

REGULAR MEETING

The Town Council of the Town of La Grange, North Carolina met in Regular Session at the Town Hall on May 1, 2006, 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, Elliott Sutton and Jeff Thomas; Town Manager, John P. Craft; Town Clerk, Phyllis T. Harrison, CMC; Town Attorney, George Jenkins, Jr.

Absent: None

Guest: 13

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

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

ITEM 4: PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no Public Hearings scheduled for this meeting

ITEM 5: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Burnice Ross appeared before the Council with a concern over the high water bills and the recent increase.

Manager Craft explained to Mr. Ross the reasons it was necessary for us to increase the rates.

ITEM 6: AMENDMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

1. **8G: Information concerning the Community Prayer Breakfast and Town Hall Day in Raleigh on June 7.**

Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

ITEM 7: CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Council Member Thomas and seconded by Council Member Ellis to approve the consent agenda which consisted of the following items:

- a. **Approval of Minutes**
 1. **April 3, 2006- Regular Session**
- b. **Approval of Ordinance Amending FY 2005-2006 Budget**
Copy hereto attached.
- c. **Approval of Pole Attachment Agreement – Cebridge Connections**
Copy hereto attached.
- d. **Approval of Resolution Requesting Local Legislation Amending North Carolina General Statue §160A-303 Pertaining to Junked Vehicles.**
Copy hereto attached and in Resolution Book III, Page 2006-05-179.
- e. **This item was deleted.**

**f. Approval of Contract for Auditing Services, Pittard, Perry & Crone.
Copy hereto attached.**

Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

ITEM 8: NEW BUSINESS

**ITEM 8A: INTRODUCTION OF HEITH HARRISON AS NEW CODE ENFORCEMENT
AND SAFETY OFFICER**

Manager Craft introduced Heith Harrison to the Council as our newest employee. Heith came to us from New Hanover County but is a La Grange native. He also formerly worked in the Planning Department for the City of Kinston. He is a graduate of East Carolina University with a degree in planning. He will be the Code Enforcement and Safety Officer and Building Inspector.

Heith stated that it was a pleasure for him to be working for the Town and he would do his very best to enforce the codes in order to clean up the town.

ITEM 8B: AWARD OF BANKING SERVICES

Manager Craft reported to Council Members that he sent out request for proposals for banking services to all financial institutions in La Grange, the Little Bank, Southern Bank, BB&T and Wachovia. The bid opening was held on April 25 at 10:00 a.m. Only two of the financial institutions submitted proposals, the Little Bank and Southern Bank.

Manager Craft stated that the main thing we had to look at was what kind of interest rate we would be getting on our investments and what kind of fees we would be charged.

Manager Craft said that after research on both banks that Southern Bank was offering us the most return on our holdings and they waived all fees.

Manager Craft said that due to all factors concerned that he recommended that we award the banking service contract to Southern Bank.

Motion was made by Council Member Thomas and seconded by Council Member Sutton that Manager Craft's recommendation be approved and that we award the banking service contract to Southern Bank. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

ITEM 8C: CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR LAWN MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Manager Craft informed Council Members that we had received several proposals for lawn maintenance for the areas mowed by the Town. The bids range from \$68,180 annually to \$115,500. He stated that the cheaper of the costs submitted was a three year contract that actually divided the lawn maintenance performed by the Town in eight different contracts that would be split between three different contractors.

Council Member Gladney was concerned about the fact that the Town was doing all of the upkeep on the privately owned cemetery.

After lengthy discussion among Council Members and Manager Craft concerning the lawn maintenance contract and the privately owned cemetery motion was made by Council Member Ellis and seconded by Council Member Koonce to table this item at this time. Motion carried 4 to 2 in favor of motion. Council Member Thomas and Mayor Pro Tem Wooten opposed.

ITEM 8D: ESTABLISH FEE FOR MINIMUM HOUSING INSPECTIONS

Manager Craft informed Council Members that with the hiring of the full time Code Enforcement Officer we will be beginning the enforcement of the minimum housing

ordinance. Manager Craft said that municipalities that enforce the minimum housing standards generally charge for the inspection. The charges usually range from \$10 to \$15 and is generally paid by the property owner. This fee would be paid and the property inspected before utilities could be connected.

Manager Craft recommended to the Town Council that they establish a rate of \$10 per inspection and that the property owner pay the fee.

Motion was made by Council Member Thomas and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten to approve Manager Craft's recommendation. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

ITEM 8E: ESTABLISH DATES FOR BUDGET WORKSHOPS

Manager Craft recommended that the Council establish Monday, June 12, 2006 and Tuesday, June 13, 2006 as budget workshop sessions and Wednesday, June 14 for the approval and adoption of the budget. The meetings will be begin at 7:00 p.m.

ITEM 8F: INFORMATION REGARDING THE UPCOMING MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

Manager Craft reminded Council Members as per the Personnel Policy, the Town offices will be closed on Monday, May 29, 2006 in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday.

ADD ON ITEM 8G: INFORMATION ITEMS

- 1. Community Prayer Breakfast to be held Thursday May 4, 2006 at Lenoir Community College**
- 2. Town Hall Day, June 7, 2006 to be held in Raleigh from 9:15 -3:00**

ITEM 9: OLD BUSINESS

A. John C. Ward Clinic Building

Manager Craft reported to Council Members that he had met with six different painters and was getting quotes from them to paint the clinic building. He also stated that he had met with a glass company, phone company and cable company. He stated that the quotes had actually been less than he expected.

He advised Council Members that hopefully he would have everything ready in June for their consideration concerning the relocating of the Town Hall to the old clinic building.

With no further business to come before the Council, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten to adjourn.

Phyllis T. Harrison, CMC, Town Clerk

Woodard H. Gurley, Mayor