

# 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 December 8th, 2015 Holly Ridge Community Center

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, Councilman Lang, Councilwoman Stanley, and Councilwoman Bragg. Also present were Town Manager, Joe Pierce; Town Clerk Heather Reynolds; Attorney Chuck Kitchen; and Deputy Clerk, Tracy Martin. Councilwoman Hill was not present.

### Invocation and Pledge

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

### Adoption of Minutes

Councilwoman Stanley stated there are a couple corrections to the Regular Meeting held on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015. She said there is a correction under the Possible Budget Amendment in the last line of the first paragraph to change "I.D." to the word is. She also stated under Comments on page eight there is an incomplete sentence in the first paragraph and stated the word send should be added to the sentence.

Councilwoman Stanley stated there is also a change to the Closed Session Minutes on the third paragraph from the bottom; change the word review to reviewed.

A motion was made by **Councilman Lang** and seconded by **Councilwoman Bragg** to adopt the Regular Meeting Minutes held on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and the Closed Session Minutes held on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 as amended. **All Agreed**

Councilwoman Hill arrived at 7:05 p.m.

*All were in favor of adopting the Minutes as amended.*

**Adoption of Agenda**

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

**Persons Wishing to Address the Council**

There were none.

**Organizational Meeting**

Mayor Dingler noted there was no Old Business for the current Town Council.

Mayor Dingler stated Senator Harry Brown, covering the North Carolina Sixth Senate District- Covering Jones and Onslow Counties. Mayor Dingler stated Senator Brown will be swearing-in the newly elected Council members.

Senator Harry Brown administered the Oath of Office to the following board members:

- Councilwoman Carolyn Stanley
- Councilwoman Rena Bragg
- Councilwoman Pamala Hall

**Appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem**

A nomination was made by *Councilwoman Stanley* to appoint *Councilwoman Bragg* as Mayor Pro-Tem. *All Agreed.*

**Appointment of ECC Representative**

Mayor Dingler stated the Town has not had a representative sit on this Council in a while and asked Manager Pierce to describe what the ECC is.

Manager Pierce stated the ECC is the Eastern Carolina Council of Governments and they provide multiple services to municipalities. He went on to say they hold meeting in New Bern and there are two mandatory meetings per year for whoever is appointed with one being in January and one in June. Manager Pierce stated their focus is on transportation issues and providing information to local governments. He also stated the ECC hosts various workshops, meetings, assist with comprehensive plans and facilitate planning retreats.

A nomination was made to appoint *Pamala Hall* to the Eastern Carolina Council by *Councilwoman Stanley*. *All agreed.*

**Adoption and Presentation of a Resolution of Appreciation in honor of Out-Going Councilwoman Deb Hill**

Mayor Dingler read the Resolution of Appreciation in honor of out-going Councilwoman Deb Hill and thanked her for her service.

***Mayor Dingler Recessed the Meeting at 7:15 p.m. for the reception for the new Councilmembers.***

***Mayor Dingler called the Meeting back to order at 7:50 p.m.***

**Parks and Recreation Report**

Dawneva Evans stated the Christmas tree lighting event had a good turnout of around 150 people and the Committee is hoping this will be an annual event. She reported the Children's Christmas Party had a smaller turnout than usual. Dawneva said the Committee is planning for a dance in the spring for adults to include dressing up, dinner, drinks, and a band. She also mentioned the movie night is coming up this Friday with Santa.

Councilman Lang stated the Fire Department support for the tree lighting was good as well.

**Liberty Fountain Committee Report**

Councilwoman Stanley gave the following report:

- The Committee still has a few cookbooks left if anyone is interested.
- Viking Phillips of Viking's Landscaping was on-site the day of November 18<sup>th</sup> with his tractor and dump truck and worked around five hours on the site.
- Gerald and Ann Davis, her husband and herself pulled roots and cut off roots for about five hours.
- Jim Bullard is supposed to haul three loads of fill dirt once everything dries out and he is charging \$90.00 per load. The other quote was for \$120.00.
- The poker run was cancelled for November 14<sup>th</sup> due to the lack of riders but the Committee did sell eight cookbooks and received a donation of \$500.00.
- This month a donation from Jones Onslow Electric Membership Corporation was received for a flag pole in the amount of \$1000.00.
- A special thanks to Jason who came to the ride on the 14<sup>th</sup> and also the Iron Order Motorcycle Club from Jacksonville for volunteering to help Committee.
- The bike ride has been rescheduled to January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and the Iron Order will be handling all the arrangements as well as manning the check-in points. They are also going to purchase a long gun and sell raffle tickets to the riders that day. After the cost of the gun is taken care of, they are going to donate all the proceeds to the committee.

- Gerald and Ann Davis went to River Fest this past Saturday after the groundbreaking and shared a tent with the Iron Order to pass out information on our Park, brick sales, and sponsorship information. They also received \$45.00 in donations that day.
- Groundbreaking was this past Saturday and it was a beautiful day.
- Next meeting is January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and the Committee is also looking for members and volunteers.

Mayor Dingler congratulated the Committee for being on the front page of Sunday's paper.

### **ONWASA Report**

Councilman Hines gave the following report:

- This time of year things are slow at ONWASA.
- There will not be a meeting this month but things are still progressing.
- Next month's meeting will be changed to the 14<sup>th</sup> of January.

### **Report of Released Tax Refunds for October 2015**

The following tax refunds require approval from the Town Council:

- Calin Phillippe in the amount of \$286.49.

A motion was made by **Councilwoman Bragg** and seconded by **Councilman Lang** to release the tax refunds. **All Agreed.**

### **Public Hearing**

#### **Request from Alice Hollingshead for the Possible Rezoning of Parcel Number 014425 located at 814 East Ocean Road from R15A to Neighborhood Business**

A motion was made by **Councilman Hines** and seconded by **Councilwoman Stanley** to enter into a Public Hearing. **All Agreed.**

Manager Pierce explained this is a request from Alice Hollingshead to rezone the property located at 814 East Ocean Road from R15A to Neighborhood Business. Manager Pierce stated the recommended action is to approve the request from Alice Hollingshead for rezoning of tax map 735A-6, parcel number 014425 from R15A to Neighborhood Business. The rezoning of this property will make the property consistent with our Comprehensive Plan which its' intent is to have both the Highway 50 and Highway 17 corridors reserved for Neighborhood Business, Commercial, and Light Industrial. This will help support future harmonious development and growth of the Town of Holly Ridge.

Manager Pierce explained rezoning this property will fall in line with our Comprehensive Plan and it would not become an issued later down the road to rezone.

Mayor Dingler stated no one signed-up to speak for the Public Comment section of this Public Hearing.

A motion was made by ***Councilman Hines*** and seconded by ***Mayor Pro-Tem Bragg*** to return to Regular Session. ***All Agreed.***

A motion was made by ***Councilman Hines*** and seconded by ***Pamala Hall*** to approve the rezoning request as stated by the Town Manager. ***All Agreed.***

Vern Jones asked what type of business is going there. Mayor Dingler stated the Town Council is just rezoning the property. Attorney Kitchen stated when there is a rezoning request that is going from residential to commercial; it is for any business that is permitted within that zone. The Town would not be zoning the property for a particular use even if they have a particular use in mind, they can change their mind and do something different. Mayor Dingler stated Mrs. Hollingshead would like to do a Bed and Breakfast, but now that it has been rezoned she would be permitted to do any type of business within that zone.

#### **Old Business**

There were none.

#### **New Business**

##### **Possible Closing for Christmas Employee Luncheon**

Councilman Hines stated the Town does this every year for the employees and he does not see an issue with doing it again this year. Mayor Dingler stated the Town Hall would close on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m.

A motion was made by ***Councilman Hines*** and seconded by ***Councilman Lang*** to close the Town Hall between the hours of 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to host an employee Christmas luncheon. ***All Agreed.***

##### **Possible Amendment to the Personnel Policy to Update the Holidays Observed**

Manager Pierce stated the current personnel policy ***Article VI Section 1 - Holidays Observed*** states that the Town will follow the same schedule as the State. In 2012 the State schedule changed, but the Town's policy was not updated. This change represented a simplified version of the Christmas Holiday to a standard of three days, as opposed to the occasional two days. The most recent version of the Town Employee Personnel Policy is dated July 2012 and currently represents the old State schedule. Onslow County has also followed the same schedule as the State and transitioned to the current schedule. Manager Pierce stated

ONWASA also follows the same schedule which will fall in line with the services we offer here.

Manager Pierce explained the first change to the Personnel Policy under **Article VI, Section 1, Holidays Observed** would be to add the *verbiage* “Christmas – In accordance with the State’s Christmas Holiday Schedule.”

The second change was to delete the section “When Christmas falls on the Town Observes”. This deletion will include all of the days listed and the days the Town has observed in the past.

A motion was made by **Councilman Lang** and seconded by **Councilman Hines** to amend **Article VI Section 1- Holidays Observed** of the Town Personnel Policy to reflect the schedule implemented by the State of North Carolina. **All Agreed.**

#### Police Department Comments

Lieutenant Whaley stated he does not have anything to pass but the next Medicine Drop will be held sometime in March and the next checkpoint will be held on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. Councilman Hines stated the Chief made it back after his surgery. Lieutenant Whaley stated he is back and getting around a lot better than he was.

#### Fire Department Comments

Chief Longo gave the following report:

- Thanked the Parks and Recreation for having them at the tree lighting and they enjoyed getting out and about and being involved in the event.

Tracy stated she could not hear Chief Longo. Chief Longo asked if she could not hear him and Mayor Dinger stated no. Councilman Lang stated what he is saying needed to be picked up on their side of the room.

Chief Longo stated last month the ISO was discussed.

Mayor Dinger asked Chief Longo to address the Town Council that way they can hear. Chief Longo stated it has a lot to do with them also. He went on to say the discussion last month was on the ISO and he explained their experience with the various insurance companies. Chief Longo thanked Larry and his staff for his help with the Code Enforcement processes because this helps maintain the ISO rating.

Councilman Hines stated there have been many false alarms and wanted to know if they were in the same place. Chief Longo stated he cannot think of anyone who had multiple false alarms but knows two of them were from the Pie Plant due to a fiber optic line being hit and the other three may have been residential.

*Town Manager Comments*

Manager Pierce stated the Children's Christmas Party was a success and went very smoothly with no problems. He went on to say Rudolph has been installed at Town Hall and he is up and lit with his nose blinking as well as other ornaments spread around the Town. Manager Pierce stated the employee luncheon went very well. He also mentioned the Maintenance Department will be stripping the floors in the Community Center and wax and buff them. Manager Pierce stated the Community Center is staying booked and there are already events booking for next year. Manager Pierce said Chief Maiorano is recovering well from emergency back surgery and everyone is happy he is back. Manager Pierce stated staff is preparing for the New Year.

*Council Concerns*

Mayor Pro-Tem Bragg stated thanked Dawneva for the events the Parks and Recreation are holding within the Community. She also thanked the Fire Department and Police Department. She also mentioned she has talked with citizens and there is concern about why there are not benches in the Park with backs on them and also why there are no grills in the Park as well. Mayor Pro-Tem Bragg stated she was also asked if there could also be a covered swing in the Park and she was also told the bathrooms at the Park have not been clean. She thanked everyone for voting for her and thanked the Council for the appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem. Mayor Pro-Tem Bragg also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilman Lang stated he has been contacted by citizens that would like to see more ornaments placed on the telephone poles. Councilman Lang shared a cost breakdown he received from Manager Pierce on the cost of decorations and the cost to run them. He asked the Town Council to consider purchasing new decorations in the future. Councilman Lang asked if the street closure signs on Sound Road are the Town's or the States because they have been there. He thanked the Fire Department and stated they did a great job with the Parks and Recreation. He stated he appreciates the Police Department and the staff and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilwoman Stanley thanked everyone who has confidence in her and she wanted to thank everyone in the different departments and stated they are all working well together. She also mentioned she has heard about the Christmas ornaments as well. Councilwoman Stanley wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Councilwoman Stanley stated the Liberty Fountain is going to hold the bike run on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Councilwoman Hall agrees with what everyone has said so far and wanted to remind everyone of the movie night with Santa this Friday in the Community Center. She went on to say the money for the film is being provided by the Town and the other items came from various people, businesses, and other Committees. Councilwoman Hall thanked the Town Council for the position on the ECC and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilman Hines stated he agrees with Councilwoman Hall and the Council Concerns should be changed to Council Comments. He also mentioned the Christmas ornaments for the light poles and stated he is not sure if everyone knows but the Town has two electric companies here and there is Jones Onslow Electric Membership Corporation and Duke. He remembers there was an issue with Jones Onslow Electric Membership Corporation about not being able to figure the cost, but Surf City has their service and they have ornaments. Mayor Dingler suggested Manager Pierce look into this issue. Councilman Hines stated he has been in the Antique Store and the Comic Book Store as well. He also mentioned Mr. Bullard has been working to clear the lot for Ken Crew. Councilman Hines stated the property by the Post Office should be sold this month and we will be able to get a business in there. He also stated the ABC store could be one to two years down the road. Councilman Hines said he attended the Children's Christmas Party and it went well and he enjoyed it. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Dingler stated when she attends the JOED meetings there are a lot of business people there and Holly Ridge is on the radar. Councilman Hines shared information about Gulfstream and a feasibility study that was conducted that gave them global attention. Mayor Dingler also stated the Hess station is now a Speedway.

#### Announcements

Mayor Dingler wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

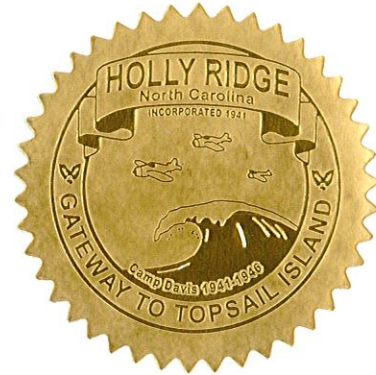
#### *Mayor Dingler gave the following Announcements:*

- Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015- Movie with Santa-Community Center at 6: 00 pm.
- ONWASA Regular Monthly Meeting – No Meeting this Month
- Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015-Town Hall Closed in Observance of Christmas.
- Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016-Town Hall Closed in Observance of New Year's Day.
- Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting – Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 beginning at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.
- Liberty Fountain Committee Meeting – Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in the Community Center beginning at 6:00 p.m.

#### Adjournment

A motion was made by **Councilman Hines** and seconded by **Councilman Lang** to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. **All Agreed.**

*Attest:*



*Anita Dinger*  
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*Anita Dinger, Mayor*

*Heather Reynolds*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Heather Reynolds, CMC, Town Clerk*

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