

**TOWN OF HARRISBURG, NORTH CAROLINA
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016
6:00 PM**

MINUTES

1A.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Steve Sciascia called the meeting to order and the Town Clerk conducted the roll call.

PRESENT: Mayor Steve Sciascia, Councilmen Chad Baucom, Jeff Phillips, Rick Russo, Ron Smith, Christopher Barfield, John Booth (arrived 6:05 pm) Councilwoman Benita Conrad

1B.

INVOCATION

Councilwoman Conrad conducted the invocation.

1C.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1D.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Proclamation

1E.

AGENDA CHANGES

None

1F.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Bob Yeager, Wilbert Plastics, 7301 Caldwell Road – spoke of the need for better public transportation in the Town of Harrisburg. They have a hard time keeping good employees because of this issue.
- Patti Pribis, 6550 River Hills Drive, Harrisburg – spoke concerning rezoning of property at the corner of Highway 49 and Roberta Road.
- Dawn Hinson, 5674 Hammermill Drive, Harrisburg – spoke concerning issues with parking on the street. Has gotten \$300 in tickets so far. There isn't anywhere for them to park.
- Robert MacLeod, 8268 Ferrell Place, Harrisburg - presented information concerning a singing group he would like the Town to book for our July 4th event. Would like the Town to allocate some money (approximately \$2,400) to bring this group in. This is about half of their fee and he plans to do fund raisers to get the rest of the money.
- Alvin Evans, 404 Parallel Drive, Harrisburg – Parallel Drive is used as a cut through by many people and most are exceeding the speed limit. Asked about the possibility of having speed humps installed, or something else that would slow the traffic down.

2.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Consider the minutes of the December 14, 2015 Town Council meeting.
- B. Consider the minutes of the December 14, 2015 Closed Session.
- C. Consider the minutes of the December 21, 2015 Called Town Council meeting.
- D. To consider amending the budget for additional costs associated with the Water and Sewer Master Plan.

MOTION:

Councilman Baucom made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with a second from Councilman Russo. **The motion passed 7-0.**

3A.

COMMUNICATIONS

Town Manager's Report

- We have now gone to appointments only for accepting passport applications. The volume had increased so that we cannot operate as a walk-in facility.
- The LGC has approved our loan application for the Rocky River Road/Pharr Mill Road project.
- Small Area Plan – we have now sent out an RFP for this and hope to have something for Council to look at by the end of the year.
- Parks and Recreation Uniforms – sent out samples for Council to look at. Would like direction so that we can move forward with these designs. Council gave approval of the designs.
- Gateway Signs/Wayfinding Signs/Banners – Hope to get the next gateway sign in place by the end of April. The Town Center banners should be up in February and the wayfinding signs will be in the larger areas by the end of this year.
- Traffic signal at Pepsi Way – Pepsi has requested that the Town provide deputies to direct traffic there beginning on the 19th of this month if the traffic signal is not in place at that time. It should be up pretty close to that time so Council will talk about it and decide before that time. Sergeant Harless has stated that we would have to hire off-duty deputies, and would not be able to use our Harrisburg deputies.
- HB739 – This is the bill that would eliminate our ability to charge a business registration fee. This bill has died for now so we are planning to move forward with our fees beginning in July.

3B.

Mayor's Comments

- Would like Council to allow Lee to hire someone to help with the budget process this year since he has taken on the Interim Manager position. This would be a temporary contract position. Lee to look into and get cost information for Council.
- Council workshop will be January 23 and we will be discussing goals for the coming year as well as the project list and action items. Asked staff to send organizational charts for all departments as well.
- Parking ticket issues – have been getting a lot of phone calls concerning this, and just do not know what the answer to this is. Directed staff to continue looking for solutions.
- Community Chat – We need to get these started up again this year. Asked Ann Gibson to set up one for this first quarter.
- Code of Conduct – Staff to make sure that this is revised to include all boards and committees as well as Council.
- Roberta Road Bridge naming – would like an update as to where this project is.
- Also need an update on the Purple Heart signage that should be going up in Town.

3C.

Council's Comments

Councilwoman Conrad

- Harrisburg Business Alliance – meeting on January 28th at 8:00 am here in the Municipal Complex.
- Cabarrus Summit – also meeting the same night from 6-8 pm.

Councilman Barfield

- Recently attended the Essentials of Municipal Government class and they held up the Cabarrus Summit as a wonderful project that all communities should be doing.
- Talked with Teresa Stern concerning her upcoming Art Walk, and she will be holding another one in October. She would like to talk about getting some sponsorship from the Town. It is getting too big for her to do by herself.

- Asked staff about recent flooding in Town to see if there was anything the Town could have done to prevent some of it. Tom Polito said that there was really nothing that could have prevented it and his guys worked hard to stay on top of it as best as they could.

Councilman Phillips

- MPO meeting again at the end of this month. There are a lot of DOT projects coming up in Town.
- Depending on weather, Fire Station 3 will be opening in March.
- Wants to make sure we are moving forward with Façade Grants.

Councilman Baucom

- Robinson Church Road bridge replacement – we want to make sure we follow up to ensure that this replacement would be 3 lanes instead of 2.
- Robinson Church Road flooding issue near Churchill Farms. Can we contact DOT to see if there is a way to mitigate that?

Council consideration of Robert MacLeod’s request for a singing group (The American Bombshells) at the July 4th celebration event.

Discussion surrounded the funds that would be needed to have this group come as well as the timeline and how it would affect the other groups that have been booked. After some discussion the following action was taken:

MOTION:

Councilman Phillips made a motion to deny the request to book this group requested by Robert MacLeod. Second was made by Councilman Baucom. **The motion passed 7-0.**

4A

PUBLIC HEARING

Consider a non-contiguous annexation request for Grace Church. Josh Watkins, Planning Director, presented the background information. Grace Church of Harrisburg is requesting annexation of their property located at the intersection of Stallings Road and Rocky River Road. The tract is approximately 4.75 acres in size. The purpose of the annexation request is so that the property owner may apply for utilities and for future expansion.

The public hearing was opened.

Speaking:

The public hearing was then closed.

MOTION:

Councilman Baucom made a motion to approve Grace Church’s request for annexation. Second was made by Councilman Russo. **The motion passed 7-0**

4B.

PUBLIC HEARING

Consideration of a Façade Grant request. Anna Lu Wilson, Economic Development Director, presented the background information. The owners of Harrisburg Florist, located at 4863 NC Highway 49 S propose to rebuild entryway steps and bring the handicap ramp up to current ADA standard. The applicant will invest \$8,500 in the structure and is eligible to be reimbursed for approved project expenses up to 50% of the total amount.

The public hearing was opened.

Speaking: none

The public hearing was then closed.

Council discussed the process for these grants and asked questions of Anna Lu. After some discussion the following action was taken:

MOTION:

Councilman Phillips made a motion to approve the Façade Grant request by Harrisburg Florist. Second was made by Councilman Smith.

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION:

Councilman Barfield made an amendment to the motion to say that this grant request would be approved on January 31 if no other application were made by that time.

After some discussion, Councilman Barfield withdrew his amendment.

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:

A vote was then taken on the original motion. **The motion passed 5-2(Councilman Baucom and Councilwoman Conrad voting against).**

5A.

OLD BUSINESS

Consideration of the Annexation Agreement with Charlotte. At the October 2015 Council meeting a public hearing was held to consider extending the existing annexation agreement with the City of Charlotte for a ten-year period (January 2016 – January 2026). The current agreement expired at the end of 2015. Council deferred consideration of this agreement.

MOTION:

Councilwoman Conrad made a motion to approve the annexation agreement with the City of Charlotte. Second was made by Councilman Russo. **The motion passed 7-0.**

5B.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion and review of the project list. Mayor Sciascia asked that this item be deferred until the workshop on January 23.

6A.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion concerning voting procedures for certain types of Planning & Zoning items during the months of November and December during election years. Councilman Phillips discussed the possibility of changing procedures for holding public hearings and voting on certain items during the months of November and December of election years. In some cases, those issues can affect the elections. There are other municipalities that do this and he believes Harrisburg should look into it as well. Council directed staff to work on language for this change and bring it back to Council for consideration.

6B.

NEW BUSINESS

Action Items.

- Check into speed humps or other options for Parallel Drive to address the problem of cars speeding on that road.
- Check into status of Purple Heart City signs.
- Bring language back to Council concerning electronic signs.
- Check into a temporary contract position to work with Lee on preparing the budget.
- Continue to try to find solutions to the street parking issue in town.
- Set a date for the next Community Chat.
- Revise the Code of Conduct to include all boards and committees.
- Schedule Scott Cole to come to Council in March with DOT updates.
- Follow up on the Robinson Church Road bridge replacement – needs to be 3 lanes.
- Water flow issues on Robinson Church Road between Bridgepoint and Churchill Farms – check with DOT to see if something can be done there.

- Check into warning lights at all fire stations in town.
- Research public hearing questions for election years.

7.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION:

Councilman Baucom made a motion to go into Closed Session. Second was made by Councilman Phillips. **The motion passed 7-0.**

After returning from Closed Session the following action was taken:

MOTION:

Councilman Baucom made a motion to come out of Closed Session and return to regular business with a second from Councilwoman Conrad. **The motion passed 7-0.**

7.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

There being no further business, Councilman Baucom made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from Councilwoman Conrad. **The motion passed 7-0.**

ATTEST:

Janet Rackley, Town Clerk

Steven J. Sciascia, Mayor