

REGULAR MEETING

The Town Council of the Town of La Grange, North Carolina met in Regular Session at the Town Hall on April 5, 2010, at 6 p.m. with the following present:

Mayor Woodard H. Gurley; Mayor Pro Tem Bobby Wooten; Council Members Larry Gladney, Clifton Harrison, David S. Holmes, Veronica Lee and Gregory Rouse; Town Manager, John P. Craft; Town Attorney, George Jenkins, Jr.; Town Clerk, Nelda H. Johnson, CMC.

Manager Craft introduced the Council to Wayne Daniels. Mr. Daniels was recently employed with the Town within the Electric Department, having worked several years for Progress Energy and Mastek.

Absent: None

Guest: 4

ITEMS 1, 2, 3: CALL TO ORDER, MOMENT OF SILENCE, WELCOME

Mayor Gurley called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence. Mayor Gurley welcomed the guest.

ITEM 4: PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

ITEM 5: BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

None

ITEM 6: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

ITEM 7: AMENDMENT(S) TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Manager Craft recommended approval of the printed agenda as submitted. Motion was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten to approve the printed agenda. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

ITEM 8: CONSENT AGENDA

At this time, Manager Craft extended a special welcome to Major Rickie A. Pearson, Sr. with the Lenoir County Sheriff's Department; and, Edward Moore, who is being recommended to serve as an Advisory Board Member on the Planning Board. Mr. Moore is the Assistant Chief of our Fire Department has been a resident of La Grange for many years.

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - 1. March 1, 2010 Regular Session
 - 2. March 15, 2010 Special Session
- B. Approval of Audit Contract, Pittard Perry & Crone. Copy on file in the Clerk's office.
- C. Approval of Resolution Declaring Surplus Property. Copy of Resolution No. 2010-04-346-1 hereto attached and filed in Resolution Book IV.
- D. Approval of Appointment to Planning Board, Edward Moore. Copy hereto attached. Copy of Resolution 2010-04-346-2 hereto attached & filed in Resolution Book IV.

Motion was made by Council Member Holmes, seconded by Council Member Rouse to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

ITEM 9: NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 9A: APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF SERVICE BUCKET

Manager Craft reported to the Council that the revised Equipment Replacement Plan did allow for the purchase of a Service Bucket for the Electric Department in the next fiscal year. The expenditures for the construction of the Electric System in Sutton Acres were significantly less than anticipated and sufficient funds remain in the current budget in the Electric Fund to purchase the Service Bucket at this time. The purchase of a truck now would reduce pressure on next year' budget and there would be no impact to Fund Balance. Manager Craft cited several advantages to purchasing the Service Bucket: enables two different crews to work on Electric System simultaneously and work on difficult poles from two bucket trucks to expedite major repairs or maintenance type issues; cheaper to replace than full-sized bucket truck; more maneuverable and can work in yards for area light causing less damage to yards; cheaper to operate; can do 95% of the Town's work from a Service Bucket.

Manager Craft stated that he had investigated a particular truck, but had not visibly inspected the truck, a 2006 Ford F550 with approximately 59,000 miles and is an Altec Model 37G.

After discussion, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, seconded by Council Member Gladney to authorize the purchase of a Service Bucket utilizing funds remaining in the FY 2009-2010 Electric Department Budget prior to the end of the fiscal year with an anticipated purchase cost of \$45,000. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

ITEM 9B: APPROVAL OF DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY – 217 EAST WASHINGTON STREET

Manager Craft stated that at the March 15, 2010, Special Session, he was authorized and directed to negotiate the sale of 217 East Washington Street. Manager Craft reported that he has negotiated a sale and has reached a tentative agreement to sell 217 East Washington Street to John Hood for a negotiated private sale price of \$12,000, as part of Lenoir County's scattered site CDBG project, contingent on Council approval.

The property is known as parcel number 3566-06-276724, record number 17112 and North Carolina General Statue 160A-267 authorizes a negotiated private sale. Prior to completing the transaction, the Town is required to advertise the terms of the sale, and wait 10 days. If after 10 days, and no upset bid is received, the Town can then transfer the property to Mr. Hood.

Manager Craft stated that he recommends approval of the Resolution, which authorizes and directs the Mayor, Town Manager, Town Clerk, and Town Attorney to proceed with the process to sell 217 East Washington Street to Mr. John Hood after the 10 day period expires without an upset bid.

Motion was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Member Holmes to accept the Manager's recommendation and approve RESOLUTION TO DECLARE SURPLUS PROPERTY OF THE TOWN OF LA GRANGE and to proceed with the sale of 217 East Washington Street through the upset bid process. Copy of Resolution 2010-04-347 hereto attached and filed in Resolution Book IV.

ITEM 9C: AWARD OF BIDS FOR RE-USE PROJECT, WWTP HEADWORKS IMPROVEMENTS AND GENERATOR INSTALLATION

Manager Craft reviewed the grant awards from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, Lower Neuse Basin Association and the NC Rural Center for several significant improvements to the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

- **Re- Use Project**
 - Construction of pump station & piping to transport reuse water to park property
 - Spray Re-Use water on 120+ acres of land
- **Headwork's Improvements**
 - Replacement of Grit Removal System & Bar Screen
 - Replacement of Control Systems
 - Raw Sewage Pump Work
 - Addition of 4th Clarifier
 - Construction of a Drying Bed
- **Generator Installation**
 - Crouse Hinds Lift Station
 - Lake Pines Lift Station

Manager Craft stated that a pre-bid conference was held and then on March 16, 2010, the bid opening was held. Eight (8) companies bid on the project, one of which did not have the proper license to complete work within the WWTP and one withdrew their bid after determining that there was an error made on their bid tabulation of unit prices, therefore; there were six responsive responsible bidders.

The lowest responsive responsible bidder was Peters & White of Roanoke, Virginia with a bid amount of \$1,443,361.72. All bids have been verified and certified by Mark Drake, Engineer with The Wooten Company.

Manager Craft recommended approval of the bid award to Peters & White.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, Seconded by Council Member Harrison for approval of the RESOLUTION AWARDED A BID FOR CONSTRUCTION OF REUSE SYSTEM AND HEADWORK'S IMPROVEMENTS AT THE TOWN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT to Peters & White and authorize and direct the Mayor, Town Manager, Town Clerk, and Town Attorney to enter into a contract with Peters & White and execute the necessary documents to complete the project. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion. Copy of Resolution No. 2010-04-348 hereto attached and filed in Resolution Book IV.

ITEM 10: UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM 10A: DEMOLITION OF 108 WEST RAILROAD STREET

Manager Craft gave the Council an update on the status of the Resolution of Demolition of the structure located at 108 West Railroad Street. Manager Craft stated that the owner, Nicholas Picciotti, was not present at the meeting tonight.

Manager Craft reported that Mr. Picciotti has worked almost every day on the house since the Council's meeting last month. Code Enforcement Officer, Heith Harrison, was directed to pursue demolition permits and air quality permits. The air quality permit has been approved and is on hand. If the Council desires to proceed with the demolition, the Town is ready.

Manager Craft asked the Council to consider two issues (1) Is the Council satisfied with the work efforts that Mr. Picciotti is making to 108 West Railroad Street? (2) Does the Council wish to extend the time period until the next meeting or proceed with the demolition?

After Council discussion, motion was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Member Gladney to delay action until the May 2010 meeting. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

ITEM 10B: PARTF GRANT APPLICATION & SPRAY GROUND

The engineer's plans on the spray ground have been delivered to the Lenoir County Health Department and the Health Department has made their first review. There were some informational items (level of chlorine, height of strainers, artificial lighting, and bathroom facilities) that they needed clarifying by the engineer and those updated plans were anticipated by the end of the week. Equipment to be installed is ready and no other problems are anticipated. The completed project is still on schedule for May.

The PARTF Grant application has been submitted and the Town anticipates learning in late May if a grant has been awarded to the Town.

ITEM 10C: FINAL APPROVAL OF MAIN STREET SOLUTION GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Manager Craft reported that he and Heith Harrison had met with George Foss about two weeks ago. Mr. Foss owns the building at the corner of West Railroad Street and South Caswell Street. After a tour of the building, it was apparent that the building was in horrible condition. Manager Craft stated that he told Mr. Foss that whether or not he participated in the Main Street Grant, something would have to be done about the condition of his building. The estimated repair was in excess of \$650,000. George Foss would not commit to participate in the Main Street Solutions Fund Grant.

Worrell Contracting would not commit to the Main Street Solutions Fund Grant

Grace Barber College would not commit to the Main Street Solutions Fund Grant.

Due to no commitments from George Foss, Worrell Contracting and Grace Barber College Manager Craft recommended the following for the Main Street Solutions Application:

- Street Façade Improvements (Streetscaping): \$12,500 grant with matching funds required of \$12,500
- Town/LCC for Harvey Building: \$87,500 grant with matching funds of \$87,500 required. (This does not include renovation of the upstairs.) The lease contract from Lenoir Community College would be on hand before the April 15th submission deadline.

Motion was made by Council Member Gladney, seconded by Council Member Lee to approve the RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LA GRANGE AUTHORIZING NC MAIN STREET SOLUTIONS FUND APPLICATION AND DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED AGENT. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion. Copy of Resolution No. 2010-04-349 hereto attached and filed in Resolution Book IV.

ITEM 11: CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, seconded by Council Member Harrison to go into Closed Session as authorized by North Carolina General Statue 143-318.11 (a) (8). Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, seconded by Council Member Harrison to return to Regular Session. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, seconded by Council Member Lee to adjourn. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.