

REGULAR MEETING

The Town Council of the Town of La Grange, North Carolina met in Regular Session at the Town Hall on October 15, 2008, at 7 p.m. with the following present:

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

Absent: Council Member George Koonce

Guest: 7

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

Mayor Gurley called the meeting to order and asked Mayor Pro Tem to give the invocation. Mayor Gurley welcomed the guest.

ITEM 4: PUBLIC HEARING

ITEM 4A: PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT RELATED TO LAND USE PLAN AS PROPOSED BY THE PLANNING BOARD

The Land Use Plan is a vital tool for municipalities, as it serves as a guidance document for future growth and development; helps the Town plan and anticipate infrastructure needs to facilitate future growth; one of the base documents required for nearly all grants; recommended by the Planning Board.

Mr. Halsall, with the NC Division of Community Assistance, made a presentation to the Town Council of the Goals and Objectives that were identified by the Town's Planning Board, Town Council, Town Staff and the citizens of La Grange over the course of several working sessions during the Planning Board's regularly scheduled meetings. Valuable input on key issues facing the Town was gathered in these sessions. All meetings were opened to the public for participation and a public input session was held on March 31, 2008. The results of the planning sessions served as the foundation used by the Planning Board in the creation and prioritization of the goals and objectives for La Grange.

Mr. Halsall provided the Council with a handout outlining the Goals and Objectives for the Town of La Grange and began a brief overview of the information.

During the review, Council Member Harrison stated that he had issues with Goal No. 3: Attract new residential development and residents to La Grange.

Council Member Gladney stated that he had concerns with Goal No. 1: Reduce drug use and incidents of criminal activity within the Town through the utilization of effective, consistent land use policy.

The public was given an opportunity to speak concerning the Land Use Plan. After no comments by the public, motion was made by Council Member Gladney, seconded by Council Member Rouse to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried 5-0 in favor of motion.

It was the general consensus of the Town Council to table this Public Hearing concerning the Land Use Plan until the Council could hold a work session to discuss in detail the Land Use Plan.

ITEM 5: BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

No cases to be heard.

ITEM 6: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ryland Shaw, 815 Madison Ann Drive, stated that he was representing several residents of Sutton Acres concerning the recent mailing on the changes of garbage pick up. Mr. Shaw stated that enough information was not given before the change was made stating that the main concern was the level of inmates that the Town would be using to help with the garbage collection. Residents are concerned about security.

Manager Craft responded stating that Onslow Container Service had requested additional funding and that request played a part in the Council making their decision on the Town to begin picking up garbage. Quotes from other providers for these services were also obtained. Also, yard waste and recycling services can be enhanced by keeping all services in-house and a substantial amount of money can be saved by bringing the services in-house.

Manager Craft stated that the Town had been using inmates for over two years and they are supervised at all times by Town personnel that has been certified as a custodial agent by the State. Inmates are screened by the Prison Department before they are sent to La Grange; are not violent offenders or sex offenders and are inmates that are just before being released from prison. The inmates come from Greene Correctional Facility which is a minimum facility.

Carlton Crain, 310 Madison Ann Drive, declined comment stating that Mr. Shaw had addressed the waste collection issue.

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

Manager Craft recommended approval of the printed agenda as submitted with the following five additions and three items to be tabled:

ADDITIONS

ITEM 9E: PRESENTATION OF PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE

ITEM 9F: APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION VERIFYING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AS AN AGENCY OF THE TOWN OF LA GRANGE

ITEM 9G: DISCUSSION RELATED TO THE TOWN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE NCLM WELLNESS PROGRAM

ITEM 10D: DISCUSSION RELATED TO THE GARBAGE COLLECTION SYSTEM AND ESTABLISH RATE FOR ADDITIONAL YARD WASTE CARTS

ITEM 10E: UPDATE ON CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND GRANT APPLICATION

TABLED ITEMS

ITEM 10A: DISCUSSION RELATED TO AUTOMATED METER READING SYSTEM

ITEM 10B: DISCUSSION RELATED TO RECREATION FACILITIES

ITEM 10C: UPDATE ON DOWNTOWN BUILDING DEMOLITION PROJECT

Motion was made by Council Member Gladney, seconded by Council Member Harrison to approve the printed agenda with the five additions and three tabled items as recommended by Manager Craft. Motion carried 5-0 in favor of motion.

ITEM 8: CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

1. September 8, 2008 Regular Session
2. September 8, 2008 Closed Session

B. Approval of Resolution Establishing a Formal Capitalization Policy. Copy of Resolution No. 2008-10-213 hereto attached and filed in Resolution Book III.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, seconded by Council Member Sutton to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried 5-0 in favor of motion.

ITEM 9: NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 9A: APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION OF DEMOLITION – 307 EAST BOUNDARY STREET

Heith Harrison, Code Enforcement Officer, spoke stating that the demolition process has been long and drawn out due to the fact that the owner has been nonresponsive to notices mailed by general delivery, certified mail, posted on the property and notices that were run in the Weekly Gazette. The Town has followed the appropriate steps according to the NC General Statutes for the Town to abate the hazard. The owner of the property is Geraldine Moore.

Mr. Harrison stated that a neighbor and relative of Geraldine Moore, Alice Miller, located at 309 East Boundary Street had contacted him this week and was wanting to try to find the money to at least pay for the asbestos inspection which cost \$850.00. The Fire Department would be burning the structure and Tom Foster has given a price of \$800.00 to clean up afterwards and haul off the debris which would include cement blocks. The total expense would be \$1,650.00 and Mrs. Miller has stated that she would like to pay the Town for this service. The Town would place a property tax lien on 307 East Boundary Street until reimbursement is made.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, seconded by Council Member Gladney to approve RESOLUTION OF DEMOLITION – 307 EAST BOUNDARY STREET. Copy of Resolution No. 2008-10-214 hereto attached and filed in Resolution Book III.

ITEM 9B: ESTABLISH DATE FOR SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS POLICE CHIEF APPLICANTS

Manager Craft stated that a Special Meeting would not be necessary due to the number of applicants. The discussion will be scheduled at the November 3, 2008, Closed Session.

ITEM 9C: REQUEST TO DESIGNATE ADDITIONAL HANDICAP PARKING SPACE AND TO POST “NO PARKING” SIGNS – LA GRANGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Manager Craft stated that Jimmy Boone, Chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee of the La Grange Christian Church, has requested modifications to the parking allowed on South Center Street on the east side adjacent to the church property. Also, Mr. Boone is requesting one additional handicap parking space on the west side of Center Street.

Manager Craft stated that this request would not create a traffic control problem, nor would it adversely affect any other residence or business because the church owns the property on both sides of Center Street where the handicap space is requested and the “No Parking” signs are requested.

Interim Chief of Police, Jerry Davis, spoke stating that he had reviewed the traffic pattern on South Center Street and street parking on the east side and the west side of the church’s property. With the traffic flow being blocked on Sunday and the three handicap spaces on the east side it would cause a hazard and posting the no parking signs on the west side of Center Street should be erected.

Council Member Gladney spoke stating that he would like to see some action taken against the parking in the street on the 200 block of South Caswell Street.

Manager Craft stated that persons could be warned and possibly given parking tickets; but, he would prefer to send the Methodist Church a letter to make the members aware of the potential danger and hazard being caused for motorist traveling South Caswell Street especially on Sundays.

Motion was made by Council Member Gladney, seconded by Council Member Sutton to allow the La Grange Christian Church one additional handicap parking space on the

west side of South Center Street adjacent to church property and to have "No Parking" signs erected on the east side of South Center Street adjacent to church property. Motion carried 5-0 in favor of motion.

ITEM 9D: APPROVAL OF LANDSCAPE AND BEAUTIFICATION AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD

Manager Craft stated that the North Carolina Railroad is requesting that the Town approve a Landscape and Beautification Agreement to allow the Town to legally mow the right-of-way and to landscape and maintain the landscaping. The Town Attorney has reviewed this agreement.

Manager Craft stated that the Town had already been maintaining the right-of-way without a formal agreement. The agreement gives the details on what the Town will be allowed to plant and where to plant and gives the Town the authority to maintain those plantings and cut the grass as the Town deems necessary.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, seconded by Council Member Gladney to approve the Landscape and Beautification Agreement with the North Carolina Railroad. Motion carried 5-0 in favor of motion. Copy of agreement on file in Clerk's office.

ITEM 9E: PRESENTATION OF INTERMEDIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT CERTIFICATE TO OFFICER CHARLES PAGE BY INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE JERRY DAVIS

Interim Chief Davis stated that he had the honor of presenting Officer Charles Page with his Intermediate Law Enforcement Certificate earlier today. Officer Page could not be present at the Council Meeting tonight to be recognized for this accomplishment. Interim Chief Davis stated that Officer Page was doing an outstanding job continuing his education in law enforcement and was very proud of him as he will continue toward earning his Advanced Certificate in the next four years.

ITEM 9F: APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION - LA GRANGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Manager Craft brought to the attention of the Council that a RESOLUTION VERIFYING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AS AN AGENCY OF THE TOWN OF LA GRANGE was required to be approved as part of their ISO inspection.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, seconded by Council Member Harrison to approve the RESOLUTION VERIFYING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AS AN AGENCY OF THE TOWN OF LA GRANGE. Motion carried 5-0 in favor of motion. Copy of Resolution No. 2008-10-215 hereto attached and filed in Resolution Book III.

ITEM 9G: NORTH CAROLINA LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES (NCLM) WELLNESS PROGRAM

Manager Craft announced that he was proud that the Town was going to participate in a wellness program through the NCLM.

Heith Harrison, coordinator of the program for the Town, spoke stating that an orientation was scheduled for November 19, 2008, at 3 p.m. All Council Members and part-time employees are eligible and are invited to participate in this program, but their cost would be \$150.00. Assessments are scheduled for November 24th and 25th

ITEM 10: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ITEM 10A: AUTOMATED METER READING SYSTEM

Tabled.

ITEM 10B: RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Tabled.

ITEM 10C: UPDATE ON DOWNTOWN DEMOLITION PROJECT

Tabled.

ITEM 10D: GARBAGE COLLECTION

Manager Craft updated the Council on the garbage collection schedule as the Town will begin collection the first week in November. The carts are assembled and will be put out for our customers the last week of October and the garbage trucks are scheduled to arrive tomorrow. The Town will have a set schedule for garbage activities as follows:

- Monday: Special Pick Up Day (white goods, tires) Customers will be asked to call and request a special pick up and there would not be an extra charge for this service.
- Tuesday: Yard Waste (Brown Cart) Yard waste will be picked up free of charge once per week as long as the yard waste is placed in the special cart provided. Yard debris not placed in the cart would be considered a Special Pick Up and there would be a charge.
- Wednesday: Recyclable (Blue Cart)
- Thursday: Household Collection - South of the Railroad Tracks (Green Cart)
- Friday: Household Collection - North of the Railroad Tracks (Green Cart)

Manager Craft stated that the Council needed to determine a charge for additional yard waste carts and he recommended \$5.00 per month per extra cart.

There are a couple of exceptions to the rule concerning the pick up of yard debris that customers would not be charged:

- (1) Storm debris
- (2) Leaf season

After discussion, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, seconded by Council Member Gladney to approve Manager Craft's recommendation of \$5.00 per month per extra yard waste cart. Motion carried 5-0 in favor of motion.

ITEM 10E: CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND (CWMTF) GRANT APPLICATION

Manager Craft announced that he was very pleased that he had received verbal notification of a grant awarded from the CWMTF to the Town in the amount of \$401,000 to make improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. These improvements will be made specifically in the control system, grit chamber, and raw sewage pump. The Town will be required to match 16% of the grant which will be \$64,000.

ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wooten, seconded by Council Member Gladney to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0 in favor of motion.

Nelda H. Johnson, CMC, Town Clerk

Woodard H. Gurley, Mayor