

**TOWN OF HARRISBURG, NORTH CAROLINA
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 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, Councilwoman Benita Conrad

1B.

INVOCATION

Robbie McLaughlin of Hope City Church conducted the invocation.

1C.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1D.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- 1. Harrisburg Classics Week Proclamation**
- 2. Cabarrus Soil and Water Stewardship Week Proclamation**
- 3. Blake Robinson – Eagle Scout Project Presentation** – Presented information concerning his proposed project. He would like to build a gazebo and bandstand outside Town Hall in Veteran’s Park. He is seeking assistance securing funds, materials and resources. The total projected cost is \$10,000. He is hoping to have the project completed by the end of this summer. He has established a GoFundMe account and the Town will post that information.
- 4. NCDOT – Scott Cole**
 - Harrisburg to Charlotte Railroad Improvements – Robinson Church Road will not permanently close until the new Roberta Road Bridge is open.
 - Pharr Mill Road Grade Separation – The Department is in the process of abandoning a portion of Old Pharr Mill from Mulberry to Speed Rail to the Town per the Town’s request, expected to be approved by NCBOT in April or May.
 - Robinson Church Road crossing will be permanently closed after the new bridge is constructed and opened to traffic, projected for late Summer/Fall of 2016.
 - Roberta Road Grade Separation – School Circle will have to be closed for 45 days to complete the tie in to Roberta Road Extension. Anticipate this work summer of 2016.
 - Bridge crews are on the P5208H and the Rowan County RR Bridge projects. Will mobilize after P5208H bridge completion.
 - Caldwell Road Grade Separation – The bridge was open to traffic in July 2015. Caldwell Road was open to traffic in December 2015. Thermoplastic (final) pavement markings will be placed in mid-April 2016.
 - Caldwell Park Drive Extension – Completed April 2015 – The Department is in the process of abandoning Millbrook Road to the Town per signed agreement under project, expected to be approved by NCBOT in April or May.

- Stallings Road Bridge Replacement – scheduled to begin in early April 2016, requiring them to close the road for approximately 6 months.
- Raging Ridge Road Extension Project – Construction contract awarded to Country Boy Landscaping, with contract availability March 1st. Waiting on pre-construction meeting to begin. Completion date is December 2016, with final (vegetative) completion of April 2017.
- Country Boy Landscaping mobilized to the project on March 2, 2016, and began clearing operations. They are to install Orange Safety Fence around the ball park area.
- Bridge #171 on Robinson Church Road over Fuda Creek – presented two options for the look of this bridge. Recommended Option 1 – 2 11ft lanes, 2 4ft bike lanes, 2 5t sidewalks. Option 2 has 3 11ft lanes, and 1 5ft sidewalk. There will be some cost sharing for the construction of the sidewalks but it should be a nominal amount. After some discussion on this issue the following action was taken:

MOTION:

Councilman Baucom made a motion to choose Option #1 for Bridge 171 on Robinson Church Road over Fuda Creek. Second was made by Councilman Russo. **The motion passed 7-0.**

Mayor Sciascia asked about an update on getting safety flashers outside of Station 3#. Lee Connor stated that we are having the traffic study now and that has to be completed first before we can move forward.

1E.

AGENDA CHANGES

- Remove Item 2K from the Consent Agenda and add it back in Old Business as Item 5B.

MOTION:

Councilman Barfield made a motion to approve the proposed change to the agenda with a second from Councilman Baucom. **The motion passed 7-0.**

1F.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Phil and Amy Levett, 5233 Rocky River Crossing Road, Harrisburg – spoke concerning drainage and flooding issues on his property. He has spent thousands of dollars trying to fix the problem but just cannot do it anymore. Would like to Town to address the issue.
- Donna Edwardson, 4442 Britley Lane, Harrisburg – spoke concerning flooding at her neighborhood when it rains heavily, asked about the signal light on Tom Query Road, and also questioned the actions of Planning Board member Lloyd Quay.

2.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Consider the minutes of the February 8, 2016 Town Council meeting.
- Consider the minutes of the February 8, 2016 Closed Session.
- Consider the minutes of the March 5, 2016 Called Town Council meeting.
- Consider the minutes of the March 5, 2016 Closed Session.
- Appointment of new member to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.
- Set a public hearing to consider annexation of 132.79 acres off of Mulberry Road.
- Set a public hearing to consider annexation for Tamara Blume.
- Set a public hearing for business registration fees.
- Budget amendment request for Small Area Plan.
- Consider amending of FY2016 budget for expenditures and insurance proceeds relating to flooding at Town Hall.
- Consider amending the FY2016 budget for updated costs associated with the branded gateway signs.

- L. Consider amending the FY2016 budget for traffic review fees.
- M. Consider a budget amendment for the pay and classification study.
- N. Consider amending the FY2016 budget for additional street resurfacing.
- O. Consider modifications to the economic development façade grant.
- P. Consider approving the FY2016 financial audit contract.

MOTION:

Councilman Baucom made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, minus Item 2K which was removed earlier. Second was made by Councilman Booth. **The motion passed 7-0.**

3A.

COMMUNICATIONS

Town Manager’s Report

- Station #3 should be complete this week. New fire recruits should finish school in a couple of months and then everything there will be up and running.
- The traffic light at Pepsi Way and Highway 49 is now up and running and all road improvements to that area are complete. Pepsi will be holding an open house this Thursday from 11:30 – 1:30 and would really like to see some elected officials come out for that.
- Branded Gateway Signs – the first one is completely finished now and looks great. We were able to negotiate the landscaping price down some. The next one at Pharr Mill Road should be completed in this fiscal year, but the third one out on Rocky River Road will probably not be done until sometime in 2018.
- Drainage issues on Hickory Ridge Road – NC Rail is currently designing a fix for this issue and they have set up a safety fence there also.
- The gate at Saddle Creek is almost ready. We are just waiting on Duke Energy to complete their work.
- Communications Committee Meeting – the idea of potentially broadcasting our Council meetings on YouTube or some other outlet was raised. We are investigating the possibilities and will bring more information to Council soon.
- HBN App Launch will be on March 16 at 8:15 am here on the steps of Town Hall.
- EDC meeting will be held on March 22.
- Personnel Committee meeting will be held on March 24.
- Capital Committee meeting will be held on March 29.

3B.

Mayor’s Comments

- The I Love My City Project is coming up April 23. This is a county-wide event and we need volunteers for work projects that day. There is a sign-up sheet and list of projects on our website.

3C.

Council’s Comments

Councilman Barfield

Breakfast for the Arts will be held on May 27 at 7:30 am at Embassy Suites. It is free of cost but they will be asking for donations. If any of Council wants to attend, please let him know and he will RSVP for them.

Councilman Smith

We’ve had a good month here in Harrisburg with some new restaurants opening up.

Councilman Baucom

Want to give a positive shout out to Pepsi. Pepsi owns property right beside his church; has essentially cut a driveway so that the church can build a second driveway that will take people back through Pepsi Way to that light

and has made a significant financial contribution to help them do that. They are just one of the great corporate citizens in Harrisburg and he wanted to give them some positive feedback for that.

3D.

Budget

- Storm water fees – we are looking into the possibility of moving to a more tiered fee structure that would be more in line with other communities in the area. Will bring more details of this to the budget workshop.
- Water/Sewer Rates – We have checked into the cost of having a rate study analysis done that would help us identify where our rates need to be, and also provide a 5 – 10 year plan of getting them there. After some discussion, Council prefers not to have to pay for such a study at this time. We may have to raise rates this year, as WSACC raised rates last year and they are going to raise rates again this year. We have not raised rates since 2010. We will discuss this further at the budget workshop.
- License Tag Fees – will bring more information on this to the budget workshop.

4A

PUBLIC HEARING

H2016-02 (R) – Phylas Properties, LLC. Josh Watkins, Planning Director, presented the background information. Mike Chreitzberg with YCH Architects, acting as agent for the property owner, has submitted a request for a rezoning of property located at 12115 University City Blvd. The property was previously included in the PUD zoning that encompassed The Preserve at Greyson project, more recently known as The Epic development. The applicant would like this property removed from the PUD zoning, and rather than revert back to the previous B-1 zoning, the applicant is requesting a C-2 zoning designation. The C-2 zoning designation is more in keeping with the nature of the surrounding properties. The Planning and Zoning Advisory Board reviewed this request at their February meeting and recommended unanimously that the Town Council approve this request.

Mike Chreitzberg with YCH Architects spoke to Council presenting more detailed information on the proposed facility.

The public hearing was opened.

Speaking:

- Jean Artuso, Founders Way, Harrisburg – has no objection to the facility but would like to see a different entrance instead of the same one the residents in that neighborhood do.
- Donna Edwardson, 4442 Britley Lane, Harrisburg – asked what company this was.

The public hearing was then closed.

Mayor Sciascia allowed one more speaker:

- Albert Artuso, Founders Way, Harrisburg – also stated that he would like to see another entrance at this facility.

MOTION:

Councilman Phillips made a motion to approve H2016-02 (R). Second was made by Councilwoman Conrad. **The motion passed 7-0.**

The following Consistency Statement was then proposed:

CONSISTENCY STATEMENT:

For the reasons stated in the the application and the staff report and the staff presentation the proposed rezoning is consistent with the provisions of the Harrisburg Area Land Use Plan and is reasonable and in the public interest.

MOTION:

Councilman Baucom made a motion to approve the proposed Consistency Statement with a second from Councilman Russo. **The motion passed 7-0.**

4B.

PUBLIC HEARING

H2016-02 (T) – Sign Ordinance Amendments. Josh Watkins presented the background information. The Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that sign ordinances can regulate size, location, number of signs, height, and other locational factors, but they cannot be regulated based on content. While the Harrisburg USO does not have specific factors that regulate the content of a sign, there are many places where regulations are different based on the content. While these regulations do not address what may or may not be communicated on a sign, the fact that they are regulated differently based on the message they contain has been found to be illegal. Staff has been working on a set of amendments to address these new requirements. Some items, such as political signs, are still underway, and will be coming forward in a future text amendment. The Planning and Zoning Board voted unanimously to recommend approval of these changes to the Town Council at their February meeting. Discussion surrounded the electronic reader board signs and following discussion, it was decided that we should omit the changes to that section of the ordinance and further investigate the options before we make those changes.

The public hearing was opened.

Speaking: none

The public hearing was then closed.

MOTION:

Councilman Baucom made a motion to approve the proposed sign ordinance amendments, with the exception of the section on electronic reader board signs. Second was made by Councilman Barfield. **The motion passed 7-0.**

4C.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Town Code of Ordinances Amendment: 73.01 – Regulation of State maintained road with Town limits. Eric Smallwood, Parks and Recreation Director, presented the background information. New NCDOT regulations regarding state road closures for special events requires counties and/or municipalities to pass an ordinance approving special events and providing signage giving notice of the closure per G.S. 20-169. Furthermore, this ordinance is evidence that the county/municipality will accept full responsibility and liability for the special event. A copy of the adopted ordinance is required to be forwarded to the division office for their records.

The public hearing was opened.

Speaking: none

The public hearing was then closed.

MOTION:

Councilman Russo made a motion to approve the proposed amendment to the Town Code of Ordinances. Second was made by Councilwoman Conrad. **The motion passed 7-0.**

5A.

OLD BUSINESS

Battalion Chiefs Discussion – Councilman Russo. Battalion Chief positions are in the budget and we currently have one Battalion Chief. With the new station opening up we need to go ahead and fill the two open positions. We have some people who have passed the test and we are looking to put them in place. Chief Dunn spoke to the Council with further information. The positions were funded in the FY2015 budget, and again in the FY2016 budget. With the growth of the Town and the opening of Station #3 we feel it is time to implement these positions. These would not be additional staffing, just taking current employees and promoting them.

There was also some discussion concerning the grant we received to add 15 firefighters and what may happen when that grant runs out.

MOTION:

Councilman Baucom made a motion to defer consideration of this request until the budget workshop. Motion died for lack of a second.

MOTION:

Councilman Russo made a motion to approve the request to implement the Battalion Chief positions. Second was made by Councilman Barfield. **The motion passed 6-1 (Councilman Baucom voting against).**

5B.

OLD BUSINESS

Consider amending the FY2016 budget for updated costs associated with the branded gateway signs. Councilman Barfield stated he would just like a little more explanation on this item. Interim Town Manager Lee Connor explained that initially the signs were priced out at \$47,000 - \$50,000 a couple of years ago. This did not include lighting and landscaping. We have just completed the first one and the total cost was \$52,000. The second one will be about 20% larger and so will cost more as well. This one will cost about \$68,000 including everything. The requested budget amendment takes care of that.

MOTION:

Councilman Barfield made a motion to defer this budget amendment.

Following further discussion, Councilman Barfield withdrew his motion.

MOTION:

Councilman Booth made a motion to approve this budget amendment with a second from Councilman Smith. **The motion passed 6-1 (Councilman Barfield voting no).**

6A.

NEW BUSINESS

To review current storm water plan and consider modification of the order of projects. In FY2012, Town staff worked with a consultant to establish the storm water master plan. From there, the largest two projects, System A and System B, were put on our 5-year CIP, which Council subsequently approved. Throughout this time, there has been a section of Patricia/Rocky River Crossing that has had significant and continued water run-off issues. Town staff worked with NCDOT and a consultant, which generated a project to help ease the issue for approximately \$120,000. A further look into doing this project in-house identified a potential cost of \$35,000, which is significantly lower than a third-party doing it. While this project has been identified, given its location in the current order of completion for the System A area, it would not be completed for several years. Staff is looking for direction from Council as to whether to continue on the current plan or modify it to move this project to next fiscal year. The Town typically has \$200,000 - \$250,000 each year available from storm water fees to work on these projects. While we will have the funds that could complete this project next year, the portion of the project currently planned for FY2016 will have to be moved back to subsequent years. Mr. Wilhelm from Kimley-Horn also addressed the Council. After some discussion, it was the consensus of Council to continue this discussion at the next budget workshop.

6B.

NEW BUSINESS

Action Items:

None.

**7.
CLOSED SESSION**

MOTION:

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

Steven J. Sciascia, Mayor

ATTEST:

Janet Rackley, Town Clerk