

MORRISVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 24, 2003

6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cromwell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present at the meeting were: Mayor Cromwell, Mayor Pro-Tem Faulkner, Commissioners Martin, Lyons, Johnson, and Conrad. Also, present were staff members: Tony Chiotakis/Acting Town Manager, John Whitson/New Town Manager, Julia Ketchum/Finance Director, Krista McGivern/Parks & Recreation Director, Philip Culpepper/Planning Director, Rodney Wadkins/Planner II/Mapping Specialist, Blake Mills/Town Engineer, Paul Flick/*Substitute* Town Attorney, and Jeanne Hooks/Town Clerk.

Corrected
4-14-03

2. INVOCATION BY COMMISSIONER LYONS

Commissioner Lyons gave the prayer.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood in participation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

4. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 24, 2003

Mayor Pro-Tem Faulkner made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 10, 2003 as presented. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (THREE MINUTE LIMIT PER PERSON OR GROUP)

Niki Palmer
2333 Sterling Green Drive

Expressed her concern for the lack of transportation services for the elderly/disabled citizens of Morrisville. She commented that she had spoken with a representative of the Town of Cary's C-Tran program that stated they receive numerous calls from Morrisville citizens seeking to utilize their service. In addition, she stated that as public servants it was the Town Officials' duty to meet the ever growing and changing needs of the community. She requested that another survey be performed to gauge the public need for such a service. She mentioned the importance of perhaps finding alternative source to advertise the survey for those with visual impairments.

Commissioner Johnson

Explained the past Town efforts relating to Ms. Palmer's request and that presently staff was working on conducting another survey to go out in the April Board Briefs.

Commissioner Lyons

Requested that the Quarter Century Club receive the surveys.

Barbara Robinson Scott

Stated her concerns regarding the traffic at the intersection of McCrimmon Parkway and Church Street. She explained that there was a real safety concern with speeders in the area. She spoke of several terrifying instances that resulted in her being unable to turn into or out of her own driveway for fear someone speeding around the blind corner and plowing into her vehicle. She reminded the Board of their own Police Officer who had lost his life several years ago at that very intersection.

Commissioner Martin

Stated that the Police Chief was presently reviewing that intersection.

Commissioner Lyons

Explained that she had pressed NCDOT for a light at that intersection years ago, however DOT determined that it did not warrant a light until the widening of the roadway. She stated that the widening would come soon considering the amount of development in the area.

Mayor Pro-Tem Faulkner

Stated that the Police Department could increase patrols in the area.

<i>Commissioner Lyons</i>	Suggested that the Board Briefs report on areas in Town that are being monitored for speeders.
<i>Mayor Cromwell</i>	Stated that the Town would look into the matter.
<i>Commissioner Johnson</i>	Added that a radar detection trailer that flashes the speed limit of on coming traffic could be placed near the area.
<i>Tony Chiotakis</i> <i>Acting Town Manager</i>	Replied that he would check into the situation with the Police Chief.
<i>Ed White</i> <i>White Ventures</i>	Commented that relative to the commercial/residential development in the area, a contract was in place to widen the roadway around September of this year.

6. INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW TOWN MANAGER, JOHN WHITSON

Mayor Cromwell introduced the Town of Morrisville's newly appointed Town Manager. He highlighted Mr. Whitson's background and experience, pointing out the valuable knowledge that he will bring to the Town beginning April 14, 2003.

John Whitson stated that he was looking forward to working with everyone and was excited to see such a great public turnout. He noted that he had temporarily found a home in Town until his family is able to move here and that he comes prepared to attack the challenges ahead.

7. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF NEW TOWN MANAGER'S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

Commissioner Conrad made a motion to approve the employment contract as presented appointing Mr. John Whitson as the Town of Morrisville's new Town Manager beginning April 14, 2003. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

8. INTRODUCTION OF NEW TOWN EMPLOYEES

Acting Town Manager, Tony Chiotakis, introduced to the Board the new Public Works Director Mr. Maurice Gunn. Mr. Chiotakis briefly outlined his experience.

Philip Culpepper, Planning Director, introduced to the Board the new Code Enforcement Officer John Barnard and briefly outlined his experience.

The Board welcomed the new staff members.

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Faulkner commented on her appreciation of several staff members contributing over and above the call of duty. She specifically pointed out the great job that Natalie Davis and Rodney Wadkins, both of the Planning Department, have done with the Appearance Committee.

Commissioner Johnson concurred and commented on what a great job they both do.

Mayor Pro-Tem Faulkner also thanked Philip Culpepper (Planning Director) for his leadership relative to getting a commitment from NCDOT to connect Kitts Creek Road back to Davis Drive on the CAMPO Thoroughfare Plan.

Corrected:
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As well, she thanked Commissioner Johnson for her ~~very successful Garden Series Workshops, pointing out how well attended they all were~~ leadership with the Appearance Committee, and pointed out how well attended the Garden Series Workshops were that the committee helped sponsor.

Commissioner Johnson thanked the Parks & Recreation Department for their achievement on winning the “Best New Event” with the development of the 150th Celebration held all throughout last year.

Commissioner Lyons asked if the award was published in the Board Briefs

Jeanne Hooks, Town Clerk, stated that the award received front-page billing for their accomplishment.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. CONSIDERATION TO ADOPT A COOPERATION AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND HOME PROGRAMS FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS 2004, 2005, 2006 (RESOLUTION 03-02)**

- B. CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 03-23 TRANSFERRING \$383,144 FROM WATER & SEWER CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TO REIMBURSE \$221,741 TO THE GENERAL FUND AND \$161,403 TO THE STREET IMPROVEMENT CAPITAL PROJECT FUND FOR WATER & SEWER COST ASSOCIATED WITH TOWN HALL DRIVE. ALSO TO TRANSFER FROM PARKLAND PAYMENT IN LIEU FOR \$350,000, THIS WILL RESULT IN A REDUCTION OF \$571,741 IN FUND BALANCE APPROPRIATED EARLIER IN THE FISCAL YEAR.**

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items A and B as presented. Commissioner Conrad seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

11. PRESENTATION OF THE WAKE COUNTY WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AND OPEN SPACE PLANS – RICK BAILEY/WAKE COUNTY

Rick Bailey, Wake County Project Manager, gave an informative presentation on the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan and the Open Space Plan for Wake County. He reviewed for the Board the processes used in developing the plans to improve water quality within developing watershed regions. He clarified that the correlation between watershed strategies and open space planning for future growth creates both a sustainable and economically viable solution. Mr. Bailey invited anyone to contact him for more information on these comprehensive plans.

12. CONSIDERATION OF SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR APRIL 14, 2003 TO RECEIVE INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC ON A PROPOSED FINANCING AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TOWN HALL DRIVE – PHASE 2

Mayor Pro-Tem Faulkner made a motion to set a Public Hearing on April 14, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. to receive input from the public on a proposed financing agreement for the construction of Town Hall Drive – Phase 2. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

13. DISCUSSION OF A POTENTIAL USE OF TOWN PROPERTY AT 339 PAGE STREET (OLD CHAMBER BUILDING)

Commissioner Martin expressed some concern with conducting a discussion on the subject so prematurely. He suggested that the Town review the alternative options before acting too quickly.

Commissioner Conrad stated that perhaps the Town had other more viable uses for the building.

Tony Chiotakis, Acting Town Manager, explained the request to lease the structure by the Cary United Pentecostal Church. He mentioned that Pastor Dennis Landtroop had expressed his clear understanding that the building has certain limitations associated with the usage (such as parking and structural issues).

Mayor Cromwell stated that some sort of use of the building, leased or otherwise, would be better than allowing it to remain empty and unproductive.

Commissioner Conrad commented that the building may have a more valued use to the Town.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she was uncomfortable with the request to lease the building given that the Town seemed short on space. She requested that the Town first exhaust any possible uses of the building internally before looking at leasing the space out.

Commissioner Lyons concurred and remarked that the issue should be postponed until the arrival of the new Town Manager.

Mayor Cromwell suggested that staff review alternative internal uses for the structure and report back to the Board at the April 28, 2003 regular meeting.

14. CONSIDERATION TO ENDORSE THE CONCEPTUAL DESIGN FOR THE PROPOSED WESTON ESTATES PARK – HADEN & STANZIALE

Krista McGivern, Parks & Recreation Director, gave a summary and recommended approval of the conceptual design.

Commissioner Martin expressed some concerns relating to the parking area and security measures.

Mrs. McGivern explained the number of spaces and clarified the planned security measures.

Mayor Pro-Tem Faulkner questioned the necessity of planning for an amphitheater in the Weston Estates Park considering that the Town Center Plan has suggested one more centrally located in Town along Indian Creek.

Commissioner Johnson commented that an amphitheater would be a better focal point to design into the Town Center plan.

Mrs. McGivern replied that with an amphitheater, considerations must be given to the noise factor and the types of events when picking a location.

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to endorse the conceptual design of the proposed Weston Estates Park as presented. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Johnson stated that her preference was not to have two amphitheaters.

Philip Culpepper, Planning Director, responded that the Planning Department would coordinate the Town Center Plan with the Weston Estates Park conceptual design regarding an amphitheater concept and placement.

Mrs. McGivern clarified that the Board only endorse a conceptual design of the Park and that future changes remain a possibility.

15. PLANNING MATTERS

A. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST BY NOEL E. ROBERTS TO ALLOW AN ACCESSORY APARTMENT ABOVE A DETACHED GARAGE AT 323 SUNSET AVENUE

Commissioner Lyons made a motion to approve the request to allow an accessory apartment above a detached garage at 323 Sunset Avenue. Commissioner Conrad seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

B. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL FOR MAJOR SUBDIVISION PLAN FOR TOWN HALL COMMONS

Mayor Pro-Tem Faulkner made a motion to approve the preliminary plat for the major subdivision plan for Town Hall Commons. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

16. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

A. UPDATE ON MANAGEMENT OF THE BEAVER POPULATION ON TOWN SEWER EASEMENTS

Tony Chiotakis, Acting Town Manager, gave a report of the process to manage the growing beaver population in Town. He identified two target areas (Weston Estates on an easement and behind the old Belks Building).

17. COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Faulkner reported that some time in April 2003 the CAMPO Committee would have a list of options for municipalities to utilize to improve air quality.

18. OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Martin asked for a status report on the Appearance Committee regarding volunteers.

Commissioner Johnson commented that several people had expressed their interest in volunteering at the Garden Series.

Commissioner Lyons asked for some clarification relating to the establishment of a Tree City USA designation.

Commissioner Johnson explained that the Appearance Committee had discussed the possibility awhile back and recapped some financial requirements for participation. She highlighted that the requirement may already be met with the money the Town presently spends on maintenance of public properties, so therefore, no extra funds may be necessary to obtain such a designation.

Mayor Cromwell explained that the members did not know all the details.

Commissioner Lyons requested that the other Board members receive copies of all the minutes to the Appearance Committee for their review. (It was noted that the Board had not been receiving copies of the minutes for this committee in several months.)

Mayor Cromwell commented on a letter from the Kenyans United for Democracy, Inc. tentatively expressing an interest in establishing a Kenya's Independent-day Celebrations in Morrisville.

Mayor Pro-Tem Faulkner requested that Parks & Recreation be notified of the interest.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Martin made a motion to adjourn the regular Board of Commissioners meeting of March 24, 2003 at 8:07 p.m. Mayor Pro-Tem Faulkner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(SEAL)

G. J. Hooks, Town Clerk

Gordon Cromwell, Mayor