

# Town of HOLLY RIDGE

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## HOLLY RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING September 13<sup>th</sup>, 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, Councilman Wright, and Councilwoman Stanley. Manager Maiorano; Town Clerk, Heather Reynolds; and Attorney Stroud were also present.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said he would like to add an additional spot for anyone wishing to address the Council.

### *Persons Wishing to Address the Council*

Mayor Padgett asked if anyone would like to address the board.

Tommy Yopp from the ministry H2O wished to address the Council. His ministry helps individuals who deal with drugs and alcohol by getting them into Christian rehabs. Mr. Yopp then gave a prayer.

### *Pledge*

Mayor Padgett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Adoption of Minutes**

A motion was made by **Councilman Edwards** and seconded by **Councilwoman Bragg** to adopt the minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting held on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 as written. **All Agreed.**

**Adoption of Agenda**

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

**Persons Wishing to Address the Council**

Mr. Loudon Suggs of Dolph Everett Road was present to address the Council for use of the community center. He is the strength and conditioning coach for the middle school and is starting a community wrestling club for the youth in the area. He was seeking use of the community center if the Council would allow the kids to wrestle in the building.

Mayor Padgett asked if they had a mat. Mr. Suggs said they do have a mat from the middle school. He said it is due to the other sports the school sponsors there isn't room and therefore the gym is not available. Mr. Suggs said he would need to use the building for six weeks approximately 2-3 days a week for 2-2 and ½ hours. He said Mondays and Wednesdays and possibly Sundays. Councilwoman Stanley stated the building is already rented on Sunday mornings. Mayor Padgett said he is for anything that gets the kids off the streets and into organized sports.

Councilwoman Stanley asked if this would fall under the fee schedule for a non-profit. Mr. Suggs stated because they are a new organization they do not have a non-profit tax I.D. number.

Councilman Edwards said if we let people use the building for free then we cannot rent it and there are costs associated with the building. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said he appreciates what Mr. Suggs is trying to do, but the problem we run into is a lot of people want to use the building for free and we have had to turn them away. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said we could get more information and consider this further since this was the first he has heard about it.

Councilman Wright asked if these kids are from Holly Ridge. Mr. Suggs stated they are from Holly Ridge and Sneads Ferry. He also said they are the kids from Dixon High, Dixon Middle, and Dixon Elementary schools. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines asked Mr. Suggs if he has been down to the Sneads Ferry Community Building and asked them. Mr. Suggs replied no. Councilman Wright said it is unfortunate because everyone on the Council would like to say yes, but we have

rules and regulations that need to be followed. Councilman Wright said he would be all for discussing it further and trying to work something out.

Councilwoman Bragg said it is great to have something for the kids and she would be in favor of discussing the issue further with more information. She also asked how many kids would be in the building at any time. Mr. Suggs replied between 30 and 50 children. Councilwoman Bragg also asked if these days are in lieu of the days the school is unavailable. Mr. Suggs said they would actually need to use the building through the wrestling season, which is October thru February and needing the building at least two days. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines asked Mr. Suggs to find out how the different areas handle this and then present back to the Manager it would help. Councilman Wright said a more definitive schedule would also help as well. Councilman Edwards said in the meantime Mr. Suggs could check with Sneads Ferry and Surf City. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said we could try and help him find somewhere else if nothing works out.

### **Friends of the Park Report**

Manager Maiorano gave the following report:

- The Talent Contest to take place on October 22nd.
- Next meeting on Thursday here at the Town Hall at 5:30 p.m. and everyone is welcome to attend.
- Art in the Park is on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 with Spooky Buddies as the movie that is going to be shown along with other stuff to do beginning at 3 p.m.

### **ONWASA Report**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines gave the following report:

- Still working on the sewer projects and the Summerhouse project is still being assessed for how soon it can be online.
- ONWASA is implementing an area on their website to help customers understand their monthly bills.
- This Thursday's night meeting has been cancelled for ONWASA.
- The waterlines along Highway 17 should be flowing and The Neighborhoods are tied in and Gulfstream has not connected as of yet.

Public Hearing

\$400,000.00 Street Improvement Plan

A motion was made by **Councilman Edwards** and seconded by **Councilman Wright** to enter into a Public Hearing. *All Agreed.*

Manager Maiorano stated this public hearing is for the citizens to have input on the street improvement plan that we will present to the Local Government Commission. He said Mayor Pro-Tem Hines and Councilman Wright did some really good leg work on this plan.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines stated when you walk a street you get a better idea of what condition a street is really in. The first group of streets that need attention are the ones that are unpaved and have very little rock on them, which includes: Green Street, N. Dyson Street, Crawford Street, Burns Street, Hines Street, Kraft Street, Smith Street, Maple Street, Furney's Alley, Cole Street, and Flag Street. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said the Town should be able to get all these streets paved, and these are all the unpaved streets in town except for Jenkins Street that goes between Highway 50 and Sound Road. The reason for not including this street is because it isn't well traveled and doesn't have as big of an impact on the citizens.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines stated the second groups of streets are the ones that need re-surfacing because of holes and bumps. He stated Holly Street, Jones Street, and Lloyd Street will be re-surfaced from Camp Davis Road back to Highway 50. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said this group also includes the street in front of the Town Hall and a portion of Green Street that hasn't been paved in years.

Manager Maiorano stated we are estimating around \$237,974.00 to pave and re-surface all the streets based on \$11.00 per square yard. Manager Maiorano said this is not \$400,000.00, but we still have other work that needs to be done such as rock placed on streets and culverts put in that we can do in house.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said the town receives about \$55,000.00 in Powell Bill per year and the maintenance of the streets uses those monies alone. He went on to say the only way to repair these streets is to obtain a loan and the \$237,974.00 doesn't include the repairs that need to be done in Holly Hills because they do not need to be fully re-surfaced, but there are some areas where small portions have to be re-surfaced. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said we also have problems with drainage on our streets that the Town will address, so part of this money will go towards establishing draining on the streets. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said the most important thing is to maintain the streets once they are repaired. Councilman Wright stated he agreed with Mayor Pro-Tem Hines completely, and proceeding with this project is something the town has to do.

A motion was made by ***Councilwoman Stanley*** and seconded by ***Councilwoman Bragg*** to return to Regular Session. ***All Agreed.***

Councilwoman Stanley asked if all the streets listed would be paved. Manager Maiorano stated it depends on the cost, but we are planning on having them all paved. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said there are two small portions in town that were not on this list besides the portion of Jenkins Street including a small portion at the end of Borroughs Street and the end of Cypress Street that the town owns. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said the conditions on these portions of these streets did not warrant repair.

A motion was made by ***Mayor Pro-Tem Hines*** and seconded by ***Councilman Edwards*** to direct staff to go forward with the LGC paperwork for funding the project of the streets. ***All Agreed.***

### **Old Business**

#### **Discussion of Not Allowing Smoking in Any Vehicle Owned by the Town of Holly Ridge**

Manager Maiorano stated this is a personnel policy change and it is pretty clear cut that the employees or people riding in the vehicles cannot smoke in the town's vehicles. Manager Maiorano said this item just needs Council approval to change the personnel policy.

A motion was made by ***Councilwoman Stanley*** and seconded by ***Councilman Edwards*** to approve the no smoking policy to be added to the personnel policy. ***All Agreed.***

### **New Business**

#### **Discussion of Four Year Staggered Terms for the Mayor and Town Council**

Manager Maiorano said this is for discussion. He said this year we have 10 people running for Council and we have five seats, so technically we could have a whole new board. Manager Maiorano stated most states and towns operate on four year staggered terms already to prevent losing a whole group of people with knowledge. He said if the current Council decided to move to four year staggered terms tonight, we would call for the public hearing first to change our charter. If this was decided it would not affect this election, it would take effect for the new board. In 2013 everyone would be elected in and the Mayor and the two highest vote getters would hold office for four years. He said two years later the last three seats would switch to four year terms as well and by 2017 the whole board would be synced. Manager Maiorano said this is something that has come up in the past and it is something we should look to do in the future.

Councilman Wright said he would like to see it implemented because it would eliminate the chance of having a whole new board. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines asked if there was any website Heather could look at to see how many towns still operate as we do. Manager Maiorano stated that shouldn't be a problem.

Attorney Stroud said he knows the vast majority of towns do operate on staggered terms. He also said the School of Government maintains all the information for the towns on a spreadsheet.

It was agreed upon that Manager Maiorano provide information on how other towns operate and bring back to the board next month.

### **Presentation of the September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial Proclamation**

Manager Maiorano stated everyone knows Sunday was the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup>. He went on to say because the meeting fell after September 11<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor has already signed the Proclamation.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines asked if it would be possible to put on our calendar when these proclamations come up so the month before these proclamations can be signed. Manager Maiorano said a lot of these proclamations come in late, but there should be a way to put these on a calendar.

### **Discussion of the Partf Grant**

Manager Maiorano stated the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund was cut this year to four million from eight million by Governor Purdue. He also said we did not put any money in our budget for any park projects, but this grant is a matching grant. Manager Maiorano asked if the Council was looking for anything specific for the park that would include more than dirt, because we cannot ask for just dirt.

Councilman Wright asked if you need to have a specific project. Manager Maiorano responded yes. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said the way we should phrase things should be we are developing an area for recreation. He also said the County can provide us with funds if we can prove we are developing an area to bring people into the area. Manager Maiorano said he didn't think we would have a hard time with the County. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said we applied to develop the field it would be used for multipurpose. Manager Maiorano suggested pairing the dirt with bleachers and lights we would have a better chance.

Everyone was in agreement of beginning work on the Partf grant and bringing the ideas back to the Council.

**Discussion of a Proclamation Declaring September as Sickle Cell Awareness Month**

Manager Maiorano stated this is the second year we have done this Proclamation and it is to show support for awareness of Sickle Cell. He said we will make sure this Proclamation is on the list for next year.

***Manager Maiorano read the Proclamation.***

A motion was made by **Mayor Pro-Tem Hines** and seconded by **Councilwoman Bragg** to approve the Proclamation declaring September as Sickle Cell Awareness Month. **All Agreed.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines asked if the Proclamations could be placed on the monitors.

**Discussion of Additional Staff**

Manager Maiorano stated there is a need for an additional position at the Town Hall. Manager Maiorano said this position would be for inspections but it would be an administrative assistant that would have a variety of duties. He went on to say in July the Council was talking about adding positions and we held off. Manager Maiorano said it is clear now that Larry's department is overburdened. He said the inspections department will not be able to provide the services we promised to people if we do not add additional staff. Funding for the position will come from the money we set aside for vehicles and the bank we used for financing of the new vehicles is not requiring a payment this year. Manager Maiorano said we are looking at doing a transfer of \$27,536.00 for the pay and all benefits. Manager Maiorano said they will be cross-trained in all duties and will also be a grant seeker and grant writer in addition to helping Larry.

Councilman Edwards asked what the salary for the next fiscal year will be. Manager Maiorano stated next year the salary will be \$27,000.00 plus benefits. Manager Maiorano stated the \$27,536.00 this year includes the salary for the remainder of the fiscal year, all benefits, and the purchase of two computers.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines stated during the retreat he had this idea about the additional staff that could pursue grants and try to sell the Town and possibly working the website.

A motion was made by **Councilman Wright** and seconded by **Councilwoman Stanley** to place an additional position titled administrative assistant on staff and transfer funds in the amount \$27,536.60 to finish the fiscal year 2011-2012. **All Agreed.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said as the growing of the town continues we will have to add more additional staff in the maintenance department and the police department. Councilman Edwards stated he agreed somewhat, but was unsure of what the future holds because of the economy.

**Closed Session**

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

**Mayor Padgett called for a five minute break at 8:05 p.m. before the Closed Session began.**

Following Closed Session a motion was made by **Mayor Pro-Tem Hines** and seconded by **Councilman Edwards** to direct the Attorney to proceed with any action necessary to correct the problem with Jacksonville Paving. **All Agreed.**

**Police Department Comments**

Chief Maiorano said the biggest thing going on for the Police Department is helping out Jones and Carteret Counties with their checkpoints and helping them coordinate theirs. He also said the Highway Patrol has been using the community center for training recently. Chief Maiorano also said there is a medicine drop coming up and we are looking to get a permanent drop located at the police department.

**Town Manager Comments**

Manager Maiorano said he would like the Council to consider dates for the upcoming candidate forum that the Chamber of Commerce is holding. He said it would begin at 6:30 p.m. and he explained how the evening would transpire. Manager Maiorano also said no election paraphernalia would be allowed and it may last two hours. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines entertained the date of Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and everyone agreed.

**Council Concerns**

Councilwoman Bragg thanked the employees and the citizens. She also asked if the town could consider changing the stop sign at Green Street behind the Trade Mart to a four-way stop. Manager Maiorano said there have been some close calls there and he would send the maintenance guys down to clear any debris to help keep the views clear.

Councilman Wright wanted to thank all the staff and said if you spend time at the Town Hall you see how hard they work. He also mentioned Larry and Randy about how much work they do and he is happy to see them get some extra help. He also wanted to thank the Council for voting on

the street repair plan. Councilman Wright also wanted to thank Mayor Pro-Tem Hines for all his hard work on the street repair plan.

Councilwoman Stanley wanted to thank everyone especially during the hurricane when they kept everyone informed. She also said someone has approached her about the speed limit signs on Highway 50 and there not being enough between Dyson Street and the Surf City line. The person who approached her said there were not enough speed limit signs on Highway 50. Manager Maiorano said we would look into it and see what we could do. Councilman Wright said there aren't any signs when you pull out of Neighborhoods of Holly Ridge and go towards Surf City and it might be beneficial to check into it. Councilwoman Stanley said she is happy to know that we have good staff now and is happy to see the new vehicles being used on the road.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said there needs to be a performance appraisal on John especially before the elections. He also asked if the ball field lights are fixed. Maintenance Supervisor Bill Maiorano said JOEMC is in the process of fixing the lights. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said another issue that needs to be addressed is the old storm drains near Camp Davis because they are collapsing and are made of terra cotta. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said he knows as a Town we cannot assume the responsibility for the drains over there because it is on private property and would be a financial nightmare, but we can contact Walter Jones and try to get the homeowners some relief. Manager Maiorano said staff would contact Walter Jones and try to get some help and see if there is any money we could obtain from the stimulus money. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said Camp Lejeune is not going to take any responsibility for the pipes so we must go elsewhere to get assistance.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said when we had our retreat we set a list of goals and it has been six months, so we should review the goals and re-set our mid-term and long-term goals even if it takes a workshop. He also said he wished the part-time help for the maintenance department could work longer because he knows the maintenance department has a lot to do. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines thanked the maintenance department for their hard work.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said he wanted to tell the board that if he is ever called on to give the Invocation, he will not be able to do it if the prayer has to be given to a generic God. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines said the laws are progressing towards having to give the Invocation to a generic God and he took an oath to uphold the laws so he would not be able to give the Invocation because he believes in what he believes in. He also said he was glad someone was here tonight to give a prayer.

Announcements

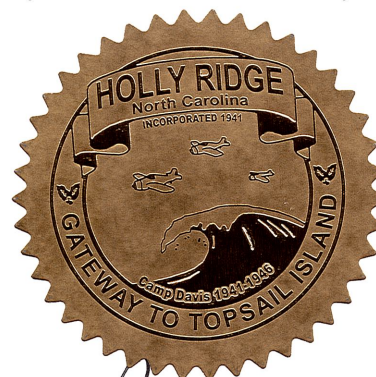
Mayor Padgett gave the following announcements:

- Forum on Economic Indicators – Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 10:30 at the Jacksonville Onslow Chamber of Commerce
- Friends of the Park- Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall
- Onslow County Elected Officials Meeting- Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 6:30 in the Richlands Town Hall Board Room


Adjournment

A motion was made by *Mayor Pro-Tem Hines* and seconded by *Councilwoman Stanley* to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. *All Agreed.*

*Attest:*



  
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*Mayor Padgett*

  
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*Heather Reynolds, Town Clerk*

*These minutes were recorded and prepared by Town Clerk Heather Reynolds*