

Town of HOLLY RIDGE

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HOLLY RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING January 10th, 2012

Mayor Padgett called the Regular monthly Meeting of the Holly Ridge Town Council to order at 7:00 pm. at the Holly Ridge Town Hall. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Edwards, Councilwoman Stanley, Councilwoman Dingler, Councilman Hines, and Councilman Wright. Also present were Manager Maiorano, Attorney Stroud, and Town Clerk; Heather Reynolds.

Mayor Padgett asked for a moment of silence.

Pledge

Mayor Padgett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Minutes

There was concern voiced by Councilman Wright about Councilwoman Dingler being mentioned in the beginning of the Regular Monthly Meeting in December.

A motion was made by **Mayor Pro-Tem Edwards** and seconded by **Councilman Wright** to adopt the minutes of the Special Meeting for Reviewing and Discussing the Town Ordinances held on November 30th, 2011 and the Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting held on December 13th, 2011 as amended. **All Agreed.**

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by **Councilwoman Stanley** and seconded by **Councilman Wright** to adopt the Agenda as presented. **All Agreed.**

Persons Wishing to Address the Council

Manager Maiorano took this time to introduce Sean Norris to the Town Council. He explained Sean is the newest member to the Maintenance Department and stated he is doing a good job.

Friends of the Park Report

Manager Maiorano stated there is an item on tonight's agenda addressing the Friends of the Park and he will discuss the report at that time.

ONWASA Report

Councilman Hines gave the following report:

- Hudiburg Sewer Line has caused a lot of disruption and there is a lot of repair work to do down there. A lot of the water lines have been busted because the work was before standards. The work will take a couple of more weeks but the improvements will bring this area up to standards.
- ONWASA is re-thinking a lot of things they are doing because of the land in Richlands that had to be purchased. This land purchase took a large amount out ONWASA's budget. The way ONWASA does business is being revamped and there may be a need to partner with other organizations in order to get the same projects accomplished.
- The biggest goal of ONWASA is to get as much sewer as possible to people in Onslow County.
- It will probably be inevitable that water rates are going to go up.
- Boil advisories are a precaution anytime a water line is opened until the water is tested and comes back safe.

Public Hearing

There were none.

Old Business

Discussion of the Town's Website

Manager Maiorano stated the employees are still having issues with the Town's website. He explained the quotes received range from \$600.00 to \$3,500.00. Manager Maiorano asked for guidance from the council on whether to continue with the current website or to contract the services out. Councilman Wright asked if the Town needs to update the website, why wait? Councilman Edwards stated a new website is a good idea and will be more professional and help promote the town.

A motion was made by *Councilwoman Stanley* and seconded by *Councilman Wright* to move forward with the website and make the fund appropriation as needed. *All Agreed.*

Friends of the Park Review

Manager Maiorano said this is just a discussion to make sure that the Town is moving in the right direction. He said there have been some concerns among the staff members and councilmembers. Manager Maiorano asked the council if there were any concerns they wanted to discuss.

Councilman Hines stated he doesn't know if the volunteers were notified and they should be here to express their views.

A motion was made by *Councilman Hines* and seconded by *Councilman Edwards* to table this item until the Friends of the Park can be present. *All Agreed.*

Discussion of a Development Plan for the Town Park

Manager Maiorano wanted to make sure the staff is moving in the right direction with the multipurpose park. The items suggested to add to the park were as follows:

- Dirt to level the field
- A fence around the facility
- A sidewalk around the field
- Replace the monkey bars and replace the mulch around that area
- Bleachers
- Grass

Manager Maiorano stated there is approximately two acres to develop and we need to set a plan for the development of the park. He also said if we applied for any grants next year, the town

would need to budget for the town's portion of the grants. Councilman Edwards made mention of a possible dog park.

There was much discussion about the plan for the park needing to come from the Council. Councilman Hines suggested contacting Onslow County or anyone who knows how to develop a field and look at their ideas on how to develop a multipurpose field.

Discussion of the Holly Ridge Housing Authority

Manager Maiorano stated that NCGS 157-26 deals with exceptions to the tax laws when taxing a housing authority. In the past the Town has sent them a bill in lieu of taxes and this year we sent them a bill for \$8,802.00 and it appears the Housing Authority meets all of the definitions to be tax exempt. Manager Maiorano said the Housing Authority has donated \$3,000.00 to the Town. He also stated this was a budgeted line item for revenue 10-309-00-0 and it will fall short by \$5,502.00.

Attorney Stroud stated the Housing Authority is considered a "body-corporate, politic" and makes them exempt from ad valorem taxes, but the town is still responsible for providing services to them.

Councilman Hines said he read over the Housing Authority's articles and is confused as to who appoints their members. This was followed with much discussion about the Housing Authority's membership concerns.

***Mayor Padgett for a 10 minute break at 7:35 p.m. so Attorney Stroud could do some research
Mayor Padgett called the meeting back to order at 7:46 p.m.***

Attorney Stroud said the Article of Incorporation for the Housing Authority was signed on December 13th, 1978 and the 7 commissioners were appointed in terms of 1-4 years in the original application. He went on to say then it gets complicated because neither the application; the articles of incorporation, or the by-laws state how those peoples successors are to be appointed.

Councilman Hines said he thought the Housing Authority would have to be attached to a government body. Manager Maiorano made the suggestion of having the attorney sending a letter to the Housing Authority requesting a list of members on the current board.

Manager Maiorano asked the Attorney how to proceed from here. Attorney Stroud read from NCGS 157-5 which states "an authority shall consist of not less than five nor more than eleven commissioners appointed by the mayor and the mayor shall designate the first chair." This state also reads "the council may at any time by resolution or ordinance increase or decrease the membership of an authority, within the limitations herein prescribed".

Councilman Hines suggested having the attorney send the Housing Authority a letter. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines asked the Attorney if the Housing Authority is out of compliance. Attorney Stroud stated if the Mayor has not appointed any members within the last five years, then the Council has the authority to clean house.

A motion was made by *Councilwoman Stanley* and seconded by *Mayor Pro-Tem Edwards* to have Attorney Stroud send the Housing Authority a letter requesting they come into compliance and have a response by the February meeting. *All Agreed.*

New Business

Proclamation Declaring the Month of February as "Black History Month"

Manager Maiorano read the Proclamation declaring the month of February as "Black History Month".

Discussion of the RFP for an Auditor

Manager Maiorano said this is something we do occasionally and we currently have an auditor we pay \$7500.00 and that is reasonable but the services offered are very basic. He went on to say we have a few different auditors interested in submitting a proposal. Councilwoman Stanley asked if this would be for a three year contract. Manager Maiorano answered yes and it should lock the price in for three years.

A motion was made by *Councilman Wright* and seconded by *Councilwoman Dingler* to approve the RFP and have the staff proceed with sending the RFP out. *All Agreed.*

Discussion of Areas of Concern at the Community Center

Manager Maiorano said we are looking at the inadequacy of the stove and refrigerator at the Community Center. The stove that is currently over there would require an ansul system. Manager Maiorano stated we have FEMA funds that we received in the amount of \$9,000.00 and we still are waiting to receive another \$4,000.00. Manager Maiorano said if the Council wants to see the current gas stove in operation, he could receive quotes for an ansul system and come back to the Council. Councilman Hines said we need to figure out the advantages over using another household stove versus the gas stove.

Manager Maiorano said he would also get prices on an additional refrigerator.

A motion was made by *Councilman Wright* and seconded by *Mayor Pro-Tem Edwards* to table this item until the February meeting and direct the staff to get prices on all of the options. *All Agreed.*

Closed Session

A motion was made by *Councilman Edwards* and seconded by *Councilman Wright* to go into Closed Session per North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(1) for attorney/client privileges. *All Agreed.*

No action was taken following Closed Session.

Police Department Comments

Major Bryant thanked the Council for the new vehicles and said the officers are working on breaking them in.

Town Manager Comments

Manager Maiorano informed the Council of the course Essentials of Municipal Government that is coming up in Wilmington for anyone who is interested and this will satisfy the ethics requirement. Manager Maiorano also stated that Heather will be going to clerk school and received a scholarship from LGFCU in the amount of \$900.00 which will save the town a lot of money.

Council Concerns

Councilwoman Dingler gave her thanks to the employees.

Councilman Wright said the new cars look great and thanked the staff for everything they do.

Councilwoman Stanley stated she appreciates everything that everyone does.

Mayor Pro-Tem Edwards raised concern about people using their cell phones while driving. He stated 3,000 deaths are attributed to cell phone use per year. He also said the Town could maybe

take the first step with an ordinance to ban cell phone use while driving except for emergency personnel.

Councilman Hines stated his thoughts on re-instating prayer at the meetings and felt like the Council should continue to do it until someone tells them to stop.

Announcements

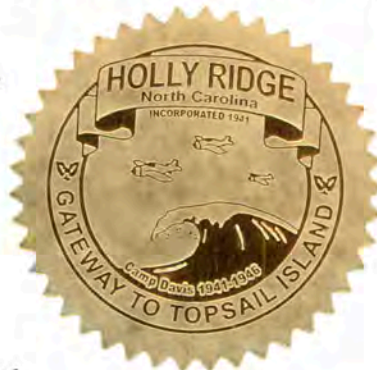
Mayor Padgett gave the following announcements:

- Four-Town Meeting hosted by Surf City at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 19th, 2012
- Onslow County Elected Officials Meeting hosted by Holly Ridge at 6:30 p.m. in the Holly Ridge Community Center held on Wednesday, January 25th, 2012

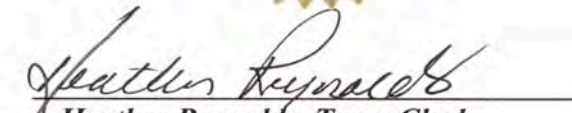
Adjournment

A motion was made by *Councilman Hines* and seconded by *Councilman Wright* to adjourn. All Agreed.

Attest:




Mayor Padgett


Heather Reynolds, Town Clerk

These minutes were recorded and prepared by Town Clerk Heather Reynolds