

REGULAR MEETING

The Town Council of the Town of La Grange, North Carolina met in Regular Session at the Town Hall on October 12, 2009, at 6 p.m. with the following present:

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

Absent: None

Guest: 6

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

Mayor Gurley called the meeting to order and asked Council Member Sutton to give the invocation. Mayor Gurley gave a welcome to all Council Members and guest.

ITEM 4: PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

Manager Craft stated that the Public Hearing concerning the placement of basketball goals on street right-of-ways previously scheduled for this meeting would be held on November 2, 2009.

ITEM 5: BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

No cases to be heard.

ITEM 6: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

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

Manager Craft recommended approval of the printed agenda, with the following addition: ITEM 9D: APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION INDICATING THE TOWN'S AGREEMENT TO PARTICPATE IN THE NORTH CAROLINA SMALL TOWN MAIN STREET PROGRAM 2009-2010.

Motion was made by Council Member Koonce, seconded by Council Member Gladney to approve the printed agenda with the addition of ITEM 9D as previously stated. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

ITEM 8: CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Minutes
 - i. September 14, 2009 Regular Session Minutes

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, seconded by Council Member Sutton to approve the minutes with the correction of ITEM 9E; the minutes should state that the motion was seconded by Council Member Gladney. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

ITEM 9: NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 9A: SCHEDULING OF SPECIAL MEETING TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED MULTI-PURPOSE RECREATION COMPLEX

Manager Craft stated that at the September 2009 Council Meeting he was instructed to re-submit the PARTF Grant application seeking \$500,000 in funding to build the first phase of the proposed multi-purpose recreation complex off of North Charles Street.

Manager Craft informed the Council that he had attended a workshop on October 7, 2009, as a prerequisite to apply for the grant. Also, additional meetings would enhance the Town's application and provide additional points and consideration of an additional citizen survey would be beneficial.

Manager Craft recommended scheduling a Special Meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 2, 2009, to receive public comment on the proposal of a multi-purpose recreation complex and to consider an additional citizen survey. This Special Meeting would be held one hour prior to the November 2, 2009, regular scheduled Town Council Meeting.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, seconded by Council Member Harrison to accept the Manager's recommendation and schedule a Special Meeting on Monday, November 2, 2009, at 5 p.m. to discuss the proposed multi-purpose recreation complex and receive public comment; and, to send out a citizen survey. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

ITEM 9B: APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF RURAL CENTER GRANT APPLICATIONS AND NECESSARY GRANT DOCUMENTS

(1) Planning Grant: \$40,000 to facilitate the completion of an updated Capital Improvements Plan.

Manager Craft stated that the State recently released a new funding cycle through the Rural Center and as a requirement the Town had to notify the Rural Center of the Town's intent to apply. Manager Craft further stated that he was in consultation with the Town's two engineering firms, working very closely with The Wooten Company in matters that involved sewer, wastewater collection system, and Wastewater Treatment Plant. Recently the Town has been working with Hobbs and Upchurch Engineering Firm on designing the Town's new two shallow wells. Manager Craft stated that about two weeks ago, he had received correspondence from Wayne Bryant, with the NC Division of Water Quality, and it will be required that the Town update our Capital Improvements Plan. In order for the plan to meet State requirements, a detailed report based on all current information must be provided and The Wooten Company can include necessary elements to meet requirements. The Rural Center Grant would cover up to \$40,000 of the cost, a Town match of 35% is required and the maximum cost to the Town would be \$14,000.

(2) Infrastructure Grant: \$500,000 grant to build one additional shallow well and replace 4,000 linear feet of 2" water lines within the Town.

Manager Craft stated that the second submission would seek a total of \$500,000 (the maximum grant amount) to fund the replacement of 4,000 linear feet of 2" water lines in Town (exact locations to be determined) and install one shallow well. The match that would be required for the \$500,000 grant would be \$125,000. If the Town were successful, the Town would be in pretty good shape as far as our compliance with the Capacity Use Area Reductions for several years to come. The Town needs to replace the smaller water lines in Town, primarily the lines that are located along West Railroad Street, West James Street, both East and West Washington Street; and possibly behind the Police Department (old Town Hall) and behind Wachovia Bank.

Manager Craft recommended the approval of Authorizing Resolutions to enable and instruct the Mayor and Town Manager to complete and execute the necessary documents to further the Town's applications for grant funding through the NC Rural Center to obtain the \$40,000 Planning Grant and the \$500,000 Supplemental Grant.

After discussion, motion was made by Council Member Rouse, seconded by Council Member Gladney to approve the following documents:

- (1) Planning Program – Authorizing Resolution by Governing Body of the Applicant (Update Capital Improvements Plan) – Resolution No. 2009-10-331
- (2) Supplemental Program – Authorizing Resolution by Governing Body of the Town of La Grange (Water Line Replacement) – Resolution No. 2009-10-332 ;
- (3) Adoption of Project Budget and Commitment to Local Match – Resolution No. 2009-10-333.

Copies of Resolution Nos. 2009-10-331, 2009-10-332, and 2009-10-333 hereto attached and filed in Resolution Book IV.

ITEM 9C: CONSIDER FUNDING TO PROVIDE CITIZENS WITH AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EARLY VOTING FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN FUTURE YEARS

Manager Craft informed the Council that the Director of the Lenoir County Board of Elections, Ms. Dana King, contacted him concerning if the Town would want to pay for 12 days of early voting. The cost for three (3) poll workers for twelve (12) days in order to provide early voting to our citizens would cost the Town \$3,200. If the Council opted not to provide early voting here in La Grange, our citizens would be able to vote early, but would have to go to Kinston to do so. Ms. King did advise that she would not be able to make early voting happen this year, due to the fact that the State requires a thirty (30) day notice to the public to make it legal. The question is, does La Grange want to offer early voting in future years.

Manager Craft stated that based on this year's cost estimate, the cost would be approximately \$275/day to offer the voting service. The Council can offer the voting for a shorter period of time if desired, which Manager Craft stated he would recommend. In last year's election, only 35 people voted early; so, there are very few people that take advantage of early voting and there appears to be little interest.

Motion was made by Council Member Harrison, seconded by Council Member Gladney to provide early voting for two (2) days.

After continued discussion, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, seconded by Council Member Gladney to table the motion as to allow Manager Craft time to contact the Board of Elections to determine if the Town has the option to choose specific voting dates/days and what is the window for early voting. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

ITEM 9D: APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN 2009-2010 SMALL TOWN MAIN STREET PROGRAM

Manager Craft provided the Council with a copy of the Resolution Agreement to Participate in 2009-2010 Small Town Main Street Program and recommended its approval.

Motion was made by Council Member Gladney, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten to approve the RESOLUTION AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN 2009-2010 SMALL TOWN MAIN STREET PROGRAM. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion. Copy of Resolution No. 2009-10-334 hereto attached and filed in Resolution Book IV.

ITEM 10: UNFINISHED BUSINESS & INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ITEM 10A: AMI PROJECT UPDATE; CONSIDER ALTERNATE PAYMENT OPTIONS

Manager Craft stated that he would like to discuss again the Town's payment options on utility bills. The approval of online bill payment and inquiry ability was discussed and approved last month and Manager Craft stated that he was pleased to report that this option has been accomplished. The option has been added to the Town's website and in the near future will be advertised to the Town's customers.

Manager Craft stated that previously there had been discussion about a Kiosk payment option with US Payments and wanted to discuss it briefly. Originally the discussion was

to partnership with US Payments with kiosk location options at the Food Lion, Wilco-Hess or here at Town Hall. At the present, US Payments does not have an existing relationship with Wilco-Hess or the Food Lion. The original quoted price of having a kiosk offsite from the Town Hall was \$450 per month; \$0.60 per transaction charged to the Town if Town pays cost or \$2.00 to the customer if charged directly to the customer; no income from fees paid directly to Town if payments are made to other vendors.

If a kiosk were to be placed at Town Hall, a location would have to be decided upon which would probably be the closed in area between the front door and the lobby. The cost would be \$250 per month; \$0.60 per transaction charge remains the same; and \$0.75 fees paid directly to Town if payments are made to other vendors.

Manager Craft stated that there are also two other kiosk options. Both of these options are through Logics, LLC, the Town's software company. One is a kiosk that is weatherproof and could be mounted outside. This kiosk will not accept cash; but, would involve no cost on a per transaction basis. A kiosk that accepts cash would be very beneficial to the Town's customers as prepaid is coming soon.

The second kiosk option offered by Logics, LLC will accept cash, but must be inside in the lobby. The cost is not known at this time; but, there is no cost on a per transaction basis.

Manager Craft stated that he needed direction from the Council if they desired a kiosk in the lobby or the option to locate a kiosk at an alternate location. Also, does the Town want the responsibility or partner with a third party.

Manager Craft also informed the Council that an option to customers would be to pay at Wal-Mart or CVS Pharmacy through Money Gram for a fee of \$2.95 per transaction.

Manager Craft stated that the main advantage of a kiosk was for prepaid customers making payments after hours, especially on weekends. If a customer on prepaid were to be cut-off, and the customer were to make a payment through a kiosk or Money Gram, our system would know within a very short time (approximately 15 minutes) and the customer's power would automatically be restored.

After lengthy discussion among the Council and Manager Craft, with numerous payment options already available to customers and the addition of Money Gram, the Council decided not to take any action at this time on a kiosk payment option. Should there be a need in the future, the kiosk payment option will be reconsidered.

ITEM 10B: PART F GRANT APPLICATION AND SPRAY GROUND

Manager Craft updated the Council on the proposed spray ground to be located at the same location as the tennis court at the Lions Park. Since the Town did not receive a PART F grant, the construction of a spray ground that was previously approved by the Council is moving forward. In the very near future demolition will begin to remove the tennis court; and, \$45,000 has been budgeted this FY for a spray ground.

Manager Craft provided the Council with pictures showing the features that NMB Waterworks has been asked to provide a quote. This quote will be based on the following criteria:

1. Includes the following water features:
 - Mushroom Dome
 - Post Arm Sprayer
 - Super Splash
 - Geysers
 - Water Rings
 - Flower
2. The shape of the pad to be like the leaf within the municipal logo.
3. Provide sidewalks around the perimeter of the spray ground.

4. Connect existing sidewalks (walking trail) to the spray ground pad in two locations.
5. Two pumps, filters, and chlorine pumps to provide water to the park.
6. 1,000 gallon in-ground tank to hold/re-circulate water to conserve water.
7. Stain the concrete green like the color of the municipal logo.
8. Provide labor and materials for complete installation, other than:
 - Underground vault to house filters, pumps and controls.
 - Electric wiring to underground vault.
 - Water service lines to vault.
 - Excavation for installation of equipment (which Town will do to minimize costs).

The cost estimate from Spencer Thomasson, with NMB Waterworks for the installation process and proposed layout is \$49,975.00.

After continued discussion on how a spray ground works and the outlined criteria, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, seconded by Council Member Gladney to proceed with the spray ground. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

ITEM 10C: UPDATE REGARDING SUTTON ACRES PHASE II

Manager Craft gave the Council an update on the construction of Sutton Acres Phase II stating that construction was on schedule and the sewer lines were 100% complete; sewer taps 100% complete; lift station 50+% complete; water lines 100% complete; water taps 100% complete; and the streets and drainage work to begin on Thursday or Friday of this week. The electrical infrastructure is about 15% complete.

ITEM 11: CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made by Council Member Gladney, seconded by Council Member Harrison to go into Closed Session as authorized by North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (4) (5) (6). Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Council Member Gladney, seconded by Council Member Sutton to adjourn. Motion carried 6-0 in favor of motion.

Nelda H. Johnson, CMC, Town Clerk

Woodard H. Gurley, Mayor