clean up on Saturday; said this was a big success.
3. Stated the Board needed prayer for its leadership and direction of the Town.

Commissioner Collins commented as follows:

1. Thanked all the Senior Citizen Directors and members for being present; expressed appreciation to all the Senior Citizens for everything they did for the Town.
2. Stated the Hope Mills Youth Association Opening Day was a great event and well attended.
3. Requested a date from the Police Chief for the Police Officers ceremony at the county and state level.

Chief Hodges responded the Cumberland County Ceremony would be on May 10th, and the State Ceremony would be at Duke Chapel on May 23rd.

4. Stated he had always loved the 4th of July parade, but his concern was that no one should be allowed to throw any candy from any vehicle.
5. Stated the Friends of The Lake was doing a great job.

Commissioner Luther commented as follows:

1. Thanked all the Senior Citizens and their Leaders for coming to the Board meeting.
2. Reminded everyone Thursday, May 4th, was the National Day of Prayer with an event at the Town Hall near the flag pole.
3. Thanked the Friends of The Lake group and everyone who helped with the Litter Sweep clean up day.

Commissioner Smith commented as follows:

1. Thanked Chief Hodges for giving the invocation.
2. Congratulated all the Older Americans and stated he appreciated the seniors and the leaders of each organization.
3. Commended all the Police Officers and stated he was glad to see the special recognition.
4. Thanked Mrs. Kilgore for coordinating the Litter Sweep project.
5. Stated the Friends of The Lake group did a great job on clean up day.
6. Thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Gorman commented as follows:

1. Thanked all the Senior Citizens groups for being present.

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2. Stated Mrs. Kilgore did an excellent job coordinating the Litter Sweep clean up day; expressed appreciation to all of the volunteers for the Town.

On behalf of Mayor Dees, Mayor Pro Tem Gorman gave the following comments:

1. Today is Loyalty Day; VFW Post 10630 hosted a special emphasis event at the Armed Forces Veterans Memorial Park @ 5:00 p.m.
2. Reminder - Budget Workshop, Wednesday, May 3rd, 7:00 p.m.
3. Reminder - National Day of Prayer event, sponsored by Hope Mills Ministerial Association, Thursday, Noon, near Flag Pole, Town Hall.
4. Reminder - Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day, Saturday, May 6th, 1:00 - 6:00 p.m., American Legion Post on Legion Road.
5. Reminder - Mother's Day is Sunday, May 14th.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

At 8:25 p.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Legge, seconded by Commissioner Luther and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

BOB GORMAN, MAYOR PRO TEM

ATTEST:

Phyllis C. Register, MMC, Town Clerk