

REGULAR MEETING

The Town Council of the Town of La Grange, North Carolina met in Regular Session at the Town Hall on June 5, 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: 9

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

Mayor Gurley called the meeting to order. Invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten. Mayor Gurley welcomed all guest and Council Members.

ITEM 4: PUBLIC HEARING

a. CROSS CONNECTION ORDINANCE

Manager Craft explained to the Council and guest present that this ordinance was a State mandated ordinance that required the Town's adoption to be in compliance with the Federal Drinking Water Act.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, seconded by Council Member Thomas to open the public hearing. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

Wesley Sutton, Supervisor at the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant, further explained to the Council the reason for the Cross Connection Ordinance.

Discussion was also held among the Council Members. There was no public comment.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, seconded by Council Member Koonce to close the public hearing. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

Motion was then made by Council Member Ellis, seconded by Council Member Thomas to approve the Cross Connection Ordinance. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion. Copy of ordinance on file in Clerk's office.

ITEM 5: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Town Clerk, Phyllis T. Harrison, read a letter from Norman Davis, Jr. who resides at 604 South Charles Street. Mr. Davis was concerned over the numerous power outages the Town has had recently. Mr. Davis stated that on several occasions he had to reset all his clocks and had lost documents in his computer and he was becoming frustrated over this.

Manager Craft stated he and Keith Thornton, the Town's Electrical Supervisor, would look into this problem as soon as possible.

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

Manager Craft requested that the following items be added to be regular agenda:

**ITEM 9B: RECONSIDER THE FIRST MOTION CONCERNING THE
ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRIVATELY OWNED CEMETERY**

ITEM 9C: INFORMATION ITEMS (TOWN HALL DAY; ELECTRICITIES CONFERENCE)

Motion was made by Council Member Thomas, seconded by Council Member Gladney to amend the agenda to include the recommended items. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

ITEM 7: CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Council Member Thomas, seconded by Council Member Ellis to approve the consent agenda which included the following items:

- A. Approval of Minutes
 - 1. May 1, 2006 Regular Session
 - 2. May 9, 2006 Special Session (approved with necessary corrections)
- B. Approval of Ordinance Amending FY 2005-2006 Budget

Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

ITEM 8A: REQUEST TO ADDRESS COUNCIL – MS. SUE POWELL REGARDING LENOIR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION

Ms. Powell addressed the Council to make them aware of the Lenoir County Transit System and the services they provided for the citizens of La Grange. Ms. Powell handed out a brochure to each Council Member showing the hours of operation for the transit and other valuable information. Ms. Powell stated that they serviced over 150 people in the La Grange area.

ITEM 8B: APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY RENTAL OF PROPERTY

Manager Craft informed Council Members that Mr. Horace Vick, owner of Monk's Furniture, had approached him concerning renting the Harvey building for approximately 3 to 4 months to store furniture that will be moved from his store in Kinston. Manager Craft said that Mr. Vick has offered to pay the Town Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.) per month to utilize the building. Mr. Vick is not requesting that any alternations be made to the building other than those required to prevent the entry of pigeons into the building.

After discussion motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, seconded by Council Member Ellis to approve the temporary rental of the Harvey building to Horace Vick for \$200 per month. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

ITEM 8C: DISCUSSION PERTAINING TO DILAPIDATED STRUCTURES

Manager Craft presented a slide presentation of deteriorated/dilapidated homes that Heith Harrison, Code Enforcement Officer, had prepared for him. Manager Craft ask Council Members to evaluate these dilapidated structures and prioritize them in the order that the Town needed to work on.

Discussion was held concerning the structures listed. No decisions were made.

ITEM 8D: DISCUSSION REGARDING THE RENOVATION OF THE JOHN C. WARD CLINIC BUILDING

Manager Craft reminded Council Members that it had been discussed a couple of months ago that he investigate the cost of renovation of the John C. Ward Clinic Building for use as the Town Hall. Manager Craft stated that he had approached this without including the addition that would be required for the Council meeting room. The quotes that have been received are for the painting of the building, inside and outside; installation of phone system; computer network cabling, an alarm system including

access control system (which will provide additional security for the finance staff during the time the office is open); renovation to the collections area including the installation of “teller” type collection windows.

The cost based on quotes received is approximately Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000). Manager Craft said that he has estimated the cost to furnish the building will be approximately Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$18,000) for a total of Fifty-eight Thousand Dollars (\$58,000) that is included in the 2006-2007 budget. Phase II of the renovation would be the construction of the Council meeting room which, based on estimates, will be approximately One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$120,000).

Manager Craft informed the Council that if they chose to approve this plan, renovations could be completed in 30 – 60 days. Manager Craft recommended that the Council consider approval of the renovation of the clinic to be used as a Town Hall.

Motion was made by Council Member Gladney, seconded by Council Member Ellis to approve the recommendation. Motion carried 5 to 1 in favor of motion. Council Member Thomas opposed.

ITEM 8E: TOWN HALL CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF JULY 4TH HOLIDAY

Manager Craft reminded Council Members that as stated in the Personnel Policy, Town offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, 2006, in observance of the holiday and the July 2006 Town Council meeting will be held on July 10, 2006.

ITEM 9A: REMINDER OF BUDGET WORKSHOPS

Manager Craft reminded Council Members of the scheduled budget workshops on June 12 and June 13 and adoption of budget on June 14, 2006.

ITEM 9B: RECONSIDER OF THE ORIGINAL MOTION CONCERNING THE DONATION OF THE PRIVATELY OWNED CEMETERY

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, seconded by Council Member Ellis to reconsider said motion from the Special Meeting on May 9, 2006. Motion carried 5-1 in favor of motion. Council Member Sutton opposed.

Mayor Pro Tem Wooten and Council Member Sutton voted in favor of accepting the privately owned cemetery. Council Members Thomas, Gladney, Ellis and Koonce voted no. Motion failed 4-2.

ITEM 9C: INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Manager Craft reminded Council Members that Town Hall Day would be Wednesday, June 7 and the Electricities convention will be August 11 – 12.

Motion was then made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, seconded by Council Member Thomas to go in Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318 (a) (3) and (6) in relation to two personnel related issues. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

After Closed Session motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten and seconded by Council Member Ellis to adjourn. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.