



The Richlands' Board of Aldermen met in Regular Session Tuesday evening August 14, 2007 at 7:00 pm at the Richlands Town Hall. Present for the meeting were:

Marvin Trott, Mayor
James Morgan, Mayor Pro-Tem
Steve Marshburn, Alderman
Tom Brown, Alderman
John Chandler, Alderman
Carroll Beaty, Alderman

Also present for the meeting were: Eva Brown – Town Clerk, Gregg Whitehead – Town Administrator, Thomas Bennett – Chief of Police, Johnathan Jarman – Public Works Director, Abby Cavanaugh – Advertiser News and Keith Fountain – Interim Town Attorney.

Approximately fifteen citizens were also present for the meeting.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Mayor Marvin Trott

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE: Alderman Steve Marshburn

INVOCATION: Mayor Pro-Tem James Morgan

Mayor Trott recognized two Eagle Scouts, Elliott and Ethan Scott of Troop #215 in attendance, who are planning to do improvement projects at Richlands' Steed Park.

Mayor Trott also recognized Mr. Keith Fountain as the Interim Town Attorney.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Alderman Steve Marshburn, seconded by Alderman John Chandler to adopt the Agenda as presented. The motion was unanimously carried.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR JULY 10, 2007

A motion was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Steve Marshburn to approve the minutes for July 10, 2007. The motion was unanimously carried.

CHANGE DATES FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

A motion was made by Alderman Carroll Beaty, seconded by Alderman James Morgan to change September meeting date to Tuesday, September 18th and the October meeting to Tuesday, October 2nd, due to conflicts in Mayor Trott and the Town Administrator's schedules. The motion was unanimously carried.

PLANNING BOARD & BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT APPOINTMENTS

A motion was made by Alderman Steve Marshburn, seconded by Alderman Tom Brown to reappoint Paul Conner to a three-year term on the Board of Adjustment and Kent Painter to a three-year term as an alternate to the Board of Adjustment. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Carroll Beaty to appoint Anthony Barr and John Finlay to represent the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) on both the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment. The County Board of Commissioners will appoint one of the two. The motion was unanimously carried.

REGULATION OF SPEED ON TOWN STREETS ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman John Chandler to adopt Ordinance 2007-6. Vote 4 yes, 1 negative, Alderman Carroll Beaty. (A copy of the Ordinance is attached to these minutes)

CONDITIONAL USE AND REZONING REQUEST

A motion was made by Alderman Steve Marshburn, seconded by Alderman Tom Brown to schedule two Public Hearings for Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at 7:00 pm. A Conditional Use Permit requested by RLEC Enterprises, LLC to locate a 10-unit shipping center behind the post office on Sylvester Street and a rezoning request by the Lee Mills Estate to rezone 11.5 acres on Francktown Road from RA-20MH to R-8. The motion was unanimously carried.

WOODSON SCHOOL ROAD CLOSING DISCUSSION

A motion was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman John Chandler to schedule a Public Hearing Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at 7:00 pm, for the purpose of closing Woodson School Street.

A motion was made by Alderman John Chandler, seconded by Alderman Steve Marshburn to amend the above motion to modify the verbiage and the writing here, with the intent to consider closing of Woodson School Road to transfer ownership to Woodson School Road.

The Amendment and motion was unanimously carried.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR NOTES & UPDATES

Town Administrator Gregg Whitehead presented a copy of notes and updates to the Board. A copy of the notes and updates are attached to these minutes. He also informed the Board of the following items:

1. Fire Department roof has been completed and under budget.
2. Presented different samples of Christmas lights.

PURCHASE CHRISTMAS DECORATION

A motion was made by Alderman John Chandler, seconded by Alderman Tom Brown to purchase and display the Christmas decoration in the Town of Richlands, as presented to the Board and identified as P390-Snowflakes Cascade Wreath and P233-Double Poinsettia from Mosca Design, Inc. The motion was unanimously carried.

FIREWORKS FOR FARMERS DAY

A motion was made by Alderman Steve Marshburn, seconded by Alderman Tom Brown to approve Fireworks Display for Farmers Day, Saturday September 8, 2007 in the Town of Richlands. The motion was unanimously carried.

POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT

Chief Thomas Bennett presented a copy of the Police Activity Report for July 2007, per attached. He also informed the Board that six 800MZH radios have been ordered, which will be paid from the \$10,000 Grant that has been awarded to the Richlands Police Department.

BOARD MEMBERS CONCERNS

1. Alderman Carroll Beaty asked for an update concerning Wilmington and Hargett Street. Asked Town Administrator to contact DOT concerning the matter.
2. Alderman Steve Marshburn asked for an update concerning the widening or refiguring of Franck and Wilmington Street.
3. Alderman John Chandler stated that he has been favorably impressed by the actions of the Onslow County Board of Education in redoing Foy Street.
4. Alderman John Chandler stated that the school board is also looking to relieve pressure on East Point Road.
5. Mayor Marvin Trott informed the Board that a stoplight has been approved in front of Richlands Primary School on Hwy. 258.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Fran Pierce asked about funding for a crossing guard at the schools. The Town Administrator, Gregg Whitehead was instructed to check into the matter.

Mr. Rick Bulla suggested that the Town contact the newspaper with clarification concerning the closing of Woodson School Road. By consensus of the Board, the Town Administrator is to contact the newspapers concerning the matter.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Alderman Steve Marshburn, seconded by Alderman Tom Brown to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Steve Marshburn, seconded by Alderman Tom Brown to go into regular session. The motion was unanimously carried.

RESIGNATION / ATTORNEY LYNN COLEMAN

A motion was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman John Chandler to accept Attorney Lynn Coleman's resignation effective July 10, 2007. The motion was unanimously carried.

HIRE NEW TOWN ATTORNEY / KEITH FOUNTAIN

A motion was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Steve Marshburn to hire Attorney Keith Fountain as the Attorney for the Town of Richlands, effective August 14, 2007. The motion was unanimously carried. (A copy of the Agreement is attached to these minutes).

A motion was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman John Chandler to direct Attorney Keith Fountain to seek re-payment of retainer fee from Lynn Coleman. The motion was unanimously carried.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Alderman Steve Marshburn, seconded by Alderman James Morgan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Marvin Trott, Mayor

Eva C. Brown, CMC
Town Clerk