

## REGULAR MEETING

The Town Council of the Town of La Grange, North Carolina met in Regular Session at the Town Hall on April 3, 2006, at 7:30 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, Elliott Sutton and Jeff Thomas; Town Manager, John P. Craft; Town Clerk, Phyllis T. Harrison, CMC; Town Attorney, George Jenkins, Jr.

Absent: None

Guest: 10

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

Mayor Gurley called the meeting to order. Council Member Sutton gave the invocation. Mayor Gurley welcomed all guest and Council Members.

### ITEM 4: PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. **Regarding Amending The Town Code of Ordinances; Chapter 2, Administration; Section 2-36 to Change the Official Meeting Time of The Town Council to 7:00 PM (Rather Than 7:30 PM) On the First Monday Night of Each Month**

Mayor Gurley opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments from the public or Council Members.

Motion was made by Council Member Sutton and seconded by Council Member Thomas to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

Motion was then made by Council Member Thomas and seconded by Council Member Ellis to approve said amendment to the code of ordinances. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion. Copy hereto attached.

- b. **Regarding Amending The Town Code of Ordinances; Chapter 38, Zoning; Section 120 to Change the Current Composition of the Board of Adjustment**

Mayor Gurley opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments from the public or Council Members.

Motion was made by Council Member Ellis and seconded by Council Member Sutton to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

Motion was then made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten and seconded by Council Member Ellis to approve said amendment to the code of ordinances. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion. Copy hereto attached.

- c. **Regarding Amending The Town Code of Ordinances; Chapter 2, Administration; Section 2-107 to Change the Current Composition of The Planning Board**

Mayor Gurley opened the Public Hearing. There were no comments from the public or Council Members.

Motion was made by Council Member Thomas and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

Motion was then made by Council Member Thomas and seconded by Council Member Ellis to approve said amendment. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion. Copy hereto attached.

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

Mrs. Mary Truitt appeared before the Council concerning her utility bill that was extremely high because of a water leak and a hot water heater problem. She was upset because she was not properly notified about this from the Town Hall staff.

#### **ITEM 6: AMENDMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion was made by Council Member Thomas and seconded by Council Member Ellis to approve the agenda and to amend it to include the following items:

- 1. Removal of Item 8B: Adoption of Cross Connection Ordinance**
- 2. Add 8F: Discussion on 217 East Washington Street**
- 3. Add 8G: Amend Cut-Off Time to Sign Up For Public Comment Period**

Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

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

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten and seconded by Council Member Koonce to approve the consent agenda which consisted of the following items:

- A. Approval of Minutes**
  - 1. February 25, 2006 Work Session**
  - 2. March 6, 2006 Regular Session**
  - 3. March 24, 2006 Special Session; Meeting with the Lenoir County Commissioners**

- B. Ordinance Amending FY 2005-2006 Budget**

Copy hereto attached.

- C. Advisory Board Appointments**

- 1. Resolution Appointing Margaret Cunningham, Lee Carr Sutton and John T. Miller as members of the Planning Board. Copy of Resolution hereto attached and in Resolution Book III Page 2006-04-173.**
- 2. Resolution Appointing Dorothy Sutton, Jimmy Graham, Jr. as members of the Planning Board. Copy of Resolution hereto attached and in Resolution Book III Page 2006-04-174.**
- 3. Resolution Appointing Eugene Shaw and Christie Wilhelm as members of the Planning Board. Copy of Resolution hereto attached and in Resolution Book III Page 2006-04-175.**
- 4. Resolution Appointing Geraldine Alphin, Alma Fields, and Henry Abbott, Jr. as members of the Board of Adjustment. Resolution hereto attached and in Resolution Book III Page 2006-04-176.**
- 5. Resolution Appointing Jimmy Boone and Mary Lewis, and David Holmes as members of the Board of Adjustment. Resolution hereto attached and in Resolution Book III Page 2006-04-177.**

**6. Resolution Appointing Dorethea Branch, Rosemary Myers and Julia Wooten as members of the Board of Adjustments. Resolution hereto attached and in Resolution Book III Page 2006-04-178.**

Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

**ITEM 8: NEW BUSINESS**

**ITEM 8A: REQUEST TO ADDRESS TOWN COUNCIL-MS. JUDITH SHAW**

Mrs. Judith Shaw appeared before the Council to extend to them an invitation to attend an event on April 8, 2006, at La Grange Elementary School to celebrate National Boys and Girls Club Week. She said this would be a fundraiser and youth membership drive for the Boys & Girls Club in La Grange.

**ITEM 8B: ADOPTION OF CROSS CONNECTION ORDINANCE**

This item was removed from the agenda at the present time.

**ITEM 8C: REVIEW OF POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS FOR 2005**

Chief Sullivan gave Council members updated statistics for the year of 2005 concerning arrests made and cases solved. Council Members commented to Police Chief Sullivan to keep up the good work.

**ITEM 8D: DISCUSSION PERTAINING TO THE JOHN C. WARD CLINIC BUILDING**

Manager Craft informed Council Members that since the bid period has closed on the John C. Ward Clinic building he had been contacted by two different parties to discuss the clinic building. Manager Craft said the thought it would be a much easier and cheaper building to renovate the clinic building than the building on Railroad Street that was donated to the Town by Mr. Harvey. He also stated that that it was a possibility that we may be able to receive some grants to renovate the building donated by Mr. Harvey for use as incubators for economic development.

Discussion was held among Council Members. Council Member Thomas stated that he thought we should wait until after the new year's budget was done before we made any decisions.

Council Member Gladney said that he thought we should proceed so we could resolve the Town Hall issue.

Council Members instructed Manager Craft to delay any further action related to disposal/sale of the clinic building and obtain some cost analysis from different contractors to see what kind of renovation cost was involved.

**ITEM 8E: THE UPCOMING EASTER HOLIDAY**

As a matter of information Manager Craft informed Council Members that the Town Offices would be closed on Friday April 14, 2006, in observance of Good Friday.

**ITEM 8F: INFORMATION REGARDING 217 EAST WASHINGTON STREET- THE NAN DAWSON PROPERTY**

Manager Craft reported to Council Members that we had billed Mrs. Dawson for cleaning up the lot at 217 East Washington Street and Mrs. Dawson had asked if she could make payments to the Town. The total bill was over \$9,000. Manager Craft said it would take her over five years to pay this bill and advised the Council to not allow her to make the payments but give her 60 days to pay and if she does not pay assess the property and take foreclose proceedings.

Motion was made by Council Member Ellis and seconded by Council Member Thomas to allow the Town Manager to handle the Dawson property and any other properties in accordance with NC General Statutes, allowing them 60 days to pay and then have the Town Attorney pass the unpaid expenses to the property in the form of a lien or special assessment. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

**ITEM 8G: AMEND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Motion was made by Council Member Thomas and seconded by Council Member Ellis to amend the Public Comment sign up period from 7:15 to 7:30 to 6:45 to 7:00 due to amending the ordinance for the meeting time to start at 7:00. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

Motion was made by Council Member Sutton to adjourn.

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Phyllis T. Harrison, CMC, Town Clerk

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Woodard H. Gurley, Mayor