



The Richlands' Board of Aldermen met in Regular Session on Tuesday evening, April 15, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Richlands Town Hall. Present for the meeting were:

Marvin Trott, Mayor  
McKinley Smith, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Steve Marshburn, Alderman  
Tom Brown, Alderman  
Fran Pierce, Alderman  
Hans Jacobsen, Alderman

Also present for the meeting were: Gregg Whitehead, Town Administrator; Keith Fountain, Town Attorney; Thomas Bennett, Chief of Police; Johnathan Jarman, Public Works Director; 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Ron Lindig; Doreen Putney, Collections/Finance Clerk; Abby Cavanaugh, Advertiser News; and John Pierce with John Pierce Surveying representing Heritage Village.

There were approximately five (5) other citizens present for the meeting.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** Mayor Marvin Trott

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Alderman Steve Marshburn

**INVOCATION:** Mayor Pro-Tem McKinley Smith

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem McKinley Smith, seconded by Alderman Fran Pierce to adopt the Agenda as presented. The motion was unanimously carried.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Alderman Steve Marshburn, seconded by Alderman Tom Brown to approve the minutes from March 11, 2008. The motion was unanimously carried.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 28-30, 2008:**

A motion was made by Alderman Fran Pierce, seconded by Alderman Steve Marshburn to approve the minutes from March 28 thru 30, 2008. The motion was unanimously carried.

### **BOARD WORKSHOP REVIEW:**

The Board discussed their views on the outcome of the Board Workshop held March 28-30, 2008. Some comments from the Board were that the workshop was outstanding, very productive, time well spent, informative, excellent facilitators, chance to bond with each other. Mayor Trott stated that we came out realizing that there are a lot of needs, deferred maintenance issues that need to be addressed as revenue increases with growth.

Alderman Tom Brown expressed his inability to attend due to illness. Mayor Pro-Tem McKinley Smith commended the Town Administrator, Gregg Whitehead, for an excellent job with all the arrangements, preparations and making sure everything was very well planned went smoothly at the Board Workshop. The Board recommended to participate in another workshop in the future.

### **TREXLER MIDDLE SCHOOL / SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING:**

A motion was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Fran Pierce to schedule a public hearing during the next regular Board meeting to hear public comment on a conditional use request by Onslow County Schools to place one additional modular classroom at Trexler Middle School. The motion was unanimously carried.

### **11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LIVING HISTORY WEEKEND:**

A motion was made by Alderman Steve Marshburn, seconded by Alderman Tom Brown to assist the Onslow County Museum with traffic control and general support for the upcoming Annual Living History Weekend scheduled for May 2-3, 2008. The motion was unanimously carried.

### **HERITAGE VILLAGE PRELIMINARY PLAN:**

Mr. John Pierce of John Pierce Surveying, representing Heritage Village was present to answer any questions the Board may have regarding the Heritage Village Preliminary Plan. Gregg Whitehead stated that the Planning Board has already approved the preliminary plan and the Town Board will need to approve the Final Plat of the subdivision once all the necessary improvements have been made before the Final Plat can be legally recorded. The Board reviewed the new preliminary plan. Gregg Whitehead stated that the side yard setbacks for R-8 are 8' which is the same as R-10, the previous zoning designation.

### **ONSLOW COUNTY SALES TAX RESOLUTION:**

Gregg Whitehead, Town Administrator, provided some background to the Board on the Resolution 08-009, Resolution of Support for .25% Sales Tax Increase. Gregg Whitehead stated that the proposed Sales Tax Increase will be placed on the May 6, 2008 ballot. Under authorizing legislation, the counties are not required to share any revenues of the proposed sales tax with municipalities, nor are they required to spend the funds on capital needs including schools. The alternative would be to raise property taxes. One position the Board could take would be in not supporting the sales tax per se, but supporting the effort to go to referendum to allow the citizens vote on it. After a lengthy

discussion, Alderman Tom Brown made a motion, seconded by Alderman Fran Pierce to table the resolution in support of the .25 % sales tax. Alderman Steve Marshburn made an amendment, seconded by Alderman Fran Pierce on the motion that we vote against the resolution as written. The amendment was approved by a 3-2 vote with Alderman Hans Jacobsen and Alderman Tom Brown as the opposing votes. A vote for the motion was taken and failed 3-2 with Alderman Tom Brown, Alderman Hans Jacobsen and Alderman McKinley Smith opposing votes. No action was taken on the request.

### **POWELL BILL PROJECTS:**

Town Administrator, Gregg Whitehead, stated that we had budgeted \$22,000 in Powell Bill supplies. To date we have approximately \$15,200 remaining in Powell Bill Funds available for street maintenance work. The Public Works Committee have recommended that the remaining Powell Bill Funds be spend on sidewalk repair and replacement of major drainage tile that extends from New Street to the main drainage ditch, drain Sabrina Street and part of Academy Street. Once the tile is installed it becomes the responsibility of the property owner. Gregg stated that the Town Attorney is working on an agreement. A motion was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Hans Jacobsen to approve the Pubic Works Committee's recommendation on spending the remaining Powell Bill Funds. An Amendment was made by Alderman Steve Marshburn to obtain an easement with oversight by the Town Attorney and also send this back to the Public Works Committee to further discuss the liabilities of the easement before it is drawn up with their decision being binding. A motion was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Hans Jacobsen to withdraw his original motion. Alderman Tom Brown made a motion, seconded by Alderman Steve Marshburn to pursue an easement and repair the tile, excepting liability for maintenance. The motion was unanimously carried.

### **TOWN HALL PARKING LOT:**

A motion was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Fran Pierce to table the Town Hall parking lot until the price of petroleum products goes down and table it until a later date. The motion was unanimously carried.

### **ADMINISTRATOR NOTES & UPDATES:**

The Town Administrator, Gregg Whitehead, presented a copy of notes and updates to the Board. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

### **POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT:**

Chief Thomas Bennett presented a copy of the Police Activity Report for March, 2008. Chief Bennett stated that the county sheriff department and the state highway patrol work closely with us and we have a very good working relationship with them.

### **BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS:**

Alderman Fran Pierce made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem McKinley Smith to have the Town Administrator investigate and present within two (2) months the process necessary to change the Board Terms of Office from two (2) years to four (4) years staggered terms. The motion was unanimously carried.

Alderman Fran Pierce made a motion, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem McKinley Smith to have the Town Administrator investigate and present within two (2) months the processes necessary to change the form of government from Mayor/Council to Council/Manager form of government. After discussion the motion was carried with a 3-2 vote being Alderman Steve Marshburn and Alderman Tom Brown voting against the motion.

Alderman Steve Marshburn informed the Board of citizens' positive comments and appreciation for the speed bumps from the Dreadnaught community and on East Point Street.

Alderman Steve Marshburn stated to the Board of comments that he has read in the newspapers of the County Commissioner Board Candidates that the majority are in favor of changing the make up of the ONWASA Board. Timing may be right to follow up on this issue.

Alderman Hans Jacobsen requested an update on the house on Foy St. Town Administrator, Gregg Whitehead, stated that the home has been sold and that the new owners plan on renovating for resale. Alderman Hans Jacobsen also inquired on the home on Franck St next to Johnson Funeral Home and the home on Franck St. Mr. Whitehead stated that he will follow up on these two homes and report back to the Board.

### **RESOLUTION 2008-4 (SATELLITE ANNEXATION REQUIREMENTS):**

Mayor Trott presented to the Board Resolution 2008-4, Resolution requesting local legislation to exempt the Town of Richlands from certain satellite annexation requirements. A motion was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Fran Pierce to approve the resolution as written. The motion was unanimously carried.

### **RESOLUTION 2008-5 (REGARDING ONWASA)**

Mayor Trott presented to the Board Resolution 2008-5 Resolution of the Town of Richlands regarding the Onslow Water and Sewer Authority. A motion was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Fran Pierce to approve the resolution as written. The motion was unanimously carried. Alderman Tom Brown requested that we follow up with our legislature in Raleigh, possibly going to Raleigh to speak. Mayor Trott asked Gregg Whitehead to follow up.

Mayor Trott informed the Board that the DWQ has approved the 2 million gallon plant for Richlands.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Carroll Beaty, reported to the Board that he continues to work on the petition for support on the intersection at Hargett Street. Mr. Beaty stated that he will present the completed petition during the next Regular Board Meeting.

Mr. Carroll Beaty also requested clarification on the previous motions made regarding investigating the change of government from Mayor/Council to Council/Manager.

**CLOSED SESSION / PERSONNEL:**

A motion was made by Alderman Steve Marshburn, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem McKinley Smith to go into closed session to discuss personnel. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem McKinley Smith, seconded by Alderman Fran Pierce to go back into regular session. The motion was unanimously carried.

Mayor Trott stated that no action was taken.

**ADJOURN:**

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem McKinley Smith, seconded by Alderman Fran Pierce to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Marvin Trott, Mayor

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Doreen Putney  
Collections/Finance Clerk