

## **REGULAR MEETING**

The Town Council of the Town of La Grange, North Carolina met in Regular Session at the Town Hall on Monday, February 5, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. with the following present:

Mayor Woodard H. Gurley; Mayor Pro Tem Bobby R. Wooten; Council Members Larry Gladney, Walter Ellis, Jr., George Koonce and Elliott Sutton; Town Manager, John P. Craft; Town Attorney, George Jenkins, Jr.; Town Clerk, Nelda H. Johnson, CMC.

Absent: Jeff Thomas, Council Member

Guest: 8

### **ITEMS 1, 2, 3: CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, WELCOME**

Mayor Gurley called the meeting to order and ask Council Member Sutton to give the invocation. Mayor Gurley welcomed everyone present.

### **ITEM 4: PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

### **ITEM 5: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No one present requested to speak during the public comment period.

### **ITEM 6: AMENDMENT(S) TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Manager Craft requested that one item be deleted from the original agenda and one item added to the original agenda:

- (1) REMOVE: AGENDA ITEM 8C: DISCUSSION PERTAINING TO THE CURRENT CAPACITY OF THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND INFILTRATION AND INFLOW PROBLEMS

Manager Craft stated that this item would be discussed in greater detail at the Council Retreat on February 17, 2007.

- (2) ADD: REQUEST BY POLICE CHIEF, JOHN L. SULLIVAN, JR., TO ADDRESS THE TOWN COUNCIL

Manager Craft requested that Chief Sullivan be allowed to speak immediately following the consent agenda.

Council Member Gladney questioned Manager Craft about the Public Hearing that was mentioned at the January 2007 meeting concerning peddler's privilege license.

Manager Craft stated that because the public hearing had not been advertised the peddler's privilege license would be considered at a later date.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, seconded by Council Member Ellis to amend the original agenda in reference to the two above listed items. Motion carried 5-0 in favor of motion.

### **ITEM 7: CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - i. JANUARY 8, 2007 REGULAR SESSION
  - ii. DECEMBER 4, 2006 CLOSED SESSION

- iii. JANUARY 8, 2007 CLOSED SESSION
- b. DECLARATION OF FIRE DEPARTMENT RESCUE BOAT AS SURPLUS PROPERTY
- c. ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL OF THE TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT OF UNPAID 2006 TAXES AND LIENS ON REAL PROPERTY  
Copy on file in Clerk's office.
- d. APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FY 06-07 BUDGET  
Copy hereto attached.

Upon the advice of Attorney Jenkins, Manager Craft asked that ITEM 7 a. (ii) and (iii) APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES be approved in Closed Session later in the meeting.

Motion was made by Council Member Sutton, seconded by Council Member Ellis to approve the consent agenda with the exception of ITEM 7a. (ii) and (iii). Motion carried 5-0 in favor of motion.

Chief Sullivan addressed the Council stating that it gave him great pleasure and a big sense of pride to make an announcement to the Council and the citizens of our Town. One of our police officers has qualified for the highest level of certification awarded by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education Training Standards Commission. There are only three levels of certification, basic, intermediate and advanced. At this time, Chief Sullivan asked Assistant Chief Jerry Davis to step forward.

On February 16, 2007, Assistant Chief Davis will be awarded the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate during a full commission meeting to be held in Apex. The certificate represents more than 1600 hours of specialized law enforcement training. Chief Sullivan stated that it takes dedication to your goals and to the profession to accomplish this in a career, much less, in a thirteen-year career, Chief Sullivan further stated that Jerry's dedication goes a step beyond that to the community he serves. Jerry was hired by the La Grange Police Department in October 1993 as a part-time officer and began fulltime in April 1994. He is only the second officer of the La Grange Police Department to hold an Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate and the only officer to obtain all of the required training while working with the La Grange Police Department.

Chief Sullivan said that aside from Jerry's personal accomplishments, it requires a Town government that believes in their Police Department and officers and sees the need for officers to be well-trained. Chief Sullivan thanked the current Council and the previous Councils for recognizing this and providing the Department with the opportunity to have well-trained officers. He further recognized Jerry for the number of hours that it takes for training and the hours it takes away from home. He gave special recognition to Mrs. Davis for her support.

The Council congratulated Assistant Chief Davis and Mrs. Davis. Manager Craft informed the Council that anyone who wished to attend the ceremony on February 16 in Apex was invited.

## **ITEM 8: NEW BUSINESS**

### **ITEM 8A: DETERMINATION OF TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING THE FEBRUARY 17, 2007, TOWN COUNCIL RETREAT**

Manager Craft stated that he would like to finalize the list of topics to be discussed at the Town Council Retreat scheduled for Saturday, February 17, 2007. He informed the Council that Council Member Gladney has requested two items:

- (1) Drainage Problems and Issues
- (2) Implementing a Curfew (similar to that of the City of Kinston). Police Chief John L. Sullivan, Jr. and Assistant Chief Jerry Davis will be present for this topic of

discussion.

Also, Attorney Jenkins recently attended a seminar that addressed Robert's Rules of Order and has agreed to review them.

Manager Craft added the following list of topics that will also be discussed:

- (1) Budget Funding for FY 06-07
- (2) Town Hall Addition for a Council Meeting Room
- (3) Recreational Prospects and Goals
- (4) Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements With Inflow and Infiltration Problems

Mayor Gurley requested that the discussion of possible annexation be added to the list of topics to be discussed.

#### **ITEM 8B: DISCUSSION REGARDING THE USE OF INMATE LABOR**

Manager Craft brought to the attention of the Council the possibility of utilizing inmate labor on a day-to-day basis and needed to ask for their input on the issue. Manager Craft informed the Council that the cost for inmate labor per eight-hour day is \$1.00 per inmate. In addition to the cost per day, transportation to and from the prison is required along with the annual training of the Town's staff that would be supervising their work. Our employees would have to train with the NC Department of Corrections four hours annually to become certified as a custodial agent. The Town would also have to cover the inmates with workman's compensation insurance and there are limitations to work they are allowed to perform. The Department of Corrections would provide the inmates with a bag lunch each day and safety shoes. The Town would have to provide all other safety items such as raincoats and rubber boots for rainy weather, safety glasses and hard hats.

With the Ford Explorer, the Town can transport up to 3 inmates each day to the Town for work. Code Enforcement Officer Heith Harrison lives in Greenville and Manager Craft stated that he had talked with him about the transportation of the inmates since he travels by Maury Prison everyday. Details could probably be worked out for transportation with Mr. Harrison traveling from and to Greenville each day.

The inmates would be picking up debris, read water meters, sweep the streets downtown, clean buildings, weed eating and be utilized virtually in any way except driving motor vehicles and using power tools and cannot work directly with the electric crew while working on or near power lines.

Manager Craft stated that he did not want to pursue the inmate labor without the Council's support and knowing that they feel comfortable with having inmates working in Town daily.

Discussion continued concerning the inmate work and no one had any objections to Manager Craft pursuing the use of inmate labor. Manager Craft was directed to pursue the request.

#### **ITEM 8C: DISCUSSION PERTAINING TO THE CURRENT CAPACITY OF THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND INFILTRATION AND INFLOW PROBLEMS**

By approval of the Council, this item was removed from the agenda.

#### **ITEM 9: OLD BUSINESS**

#### **ITEM 9A: FRINK ALUMNI SEWER LINE EXTENSION PROJECT**

Manager Craft reported that the contractor had completed the work except for a little fire and grading. The engineer, Trey Gurley, came to do the inspection and during the survey they learned that the first 3 joints of pipe (about 80 feet) which starts at the outfall line going down our right- of-way going up to the creek did not meet State standards. That section of pipe will be removed and reinstalled to proper grade/specifications to meet State minimum standards, make sure it can be certified and also ensure the line will function properly. This alteration will not cost the Town any additional funds because it was no fault of the Town and no fault of the engineer. That work will hopefully be done this week. After the final survey is made, the engineer will complete the certificate of final completion and send it to Raleigh and then the Town will get approval to utilize the line.

#### **ITEM 9B: UPDATE ON NEW UTILITY BILL FORMAT AND UPGRADE OF UTILITY BILLING AND CASH COLLECTIONS SOFTWARE**

Manager Craft handed out a copy of our new utility bill format that will be mailed out to our customers at the end of February and was very pleased with the final copy by South Data. The new format is required as we get an upgrade to cash collections and our billing software. In-house training dates for office staff by Logics is scheduled for February 21 and 22 and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> the new updates will be in the system and ready for use.

With the new utility bill format and mailing, the Town will have the capabilities of messages written on the bill, inserts and even additional pages included in the mailing. This will be very helpful each year when the Town is required to give the public a copy of our annual Water Quality Report. Return envelopes will be included for customers to return their payments.

Discussion followed concerning the new utility bill format and mailing and also the best ways to notify our customers of the change.

#### **ITEM 10: CLOSED SESSION**

Motion was made by Council Member Sutton, seconded by Council Member Ellis to go into Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a) (4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations. The action approving the signing of an economic development contract or commitment, or the action authorizing the payment of economic development expenditures, shall be taken in open session. Motion carried 5-0 in favor of motion.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, seconded by Council Member Gladney to return to Regular Session. Motion carried 5-0 in favor of motion.

No action was taken in Closed Session.

#### **ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Council Member Gladney, seconded by Council Member Ellis to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0 in favor of motion.