



The Richlands' Board of Aldermen met in Regular Session Tuesday evening, August 12, 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

Also present for the meeting were: Eva Brown – Town Clerk, Gregg Whitehead – Town Administrator, Keith Fountain – Town Attorney, Thomas Bennett – Chief of Police, Johnathan Jarman – Public Works Director, 1st Sgt Ron Lindig and Abby Cavanaugh – Advertiser News.

ABSENT: Alderman Hans Jacobsen

Approximately sixteen citizens were also present for the meeting. Of the sixteen citizens, ten of them were members of Boy Scout Troop #215.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: By Mayor Marvin Trott

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Alderman Steve Marshburn

INVOCATION: Alderman McKinley Smith

Mayor Trott introduced Mrs. Barbara Ikner, a candidate for Onslow County Commissioner.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Alderman Fran Pierce, seconded by Alderman Tom Brown to approve the minutes for July 8, 2008. The motion was unanimously carried.

PUBLIC HEARING / CONDITIONAL USE REQUEST BY MR. CLARENCE KIMMER JR.

Mayor Marvin Trott asked for input from the Citizens and Board Members concerning a conditional use request by Mr. Clarence Kimmer, Jr. of 111 New Street.

With no concerns or comments from anyone, Mayor Trott declared the Public Hearing closed.

SUMMARY OF PROCEDURE TO CHANGE THE TOWN CHARTER

During the April 15, 2008 regular monthly meeting of the Board of Aldermen, the Board asked Town Administrator Gregg Whitehead to investigate and report back the process for changing the Board of Aldermen Terms of Office from two (2) years to four (4) years staggered terms and the Form of Government from the current Mayor/Council Form of Government to the Council/Manager Form of Government.

Mr. Whitehead stated that in order to consider the above changes, the Board has to officially amend the Town Charter. Mr. Whitehead provided the Board with informational packets describing the process and procedures on how to change the Town Charter.

After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman McKinley Smith to drop the efforts to change the Town Charter of Richlands. Vote 3 yes and 1 negative, Alderman Fran Pierce.

ONWASA RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Alderman Steve Marshburn, seconded by Alderman McKinley Smith to adopt the Resolution "Approving An Amendment To The Articles Of Incorporation Of Onslow Water And Sewer Authority". The motion was unanimously carried. A copy of the Resolution is attached to these minutes.

CONDITIONAL USE REQUEST (111 NEW STREET)

A motion was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman Steve Marshburn to approve the Conditional Use Request by Mr. Kimmer to add a 14' X 8' enclosed porch to his residence at 111 New Street. The motion was unanimously carried.

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION (ETHAN & ELLIOTT SCOTT)

Mayor Trott presented Certificates of Appreciation for Mr. Ethan and Mr. Elliott Scott for their Eagle Scout projects that provided improvements to the Richlands Venter Park. Both Eagle Scout projects were completed.

2008 CDBG SCATTERED SITE HOUSING PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

A motion was made by Alderman Steve Marshburn, seconded by Alderman Tom Brown to participate in the 2008 CDBG Scattered Site Housing Program and to sign the attached Municipality Certification. The motion was unanimously carried.

FARMER'S DAY FIREWORKS REQUEST

A motion was made by Alderman Tom Brown, seconded by Alderman McKinley Smith to approve Farmer's Day Fireworks Request to have a fireworks display on Saturday, September 6, 2008 in celebration of the Annual Farmer's Day. The display will be provided by Class A Services and Storage, Inc. at the Richlands Primary School. The motion was unanimously carried.

PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENTS

A motion was made by Alderman Steve Marshburn, seconded by Alderman Tom Brown to re-appoint Ms. Sheri Brahnham to both the Richlands Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment for a three year term and re-appoint Mr. Jeff Clark to the Richlands Board of Adjustment as an Alternate Member for a three year term. The 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 his notes and updates are attached to these minutes. Mr. Whitehead also informed the Board of the following items.

1. Gregg Whitehead informed the Board that he had talked with Mr. Patrick Riddle, Project Manager with the NCDOT Wilmington Office regarding the downtown curb extension project.

The Board instructed Mr. Whitehead to invite Mr. Patrick Riddle to come and give a presentation at one of our Board Meetings.

2. Informed the Board that he had made five reservations for the NCLM Convention for October 12TH through the 14th, which will be held in Charlotte, N.C.

The Board agreed to pay for the guests registration, but meals will be on their own.

He has sent a letter to the High School Principal, asking that they consider us for after school events and police duties, but have not heard any response back from her, neither has the Chief heard anything.

BOARD MEMBERS CONCERNS

1. Alderman Tom Brown expressed his deep concerns that the Board of

Education has repeatedly ignored the Town of Richlands interest and Request for the SRO bids. He pointed out that three Richlands Officers are certified to be SROs. He added, the Town has to approve more Mobile Units for the schools every year, in addition to agreeing to provide sewer service for the new school, and still, the Town receives no leeway when we ask for something.

Another point, is that it seems like a waste of tax payers monies, when the Board of Education agree to pay an extra \$14,000 yearly, when Richlands could save them money, especially when Richlands Officers are expected to cover the schools and after school activities anyway.

Alderman Fran Pierce agreed with Alderman Tom Brown concerns.

By consensus of the Board, the Town Attorney is to investigate the SRO Contract and report back to the Board.

2. Mayor Trott told the Board about another possible controversy regarding a telephone call he received from a Daily News Reporter, concerning the Weyerhaeuser Development, to be called Stateside, on Gum Branch Road, which the Town is preparing to annex. He told the reporter that he felt sure that this Board would be willing to work with Jacksonville, but pointed out that Jacksonville providing water and sewer services to the new development isn't an option. Weyerhaeuser representatives have been referred to Richlands by ONWASA.

CHANGE BOARD MEETING DATES FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

A motion was made by Alderman Fran Pierce, seconded by Alderman McKinley Smith to change the Regular Monthly Meeting from October 14, 2008 to October 21, 2008. The motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Steve Marshburn, seconded by Alderman Tom Brown to change the Regular Monthly Meeting from November 11, 2008 to November 18, 2008. The motion was unanimously carried.

3. Alderman Steve Marshburn asked the Town Administrator to check the cost of adding two microphones for the Attorney and Chief.
4. Alderman Fran Pierce stated how happy she was to see the Police Dept. on foot patrol.

POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT

Chief Thomas Bennett presented a copy of the Police Activity Report for July, 2008 to the Board. He also informed the Board of the following items.

1. Thanked the Board for their accommodations in the Sanders Family Reunion in their request for blocking off Williams Street.
2. Update on Drug Bust.

3. Informed the Board that 1st Sgt Ron Lindig just graduated from SRO School, at N.C. Justice Academy.
4. Thanked Officer Nielsen and Officer Hasbargen for all the unpaid hours they donate to the Town.
5. Promoted 1st Sgt. Ron Lindig to Lieutenant.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Alderman McKinley Smith, seconded by Alderman Tom Brown to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Marvin Trott, Mayor

Eva C. Brown, MMC
Town Clerk