



Town of HOLLY RIDGE

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HOLLY RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING October 13th, 2015

Mayor Dingler called the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Holly Ridge Town Council to order at 7:00 P.M. at the Holly Ridge Town Hall. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Hines; Councilwoman Hill; Councilman Lang and Councilwoman Stanley, and Councilwoman Bragg. Also present were Town Manager, Joe Pierce; Town Clerk Heather Reynolds and Attorney Chuck Kitchen. Deputy Clerk, Tracy Martin was absent from the meeting.

Invocation and Pledge

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

Adoption of Minutes

A motion was made by **Councilwoman Bragg** and seconded by **Councilman Lang** to adopt the Minutes. *All Agreed*

Adoption of Agenda

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

Persons Wishing to Address the Council

There were none.

Parks and Recreation Report

Dawneva Evans stated the Committee had their third meeting on October 1st, 2015 and they have been focusing on the Fall Festival which will be held on October 25th, 2015 from 2:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M. She stated Pam Hall has live music arranged and there will be a back drop for pictures. She stated there will be some crafts for the children, a bake sale and pony rides. She said Providence Baptist Church is having their fall festival the day before and they have offered to give us all of their tossing games and cider. She stated there is a Valentine's Day Dance planned for next year but plans for this are on hold until after the Fall Festival. She stated there have been two people who have joined Friends of the Park and another person who has joined the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Liberty Fountain Committee Report

Councilwoman Stanley stated they had their Regular Meeting on October 1st, 2015. She said they have a new member Ann Marie Davella. She said they are asking for approval for all of their new members Gerald and Ann Davis and Ann Marie Davella. Councilwoman Stanley said Mr. Davis has provided a copy of the site plan and they are working on getting more information from Larry Willaford on the specs he needs so he can issue the permits. She stated on November 14th, 2015 the Liberty Fountain Committee is hosting a Poker Run to help raise money to build the park. She said check in time is from 9:00 A.M. until 10:00 A.M. and the ride starts at 10:00 A.M. and will end back at the Park at 12:00 P.M. She said on December 5th, 2015 the Committee is planning a ground breaking ceremony and refreshments will be served afterwards. Councilwoman Stanley said the cookbooks should be back from the publisher by the end of October and the cost is \$10.00. Anyone can purchase one from a Committee member or at Town Hall. She said she has spoken with Tom Rollins in regards to the cost of the flag poles but they have not been able to set a time to meet due to Mr. Rollins busy schedule with the Industrial Park plans. Councilwoman Stanley is scheduled to meet with Mr. Joey Anderson with Onslow Woodmen of the World to see if they would help with funding and the Committee has applied for two grants as well.

ONWASA Report

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines gave the following report:

- Mayor Pro-Tem Hines stated there was a Ribbon Cutting for the Northwest Plant on Wednesday October 7th, 2015. He said it was a good event and a great benefit for the County.
- In the next few days there is going to be a declaration with intent to amend an Ordinance and this will not affect the Town. ONWASA did this because of new legislation that was passed to help utilities with cost recovery. He said this will help collect funds from the builders and this will be a plus for ONWASA.

There was discussion about the highlights and features of the Northwest Plant. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines also mentioned ONWASA owns around 3,000 acres on Highway 50, which is going to be for future development and growth.

Report of Released Tax Refunds for September 2015

The Town Council reviewed the following tax release for the month of September:

- Gulfstream Trading Assoc. was issued a refund in the amount of \$20.63.

Public Hearing

Old Business

Update on the Streets in the Neighborhoods of Holly Ridge

Manager Pierce stated staff reviewed the Minutes from the years 1999 through 2005 in order to have a good feel of what transpired. He went on to say during the Town Council Meeting on May 10th, 2005, Scott Cook was there and John Maiorano was serving as Town Manager at the time. At that meeting, Mr. Maiorano said that DOT would prefer the Town take the roads over because they were in the Town. Mr. Maiorano went on to say that the Town's criteria was synonymous to DOT's criteria for streets. Mr. Cook said that the streets were "being designed for DOT qualifications".

Manager Pierce stated the roads in the Neighborhoods in Holly Ridge do not meet NCDOT requirements, per Mr. Eckert's finding. Manager Pierce stated Mr. Cook is essentially in violation of Town of Holly Ridge **Ordinance 8-4 Section 5.1-Type of Streets Required** dated October 12, 1999 states that "All public streets shall be built to the standards of the North Carolina Department of Transportation". Manager Pierce said that statement has been consistent and that is thanks to Mr. Hines due to issues in the 1990's. Manager Pierce stated the Town is pursuing action in accordance with the Town Ordinance. Manager Pierce went on to say a letter of violation will be sent this week.

Councilman Lang asked if this would address all parts of Mr. Eckert's report. Manager Pierce stated from his understanding it would apply to phases one, two, and three.

New Business

Possible Appointment of Kylene Savage to the Parks and Recreation Committee

Mayor Dingler stated Ms. Savage submitted an application for appointment to the Parks and Recreation Committee and a background check has been completed with no issues indicated.

A motion was made by **Councilwoman Stanley** and seconded by **Councilwoman Bragg** to appoint Kyleene Savage to the Parks and Recreation Committee for a term of two years. **All Agreed.**

Possible Appointment of Julia Ann Davis, Gerald Davis, and Ann Marie Davella to the Liberty Fountain Committee

Mayor Dingler stated Julia Ann Davis, Gerald Davis and Ann Marie Davella have submitted an application to be appointed to the Liberty Fountain Committee and background checks have been completed on all applicants with no issues indicated. Mayor Dingler stated applicants are not required to be sworn-in but they are appointed by the Town Council.

A motion was made by **Councilman Lang** and seconded by **Councilwoman Bragg** to appoint Julia Ann Davis, Gerald Davis, and Ann Marie Davella to the Liberty Fountain Committee. **All Agreed.**

Possible Action Concerning Changing Banking Institutions

Manager Pierce stated the Town of Holly Ridge currently banks with the Bank of America located in Surf City. A cost analysis conducted by the Finance Director, Christina Austin outlined a significant monthly cost savings to the Town of Holly Ridge if the Town changes financial institutions to Coastal Bank located in Holly Ridge. This change would support local business and ease the labor and fuel costs associated with employees driving to Surf City in order to submit the daily deposit.

Manager Pierce stated the monthly fees for Bank of America are \$724.49 and Coastal Bank would be \$151.76 – which is a difference of \$572.73 per month the Town would save by banking locally. Manager Pierce stated one of the things that really stood out to us was the daily deposit fee which is \$3.50 and that is a charge we incur just by making a deposit. Coastal Bank charges \$0.08 and that was one of the big things that stood out to us initially. Manager Pierce stated this should be over \$6,000.00 per year we can save the taxpayers. Manager Pierce stated by switching to Coastal Bank this would be more efficient because currently we have an employee out of the office for two and a half hours per week just making deposits and this change will support local business.

A motion was made by **Mayor Pro-Tem Hines** and seconded by **Councilman Lang** to change from Bank of America in Surf City to Coastal Bank in Holly Ridge for all of our banking needs.

Councilwoman Hill wanted to applaud Christina and Joe and any other staff for identifying this problem and working towards a solution. She stated she is very disappointed the corporate banks are not able to work with a small local government more than what they have. She went on to say she felt this was a wise decision and said thank you.

Voting Followed and All Agreed.

Possible Tree Removal for the Liberty Fountain Committee

Manager Pierce stated the Liberty Fountain Committee requested ten trees behind the Community Center be removed in order to make room for the concrete sidewalk to be placed for the Liberty Fountain memorial. The ten trees are directly behind the Community Center on N. Hines Street and the bidding process is under way.

Councilwoman Stanley stated she received three quotes as follows:

- \$2000 in addition to \$80.00 per hour plus \$145.00 per load of the concrete that is in the ground on the site.
- \$2000 and that is just removing the trees
- \$1250.00 for removal of the trees, debris, stumps and to straighten out the land.

Councilwoman Stanley stated the quote of \$1250.00 included a cost for disposal of the stumps and she wanted to ask the Town Council to consider allowing the stumps being stored on the Town's property on the burn pile instead of having to haul them off.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines asked who the bids are from. Councilwoman Stanley stated one is from Jim Bullard, one from Mr. Parker, and the third was from a man Mrs. Kay Burros spoke with. She went on to say the man Mrs. Kay Burros spoke with would take the trees out at his convenience. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines asked what Mr. Bullard was going to do with the trees. Councilwoman Stanley stated Mr. Bullard was going to take the trees off and she has spoken with another company on Highway 17 but they have not been back in touch with her.

Councilwoman Stanley stated Mr. Bullard originally quoted \$700.00 but it increased because two trees were added and they were going to need dirt when the trees come out in order to smooth the land and make it level. Councilwoman Stanley stated the Committee agreed to proceed with Mr. Bullard if the other quotes were higher. Mayor Dingler asked if Mr. Bullard is going to take the stumps off. Councilwoman Stanley stated Mr. Bullard can take the stumps off, but if they cannot be stored on the burn pile, there will be a dumping fee.

Councilwoman Stanley asked everyone to look at the site plan displayed on the screen. She explained which trees need to be removed. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines stated the Town will need to look at taking other trees down that will affect their site.

Councilwoman Stanley stated she is asking the Town Council for approval to take the trees down and store the stumps on Town property. She went on to say the trees and limbs will be

hauled off. Councilwoman Stanley said Mr. Bullard said he can start tomorrow with the Town Council's approval.

Councilman Lang asked if the Committee is paying for this work. Councilwoman Stanley stated the Committee has to the money to pay for the trees to be removed and also the pouring of the concrete. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines stated he is glad there is a site plan.

A motion was made by **Mayor Pro-Tem Hines** and seconded by **Councilman Lang** to approve the site and the location and the removal of the trees and the storing of the stumps on the backside of the park property.

Attorney Kitchen stated the Town Council should include authorizing the Town Manager to sign the contract because there must be a written contract in order to be paid.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines revised his motion to read as follows: to approve the site and the location, removal of the trees, storing of the stumps on the backside of the park property, and authorizing the Town Manager to sign the contract for this work. **Councilman Lang** seconded. **All Agreed.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines asked if the Town receives a proposal for anything, there is going to need to be a contract? Attorney Kitchen stated yes for cities, any type of service requires a written contract. Attorney Kitchen stated there is also an E-Verify requirement that is now effective on all contracts. Mayor Dingler asked if this could be a generic, fill-in the blank contract. Attorney Kitchen stated yes.

Possible Adoption of the Liberty Fountain Committee By-laws

Mayor Dingler stated the Liberty Fountain was formed and the committee did not really have any rules and regulations. Mayor Dingler went on to say the regulations were initially presented as a Standard Operating Procedure but that term does not fit a committee, so it has been changed to by-laws.

Manager Pierce stated under **Section 1-5. Meetings** – the time of the meetings needs to be changed from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by **Mayor Pro-Tem Hines** and seconded by **Councilwoman Hill** to accept the by-laws for the Liberty Fountain Committee.

Councilwoman Bragg asked what was different in the by-laws that were sent to the Town Council and the copy that has been presented tonight. Manager Pierce stated **Section 1-6. Organization, Rules, and Records** have been more spelled out and the various responsibilities were made to be very clear. Manager Pierce stated deposits and expenditures have also been further explained to bring the Committee in line with the other departments. He went on to say there were also some grammatical errors that were corrected.

Councilman Lang asked if the Treasurer is bonded. Attorney Kitchen stated the Town just needs to make sure the Treasurer is covered under the insurance policy and the Town is required to have a crimes provision on the insurance. Attorney Kitchen stated the Treasurer just needs to be listed.

Councilwoman Stanley stated under **Section 1-8. Annual Report**, the Committee is hoping to have the project complete by July 4th and have the dedication on July 4th, 2016. Councilwoman Stanley stated the by-laws read the Committee must report to the Town Manager in April a report of activities and analysis of expenditures. Manager Pierce stated this would just be an update of what has been done. Mayor Dingler stated once the project is complete, the Committee can give an update of how it is going, how many bricks have been sold, and the cleaning update.

Voting Followed and All Agreed.

Police Department Comments

Lieutenant Whaley gave the following report:

- Halloween is coming up and will be held in conjunction with Onslow County and the hours will be 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.
- No roadblocks will be held here in Town for the rest of the year but will start back in April. Officers are participating in roadblocks in other Towns.
- The next Medicine Drop will be held in March. This event is held twice a year.

Fire Department Comments

Chief Longo gave the following report:

- Fire Prevention Week was this past week and the Fire Department handed out a lot of materials and had a lot of visitors in the Fire House.

Councilwoman Hill congratulated the Fire Department on the ISO and the results of the score because she knows it took a tremendous amount of work and dedication.

Town Manager Comments

Manager Pierce stated the Town did not sustain any damage from the recent storm. Mike McFann, Public Works Director reported the land by the road at the Post Office had caved in. He went on to say the Town did a fill on that to make sure there aren't any accidents and the owner of the Post Office is looking into having the area fixed. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines stated he saw a contractor over at the Post Office.

Manager Pierce stated three out of four of the radars that were declared surplus have been sold and the one remaining will be placed on GovDeals. Manager Pierce said the Town has begun exterior maintenance to the new building and the fans are on and circulating air inside the building. Manager Pierce also mentioned the retention pond on this property. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines asked if the man who donated the building added any stipulations. Manager Pierce stated the only stipulation was concerning his relative. Manager Pierce said he has not heard back from him and there is also still property in the building that he said he was going to remove.

Manager Pierce stated our web master is moving offices and if anyone has noticed some of the links on the website are not working. He went on to say the web master should be set-up and he is in the process of repairing the website. Manager Pierce congratulated Mayor Pro-Tem Hines and his wife Cheryl on their 36th wedding anniversary.

Council Concerns

Councilwoman Bragg thanked the Fire Department for their low ISO rating and she also thanked each department and the Town Council.

Councilman Lang thanked the Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works and the staff. Councilman Lang stated he sees a lot of progress in Town and asked about a drain near the Liberty Fountain site because it looks new. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines stated the drain has been there but it looks as though something happened to it because it looks as though work has been done to it. Councilman Lang also asked about the Minutes being posted to the website because currently the website shows the last ones posted in June. Councilman Lang thanked the citizens for attending the meeting and stated he has seen a big improvement with the committees such as Parks and Recreation and Liberty Fountain since he has been living in Town. Councilman Lang wished everyone a Happy Halloween.

Councilwoman Stanley stated the sign at Stump Sound Church Road was knocked down during her accident and it needs to be replaced. Manager Pierce stated he has already spoken with Holly with Department of Transportation Maintenance and there is a work order submitted. Councilwoman Stanley stated the pond on Hudiburg Street is growing up again and needs maintenance. She also thanked Christina for helping with the Liberty Fountain and for everything she has done with the other finances. Councilwoman Stanley thanked the Fire Department, Police Department, and everyone else. She also thanked the Liberty Fountain Committee members and stated she is looking forward to laying the first brick. Councilwoman Stanley reminded everyone to vote on November 3rd for Town Council.

Councilwoman Hill stated October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and there is a yard sale fundraiser for women with breast cancer and will benefit local women that have been diagnosed with breast cancer. The yard sale will be held at Penslow on Saturday, October 24th, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. She also stated if anyone has any items to donate for the

fundraiser, please bring them the morning of the yard sale by 7:00 a.m. or call the office by the 21st to arrange a drop-off time.

Councilwoman Hill stated she is very sincere in her thank you to the Fire Department for their ISO score. She went on to say she spent a half day with Chief Longo back in March and wanted to get a better idea of what their workload is. She said she requested the call log from the EOC for the Fire Department. Councilwoman Hill stated the Town Council has been provided with a copy of this call log and she explained pages 1-7 are the fire calls for a 12 month period and pages 1-25 are for the medical calls for a 12 month period. She said when you look at the medical calls she had a concern because there are a number of no responses. She understands the contract with Holly Ridge Volunteer Fire Department does not include EMS services, although they are qualified first responders.

Councilwoman Hill stated Pender County has 13 EMS stations and Onslow County has five and she said the closest EMS station to Holly Ridge is located in Sneads Ferry. Councilwoman Hill wanted to bring this to the Town Council's attention and even if she is not on the Town Council in March, she hopes this issue could be addressed at the Retreat in March. Councilwoman Hill stated she her neighbors are in their 80's and she is concerned. She also mentioned her great aunt came to visit and she was awoken at 6:00 a.m. and her great aunt had a heart attack and died in her home. Councilwoman Hill said even if she had a medical doctor sleeping next to her, she doesn't think the results would have been any different. Councilwoman Hill went on to explain she is not saying she wants the Town Council to address the issue for this reason but this is the Town Council's responsibility to look at how the Town can operate more efficiently and smarter. Councilwoman Hill stated to Chief Longo by no means does she want him to take her comments as a knock to him because she is concerned about the citizens, her neighbors, and the folks that are in the Town that aren't her neighbors. She also said if there is something the Town could do to operate more efficiently for the health and safety of the citizens, then she challenges the Town Council to look at that.

Chief Longo stated part of what Ms. Hill was saying hits the nail on the head. He also said comparing Onslow County's EMS program and their ambulance services to Pender County is a difference between night and day. Chief Longo stated there is no question that all the County's EMS demands overwhelm their ambulance coverage by far. Chief Longo stated they are very concerned about this and it has been addressed in the past. Chief Longo said at the end of 2012, a County Commissioner and the Emergency Services Director were at the station and the Fire Department offered them a bay to house an ambulance for no charge for this end of the County. This idea turned into a month long debate with the County concerning funding and the offer was turned down at the County Commissioners level and the only justification given was they did not like how far it was from Holly Ridge to the other side of Sneads Ferry in the event the other truck was gone. Chief Longo stated on a daily basis Pender County does stand-by at our intersection for this end of the County and the County is bringing in mutual aid to help. Chief Longo said he does not have an answer for an ambulance. He knows Councilwoman Hill mentioned the contract does not cover EMS calls and they still respond to those – just not as much during the day as when there were two people working. Chief Longo

stated that is because they cannot attend to their mission of fire suppression here in Town. Councilwoman Hill stated she understands the demand for services and she is asking the Town Council to take a look at this during their Retreat and asked Chief Longo to be thinking and strategizing because he is the expert. She went on to say she is very concerned about this and there has got to be a solution.

Chief Longo stated before this meeting started, he just left an ambulance call. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines asked Chief Longo to explain the difference between Pender County's system and Onslow County's system. Councilwoman Hill stated Pender County is privatized. Chief Longo stated he is not sure exactly how Pender County is funded. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines stated there is a rescue tax and a fire tax. Chief Longo stated Onslow County does not have this. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines stated Pender County citizens pay property tax and an additional tax for fire and EMS. Mayor Dingler stated this is definitely a discussion that needs to happen.

Chief Longo stated he knows there are people listening and he wants to explain that dispatch prioritizes the calls as follows: Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, with Delta being the absolute worse. Chief Longo stated the call before the meeting was a bravo and it was a fall from a standing position with facial trauma. He went on to say an example would be if an Alpha call came in from the clinic, they are more than likely not going to tie up the firefighters if he knows he is short on man power to go to the clinic for a cut or fever that medical staff there can handle without their help. Chief Longo stated they do receive calls from the facilities for lifting assistance from the ambulance service and they do go to those. Chief Longo stated he doesn't want anyone to think they are not going to these EMS calls, just because it is not in the contract does not mean he is not going to do it. He also said his guys are very adamant and compassionate about protecting the community. Chief Longo stated he pretty much runs all of the calls when off from work, he has a take home vehicle and there is another person at the other end of the district who does the same thing. He said he does not want there to be any question of attention or priority for him on the medical side, there is a Fire Department to run but this is important to him as well and he does have family that lives here in Town too.

Chief Longo said if there is support for an EMS program or if someone wants to come up with a brainstorming project, he would be all for it. Mayor Dingler thanked Chief Longo for clarifying.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hines stated he knows Joe is working on the gutters in Town because they are horrible and he was thinking once the pine trees start growing on the ones on Highway 17, maybe the State will come in and do it. He also said the gutters are a hazard because of the standing water. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines asked if there has been a response from Department of Transportation about paving at Highway 50 and Hines Street. Manager Pierce said he has not received any feedback as of yet, but he will send out an email. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines suggested the Town Council start thinking about what to do with the building on Sound Road. He said the longer it sits, the more it will cost to renovate the building and the Town may want to look at selling the building. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines wished all of the candidates' good luck for the election.

Mayor Dingler suggested discussing the building at the Retreat. Mayor Pro-Tem Hines stated everyone could go ahead and start thinking about the building. He also said before he went in the building he had many thoughts, but after going in the building he is worried it may cost too much to renovate.

Announcements

Mayor Dingler asked everyone to remember the South Carolina flood victims and said if anyone wishes to help out, to please contact the American Red Cross about sending money or items because water is taken care of but they are in need of canned goods. Mayor Dingler also stated today is the 240th birthday of the United States Navy. There will also be a Candidate Forum on Thursday, October 22nd, 2015 in the Community Center from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Mayor Dingler gave the following Announcements:

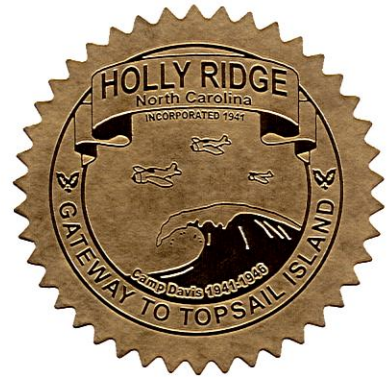
- ONWASA Regular Monthly Meeting – Thursday, October 15th, 2015 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Jacksonville City Hall
- Fall Festival in the Municipal Park – Sunday, October 25th, 2015 – 2:00 until 5:00 p.m.
- Planning Board Meeting – Tuesday, October 27th, 2015 beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- Liberty Fountain Committee Meeting – Monday, November 2nd, 2015 in the Community Center beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 3rd – Municipal Elections will be held.
- Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting – Thursday, November 5th, 2015 beginning at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers
- Wednesday, November 11th, 2015 – Town Hall Closed in Observance of Veteran's Day.
- Liberty Fountain Poker Run – Saturday, November 14th, 2015 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Municipal Park.

Mayor Dingler stated Fireball Run turned out to be an amazing event and it was exciting to meet all of the people involved. All of the teams were passing out flyers for missing children and they have been able to recover 45 children in nine years. She also stated the Dixon High School Band played for the sendoff and the Dixon High School Special Olympians waved the go flags. The actual show will be on Netflix and online at Fireballrun.com. This should be available within nine months and our community should have great coverage.

Adjournment

A motion was made by *Mayor Pro-Tem Hines* and seconded by *Councilwoman Stanley* to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. *All Agreed.*

Attest:



Anita Dingler

Anita Dingler, Mayor

Heather Reynolds

Heather Reynolds, CMC, Town Clerk

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