

Town of HOLLY RIDGE

PO Box 145 * Holly Ridge, NC 28445 * Phone (910) 329-7081 * Fax (910) 329-1593

HOLLY RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING August 9th, 2011

Mayor Padgett called the Regular monthly Meeting of the Holly Ridge Town Council to order at 7:00 pm. at the Town Hall. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Hines, Councilwoman Bragg, Councilman Edwards, and Councilwoman Stanley. Manager Maiorano; Town Clerk, Heather Reynolds; and Finance Officer, Karen Metz were also present. Councilman Wright was unable to attend due to a family emergency.

Invocation and Pledge

Councilwoman Bragg gave the Invocation and Mayor Padgett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Minutes

A motion was made by *Councilman Edwards* and seconded by *Councilwoman Stanley* to adopt the minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting held on July 12th, 2011 and the Closed Session Minutes of July 12th, 2011. *All Agreed.*

Adoption of Agenda

Manager Maiorano stated there is an addition to New Business under item 10-E for the purpose of discussion of a Resolution in support of the Holly Ridge United States Post Office.

A motion was made by *Mayor Pro-Tem Hines* and seconded by *Councilman Edwards* to adopt the Agenda as amended. *All Agreed.*

Persons Wishing to Address the Council

Bob Mason of 412 Highway 17 South was present to address the Council. He asked what the status of Green Street is now because he was present at the last meeting and made a complaint about the condition of the street.

Manager Maiorano said later on the Agenda the Council will be discussing a street repair plan. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said Green Street is addressed in the street plan and we need to keep rock on the road for now.

Friends of the Park Report

Manager Maiorano gave the following report and stated on October 1st, 2011 there will be “Art in the Park” here in Holly Ridge and there will be the band, The Carousels, and a movie at sunset with food and inflatables. He said the next meeting for Friends of the Park is going to be held on August 18th, 2011 at 5:30 and we will be discussing the Talent Show and anything else going on for the rest of the year.

ONWASA Report

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines gave the following report:

- The waterline extension on Highway 17 South should be able to be utilized by the end of the month. This will be ahead of schedule of what was originally thought. The project could have gone into December.
- The engineering firm that was being used for the Richland’s northwest sewer plant presented ONWASA with a plant that would cost 45 million dollars, and the grant they received was only 25 million. Last week the board elected to terminate the contract with Arcadis and decided to proceed with McKim and Creed. ONWASA is hoping to have the cost of the plant between 25 and 30 million.
- ONWASA is still in the process of doing work to the Summerhouse plant and should help the Town in the near future.

Public Hearing

Old Business

LGC Update

Manager Maiorano said Karen, Heather, and himself went to Raleigh to meet with the Local Government Commission on July 21st, 2011. The purpose of the meeting was to tell the Local Government Commission what the town's plans are and how we should proceed and it is a prerequisite when towns borrow money, they have to go before the commission. Manager Maiorano said \$400,000.00 is not worthy of a bond council and there are a few banks that do not deal with us if the amount is under \$500,000.00 and after speaking with the banks who will, our interest rate is right at 4.02%. He said the last quote we got is good for 45 days. Manager Maiorano said we have an application the staff has to complete. We need to pass a resolution, hold a public hearing in order to get the public's opinion, and send request for proposals to the asphalt companies.

Manager Maiorano stated Mayor Pro-Tem Hines and Councilman Wright did a street repair plan initially and we will be looking at that. Manager Maiorano gave his recommendation of borrowing the \$400,000.00 and using \$300,000.00 for street repair, let the town use \$25,000.00 toward street repair that we do ourselves such as rock and culvert, and the remaining \$75,000.00 would stay in the account. He said possibly hold the money until we receive our Powell Bill funds because if a major storm came in now and washed a street out we would have to go into the fund balance appropriation to cover the repair.

Manager Maiorano asked for direction from the Council on how to schedule the spending of the monies. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said this is the only way we will be able to catch our streets up and maintain the streets and paving is not cheap.

A motion was made by **Mayor Pro-Tem Hines** and seconded by **Councilwoman Bragg** to approve the resolution to borrow \$400,000.00 and call for a public hearing on September 13th, 2011. **All Agreed.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines suggested Councilman Wright and himself could advise the board on what streets are the highest priorities. Manager Maiorano asked for a consensus of the Council to follow the schedule of spending the monies borrowed that he recommended. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said we can always pave another street out of the \$75,000.00. Manager Maiorano asked if the streets that are chosen should come back before the Council. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said the streets should be presented at the Public Hearing. Councilwoman Bragg said as long as the citizens are aware at the public hearing, then she is in agreement.

Discussion of Part-Time Maintenance Position

Manager Maiorano said the town budgeted for this position back in budget time and we started advertising for this position at \$7.50 an hour and we have found no one for the job. He said we had three applications and none of those people were eligible for the position and we have the opening posted at the Employment Security Commission and we have spent a couple hundred dollars advertising the position. Manager Maiorano said we are moving through the year and we budgeted \$7,500.00 for the hours needed, he suggested since we have already lost hours by not having someone hired and that we raise the amount to \$10.00 per hour in order to put someone in the position. Councilman Edwards asked if no one takes the job at \$10.00 per hour would we raise the rate to \$15.00 per hour. Manager Maiorano stated he is just presenting the problem and we would not exceed the budgeted amount.

A motion was made by **Mayor Pro-Tem Hines** and seconded by **Councilwoman Bragg** to raise the hourly rate of the part-time maintenance person to \$10.00 per hour from \$7.50 per hour.
Voting was as follows: Councilwoman Bragg- yes, Councilwoman Stanley- yes, Councilman Edwards- no, Mayor Pro-Tem Hines- yes. Motion Carried.

Board of Elections- Use of the Community Center

Manager Maiorano stated the Board of Elections approached the Town about using the Community Center for the elections for the town. There has been concern about the town having to spend money to bring the sidewalks up to federal law regulations and the cost was about \$500.00. Rose Whitehurst with the Board of Elections has been able to have the concrete donated and our maintenance department can spread the concrete.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said his concerns are he feels like someone approached them and someone told the Board of Elections they could use the building because they were already sending out notices. He also stated this use is not inside the uses of the building and no one should have the authority to give them permission to use it outside of the Town Council. He said what bothers him is they come here tell us they are going to use the building, they tell us what they are going to pay us, what we have to do to bring the center up to regulations, and they are not having to pay a clean-up fee. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said the Fire Department has always been adequate and doesn't know why it isn't now. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said when this came up no one knew that they pay to use the building and it is \$35.00. Manager Maiorano said according to Rose they cannot pay money to use any public building because they cannot pay public funds back to public buildings, so now we would not receive the \$35.00 either. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines asked if the Board of Elections is demanding to use the community center. Manager Maiorano said the history of this is Chief Judge Yvonne Saunders called here and was interested in looking at the building and spoke to Heather, she was told she could look at the building. Manager Maiorano said the next day Rose Whitehurst showed up and what transpired that day when

George Schwartz and her showed up he didn't know. Manager Maiorano said he was made aware about the sidewalks and he estimated about \$500.00 for the concrete and it was budgeted for. Manager Maiorano said he is not sure where the Board of Elections ever got the final word. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said there are other variables such as the precinct meetings because they have to be held at the polling place. Manager Maiorano said they have to find a place within the precinct but it doesn't have to be our building. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said he doesn't like the way it came about and they are telling us what we need to have done to our building. Manager Maiorano said according to General Statue 163-129 the Board of Elections can demand and take over any public building that is received or paid for by public funds. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said that is why he asked if they are demanding or asking because if they are asking then they will probably go back to the Fire Department. Manager Maiorano said he believes the Board of Election will demand use of the building.

Councilman Edwards said he thinks the Board of Elections should have to demand the building because he has never seen a problem over at the Fire Department. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said we have guidelines that need to be followed.

A motion was made by *Mayor Pro-Tem Hines* and seconded by *Councilman Edwards* to deny the Board of Elections request to use the Community Center as the Town's polling place and to follow the guidelines already established for use of the Community Center.

Councilwoman Stanley said she doesn't see a problem with them using the Community Center because it is a public building and voting is a public service. Councilwoman Bragg said she is trying to clearly understand the problem with it as well because it is just one day and it is elections, and if they are under the assumption they can use the community building then why are we arguing. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said it may be one day this year but it could be three days next year. Councilwoman Bragg said we would cross that bridge when we come to it. Councilman Edwards said he doesn't believe in arbitrarily spending tax payer's money. Councilwoman Stanley said believes in pinching pennies as well, but this General Statue says they can take over the building anyway.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines called for question.

Voting was as follows: Councilwoman Bragg- no, Councilwoman Stanley- no, Councilman Edwards- yes, Mayor Pro-Tem Hines- yes. Mayor Padgett broke the tie with a vote of no. Motion Denied.

A motion was made by *Councilwoman Bragg* and seconded by *Councilwoman Stanley* to allow the Board of Elections request to use to the Community Center as the place of voting for the citizens of Holly Ridge on Election Day held November 8th. *Voting was as follows: Councilwoman Bragg- yes, Councilwoman Stanley- yes, Councilman Edwards- no, Mayor Pro-Tem Hines- no. Mayor Padgett broke the tie with a vote of yes. Motion Carried.*

A motion was made by **Mayor Pro-Tem Hines** and seconded by **Councilman Edwards** that any use of the Community Center outside of the parameters in the guidelines need to be brought before the Town Council.

Councilwoman Bragg said she hears Mayor Pro-Tem Hines and the Council makes the decisions about the use of the Community Center, but as far as she is concerned she is done with the subject.

Voting was as follows: Councilwoman Bragg- no, Councilwoman Stanley- no, Councilman Edwards- yes, Mayor Pro-Tem Hines- yes. Mayor Padgett broke the tie with a vote of yes. Motion Carried.

New Business

Discussion of the Renewal of the Coastal Federation Contract

Manager Maiorano stated the lease on the property at Morris Landing is expiring tomorrow and we are asking that we enter into a lease with them again. Manager Maiorano said the last lease was for five years and we were fortunate to catch the lease. He said it is his recommendation to enter into the lease with Coastal Federation for a term of 10 years because of the good working relationship with Coastal Federation.

A motion was made by **Mayor Pro-Tem Hines** and seconded by **Councilman Edwards** to approve the 10 year lease of Morris Landing with Coastal Federation. ***All Agreed.***

Councilman Edwards said he has spent a lot of time at Morris Landing since Coastal Federation took over and it is a really nice area for the citizens. He said it is always clean and he is really glad we are able to do it.

Proclamation Declaring September 2011 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month

Manager Maiorano said Lt. Col Dave Tierney has contacted the Town once again to confirm that we will do a Proclamation declaring September 2011 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month. Manager Maiorano stated this is something we did last year and it is the intent of Mr. Tierney to get more towns and cities this year involved in his efforts of awareness and his goal is to have all cities and towns.

A motion was made by **Mayor Pro-Tem Hines** and seconded by **Councilman Edwards** to adopt the Proclamation declaring September 2011 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month. ***All Agreed.***

Reappointment of Dawneva Evans to the Planning Board for a Term of Four Years

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines stated he thought Dawneva has done a really great job.

A motion was made by **Mayor Pro-Tem Hines** and seconded by **Councilman Edwards** to re-appoint Dawneva Evans to the Planning Board for a term of four years. **All Agreed.**

Mayor Padgett administered the Oath of Office to Dawneva Evans.

Discussion of the Conflict with the November Meeting and Election Day

Manager Maiorano said the November meeting falls on the same day as Election Day and the Council may want to entertain a new date and possible change the meeting date.

A motion was made by **Mayor Pro-Tem Hines** and seconded by **Councilman Edwards** to move the November Regular Town Council meeting from November 8th, 2011 to November 15th, 2011. **All Agreed.**

Resolution in Support of the Holly Ridge United States Post Office

Manager Maiorano stated this item was brought up by Mayor Pro-Tem Hines because Surf City has launched their campaign to not lose their Post Office. He said our Post Office was rated an 18, but since the Sneads Ferry Post Office delivering our mail, we have been downgraded to a 16. Manager Maiorano said we should start now to keep our Post Office open. He suggested sending the Resolution to the U.S. Congressmen, U.S. Senators, and the County. Manager Maiorano said we do not want to wait until last minute.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said if we wait and we do not do something, with the clout that Surf City has they may be able to sway which Post Office closes.

A motion was made by **Mayor Pro-Tem Hines** and seconded by **Councilman Edwards** to adopt the Resolution in support of the Holly Ridge United States Post Office and send it to our representatives in the County, State and Federal and to take any other actions to show our stance on keeping the Holly Ridge Post Office. **All Agreed.**

Closed Session

There was no reason for a closed session.

Council Concerns

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines had no concerns.

Councilman Edwards said he attended Mrs. Hettie Howard's birthday celebration and it was awesome. He also said he would like to commend our Town Clerk Heather Reynolds for a well written Proclamation and it was awesome. Councilman Edwards said Mrs. Hettie Howard is one of the hardest working ladies he has ever seen.

Another concern of Councilman Edwards was we have just purchased new vehicles and the Town does not have a policy for no smoking in the vehicles. He said there should be no smoking in any vehicles owned by the Town of Holly Ridge.

A motion was made by **Councilman Edwards** to not allow any smoking in any vehicle owned by the Town of Holly Ridge. **Motion died for lack of a second.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said it is not that he doesn't agree with Councilman Edwards, but this item was not added to the agenda and we cannot vote on it. Manager Maiorano said he will be more than happy to prepare a SOP for no smoking in the vehicles for the next thirty days and have this item on the next Agenda.

Councilwoman Stanley thanked Dawneva for being on the Planning Board. She also thanked everyone for doing a good job. She also wanted to say she agrees with Councilman Edwards about smoking in the vehicles.

Councilwoman Bragg thanked Dawneva and the town employees and the town is growing. She also thanked to the police department and the Friends of the Park. Councilwoman Bragg said as we move forward it is important to provide activities for the citizens.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines asked for a motion for him to be excused.

A motion was made by **Councilwoman Stanley** and seconded by **Councilman Edwards** to excuse Mayor Pro-Tem Hines from the meeting. **All Agreed.**

Police Department Comments

Major Bryant said there will be a checkpoint Friday night and the Council is welcome to attend.

Town Manager Comments

Manager Maiorano said the fence has been ordered for the ball field, Councilman Wright worked on that and got us a good price. Manager Maiorano said we are also working on getting some type of cover for the dug-outs and the door has been ordered for the concession stand. He also said we are doing some work here at the Town Hall in the break room and it is all in house.

Announcements

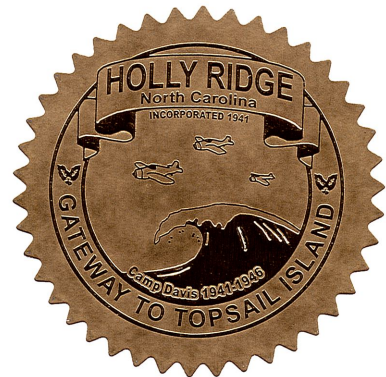
Mayor Padgett gave the following announcements:

- Friends of the Park on August 18th, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.
- The Committee of 100 Executive Committee Meeting on August 10th, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.
- Committee of 100 Board of Directors Meeting on August 18th, 2011 at 12:00 p.m.

Adjournment

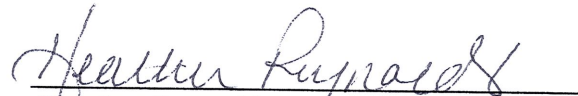
A motion was made by *Councilman Edwards* and seconded by *Councilwoman Stanley* to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. *All Agreed.*

Attest:





Mayor Padgett



Heather Reynolds, Town Clerk

These minutes were recorded and prepared by Town Clerk Heather Reynolds