

# 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 May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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 Bragg, Councilman Lang, Councilwoman Stanley, Councilman Hines and Councilwoman Hall. Also present were Town Manager, Joe Pierce; Attorney Chuck Kitchen; and Deputy Clerk, Tracy Martin.

### Invocation and Pledge

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

### Adoption of Minutes

A motion was made by **Mayor Pro-Tem Bragg** and seconded by **Councilman Lang** to adopt the April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. **All Agreed.**

### Adoption of Agenda

Mayor Dingler stated there is an addition to the Agenda under New Business – Item D will become Possible of Adoption of a Resolution Permitting the Onslow County Animal Control Ordinance to be Effective Within the Corporate Limits of the Town of Holly Ridge.

Mayor Dingler Stated New Business – Former Item D – Possible Purchase of a Mobile Pitching Mound for the Ballfield will now become Item E.

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

### Persons Wishing to Address the Council

Ken Watkins – 550 Sound Road – Mr. Watkins wanted to congratulate the Town on so many things he feels the Town is doing better than ten years ago. Mr. Watkins stated there are many improvements in Town and it is a very long and gradual process. Mr. Watkins stated he regrets the pine trees near the new coming fountain are gone and that was 1000 years of tree growth in those trees. He also encouraged the Town Council to plant real trees there and not just decorative trees.

Mr. Watkins stated he also really wanted to encourage the Town Council to not accept any bid for a halfway house in the building on Sound Road. He went on to say he sympathizes with the problem of all the addictions and the problems with the young people, but does not feel we should take those issues on in our neighborhood.

Mayor Dingler stated she could address Mr. Watkin's concerns and the trees at the site of the Liberty Fountain did come down but some of those trees were damaged and hit by lightning which split them. She went on to say the trees at the site are being replaced by crape myrtles and the whole area will be landscaped and have benches. Mayor Dingler stated the Town Manager is looking into replacing other trees in the park with something other than pine trees. She went on to say there are trees around the playground that have been hit by lightning and have also split.

Mayor Dingler stated the Town is moving slow with the building on Sound Road and the Town Manager will be presenting the appraisal to the Town Council soon and the Town Council is not rushing into anything with the building. Mayor Dingler thanked Mr. Watkins for his concerns because this is how the Town Council will know what is going on.

### **Parks and Recreation Report**

Dawneva Evans stated the Parks and Recreation is considering having a business of the month and they are planning on having a standalone sign made by Jaxon Signs. The sign will be placed in front of the business of the month. She went on to say there are also a lot of businesses here that need attention and appreciation. She doesn't think the business community always feels like we are on their side and they are welcome.

### **Liberty Fountain Committee Report**

Councilwoman Stanley gave the following report:

- The Committee has a new person that is interested in becoming a member and her name is Dorothy Fisher.
- The plumbing is finished on site and Mr. Padgett will be coming back to put a protective cover over the work.
- The fountain is in place.
- D&D Masonry is supposed to be in Town by Saturday to install the water wall around the fountain.

- CRM Electric should be on site one day this week to complete the electric work, all of this work is dependent on the rain.
- The Committee voted to order service stones for the branches of the military as a fundraiser.
- Mr. Gerald Davis has begun working to level the ground at the site.
- The flag poles should be in place by May 27<sup>th</sup> and the Veteran's bricks and sponsorship bricks that were ordered should be here also by May 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The second order of bricks is started and there are currently 19 bricks on that order.
- Invitations are here and will be addressed soon. The printing company donated the invitations and the Committee only had to purchase the envelopes.
- The programs have gone to the printer and the Committee cannot wait until July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The Committee is always looking for volunteers and committee members.

Councilman Hines stated he is concerned about the way the pond is constructed and it will probably need a liner to keep it from leaking. Councilwoman Stanley stated a guy that installs swimming pools is supposed to come and spray a liner.

#### **ONWASA Report**

Councilman Hines gave the following report:

- The Summerhouse Plant is really close and there are still little tweaks but it should be within this month when everything is done.
- The trucks should also stop hauling and once they stop hauling on the road to the plant, the roads will be repaired where they have been damaged.

#### **Public Hearing**

#### **Old Business**

There were none.

#### **New Business**

#### **Discussion of Possible Adoption of Resolution of Bank Depository**

Manager Pierce stated According to § 159-30 – *Selection of depository; deposits to be secured*, the Town must name the bank in which it is using as the central depository for municipal funds. The names of those with access to the accounts as well as those who may make deposits must be named in the resolution as well. Since the Town has transitioned to a new central depository at Coastal Bank & Trust, a new Resolution of Bank Depository is in order.

A motion was made by **Mayor Pro-Tem Bragg** and seconded by **Councilman Lang** to adopt the Resolution of Bank Depository. **All Agreed.**

**Possible Acceptance of Contract to Audit Accounts**

Manager Pierce stated The Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act requires each unit of government to have its accounts audited as soon as possible after the close of the fiscal year (June 30th) by a certified public accountant (CPA). It also requires that a governmental entity submit an executed service contract each year for Local Government Commission (LGC) approval. To date, an Independent Auditor had not been retained.

The contract with a CPA firm is categorized as a service contract. Chapter 143 of the North Carolina General Statutes does not require a formal bid process for this type of contract. Williams-Scarborough-Smith-Gray LLP was selected because they have a working experience conducting audits for communities with similar budget amounts and populations. Manager Pierce stated he recommends Williams-Scarborough-Smith-Gray LLP and they have a combined experience of nine years in local government finance. Manager Pierce stated the Finance Officer also has previous experience with this firm and he feels confident this firm will provide the Town will a formal and informed audit this year.

Councilman Hines asked if this \$11,000 is in the new budget coming up. Manager Pierce stated it is in the budget.

A motion was made by **Councilman Hines** and seconded by **Councilwoman Stanley** to execute a contract with Williams-Scarborough-Smith-Gray, LLP for \$11,000 for the Annual Audit. **All Agreed.**

**Possible Adoption of Amended Ordinances**

Mayor Dingler stated the Planning Board has done their due diligence and the Planning Board is sending Chapters 10, 12, 13, and 14 to the Town Council for their review. Mayor Dingler stated the Town Attorney was sent these Ordinances to review and he found a few issues he modified.

Attorney Kitchen stated the Town Council was given a copy of an Enactment of Ordinance to enact the changes and there are a couple of minor changes. He went on to say the most significant change is this will repeal Article I and Article II of the Animal Control Ordinance. The reason for this is because the Town is having the County enforce the Animal Control Ordinance, the problem with that is the County cannot enforce the local ordinance unless there is an interlocal government cooperation agreement and usually they would charge the Town for doing that. Attorney Kitchen stated the way around that is the Town would simply have their Ordinance effective within Holly Ridge and then they are required to enforce the County Ordinance and are paid by the County to do so.

Attorney Kitchen stated the only other significant change is the penalties for the roads, parking, speed limits and those are infractions, other than that he basically just cleaned up the language. Attorney Kitchen stated the only other thing is to not bring Chapter 14 forward right now because in that Chapter there are land-use provisions for screening and different uses. He went on to explain although that is not zoning, that Chapter would need to be treated as a Zoning Ordinance and a Public Hearing will need to be held.

Councilman Hines stated he came prepared to talk about the Ordinances and he received a copy of the changes and he has not even had a chance to look at it. Councilman Hines said he is not prepared to vote on this item because he had a lot of notes on a lot of things.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bragg suggested tabling this item until the next Town Council meeting. Councilman Hines asked for copies of the final draft in the new packet with the changes.

***A consensus of the Town Council was taken to table this item until the June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Regular Meeting. All were in favor of tabling the item.***

Mayor Pro-Tem Bragg suggested to the Town Manager to highlight the changes in the Ordinances so the Town Council will know exactly where the changes are. Councilman Hines asked if Chapter 14 will be ready and Manager Pierce stated the Town should be able to.

Councilman Hines wanted to clarify there is nothing being put in the Ordinances to give the Town Manager permission to go into a residence without permission from the resident. Attorney Kitchen stated the Ordinances did say that to begin with and he has changed it because that is a violation of the Constitution and it says if the entrance is refused, the Town must obtain an administrative search warrant. Councilman Hines stated the Town is not even considering doing something to enter someone's property and Manager Pierce stated absolutely not.

Mayor Dingler stated the Ordinances have been tabled and the Town Council added the Possible of Adoption of a Resolution Permitting the Onslow County Animal Control Ordinance to be Effective within the Corporate Limits of the Town of Holly Ridge. Mayor Dingler asked if the Town Council needed to proceed with the passing of the Resolution. Attorney Kitchen stated the Resolution will also need to be tabled.

**Possible Purchase of a Mobile Pitching Mound for the Ballfield**

Manager Pierce stated at the April Town Council Meeting, discussion was held regarding the ability of little league teams to play and practice baseball on the Town of Holly Ridge ballfield. Manager Pierce stated during his research he found a junior size mound with the dimensions of 6" x 30" x 76" with a weight of 42 lbs. The size and weight are more manageable and the mound could be stored in the concessions building using the same key checkout and return process as the community building. This mobile pitching mound generally costs about \$500 could be funded from Contingencies line item 10-660-77-0 if necessary.

Councilman Hines stated an option was found but what happens when a bigger group of boys want to play and this mound would not work. He said if the Town is planning on hiring someone to be a coordinator, this should wait until this person is hired and can make a decision about what is needed. Councilman Hines stated the Town is doing this from one request of one group and what happens if someone starts a volleyball league and they need things for them to practice with. He thinks if we wait until there is a coordinator, the coordinator can see if there is a need and manage the need.

*Vern Jones – 215 Jones Street* – Stated he is curious about the mound and wanted to know if this is a regular pitcher's mound. Mayor Dingler stated the mound is a mobile mound and our field is a softball field and is flat. She went on to explain if a baseball team comes in, they need a mound. Mr. Jones stated he played a lot of ball and they never had anything like this. Mayor Dingler stated this is a travel team who goes to competitions.

***Councilman Hines made a motion to deny the request until the Parks and Recreation person is in place to guide the Town on what they need to do and what direction to go in.***

Councilman Lang asked what the time frame for a Parks and Recreation person is.

Manager Pierce stated as soon as the budget is adopted then the position will be advertised with a start date of July 1<sup>st</sup>.

***Motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bragg.***

Ken Watkins – 550 Sound Road stated the ballfield is being used a lot and there is a lot of joy. He said a \$500.00 investment seems like peanuts and the Town needs to encourage them and not discourage the kids.

***Voting was as follows: Mayor Pro-Tem Bragg – yes, Councilman Lang – no, Councilwoman Stanley – no, Councilwoman Hall – no, Councilman Hines – yes. Motion failed.***

***A motion was made by Councilwoman Hall to purchase the smaller mound and move forward.***

After discussion about the differences between the larger and junior size mounds, ***Councilwoman Hall revised her motion as follows: to purchase the larger mound for \$1200.00.***

Mayor Pro-Tem Bragg stated she has seen a lot of practice on the field but no games. She went on to say if the practices are being held here but the games are being taken somewhere else, why the Town would purchase the mound. Councilman Hines stated that is what he was saying also because why would the Town spend \$1200.00 on something there is not enough information about to do anything with and he does not agree with that.

*Councilwoman Stanley seconded the motion. Voting was as follows: Mayor Pro-Tem Bragg – no, Councilman Lang – yes, Councilwoman Stanley – yes, Councilwoman Hall – yes, and Councilman Hines – no. Motion Carried.*

### Town Manager Comments

Manager Pierce stated the appraisal for 325 Sound Road and he will be scheduling the meeting to present his findings and the methods of sale soon. He also said Chris May from the Cape Fear Council of Governments is available any weekend in July for a Strategic Planning Meeting and he will be calling to schedule that with the Town Council.

Manager Pierce stated the Police Department had a checkpoint on May 6<sup>th</sup> that resulted in two DWI's, 17 traffic violations, and 7 drug related charges. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, the Police Department also held a Medicine Drop and that resulted in 6,392 dosage units of medicine being turned in.

Manager Pierce stated the Town has moved forward with getting Narcan for our Police Officers to carry for immediate response in the event of an overdose. The drugs have been approved by the Onslow County EMS Director for the Holly Ridge Police to carry and the required policy is in place and Narcan has been ordered. Training is being coordinated right now.

Manager Pierce stated the part-time Maintenance position has been filled to help cut the right-of-ways on Highway 17 and Highway 50.

### Council Concerns

Mayor Pro-Tem Bragg stated things are moving along and thanked everyone who worked on the entrance coming into Holly Ridge from the South and it looks a lot better. She also thanked all of the various departments.

Councilman Lang thanked everyone for coming out and he would like to see more people. He wished Dixon High School good luck on their tournaments coming up for baseball and girls' soccer. Councilman Lang gave his heartfelt thanks to the staff for the well wishes during his stay in the hospital and it meant a lot to him.

Mayor Dingler stated on behalf of the Town Council they are so glad he is sitting in that chair today.

Councilwoman Stanley stated at the end of Cole Street and Furney's Alley the reflectors need to be placed because people are running in the ditch. Manager Pierce stated he will follow up with Mike. She also stated the curbs look really good and the Dollar Store is coming along and she cannot wait until it opens. Councilwoman Stanley stated the Town has to be really careful in the way they spend taxpayer's money and the Town has spent money that has not been used wisely and she feels this is something that will build more people coming to the Park. She also thanked everyone for coming and all of the departments.

Councilwoman Hall commented on how nice Highway 17 looks. She wanted to give Joe and Councilman Hines kudos for what they did in pushing that because a lot of people are coming in the Café and there is a lot more activity. Councilwoman Hall stated she hears all positive comments in the Café and most people love it here. She also mentioned there is a fundraiser being held for Kay Haste who is a local suffering from cancer. Councilwoman Hall stated they are also selling raffle tickets all around Town and they are having a barbeque on Saturday. She also thanked everyone for the pitching mound.

Councilman Hines said thank you to Councilwoman Hall and Councilwoman Stanley for mentioning about the gutters. He went on to say really the thank you needs to go to Mrs. Fountain who is with the Highway Commission and she got things rolling. Councilman Hines said the Maintenance Department has really stepped up, especially with the extra duties that have been piled on and Tracy also with her additional duties. Councilman Hines stated the Town requires the staff to work on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the employees lose their three day weekend. He asked the Town Council to consider next month discussing giving the employees the 1<sup>st</sup> as their holiday.

### Announcements

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

- Coastal Federation site visit at Morris Landing Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 beginning at 12:00 p.m.
- ONWASA Board Meeting Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Jacksonville City Hall.
- Planning Board/Board of Adjustment Meeting Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers
- Town Hall Closed Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Observance of Memorial Day.
- Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Thursday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 beginning at 3:30 in the Council Chambers.
- Liberty Fountain Committee Meeting – Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 in the Community Center beginning at 6:00 p.m.

*Mayor Dingler recessed the meeting at 7:55 p.m. for a break.*

*Mayor Dingler called the meeting back to order at 8:00 p.m.*

### Closed Session

#### To Consider the Performance of a Public Official per North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (6)

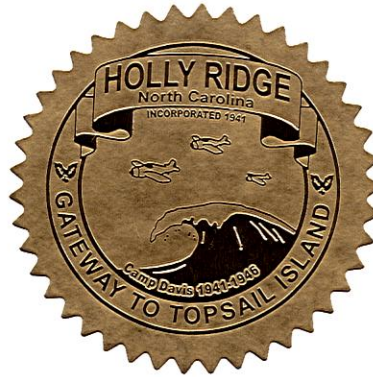
A motion was made by *Councilwoman Stanley* and seconded by *Mayor Pro-Tem Bragg* to enter into a Closed Session to consider the performance of a public official per North Carolina General Statute 143-318-11(a)(6). *All Agreed.*

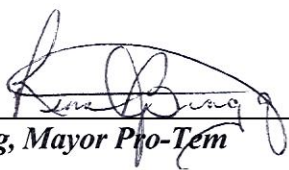
A motion was made by **Councilwoman Hall** and seconded by **Councilwoman Stanley** to move \$2460.00 from line item 10-660-77-0 Contingencies to line item 10-420-02-0 Salaries for the purpose of giving the Town Manager an increase in salary. **All Agreed.**

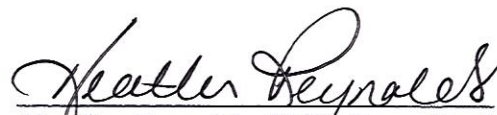
**Adjournment**

A motion was made by **Councilman Hines** and seconded by **Mayor Pro-Tem Bragg** to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. **All Agreed.**

**Attest:**



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Rena Bragg, Mayor Pro-Tem**

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

*These minutes were recorded by Tracy Martin, Deputy Clerk and prepared by Town Clerk, Heather Reynolds*