

**TOWN OF RICHLANDS**  
**NORTH CAROLINA**

Office of the  
Town Clerk  
(910) 324-3301  
(910) 324-2324 fax  
[richlandsclerk@embarqmail.com](mailto:richlandsclerk@embarqmail.com)

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 245  
Richlands, N.C. 28574



The Richlands Board of Aldermen met in Regular Session on Tuesday, August 09, 2011 at 6:00 pm at the Richlands Town Hall. Present for the meeting were:

Mayor Pro Tem McKinley Smith  
Alderman Fran Pierce  
Alderman Paul Conner  
Alderman Hans Jacobsen  
Alderman Tom Brown

Also present were:

Gregg Whitehead, Town Administrator  
Thomas Bennett, Chief of Police  
Trey Carter, Attorney in for Keith Fountain Town Attorney who was absent  
Billy Joe Farmer, Executive Director of ONWASA and Jimmy Powell, ONWASA  
Johnathan Jarman, Public Works Director  
Doreen Putney, Town Clerk

There were eight (8) other citizens present.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

Mayor Pro Tem McKinley Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Alderman Fran Pierce

**INVOCATION:** Alderman Hans Jacobsen

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

A **motion** was made by Alderman Paul Conner, seconded by Alderman Fran Pierce to adopt the agenda as written. The motion was unanimously carried.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES (Regular Board Meeting of July 12, 2011 & Special Call Meeting of July 26, 2011):**

A **motion** was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Paul Conner to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2011 and the Special Call Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2011. The motion was unanimously carried.

### **ONWASA UPDATE:**

Mayor Pro Tem McKinley Smith welcomed Mr. Bill Joe Farmer, Executive Director of ONWASA and requested for him to provide a brief up date on current ONWASA projects especially the Northwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility. Mr. Farmer stated that he was on the team that created ONWASA and he wants to bring back the original philosophy and be an asset to all member governments. They are reviewing current programs and looking at customer service improvements. He stated that they are preparing a different design for the Northwest Regional Plant, one that will meet the permit requirements. The previous plan did not meet the requirements. He stated that the ONWASA Board met on August 08, 2011 and agreed to move forward with the plant plans. Completion of the plant is scheduled to be by 2015. Not sure exactly when they will break ground. After further discussion, Mr. Farmer stated that he will be happy to come back anytime and provide updates on progress.

### **DISASTER RECOVERY & DEBRIS MANAGEMENT CONTRACT RENEWAL (CrowderGulf):**

Gregg Whitehead, Town Administrator reported that our debris management contract with CrowderGulf is due to expire August 31, 2011. On June 20, 2011 Onslow County approved a new and updated five (5) year contract with CrowderGulf. This new contract's fee/rate schedule is lower than the prior one. The contract would be between the Town and CrowderGulf. The town will maintain control of the work done inside the town limits. In order to become a part of this five year contract, the Board will need to review and consider adoption of the contract. The term of this contract will run until May 31, 2016.

**A motion** was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Fran Pierce to adopt the Contract for Emergency Disaster Debris Removal Services between CrowderGulf and the Town of Richlands for a term of five years expiring May 31, 2016. The motion was unanimously carried.

### **RICHLANDS STREET FAIR REQUEST:**

Anne Marie Conner came before the Board and reported that the Revitalize Richlands Commission has scheduled the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Richlands Street Fair for Saturday, November 5, 2011 from 8 am till 4pm. The Commission is requesting permission to close Wilmington St. from Franck St. to Foy St. and to close Hargett Street from Academy St to Nicholson St. They are also requesting for the town to provide traffic control, police patrols and event support. Ms. Conner stated that they will be contacting DOT to get permission to close state owned streets.

**A motion** was made by Alderman Fran Pierce, seconded by Alderman Tom Brown to grant the Revitalize Richlands Commission the town's support for the event, permission to close the requested town owned streets, provide traffic control and police patrols. The motion was unanimously carried.

### **SPEED LIMIT CHANGE ORDINANCE 2011-04 (Heritage Village):**

Gregg Whitehead reported that the Public Safety Committee met recently regarding a request from the Richlands Police Department concerning the speed limit in the Heritage Village Subdivision. Due to the short length of the street, high residential density of the subdivision and it being mainly a cul-d-sac, the Richlands Police Department is requesting to lower the speed limit from 25 MPH to 15 MPH. The Public Safety Committee has reviewed the matter and recommends the change to the Board for their review and adoption of the Ordinance.

After discussion from the board, **a motion** was made by Alderman Hans Jacobsen, seconded by Alderman Tom Brown, to adopt Ordinance 2011-04 to amend the Richlands Code of Ordinances in order to regulate the posted speed limit in the Heritage Village Subdivision from 25 mph to 15 mph. The motion was unanimously carried.

### **STREET IMPROVEMENT PLAN:**

Gregg Whitehead, Town Administrator, presented to the board a Street Improvement Plan for 2011 that was recommended by the Public Works Committee. It was noted that the project costs were from 2010 and actual costs may be much higher due to increased oil prices. One additional improvement discussed and recommended by the Committee is the eventual installation of curb and gutter along a portion of Foy Street from Onslow St to Lucille Brit Winstead Rd which probably will not be done until next summer after school is out.

Once the Board approves the plan, it will be submitted to NCDOT for the bidding process. After the bidding process is completed, the town can proceed with the LGC application and approval process. Mr. Whitehead stated that DOT wants to put the bids out this month and begin the work in fall.

**A motion** was made by Alderman Paul Conner, seconded by Alderman Fran Pierce to approve the recommended street improvement plan that was presented by the Public Works Committee. The motion was unanimously carried.

### **TRENTON STREET TRAFFIC CHANGE REQUEST:**

Mr. Whitehead reported that the Public Works Committee discussed a request to change Trenton Street from two-way street to a one-way street going in a northerly direction towards Trexler Middle School. If the Board desires to consider the request, a public hearing is recommended to allow area residents to present their concerns. Alderman Fran Pierce stated that she brought this to the Public Works Committees' attention after a resident on Trenton Street approached her with the concern. Alderman Brown reported that he has spoken to two residents on that street and one of them opposed the change and the other one didn't know anything about the request. He feels this could become problematic for residents on that street leaving their homes, and it could also create a domino effect with other streets. Chief Bennett reported that he has not had any incidents on the street except with children playing in the street. He stated that from past experience when you make a street a one-way street it tends to bring more traffic and faster speeds.

After further discussion a **motion** was made by Alderman Paul Conner, seconded by Alderman Tom Brown to table this issue and instructed the Town Administrator further investigate the issue with either DOT and/or an engineer for their opinions. The motion was unanimously carried.

### **PLANNING BOARD/BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT RE-APPOINTMENT (Kent Painter):**

Mr. Whitehead reported that Mr. Kent Painter's term for both the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment will expire on August 12, 2011. He stated that Mr. Painter has expressed desire to be re-appointed to both boards for an additional three (3) year term expiring August 12, 2014.

A **motion** was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Hans Jacobsen to re-appoint Mr. Kent Painter to both the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment for a term of three (3) years expiring August 12, 2014. The motion was unanimously carried.

### **ADMINISTRATOR NOTES AND UPDATES:**

The Town Administrator, Gregg Whitehead, presented a copy of notes and updates to the Board which are attached to these minutes. He also reported on the following:

- Closing and preconstruction conference for the Community Building is scheduled for this Thursday, August 11, 2011 at 3:00 pm. After USDA forwards us the money, we will be able to begin construction.

### **POLICE REPORT:**

Chief Thomas Bennett presented a copy of the Activity Report for July 2011 to the Board. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. He had no further comments at this time.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Stan Simchick of 121 Airleigh Place, asked the Board if there is anyway that ONWASA can do a better job of repairing the roads that they tore up. Mr. Whitehead stated that ONWASA has been following DOT regulations and guidelines in the repairs. Mr. Simchick also asked whether during recent water outages, if the residents can be reimbursed for having no service. Mr. Billy Joe Farmer stated that residents are only charged for water that is used, therefore, during the outages, no water was being used so the customers are not charged.

### **BOARD MEMBERS CONCERNS:**

*Alderman Fran Pierce:* Thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

*Alderman Paul Conner:* No concerns at this time.

*Alderman Hans Jacobsen:* No concerns at this time.

***Alderman Tom Brown:*** Notice the milling and paving of Hwy 258. Why can they not pave the Town? Mr. Whitehead stated that the state has two sets of funds and Hwy 258 falls under the Highway funds.

***Mayor Pro Tem McKinley Smith:*** No concerns at this time.

**PERSONNEL:** None

**CLOSED SESSION:** None

**ADJOURN:**

With no further business, **a motion** was made by Alderman Hans Jacobsen, seconded by Alderman Fran Pierce to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 pm. The motion was unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Mayor Pro Tem McKinley Smith

---

Doreen Putney, Town Clerk