

SPECIAL MEETING

The Town Council of the Town of La Grange, North Carolina held a Special Meeting at the Town Hall on September 24, 2007, at 7 p.m. with the following present:

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

Absent: George Koonce, Council Member
George Jenkins, Jr., Town Attorney

Guest: 7

Mayor Gurley called the meeting to order and asked Council Member Sutton to offer a prayer.

Mayor Gurley turned the meeting over to Manager Craft.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Manager Craft stated that before the two items for discussion began that he wanted to make the Council aware that the Town would begin doing some smoke testing on October 1, 2007, of the sanitary sewer lines trying to locate breaks and defects in the sewer system. The information gained from this study will be used to improve our sewer system and may reduce the eventual cost to ratepayers.

Also the Town will be flushing fire hydrants between October 22, 2007, and November 2, 2007, as apart of our overall water system maintenance program.

Manager Craft stated that the purpose of the Special Meeting was the discussion of two items:

- (1) PURCHASE OF A CASE 580M BACKHOE UTILIZING THE PIGGY-BACK BID METHOD
- (2) REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PLANNING BOARD AND TOWN STAFF

ITEM 1: PURCHASE OF BACKHOE

Manager Craft reminded the Council that the repair of our present backhoe which is a 1998 model Case with in excess of 7,000 hours and the estimated cost of repairs was \$7,500 or the purchase of a new backhoe was discussed earlier at the September meeting. After exploring the possibilities, the first being the purchase of the equipment on an out-right bid on the behalf of the Town of La Grange. Bids were received from Caterpillar, John Deere, and Briggs Equipment Company in the range from \$57,000 to \$58,000. All three companies were asked to research the piggy-back bid method which will allow the Town to buy off any Federal, State or Local Government Contract in the United States. Briggs Equipment Company was the only company to locate a piggy-back method bid which was in the state of Minnesota by their Department of Transportation. They were able to offer the Town a Case 580M which is a newer model of the exact tractor/backhoe we have now and with our requested modifications it would cost \$51,750. The company also agreed to allow the Town \$13,000 for trade for our piece of equipment, which would reduce the Town's expenditure for a piece of new equipment, and if the Town were to factor in the \$7,500 for the cost of repairs for the old backhoe, it would reduce the cost down to \$31,250.

Manager Craft stated that it was his recommendation not to repair our present equipment and to purchase a new backhoe using the piggy-back method and award the bid to Briggs Equipment Company. Delivery could be 60-90 days.

Manager Craft stated that he had negotiated the rental of a backhoe for Town use in the amount of \$1,250 for the entire time that the Town was waiting for the delivery of the new piece of equipment.

Discussion was held between the Council and Manager Craft concerning the purchase of a new backhoe.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, seconded by Council Member Ellis to allow Manager Craft to proceed with the purchase of a new backhoe from Briggs Equipment Company using the piggy-back bid method. Motion carried 4-1 in favor of motion. Council Member Thomas opposed.

ITEM 2: REVIEW OF PROPOSED SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE

Manager Craft stated that at present the Town of La Grange does not have a subdivision ordinance. Manager Craft reviewed with the Council a proposed Subdivision Ordinance in detail that was recommended by the Town of La Grange's Planning Board and Town Staff.

Planning Board members present were Margaret Cunningham, Eugene Shaw, Lee Carr Sutton, John T. Miller and Jimmie Graham, Jr.

After discussion, the Council thanked the Planning Board members for their hard work and dedication in preparing and reviewing a proposed ordinance.

Manager Craft stated that a public hearing would have to be set to receive public comment and the adoption of a subdivision ordinance and that would possibly be in November.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Manager Craft updated the Council on the Town's purchase of property on North Caswell Street off of Highway 903 stating that the Town had received permission to execute the option and to close on the property.

The Town will be able to use the Clean Water Management Trust Fund monies for the storm drainage work that is being done on Caswell Street. Ormond Utilities is still continuing to work on this project.

Manager Craft stated that he had walked our streets with NC Department of Transportation representatives from the intersection of South Caswell Street and Lake Pines Drive all the way down to the northern city limits and spot checked places on Washington Street that they were aware of to identify every pothole. Manager Craft stated that he had requested that these streets be paved prior to November and if the Department of Transportation cannot schedule the paving of these streets and repair storm drainage problems to reschedule until March 2008 because of cold weather conditions.

There being no further business, motion was made by Council Member Gladney, seconded by Council Member Ellis to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0 in favor of motion.

