

Town of HOLLY RIDGE

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HOLLY RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING October 8th, 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, Councilwoman Stanley, and Councilwoman Dingler. Also present were Town Manager John Maiorano, Town Clerk Heather Reynolds; Deputy Clerk Tracy Martin and Attorney Chuck Kitchen. Councilman Wright was unable to attend.

Invocation and Pledge

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

Adoption of The Following Minutes

- Regular Meeting held on September 10, 2013
 - Two Sets of Closed Session Minutes held on September 10, 2013
- Councilman Hines** made a motion to adopt the minutes as is and **Mayor Pro-Tem Edwards** seconded. *All Agreed.*

Adoption of Agenda

Councilwoman Dingler made a motion to adopt the agenda as is and **Councilwoman Stanley** seconded. *All Agreed*

Persons Wishing to Address the Council

1. **Chris Gandy**: From Holly Ridge Fire Department. At last month's meeting Councilman Hines asked Chief Longo how they got paid after the allotted hours on the contract. Chris Gandy responded it was exactly the same way as when Councilman Hines and the ex fire chief got paid. It was the exact same thing that they were doing. Chris Gandy also stated that in the minutes from the March 2012 Special Meeting, Councilman Hines was asked to recues himself from the meeting. Councilman Hines denied that he had not voted on anything related to money in regards to the Fire Department. Chris Gandy stated that later on Councilman Wright wanted to know how Councilman Hines got paid. According to Chris Gandy Councilman Hines stated that it was a stipend. Chris Gandy also stated that Councilman Hines said he never received a paycheck. Mr. Gandy found out that Councilman Hines received two paychecks. Councilman Hines received one in

January and one in February. The stub on the check said employee. According to Chris Gandy, Councilman Hines was paid out of the same account that Chris Gandy was paid. Mr. Gandy stated that he did not think Councilman Hines should be allowed to question the Fire Department over money, when he's directly a part of why there has been a cloud over the Fire Department for the past year. Mr. Gandy stated that he was confused as to why one council member was allowed to be excused due to being related by marriage to someone and one council member was directly involved in it and is allowed to keep going.

2. **Janice Burgess:** spoke as to what appears to be a suit between Dorothy Royal and the Town of Holly Ridge. She stated that we should stand up for what is right. Mrs. Royal should be allowed to use her land how she wants. All citizens should be treated equally by the government. Mrs. Royal was only trying to help her neighbors learn gun safety, and we all need to know how to protect our property. Ms. Burgess sees this as ill will between two people and Town Government should not be involved at all. We need to stop this law suit.
3. **Scott Longo:** Mr. Longo said he was embarrassed and disappointed in the way the Fire Department contract is being worked out. We are working to lower the ISO rating. The men and women working for the Fire Department have saved \$11,000.00 since money has been found from the previous administration. We are striving to save the town money. Holly Ridge Fire Department has the highest number of responses in Onslow County in this town. The town should not short change the department or the Town of Holly Ridge and its residents.
4. **Dorothy Royal:** Mrs. Royal stated that she stood before the council not knowing what the right thing to do is. Her family had thought about taking on a monumental business here in Holly Ridge. This would be bringing in folks from Jacksonville and all of the other surrounding areas. They would be providing jobs and it would be a gathering place for all of the locals. Mrs. Royal also stated that the Town of Holly Ridge does not want growth to happen. Mrs. Royal would like for the Town of Holly Ridge to drop action against her.
5. **Ricky Royal:** Mr. Royal was born and raised in Holly Ridge. His father was a local teacher here for over 20 years. They have built a row of nice duplexes on Lloyd St. Mr. Royal's goal is to make the town better. They have a lot of investments here in Holly Ridge.
6. **Chris Rackley:** Mr. Rackley is owner of Lewis Realty and his wife owns Salon Blue here in Holly Ridge. Mr. Rackley stated that his wife's car was involved in a hit and run and that they sat for 2 hours after calling the police department. My wife and I went to the police department and the detective was leaning against the counter telling jokes. Mr. Rackley spoke of another situation involving towels missing from his wife's business. She had a witness, and had the person's license plate. An Officer told her this was a waste of his time and the officer went back to the department. Mr. Rackley's 82 year old Aunt owns Coral Ridge Station and Mr. Rackley had several tenants in line to rent spaces at Coral Ridge. Mr. Rackley instructed them to come to the Town of Holly Ridge to see what they needed to do in order to open up their business. They came back saying they needed an engineer. Two weeks later I finally got a call back but it was too late. We lost both of these prospective businesses.

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7. **Cynthia Vera:** Ms. Vera is here to support Dorothy Royal. With the increase in crime my husband felt that I needed to take a class and get a permit to carry a gun. I took this course with the Royals. We should feel safe at our property. These classes that the Royals give keeps our community safer and we would have less crime in our community.
8. **Kelly Collins:** Mrs. Collins lives in the neighborhoods of Holly Ridge along with her husband and baby. Mrs. Collins stated Misty (Chris Rackley's wife) cuts her hair. My husband and I support the town as much as possible. Mrs. Collins stated that the Royals property has not been regulated. It is not providing any revenue for the town, and they are not providing any taxes for the town. Mrs. Collins would like to thank the Town for listening to the residents and looking out for the tax payers.

Attorney Chuck Kitchen reported to everyone that the town was in litigation so therefore there will be no comments at this time.

Following Persons Wishing to Address the Council Mayor Padgett called for a brief recess at 7:20 p.m. Mayor Padgett called the meeting back to order at 7:25 p.m.

Friends of the Park

- Town Manager Maiorano wants to welcome Pam Hall to the Housing Authority. This is a 5 year term.
- The Liberty Fountain has a few names that would like to volunteer. This is a committee to commemorate the armed forces.
- October 26th is the beauty pageant at the community building.
- We are also involved with the county in regards to a Winter Fest. This festivity will provide Santa and fake snow.
- Our children's Christmas Party will be held Saturday December 14th, 2013 from 11-2pm.

ONWASA Report

Councilman Hines stated there was nothing to report at this time.

Old Business Fire Department Contract

Councilman Hines stated the Fire Department left out of the old contract the \$50,000 for the fire truck payment. This needs to be in the contract. Councilman Hines also proposed the payment be increased to \$2000.00 to help them with their equipment. Councilman Hines also said that the town needs to drop funding for personnel because the chief and assistant chief stated at the last meeting that they would continue to operate as volunteers without compensation. Councilman Hines does not understand why there is a problem with giving out the bylaws as well as the financial reports. The county requires that this information be giving out to them. The city of Richland's gives their fire department \$25,000.00. They have an ISO rating of 5. The Town of Holly Ridge has a budget of \$152,000.00 and we have an ISO rating of 7. Councilman Hines said he thinks we are more than fair.

Councilman Hines made a motion to direct the manager to give the fire department notice to cancel the contract and adopt the alternate contract. ***Mayor Pro-Tem Edwards*** seconded. ***All Agreed.***

Proposal for Onslow Grading and Paving

Manager Maiorano stated that for some time the roads in Holly Hills have needed paving. It's been years since we have spent money in that area. Not all of the streets need to be paved. Onslow grading and paving gave us a quote of \$47,857.25. Manager Maiorano thinks we need to move forward with this. We have \$13,742.00 of the street improvement funds in BB& T and we only need to move about \$34,000.00 from Powell Bill Account. The Powell bill fund comes in twice a year. This amount is \$23,000.00. The town will receive another payment after this project is complete. If council approves this then the town will get back with council on a date and time. Councilman Hines stated he went with the town's maintenance men to look at the roads that needed to be paved. A map was drawn up which shows what streets need to be done at this time. Manager Maiorano added that all of this is from the highway 17 expansion a few years ago.

Councilwoman Dingler made a motion to approve the contract with Onslow Paving and Grading in the amount of \$47,857.25 and ***Mayor Pro-Tem Edwards*** seconded. ***All Agreed.***

Closed Session Attorney Client Privilege Per General Statue 143-318.11 (A)(3)

Attorney Kitchen stated the purpose of this closed session is to maintain the Attorney Client Privilege Jones Onslow Electric Membership Vs Town of Holly Ridge 11CVS3125 and the Town of Holly Ridge Vs Pearl Valley.

Councilman Hines made a motion to go into closed session and ***Councilwoman Dingler*** seconded. ***All Agreed***

Following the Closed Session Mayor Padgett called for a brief recess at 7:50 p.m. Mayor Padgett called the meeting back to order at 8:03 p.m.

Attorney Kitchen updated everyone in the closed session and no action was taken.

Police Department Comments

Major Bryant stated that the annual training finished on the 17th of September. Major Bryant also mentioned there will be a DWI checkpoint on Friday October 25th, 2013.

Fire Department Comments

Chief Longo stated that the town voted to notify the fire department to cancel the current contract. Attorney Kitchen stated that the existing contract would continue for 6 months, but after 6 months we would have to get a new contract signed. Chief Longo asked if we understood that after 180 days the town would have no fire protection and the ISO rating would increase to a 10 and everyone's insurance rating would go to 100%. Chief Longo also stated that the fire department would still operate but they would not cover the town. Councilwoman Dingler stated that we are a great community. Councilwoman Dingler also stated that it is our job as council people to do what is best for the citizens and keeping the ISO rating as low as possible. Chief Longo said that in canceling the contact that leaves him to doubt that we want to protect the citizens of Holly Ridge. Chief Longo does not understand how it's fair to be forced into a one sided contract in which all of this could have been handled in a budget workshop.

Councilman Hines stated that most everything in the contract was in line with what was presented. It seems to Councilman Hines that this is all about money. Mayor Padgett stated that he did not see any reason why all of us could not come to an agreement. Councilman Hines stated the only reason the other contract is being done away is to have a new contract. Councilwoman Stanley stated that we all needed to be on the same team and that we have a strong volunteer fire department. Councilman Hines said that the fire departments assistant chief is their worst enemy. Councilwoman Dingler wanted to make sure that even though the contract is cancelled everything remains the same. Attorney Kitchen stated that was correct. Everything remains the same. The paid employees still get paid.

Town Manager Comments

Manager Maiorano stated the water tower will come down. This is set for around the 16th of the month. This will take one day to bring this down.

Mayor Pro-Tem Edwards wanted to know since curbside recycling if tipping fees have come down. Manager Maiorano stated that he could look at the history and get back to Mayor Pro-Tem Edwards.

Council Concerns

Councilman Hines stated that he always does what is the best interest for the town

Councilwoman Stanley stated she loves the town and wants what is best for the town.

Councilwoman Dinger reminded us of the Mayor's Forum which will be held on Tuesday October 15th at the community building. She also welcomed Pam Hall to the housing authority and wanted to thank everyone for coming and added that it takes all ideas, good and bad for the Town Council to make the best decision for the town.

Mayor Padgett stated he wanted what was best for Holly Ridge. He would offer an alternative if there is any way that the town and the fire department to work things out.

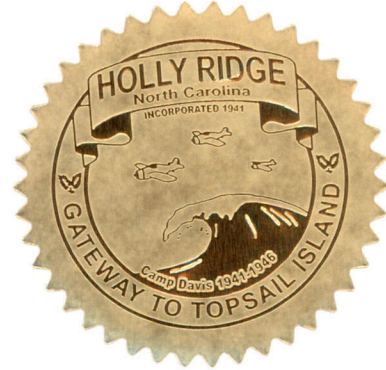
Announcements

- Elections-Tuesday, November 5th, 2013 at the Community Building
- Monday, November 11, 2013-Holiday-Town Offices Closed
- Planning Board Meeting-Tuesday, October 22nd, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

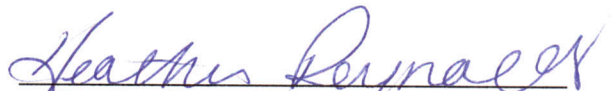
Adjournment

Councilman Hines made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. and **Mayor Pro-Tem Edwards** seconded.

Attest:




Elmer Padgett
Mayor Padgett


Heather Reynolds
Heather Reynolds, Town Clerk

These minutes were recorded and prepared by Deputy Clerk Tracy Martin.