

The Smithfield Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 11, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Smithfield Town Hall. Mayor Norman Johnson presided.

Councilmen Present:

Charles Williams
Vic Ogburn
Daniel Evans
Sidney Broadwell
Andy Moore
Tom Bell

Councilmen Absent:

Clayton Narron

Staff Present:

Pete Connet, City Manager
Debra Holmes, Town Clerk/Personnel
Steve Gillikin, Police Chief
Bobby Tripp, Public Utilities Director
Mark Stephens, Finance Director
Patrick Harris, Fire/EMS Director
Mark Helmer, Planning/GIS Technician
Tim Johnson, Parks/Rec Director

Also Present:

Bob Spence, Jr, Town Attorney

Staff Absent:

Paul Embler, Planning Director

The invocation was given by Mayor Pro-Tem Evans, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Councilman Broadwell made a motion, seconded by Councilman Ogburn, to prepare a resolution honoring the late Joe Batten for his many contributions to the Town. Unanimous.
2. Mayor Pro-Tem Evans made a motion, seconded by Councilman Moore, to add to Consent Agenda (1) Approval of Interdepartmental Transfers and (2) the July 10, 2006 minutes and to add to New Business (1) Comments by Councilman Moore on Deer Issues and (2) Comments by Mayor Pro-Tem Evans. Unanimous.

Mayor Pro-Tem Evans made a motion, seconded by Councilman Ogburn, to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimous.

Town Clerk Debbie Holmes swore in persons wishing to speak during the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING

Item 1: Historic Preservation Design Guidelines

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing.

Downtown Development Corporation Executive Director Chris Johnson addressed the Council on adoption of the new Smithfield Historic Preservation Design Guidelines aimed to assist the community in preserving the value of historic landmarks, structures and districts.

Mayor Johnson asked for comments from the Council.

Councilman Ogburn stated that he would like to see the Hastings House and Bingham House listed in the registry as historic properties.

Mayor Johnson asked for comments from the audience. There were none.

There being no further comments, Mayor Johnson declared the public hearing closed.

Councilman Moore stated that he had not had a chance to read the document and would like to see any action taken on this item delayed until the next meeting.

Councilman Ogburn made a motion, seconded by Councilman Williams, to adopt the Historic Preservation Design Guidelines as presented. Councilmen Williams, Ogburn, Bell, Broadwell, and Mayor Pro-Tem Evans voted yes. Councilman Moore voted no. Motion carried 5-1. (ATTACHMENT I)

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilman Moore made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Evans, to approve the following item as listed on the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of June 6 and July 10, 2006
- Candace Jackson to a first term on the Appearance Commission
- Interdepartmental Transfers - FY 2006 (ATTACHMENT II)

Unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Resolution declaring the intent to consider closing Bridge and Caswell Streets between Ninth Street and Tenth Street

City Manager Pete Connet addressed the Council on a request by Lampe & Malphrus Lumber Company to close the portions of Bridge Street and Caswell Street that dead-end with their property at what was formerly Tenth Street. The beginning point of the closing would be at Ninth Street to the dead-end. Further, Mr. Connet stated that no other property owners would be affected as the company owns both sides of the street.

Councilman Bell stated that he had visited the site and could see a tremendous advantage to the Town because traffic would be re-routed from Highway 301 to alleviate some congestion.

Mayor Pro-Tem Evans questioned if the Town reserved the right to the streets and if not, how would it affect Powell Bill Funds. City Manager Pete Connet stated that the road would become private once it is closed and Powell Bill Funds could be decreased in the amount of approximately \$230.

Councilman Ogburn stated that he would like to see a reversion law so if the mill ceases to operate as that, the Town can reclaim the streets.

Ross Lampe, property owner, stated that he would like to see it continue as closed if the business is sold as an industrial use.

Following discussion, Councilman Ogburn made a motion, seconded by Councilman Bell, to approve the Resolution declaring the intent to consider closing Bridge and Caswell Streets between Ninth Street and Tenth Street with a clause that should the property cease to operate as an industrial business site, the Town would reclaim the streets. Unanimous. (ATTACHMENT III)

4. Resolution for Interfund Loan and Budget Amendment for EMS Garage Renovation

Finance Director Mark Stephens addressed the Council on a resolution for interfund loan and a budget amendment for the EMS garage renovation in the new amount of \$450,000.

Councilman Bell made a motion, seconded by Councilman Williams, to adopt the resolution for interfund loan and budget amendment 1. Unanimous. (ATTACHMENT IV)

5. Consideration of an offer by Johnston Memorial Hospital to purchase Bingham Park property

City Manager Pete Connet addressed the Council on an interest by Johnston Memorial Hospital to purchase the Bingham Park Property, which is approximately 8 acres, located south of Hospital Road. The land would be used to expand the Hospital campus. Further, he stated that the Hospital representatives had offered the appraised value of \$430,000 for the property. Mr. Connet recommended a counter offer of \$450,000.

Councilman Ogburn questioned if the Town would be able to keep the Scout Hut. Mr. Connet stated yes, if the Town could move it.

Councilman Bell stated that he would like to see the "Bingham" family name retained. Mr. Connet stated that he had spoken with Hospital representatives regarding some type of monument or plaque in their honor.

Councilman Broadwell stated that he would like to see any proceeds placed in a special investment interest bearing fund to help with future projects at the Community Park.

Councilman Moore stated that \$450,000 was reasonable for this property.

Councilman Ogburn made a motion, seconded by Councilman Moore, to present Hospital representatives with a counter offer of \$450,000, that the Town retain the structures if they can be moved, and that proceeds be placed in a special interest bearing fund for future projects at the Community Park. Unanimous.

6. Mayor Pro-Tem Evans Remarks - Planning for the Future

Mayor Pro-Tem Evans stated that he had mentioned a year or so ago about looking at the Town's ETJ and what the Town's needs are for future growth, whether with extending the ETJ or through annexations. He asked that the City Manager get with the Planning Director to place this item on the Planning Board's agenda for consideration in the very near future.

7. Councilman Moore - South Smithfield Deer Population Problem

Councilman Moore asked for an update as to what action was being taken with regard to the deer problem in South Smithfield.

Town Attorney Bob Spence, Jr. stated that a plan is in place and contact has been made with the appropriate officials but there is some opposition to allowing open hunt outside of deer season. Due to school being out, the open hunt in that area will be in September when deer season opens.

No action.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Norman R. Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra W. Holmes, Town Clerk