

MINUTES OF THE

Regular Meeting

of

June 21, 2011



**MINUTES OF THE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF THE
TOWN OF PINEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
JUNE 21, 2011**

The Town Council of the Town of Pineville met in regular session on Tuesday, June 21, 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: Libby Boatwright, Debbie Fowler and Jim Eschert
Town Administrator: Mike Rose
Zoning Administrator: Kevin Icard was absent
Town Planner: Travis Morgan was absent
Town Clerk: Barbara Monticello

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fowler called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 Jim Eschert.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Fowler reported some happy news that his granddaughter recently had a baby and he is now a great grandfather. He then called for a moment of silence for the following individuals:

Good friend of Mayor Fowler's, Kim Boden's mother (gravely ill); Brenda Moore (passed); Irene Blanchard (passed); Maryann Wedell (cancer); Sharon Ashley (cancer); Jean McCoy (cancer); Steve Shackelford (rehab); former employee, Cliff Hunt (condition unchanged); Floyd Elkins (home from hospital and improving); Kelly Turner (cancer); and employee, Kevin Icard, whose wife was about to give birth to their second son. Council Member Libby Boatwright thanked Parks and Recreation Director, Kristy Detwiler, Town Clerk, Barbara Monticello, and the Pineville Police and Fire Departments for their efforts in putting together the annual Tribute to Veteran's over the Memorial Day weekend.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Adoption of the Agenda: Town Administrator, Mike Rose, noted that an additional resolution was added under the Consent Agenda regarding the purchase of a piece of property. Council Member Libby Boatwright moved to adopt the agenda with the addition. Council Member

Debbie Fowler seconded the motion and there were ayes by all to adopt the agenda with the addition of another resolution.

Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting of May 10, 2011: Mayor Fowler called for a motion on the minutes from the last Regular Council Meeting of May 10th. Council Member Debbie Fowler moved to approve the minutes as is, with Mayor Pro Tem Phillips seconding the motion. There were ayes by all to adopt the minutes as is.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items are included: a) *Tax Refunds for USA Nails and BB&T Equipment Finance; b) Privilege License – Dinamic Oil America; c) Set Public Hearing Date; d) 457 Defined Contribution Plan; e) Additional Item Added – Resolution No. 2011-05 Authorizing Purchase of Real Property.* There being no questions or comments regarding the Consent Agenda, Council Member Debbie Fowler moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the resolution added. Council Member Libby Boatwright seconded the motion and there were ayes by all to approve the Consent Agenda with the addition.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Mecklenburg County Comprehensive Capital Planning – Consideration of a Resolution supporting Mecklenburg County's efforts for the Smarter Cities Challenge.** Town Administrator, Mike Rose, reminded Council of the presentation that was made at the March Town Council Meeting by Bobby Shields and Timmothy Tibbs regarding the IBM study that was conducted recommending a Joint Master Capital Planning Process. Quality of life is generally experienced at a neighborhood level and in order to advance that quality of life for citizens, there should be a collaborative effort amongst the governmental entities within Mecklenburg County when providing infrastructure, facilities, and equipment. Mr. Rose emphasized that the resolution was strictly to support the "concept" of joint planning but would not be committing any funds to the project.

Discussion ensued with comments from Council Members. Mayor Fowler stated that in theory it sounded good but hoped that it would actually come to fruition and be carried out the way it was intended without getting caught up in the bureaucracy of it all. Mr. Rose offered that the Planning Liaison Committee would be part of the process and help to keep things on track. Mayor Pro Tem David Phillips stated that the Planning Liaison Committee already had a hard enough time just meeting twice a year. If they were needed more than that, it would be very difficult. He was also concerned that the study that had been done may be outdated since it was conducted a year ago. Council Member Eschert noted that when it came to sidewalks or road improvements, it would be more beneficial to be jointly involved in the decision-making process. The Mayor agreed that it would be fine for certain things such as greenways or projects of common interest, but in the past, Pineville has always been told what to do by Charlotte and he did not want this to turn out the same way. He would like to see it work and was cautiously optimistic.

Mr. Rose explained three options for Council to consider:

- 1) Adopt resolution of support as it is
- 2) Adopt a resolution of support with amendments
- 3) Not adopt the resolution at all

After considering the options, Council Member Debbie Fowler moved to approve the resolution as is, with Council Member Jim Eschert seconding the motion. There were ayes by all to adopt the resolution as is.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Public Hearing** – *Review and discuss proposed FY2011-2012 town budget.* At 6:53 p.m. Council Member Debbie Fowler moved to open the Public Hearing. Council Member Boatwright seconded the motion and there were ayes by all to open the hearing. Mr. Rose noted that Council had met for a Budget Workshop in May and was appreciative of the efforts of the Council Members and staff in providing a fiscally sound budget that still allows for providing the level of service that residents were accustomed to receiving. He noted that it was a balanced budget just under \$24 million, which included three primary groups: General Fund, Electric Funds and Telephone Funds.

When working on the budget, several things were considered including the rising costs of fuel, electrical and telephone wires, transformers and other equipment and declining revenues in both sales and privilege license taxes. The town would be able to maintain its level of service even with reduced revenues but wholesale electrical rates that were typically absorbed in previous budgets will have to be passed on to the consumer in the form of a 5% rate increase. Council Member Boatwright moved to close the Public Hearing at 6:59 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips seconded the motion and all were in favor of closing the hearing.

- B. Budget Amendments** – *Review and take action on proposed budget amendments for FY2010-2011.* There being no questions or comments, Council Member Debbie Fowler moved to approve budget amendments, seconded by Council Member Boatwright. There were ayes by all.
- C. Tax Rate/Electric Rates** – *Set tax rate for FY 2011-2012 at \$0.32 per \$100 valuation and amend Electric Rate Schedule.* Mayor Fowler stated for the record that the tax rate for the town would remain at \$0.32 per \$100 valuation but the electric rates would be increasing by 5%. He then opened the floor for discussion. Council Member Debbie Fowler wanted to know how the recent property revaluations impacted the commercial businesses in Pineville. Mr. Rose noted that since Pineville was made up of so many businesses and industry, that the impact to the town would be greater than some of the other towns in the county. He added that about 50% of the revaluation money was appealed but the outcome of the appeals will not be known until possibly September but probably closer to December. He cited Carolina Place Mall which was appealing their \$57,000,000 increase in valuation. The town will not know the impact of the results until later in the year.

Council Member Fowler expressed concern over increasing the electric rates and asked if the rates could be adjusted. Mr. Rose responded that both Electricities and the town's Finance Director were recommending a 5% increase in the rates but that other options could be looked at down the road. The budget needed to be adopted before June 30th and since the budget was calculated using the 5% increase, any changes to the electric rates

would have to take place later. Mayor Pro Tem David Phillips remarked that the town had known that increases were coming but recalled that they would be carried out in increments over the years. Mr. Rose explained that it all tied in with Electricities and debt incurred from the McGuire and Catawba power plants. Since the town was one of several members of Electricities, all members had to agree on how to implement an 8 to 9% rate increase. Some towns wanted to do one large increase while others wanted to extend the debt to 2032. It was decided that the increases would be spread out over the next few years in increments. Council Member Libby Boatwright stressed that none of the Council wanted to increase anything and that every effort was made to keep costs down but without significant load increases it would be difficult to maintain operations without having to increase the rates. When asked by Mayor Fowler, Council Member Debbie Fowler indicated that she was satisfied with the explanation given. Council Member Libby Boatwright moved to adopt the tax rate of \$.32 per \$100 and the 5% increase in electric rates. Mayor Pro-Tem Phillips seconded the motion and there were ayes by all.

D. Budget Ordinance – Adopt the FY 2011-2012 Budget and corresponding Budget Ordinance. There was no further discussion and Council Member Boatwright moved to adopt the FY 2011-2012 Budget and corresponding Budget Ordinance. Council Member Jim Eschert seconded the motion and there were ayes by all.

E. Animal Control Interlocal Agreement/Ordinance Amendment – Consideration of entering into a new agreement with the City of Charlotte for the provision of Animal Control Services and consideration of adopting the Mecklenburg County Animal Control Code of Ordinances. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips indicated that he had met with Mr. Rose on service issues regarding Animal Care and Control. In order for the City of Charlotte to help us, the town must adopt an interlocal agreement. He believed that the town should enter into the agreement because they had a lot more experience than us and they would work with us to resolve some of our issues.

Mr. Rose added that renewing the interlocal agreement with the City of Charlotte was a separate issue than adopting the Mecklenburg County Animal Ordinance. The town had previously adopted the county's Animal Control Ordinance and then adopted its own ordinance, modeling it after the county's. The major difference, he noted, was that the town had more control as to when permits could be issued for special animal issues. His recommendation was to adopt the interlocal agreement but leave our ordinance in place because if any changes needed to be made, it would be easier to change our own ordinance than the county's.

Discussion took place regarding Animal Control services. Council Member Jim Eschert stated that their services included more than just dogs and cats. They get calls on all animals including snakes, rats, raccoons, etc. but residents need to understand that Animal Control needs as much detailed information about the animal as they can give. He wanted this to be communicated to residents either through a community meeting or information in the newsletter. Council Member Boatwright added that the service can be very expensive because the town is charged \$112 per call. Mr. Rose stated that the bills for the last three years averaged between \$18,000 - \$22,000 per year, but added that we only got charged if they actually responded to a call. The town did receive a monthly

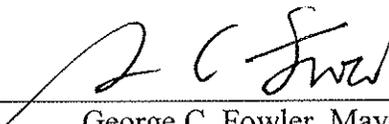
report, however, showing the number of calls made and responded to.

With no further discussion, Council Member Debbie Fowler moved to adopt the interlocal agreement with the City of Charlotte for Animal Control Services. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips seconded the motion and there were ayes by all.

- F. Staff Updates – a) Council Calendar.** Mr. Rose noted that there wasn't much on the calendar as far as upcoming events and asked Council if they wanted to meet in July. All agreed to take the month of July off. Council Member Debbie Fowler made the motion to take the month of July off which was seconded by Council Member Boatwright. There were ayes by all to skip the July meeting and meet again on August 9th.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Council Member Debbie Fowler moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Phillips. There were ayes by all and the meeting adjourned at 7:23p.m.



George C. Fowler, Mayor

Attest:



Barbara Monticello, Town Clerk