

Town of HOLLY RIDGE

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HOLLY RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING February 12th, 2013

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, Councilman Hines, Councilman Wright, Councilwoman Stanley, and Councilwoman Dingler. Also present were Manager Maiorano; Town Clerk, Heather Reynolds; Finance Officer, Susan Prather and Attorney Kitchen.

Invocation and Pledge

Councilman Hines gave the Invocation and Mayor Padgett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Minutes

A motion was made by *Mayor Pro-Tem Edwards* and seconded by *Councilwoman Dingler* to adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 8th, 2013 as presented. *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

There were none.

Presentation by Craig Stinson, Executive Director of the Greater Topsail Area Chamber of Commerce about Current Chamber Activities

Craig Stinson with the Chamber gave the following report:

- The Chamber is focusing on more activities and is implementing the Business After Hours and is extending the invitation to the Council and the After Hours Events will begin in April.
- Lunch and Learn Series for small businesses and he will provide information on those as well.
- The Chamber would be happy to promote anything the Town is doing to both their constituents and the visitors as well.
- In terms of marketing, the Chamber has developed Area Brochures and they are on their way to visitor centers.
- The Chamber does double duty by handling the Chamber side and the Tourism side of operations.
- The Tourism operations will be taken under DiscoverTopsail.com and all of this will be re-branded and there will be more graphic consistency over the next year.
- The focus in the past has been mainly the oceanfront, which the Chamber will still be doing that but they plan to flip that over and look at relocation issues on the mainland including Holly Ridge. Remaining in communication with those issues such as developments in Holly Ridge will be very beneficial.
- A lot of businesses are looking at demographic issues and the Chamber would like to work with the Town on housing and the Chamber and the Town could pull together and work with one another.
- The Chamber would be happy to prepare letters of support if the Town needs them for grant applications.
- The Chamber would like to help the Town with any of their objectives and would be happy to pass out any printed materials.

Manager Maiorano asked if the Town could place the newsletter at the Chamber. Craig stated yes and they would be able to place the newsletter online as well.

Parks and Recreation Report

Manager Maiorano said the Chocolate Valentines was held yesterday in conjunction with the County that went well. He also mentioned the Easter Egg Hunt that is coming up the Saturday before Easter and is traditionally a great event.

ONWASA Report

Councilman Hines gave the following report:

- Still online for having the Summerhouse plant up and running.
- ONWASA has been working with Martin Marietta about being able to put wells near their mining site and that will help with the ability to keep water coming to us.
- Jacksonville and ONWASA are not really as tight as they used to be, at the last meeting Jacksonville was asking ONWASA to give up some of their allocation because they were going to annex the area. ONWASA denied that request and ONWASA is looking out for what is best for ONWASA.
- The Northwest plant is still coming along and is scheduled to be online in 2014.
- The County is going to run a line out along the 258 corridor for the new complex and this will open availability for people to have sewer along that corridor.
- The lines here in Town are still online for the next year or two.
- Elections were held and Mr. Jarman went back in as Chairman, Gregory Hines went in as Vice Chairman, and Mr. Freeman is the Secretary-Treasurer.
- A lot of things in the works and things are looking good and ONWASA had a guest speaker to discuss aquifers and it was very interesting.

Public Hearings

Old Business

Discussion of the 2013 Town Council Retreat

Manager Maiorano stated last month all of the Council members were not here so the Council put off setting a date for the Retreat. Manager Maiorano requested the Council be at the Community Center at 8:00 A.M. and the employees there at 10:00 A.M. for the actual start of the Retreat. Manager Maiorano said the Council would go on a field trip from 8:00 to 10:00. Manager Maiorano suggested sometime in March. Councilman Hines suggested March 16th, 2013.

The Town Council agreed that Saturday, March 16th, 2013 will be the date for the 2013 Town Council Retreat with the Council arriving at 8:00 a.m. and the Retreat to begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Community Center.

New Business

Possible Approval of Contract to Audit Accounts

Manager Maiorano stated Larry Carpenter did our audit and presentation in October and did a fine job. Manager Maiorano said the rate is the same as last year at \$6300.00 and staff reviewed the contract and is satisfied. Manager Maiorano said some changes have been made and that last year was his first year with us and they came in and took some of our records and we explained we are not comfortable with that, so they will be doing more in-house work. Manager Maiorano said the presentation would be given to the Council in October.

Councilman Hines said last year he addressed us as a business instead of a municipality and wanted to know if Manager Maiorano could speak to him and get him into the municipality frame of mind. Manager Maiorano said he would speak to him about that.

A motion was made by *Mayor Pro-Tem Edwards* and seconded by *Councilwoman Stanley* to award the contract for auditing accounts to Larry Carpenter, CPA, PA for the fiscal year 2012/13 in the sum of \$6300.00. *All Agreed.*

Discussion of Implementing A Street Lighting Policy

Manager Maiorano stated currently there is not a street lighting policy and in the past we have seen different neighborhoods have a bunch of different lights. He explained lights can run from \$12.50 for the standard wooden pole all the way up to \$25.00 and higher. Manager Maiorano said Neighborhoods of Holly Ridge have different lights and those projects are pretty much done so the Town would go ahead and take those over when the streets are adopted. He said in the future the Town wants to control the cost and if a developer wants to put in certain lights then those lights can stay at their cost. Manager Maiorano stated this is just a policy and could be changed readily and addresses distances between lights. Manager Maiorano said this policy will help direct staff and lets developers know what the Town expects.

Councilman Hines said when a developer wants special lights would we present it to them saying we would pay up to a certain amount and then they would pay the rest. Manager Maiorano recommended staying away from that and if the developer doesn't put in our lights then we would not deal with them. Manager Maiorano said it would get very convoluted at some point. Councilman Hines said if the developer wanted fancy lights then they would need to pay for everything. Manager Maiorano stated yes.

Councilman Wright asked how this would be enforced. Manager Maiorano stated it would be enforced by not taking over the lights and cannot just be switched over into the Town's name.

Councilman Hines said he was thinking they are tax payers and they are entitled to street lights and if there is a certain theme in a development then the Town just wouldn't give them street lights but they are entitled to street lights so it seems the Town could work something out. Councilman Hines said there should be a standard fee. Manager Maiorano said each year there is an average 10 percent increase in the budget for lights.

Attorney Kitchen said this policy works well as a policy, if you try to do in between it will get sticky. He went on to say if you follow the policy it will be easy but if you do something where you try to supplement then you will run into issues.

Councilman Hines said he understands that certain neighborhoods would want to install certain lights and he is trying to think of a way they can be treated fairly. Mayor Pro-Tem Edwards said he doesn't see a problem if there are standard lights throughout the Town.

Attorney Kitchen said this is like streets because you have certain standards they have to meet before the Town takes the street over and he looks at this the same way.

Councilwoman Stanley said she would be in favor as long as it is clear with the developer and the developer makes it clear with the homeowner associations.

A motion was made by **Councilwoman Stanley** and seconded by **Councilman Wright** to adopt the Street Lighting Policy as written. **All Agreed.**

Councilman Hines asked Larry Willaford if he has spoken to any developers regarding the policy. Larry stated not at this time.

Mr. Coleman Parks, a developer in the area suggested talking to the power companies. He said he agrees with keeping the lighting simple but also agrees with Councilman Hines about allowing different types of lights. Manager Maiorano clarified the developers can install any type of lights that cost more if they are going to pay for them.

Call for a Public Hearing on the Request from Coleman Parks for the Possible Rezoning of Parcel Number 749-20.1 located at the Intersection of Morris Landing Road and Hardison Road from RA to R-20

A motion was made by **Councilman Hines** and seconded by **Councilwoman Stanley** to call for a Public Hearing next month on the rezoning request. **All Agreed.**

Mayor Padgett said to reverse the order on next month's agenda.

Mr. Coleman Parks said it would be good for the Town to sell themselves about why it is good to come into Holly Ridge such as the fire service helps reduce insurance rates, the fire police

department, and Larry's department doing a great job with his inspections. Mayor Padgett said the Town offers next day inspections if not the same day.

Call for a Public Hearing on the Request from Coleman Parks for Possible Satellite Annexation of Parcel Number 749-20.1 located at the Intersection of Morris Landing Road and Hardison Road into the Corporate Limits

A motion was made by *Councilman Hines* and seconded by *Mayor Pro-Tem Edwards* to call for a Public Hearing at the next meeting. *All Agreed.*

Closed Session

None

Fire Department Comments

James Simione gave the following report:

- The Business Meeting is tomorrow night.

Mayor Pro-Tem Edwards asked when painting will begin on the fire hydrants. James said he would need to check with Brandon. Mayor Pro-Tem Edwards said it was supposed to be in the works so he didn't know when it would begin.

Police Department Comments

Sergeant Whaley gave the follow report:

- Two new officers were sworn in yesterday, one being a full-time officer who is replacing Officer Deel and his name is Jeff Edens and the new reserve officer and his name is Kyle Stitz. Officer Edens will be starting at the end of the month on the 28th and Officer Stitz next week once the uniforms are in. Both officers will be at the next Council meeting.
- The next DWI Checking Station will be held on February 22nd.
- The new patrol car should be in soon that was ordered for the grant position and the Town will be able to submit for reimbursements.

Councilman Hines said Jeff has been with the Town before and he did a pretty good job.

Town Manager Comments

Manager Maiorano said he is looking forward to the Retreat and asked if each Councilmember could please stop by his office one day this week to chat about the current budget and the upcoming budget.

Council Concerns

Councilman Hines stated his garbage cart is being dropped 5 feet to the ground and it is a Town issued cart and it is being abused. Manager Maiorano said the truck is set to lift the taller 96 gallon cart and he would remind Eric again and see if there can be a resolution.

Councilman Hines said he has talked to a lot of people about the bank issue and this branch is closing but it is no fault of the Town of Holly Ridge. He said Burgaw has closed and Warsaw has closed and he has learned how they do business and they have someone higher that makes the decision and the decision is passed down. Councilman Hines said they do not take into consideration any circumstances. He went on to say he has been in contact with a number of banks and a lot of them all want our business but there was only one that sounded promising about coming here and that is Sound Bank out of Morehead City. Councilman Hines said Sound Bank just opened a new branch in Cape Carteret. He also mentioned the Manager and himself met with First Citizens bank and they are a good bank but they do not have any plans to come down this way.

Councilman Hines said the Town has an excellent avenue to sell ourselves with our website and if we would put the businesses we have here and the developments we have here it might make a difference. He went on to say the sight has pictures of history so why can't we put pictures of what we have now like our businesses and put a little paragraph telling about what the business does. Councilman Hines said it is just like the new restaurant coming into Town, and then the website could say "A New Business Opening Soon". Councilman Hines asked Pam Hall, the owner of City Café when she would be opening. Pam said March 6th. Councilman Hines said we need people to be able to go on the website even if they are in California and see what we have and it will take a little work on staff's part but he thinks it's a way of selling ourselves. Councilman Hines said the Town's website is alright but we are not selling the Town through it like we should and we could talk to the developers and find out how many new homes they have left and maybe show a picture and help them sell it. Councilman Hines said it is just like the property around here and we need to help the people that do have their property for sale and show the property that is available. Councilman Hines said help the people sell their property is what we need to do. Councilman Hines said we need to take the attributes of the community we have like the hometown businesses and have them for people to look at and we need to do that as a Town.

Mayor Pro-Tem Edwards said we need to add that we could use a motel here in Town and we could let people know through our website. Councilman Hines said if someone was looking for somewhere to put a motel they would be able to see the property available. Councilman Hines said we need to build on what we have.

Mayor Pro-Tem Edwards said the new curbside recycling is working out really well for him and he has noticed an increase in his recycling. He went on to say this is really good for the environment. He also said we should save money on tipping fees and the Town needs to do more to save money and not spend so much money. He also mentioned the need for painting the current park sign and we can clean it up and get more life out of it.

Councilman Hines asked if the board was in agreement with the comments he made about trying to promote the Town through the website. The Council was in agreement. Mayor Padgett said anything to promote the Town he was for. Councilwoman Dingler said it is a great idea and we need to get good pictures like in the spring when everything is green and not brown. Councilman Hines said a paragraph description too.

Councilwoman Stanley thanked everyone for coming and thanked Coleman Parks for coming into our Town and said his project looks good. She also thanked the Fire Department, Police Department, Town Hall Staff, and the Attorney.

Councilman Wright echoed what Councilwoman Stanley said. He also mentioned utilizing the Town's baseball field. Councilman Wright asked Councilman Hines if Surf City would be interested in doing something together. Councilman Hines said he has not heard anything but he would check with Surf City again. Councilman Wright asked what the policy is on people leaving their recycling and garbage carts out by the street. Manager Maiorano said there is not a policy. Councilman Wright asked if we needed a policy. Manager Maiorano said it has been discussed before. Mayor Pro-Tem Edwards said it didn't seem to go anywhere when it was discussed before. Manager Maiorano said you get into a couple of things with a policy such as aesthetics because everyone wants things to look nice but then you also run into the problem of enforcement. Manager Maiorano said it would be tough and then we have our older citizens who can barely get the carts to the street to begin with.

Councilman Hines said a request could be put out in the newsletter first asking citizens to pull their carts back in.

Councilwoman Dingler said thank you to everyone for coming and thanked the staff. She also thinks it will be great to promote through the website and said the website is great and it can be built up. She asked if anything has ever been worked out with Onslow County Parks and Recreation about using our field. Councilman Hines said that cannot be promoted until we have a coordinator. Mayor Padgett said Onslow County was not interested years ago. Councilwoman Dingler asked Pam, the owner of City Café what type of food she will have. Pam said breakfast and lunch. Councilwoman Stanley asked what her hours were going to be. Pam stated

5:30 in the morning until 2:30 or 3:00 in the afternoon. Councilwoman Dingler said she hopes it works out and hope she stays a long time.

Councilman Hines said in reference to taking pictures of the businesses that it might be a good idea to tell the business what we are doing and get a brief paragraph from them of what they do. Councilman Hines said then it shows we are out there trying to promote them. Pam with City Café said she is also posting pictures of other businesses in her café as well and she would be willing to share with the Town.

Announcements

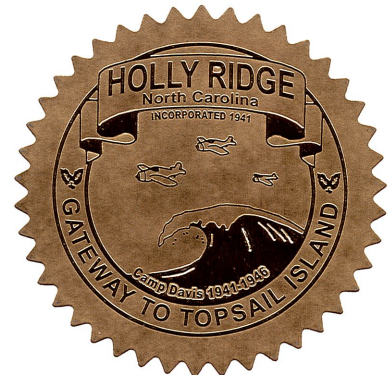
Mayor Padgett gave the following announcements:

- Planning Board Meeting-February 26th, 2013 at 6:30PM

Adjournment

A motion was made by **Councilman Hines** and seconded by **Mayor Pro-Tem Edwards** to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. **All Agreed.**

Attest:





Mayor Padgett



Heather Reynolds, Town Clerk

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