

TOWN OF UNIONVILLE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

The June 21, 2010 regular meeting of the Town of Unionville was held at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall, 1102 Unionville Church Road, Monroe, NC. Mayor Simpson and Commissioners Jim Baucom, Robert Croutch and Edd Little were present. Commissioners Randy Baucom and Ken Brown were absent. Town Attorneys Ken Helms and Tom Griffin were also present.

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag, after which Commissioner Robert Croutch led the prayer of invocation.

Mayor Simpson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

There being no corrections or additions to the minutes of the May 17, 2010 public hearings and regular meeting, Mayor Simpson declared them approved as reviewed by Council.

Upon motion duly made by Jim Baucom, seconded by Edd Little, Council unanimously agreed to hold an Executive Session for the purpose of consulting with Attorney Tom Griffin concerning the handling of the new Griffin Farm and Landfill lawsuit.

Upon motion duly made by Edd Little, seconded by Robert Croutch, Council unanimously agreed to close Executive Session.

Mayor Simpson recognized Budget & Finance Officer Darrell Baucom, who drew Council's attention to the Financial Statements. He stated that the Town is under budget on investment income, contributions and legal fees. He highlighted the Balance Sheet, the Profit & Loss Analysis, Pending Bills including the Certificate of Deposit balances, rates, yield and maturity and Amendments to the 2009-2010 budget, since the state requires a balanced budget. Upon motion duly made by Edd Little, seconded by Robert Croutch, Council unanimously approved the budget amendments for 2009-2010. Upon motion duly made by Edd Little, seconded by Jim Baucom, Council unanimously approved payment of pending bills.

Upon reviewing the 2010-2011 proposed budget, Mr. Baucom recommended adjusting \$33,000 from zoning to legal fees. He stated that this budget recommends a \$.02/\$100 valuation ad valorem tax rate. He has also included the adjusted Centralina Council of Governments contract and a three-year proposal for audit from Moyer, Smith & Roller, CPA's of \$8,400 the first year, \$8,800 the second year and \$9,100 the third year. In comparison, Potter & Company's fee is \$9,500 annually. There were no negotiations with Potter & Company. Upon motion duly made by Edd Little, seconded by Robert Croutch, Council unanimously approved the three-year audit contract with Moyer, Smith & Roller. Upon motion duly made by Edd Little, seconded by Robert Croutch, Council unanimously approved the proposed 2010-2011 budget with the adjustment of \$33,000 from zoning to legal fees and the \$.02/\$100 valuation ad valorem tax rate.

In consideration of the four quotes for a lateral fire safe, upon motion duly made by Jim Baucom, seconded by Edd Little, Council unanimously approved the purchase of the Schwab four-drawer one-hour 36" cabinet from Discount Safe Outlet for a total price of \$2,328.73. Council asked Clerk Gaddy to have Craig Hildreth assess the floor joists for weight support.

Upon motion duly made by Edd Little, seconded by Robert Croutch, Council unanimously approved advertisement of the 2009 delinquent tax list in the *Neighbors of Union County section of the Charlotte Observer* on Sunday, June 27, 2010 for an estimated price of \$242.00.

Upon motion duly made by Jim Baucom, seconded by Robert Croutch, Council unanimously approved the quote by Richard Quick to pressure wash the exterior of Town Hall for \$175.00.

In Land Use issues, Mayor Simpson recognized Land Use Administrator Jana Finn, who drew Council's attention to Text Amendment TC10-02, an amendment to remove duplexes by right in the RA-40 zoning district. Ms. Finn stated that a public hearing was held last month and Council tabled the decision until this month. The staff report highlights options by the Council. The first option is to eliminate duplexes as a permitted use in RA-40 zoning districts, which would require a rezoning to a different district, such as R-40 or R-20, and requiring a special use permit approval from the Board of Adjustment. Another option is to continue to allow duplexes in RA-40 zoning, but change the process to require a special use permit. A third option is for Council to leave the Land Use Ordinance as it currently is, making no changes. Planning Board was concerned that the duplex permit application is currently going to the Land Use Administrator for approval if the applicant meets the 150% land requirements, and there is no public notification process. Their recommendation is to eliminate duplexes as a permitted use in RA-40 zoning (option one). Mayor Simpson clarified that this would apply only to duplex applications submitted after tonight; any approved duplexes would not be affected. Upon motion duly made by Edd Little, seconded by Jim Baucom, Council unanimously supported the Planning Board's recommendation and removed duplexes from RA-40 zoning in the Land Use Ordinance.

Town Attorney Ken Helms addressed the drafted Code of Ethics he submitted to Council. He stated that the Council asked him to look at the Institute of Government's code and stay close to their model code. This code consists of four pages, with the first three being general and the fourth addressing censure procedures, which is optional; the Council can adopt a policy guiding a Commissioner's behavior, but cannot remove a Commissioner from office. The citizens of the Town could elect someone else. This code complies with the General Statutes of the state, and must be adopted by January 1, 2011. Upon motion duly made by Edd Little, seconded by Robert Crouch, Council unanimously agreed to table this decision to allow Commissioners Baucom and Brown a chance to give input at the next meeting.

Mayor Simpson recognized Ms. Sheila Crunkleton from American Red Cross, who thanked the Town for their past financial support and distributed a flyer. She stated that they are 100 percent funded by the community; they receive no federal or state funding, and have been cut from United Way. Last year they served 19,000 people in the community through the disaster program, collected \$120,000+ for Haiti victims, and sent people to respond to flooding in New Jersey and Atlanta and also helped victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Ike. They helped 53 house-fire victims and distributed \$12,000 in emergency aid for families. They sent 132 emergency messages to the armed forces through the National Guard and trained 5,500 in CPR and First Aid. In August, they will give ten national lifesaving rewards to Union County residents. They have conducted 139 blood drives and collected almost 5,000 units. They are currently trying to replace a 1989 cargo van and have received a grant to help. They are asking for a donation of \$5,000. Mayor Simpson stated that he has seen them help in a few situations that made it so people didn't have to sleep on the street due to misfortune. Upon motion duly made by Edd Little, seconded by Robert Crouch, Council unanimously approved a donation of \$2,500.00.

Mayor Simpson recognized Ms. Linda Smosky from Council on Aging in Union County. She thanked the Town for their past support, and distributed a report from Council on Aging. She reported that they have 122 in-home clients, and eleven of them are from the Unionville area. Their goals are to keep people independent and living in their own homes. They have a new class, "A Matter of Balance", which addresses fall-prevention and builds strength and improves balance. Another class, "Chronic Disease Self-Management", was developed at Stamford University. The pilot class, "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren" begins this week with a retired school principal as a co-teacher. She offered to hold any of these classes at Town Hall or the community center. Their challenges are to educate senior citizens regarding health care reform and Medicare. Ms. Smosky reported that the fastest growing age group is those 85 years and older, and that Union County has a higher rate of Alzheimer's disease than the state as a whole. They are asking for a donation of \$2,000. Upon motion duly made by Edd Little, seconded by Robert Crouch, Council unanimously approved a donation of \$1,000.00.

Mayor Simpson recognized Ms. Jeannie Langston from Turning Point. Ms. Langston stated that Turning Point assists victims of domestic violence. She reported that nearly one in three adult women experience physical assault by their partner during their adulthood. Turning Point serves more children than women. Of 644 victims last year, 365 were children. They provide extensive programs for the children. The Hero program for school-age children had an 80 percent rate of success for them to learn healthy anger management. This breaks the cycle of domestic violence so they don't repeat their parents' behavior. In May, a local woman who had been through their 30-day program was attacked by her abuser and was able to call 911 from the phone Turning Point gave her, which saved her life. They are requesting \$750. Upon motion duly made by Robert Croutch, there was no second, therefore, the motion died, but can be brought back up at a later meeting. Ms. Langston will send some information to the commissioners.

There being no one to speak about the Urban Forester Interlocal Agreement, no action was taken.

Mayor Simpson called the commissioners' attention to the vacation days the clerk is requesting—July 15-19, 2010.

Mayor Simpson reminded everyone of the July 4th festivities in Unionville on Saturday, July 3, 2010. A float will be available for the Council and officials to ride.

There being no other business, Mayor Simpson declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya W. Gaddy
Clerk

Approved as to form:

R. Kenneth Helms, Jr., Town Attorney

Thomas N. Griffin, III, Town Attorney