



**MINUTES OF THE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF THE
TOWN OF PINEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
MARCH 8, 2011**

The Town Council of the Town of Pineville met in regular session on Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at The Hut Meeting Facility in Pineville.

ATTENDANCE

Mayor: George C. Fowler
Mayor Pro-Tem: David Phillips
Town Council Members: Debbie Fowler, and Jim Eschert (Libby Boatwright was absent)
Town Administrator: Mike Rose
Zoning Administrator: Kevin Icard
Town Planner: Travis Morgan was absent
Town Clerk: Barbara Monticello was absent
Administrative Specialist: Talece Hunter

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fowler called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Town Administrator Mike Rose invited anyone wishing to speak on an agenda item to sign the speaker list.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Council Member Debbie Fowler.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Fowler called for a moment of silence for the following individuals:

Council Member Libby Boatwright's husband, Don (hospitalized); Nannie Frye (passed); Town Clerk Barbara Monticello's brother (open heart surgery); long-time former employee, Cliff Hunt (possible additional tumors); Haley Hobbs (passed); and Mayor Pro Tem David Phillips asked that Police Officer, Fred Thornton, who was killed last week, be remembered along with his family.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Adoption of the Agenda: There being no changes to the agenda, a motion was made by Council Member Fowler and seconded by Council Member Eschert to adopt the agenda as is. There were ayes by all.

Approval of Minutes for the Regular and Executive Session Meetings of February 8, 2011: Mayor Fowler called for a motion on the minutes from the last Regular Council Meeting and

Executive Session of February 8th. There being no comments or corrections, Mayor Pro Tem Phillips moved to approve the minutes as is. Council Member Eschert seconded the motion and there were ayes by all.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items are included: *a) Proposed Budget Amendment; b) Set Public Hearing Dates; and c) Police Facility Project Amendment.* There being no public hearing dates to set for April and no comments regarding the Consent Agenda, Council Member Fowler moved to approve it. Council Member Eschert seconded the motion and there were ayes by all to approve the Consent Agenda as is.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: *None*

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Employee Handbook – *Consideration of adopting the revised Personnel Manual presented to Council at the January Meeting.*

Mayor Fowler stated that the requested changes from last month's meeting were outlined in the Council Packet, along with a copy of the revised manual. He thanked Ms. Sharif, who compiled the handbook, and noted that she did a very comprehensive job. He asked for any additional comments. Hearing none, Mayor Pro Tem Phillips moved to approve the Employee Handbook, which was seconded by Council Member Eschert. There were ayes by all and the Employee Handbook was adopted as is. Town Administrator, Mike Rose, added that Ms. Sharif was very thorough and did a very impressive job. The handbook will first be reviewed with department heads and then with the employees.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Mecklenburg County Comprehensive Capital Planning – *Bobbie Shields and Timmothy Tibbs with Mecklenburg County will discuss efforts of the Smarter Cities Challenge and recommendations for conducting Joint Master Capital Planning.*

Mayor Fowler introduced Mr. Timmothy Tibbs and Mr. Bobbie Shields, General Manager with Mecklenburg County, who were in attendance to present information on a study by IBM regarding Comprehensive Capital Planning. Mr. Shields stated that in the fall of 2010, Mecklenburg County was awarded a grant from IBM, along with only two other cities in the US – Austin, TX and Baltimore, MD – and four additional cities in other countries as part of its Smarter Cities Challenge. This pilot grant program was designed to award \$50 million worth of technology and services to help 100 municipalities around the globe.

For three weeks, a team of IBM executives worked with Mecklenburg County and its seven municipalities, along with other local stakeholders, to make a recommendation for Joint Master Capital Planning with governmental agencies within the county's boundaries.

IBM noted that Mecklenburg County's governmental entities needed to be more strategic and smarter with their capital planning and recommended a Joint Master Capital Planning Committee that would not require any pooling of capital dollars or surrendering of authority in determining how capital dollars are spent. They also recognized the need to coordinate and collaborate with each other to address concerns at the neighborhood level directing funds to neighborhoods that drive property values most efficiently.

The Neighborhood Quality of Life Index could be used as the benchmark for determining which neighborhoods to concentrate efforts on, with "neighborhoods" being one of the following three types: fragile, threatened or stable. The NQOL Index is based on four factors:

- Property crime rates
- Percentage of children at or above grade level
- Access to transportation
- Percent change in house values

In addition to the City of Charlotte Quality of Life Study Indicators, there is also a Planning Coordinating Committee in place, as well as an advanced GIS system -- all tools to help facilitate the process through the next steps. Mr. Shields noted that the next steps included seeking support from local municipalities, engaging the City of Charlotte to expand their Neighborhood Quality of Life Study, defining the neighborhoods of interest and developing a scope of service for Comprehensive Neighborhood Economic Development Planning. The county hoped to have visited all the towns within the county by April 1st, he added.

Mayor Fowler commented that it would be important for county commissioners to buy into the concept to see how the plan will unfold. He agreed that staff worked better together than some of the political parties do and that if it worked, it could be very beneficial. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips agreed that it would be beneficial because he believed everyone on the Planning Coordinating Committee was committed to making it work. Mr. Rose added that they were not looking to take any action immediately but staff would go through all the information to learn more to determine how best to continue to meet quality of life expectations.

B. Request for Digital Ally Cameras for Police Vehicles – Consideration of the purchase of new video camera system for police vehicles presented by Pineville Police Department.

Town Administrator, Mike Rose, stated that Captain Jaymes Holden and Lt. Corey Copley were in attendance to present information regarding a new camera system for police vehicles. Lt. Copley stated that 13 of their vehicles were using an old camera system that was seven years old and now considered obsolete. These units are no longer being serviced by any company and are being recycled for scrap metal. He noted that it was extremely important to have reliable, working cameras because they capture crimes on tape that are often turned over to attorneys as evidence. Cameras also help to ensure

the safety and professional ethics of an officer while on duty.

The Police Department already had eleven of the Digital Ally camera units installed in the newer patrol cars, but was hoping to replace up to 12 additional vehicles with them as well. On average, two police vehicles a day are patrolling without the use of a camera. The Digital Ally cameras in the newer police cars, have been working for a year and a half without problems, came with a five year warranty and the company that makes them has a good track record, Lt. Copley noted. With this newer technology, all data can be stored on a microchip and stored forever, he added.

Mayor Fowler expressed concern. He asked why this was just coming to light now and how it had gotten to this point. Lt. Copley responded that there was a point in time when companies were repairing these systems but in the last three to four months, no company wants to work on them anymore because they are so obsolete. He also explained that originally the plan was to use 911 money allocated by the state to fund the new cameras. However, that money has since been reallocated to the new police facility.

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips also had some concerns. Responding to his questions, Lt. Copley stated that the camera systems were being used in supervisor's cars but not in the detective's cars. He stated that none of the cameras were broken currently but they could fail at given time without warning. The Police Dept. changed from a VHS system back in 2001 or 2002. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips suggested that some cameras be purchased during this budget cycle and the rest could be budgeted for the next cycle.

Mayor Fowler asked what the minimum number of units was that they could get by with. Lt. Copley responded that they needed a minimum of 3 to 5 new units at \$5,000 a piece. Council Member Eschert wanted to be sure there was no company nationwide that was willing to make repairs to the old system. Lt. Copley replied that there were none. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips added that the VHS format was not the easiest to deal with. Mr. Rose stated that he would look at the budget to see if \$15,000 - \$25,000 could be found to purchase at least some of the units. Finding some of the money would be easier than trying to locate \$60,000 to \$80,000 to fund the cost of all the units needed. He will try to locate enough funding in this year's budget to get 5 or 6 of the new cameras and then budget the remaining for next year. Mayor Fowler confirmed that it was the consensus of the board to see what could be done.

C. Staff Updates – a) PVFD Softball Tournament; b) Recycling Update; c) PCC Meeting; d) Benefits Fair.

Mr. Rose reminded Council of the upcoming town softball tournament being sponsored by the Pineville Volunteer Fire Department. This is a fund-raising event to help raise money to outfit the new fire truck which will be on display if it is completed in time. The tournament is open to all employees and council members and is being held on April 10th at 1:00 p.m. at Jack Hughes Park, with a rain date of May 8th.

Next, Mr. Rose stated that he was working with Signature Waste to monitor how the new recycling system is working. They estimated about a 45% participation rate with the recycling and that 7 1/2 tons of recycling is being generated. The difficulty still lies in the

town home communities, many of which just don't have the room for both of the larger rollout containers. Even though this is an improvement, there is still room to do better, he added.

On Thursday, March 10th, a Benefits and Wellness Fair will be held for all employees in an effort to make them aware of all of the programs that are available to them and to educate them in leading a healthier lifestyle. Tihisha Sharif and Talece Hunter did a great job in organizing the fair.

Lastly, Mr. Rose mentioned that the Planning Coordinating Committee was meeting on April 1st at Panthers Stadium. All elected officials were invited and encouraged to attend.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Mayor Pro Tem David Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Debbie Fowler. There were ayes by all and the meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.


George C. Fowler, Mayor

Attest:


Barbara Monticello, Town Clerk