

TOWN OF ROLESVILLE
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
TOWN BOARD

JANUARY 6, 2014
MINUTES

PRESENT: Frank Eagles, Mayor
Gil Hartis, Commissioner
Frank Hodge, Commissioner
Bryan Hicks, Town Manager
David York, Town Attorney
Clellie Allen, The Wake Weekly
JG Ferguson, Parks& Rec Director
Mary Ka Powers
Boy Scout Troop 141

Ronnie Currin, Mayor Pro Tem
Betty Whitaker, Commissioner
Shannon Whitley, Commissioner
Thomas Lloyd, Planning Director
Leslie Rudd, Town Clerk
Matt Anderson, Chief of Police
Ellen Holding
Ron Laxton

Call to Order

Mayor Frank Eagles called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Mayor Eagles led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Frank Hodge gave the invocation.

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Betty Whitaker made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Shannon Whitley seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Commissioner Hodge motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Whitaker seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Mayor Eagles recognized the members of Boy Scout Troop 141, who were attending in an effort to earn their citizenship in the community merit badges.

Presentation of the Citizen of the Year

Mayor Eagles presented the 2013 Citizen of the Year Award to Ellen Holding. He thanked her for her years of service and dedication to the town.

Budget Ordinance Amendments for the 2013-14 Fiscal Year

Town Manager Bryan Hicks presented the three revenue and expenditure amendments for the board's consideration: financing of new police department vehicles, street repairs, and additional improvements to Rolesville Middle School's ball fields.

Commissioner Whitley made the motion to approve the budget amendments. Commissioner Gil Hartis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Public Hearing for Voluntary Annexation: case A13-03

Town Manager Bryan Hicks briefed the board on the request by Heritage East Developers to voluntarily annex 28.197 acres between Rogers Road and Chalk Road into the Rolesville corporate limits.

Mr. Hicks added that this annexed property would be the fourth and final phase of the Heritage East subdivision. If annexed, City of Raleigh water and sewer service will be extended to this area.

Mayor Eagles opened the public hearing. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Eagles closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Whitaker made the motion to approve the voluntary annexation. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Presentation of the proposed Sign Ordinance

Planning Director Thomas Lloyd reviewed 11 specifications of the proposed revised sign ordinance that need to be further defined under board direction (see agenda item 7.1-A).

2. The board agreed with Commissioner Hartis' recommendation that wall signs be measured and restricted according to both the square footage of the store as well as the amount of building frontage. Mr. Lloyd also recommended that the height of the building be considered in this formula. Commissioner Hartis also recommended that there be a limit of the number of wall signs allowed on a store front.

3. Commissioner Hartis asked if restrictions on materials for the sake of durability would apply to temporary signs. Mr. Lloyd stated that this does not apply to temporary signs, as the point of this section is to ensure the long-term appearance of permanent signs.

4. Mr. Lloyd explained that requiring skirting and landscaping around pole signs would formalize what the board has traditionally made a requirement in the past. He also added that many pole signs would be subject to the approval of special-use permits for additional guidelines.

5. Mr. Lloyd clarified that the addition of the multi-tenant sign definition would allow more options for shopping center signs.

6. The board agreed to regulate non-residential subdivision signs for both the entire development and the individual lots.

7. Mr. Lloyd said that he confirmed the height requirements for street banners with the Department of Transportation's oversized vehicle clearance guidelines.

8. Mr. Lloyd stressed that electronic message boards would be for on-site business use while billboards would be for off-site locations. A special-use permit would be required.

9. Commissioner Hartis asked for additional clarification regarding the text height on electronic message boards. He also recommended adding that these message boards may change text up to 20 times per hour.

Mayor Eagles called a short recess to allow the Boy Scouts to leave the meeting.

Commissioner Hartis also asked that electronic message boards also be restricted to using only red or black text color.

With regards to potential fines for sign violations, Commissioner Whitley recommended that “per day” be included in the wording for clarity. Commissioner Hartis also suggested that the fine amount for violation requiring legal action be increased in order to recoup costs.

10. While there are guidelines for amortization, Town Attorney David York said that staff has tried to make sure that the town is not creating a lot of non-conforming uses. To his knowledge, only one sign in the town limits will be amortized – a billboard on North Main Street.

Commissioner Whitaker suggested staff contact the billboard owner so they are aware of the impending changes to the town code.

11. Because the town is moving toward electronic billboards only, Mr. Lloyd asked for clarification not only in the minimum spacing between billboards, but also how often the signs are allowed to change.

Commissioner Whitley suggested a maximum of one billboard per mile, adding that this number can be adjusted as the board sees fit. Commissioner Hartis recommended the standard 8 second change for each sign; a 672 square foot surface area and 25 foot height; as well as a 10 foot minimum set back of the furthest extension of the sign from the right-of-way.

With these changes noted, Commissioner Whitley made the motion for a public hearing to be held Monday, Feb. 3, 2014. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion of standards of planting within public right-of-ways

Mr. Hicks updated the board on this discussion of trees and shrubs planted along town sidewalks that are blocking part of the right-of-ways. Arborist and maintenance contractor Stephen Wood has trimmed the offending trees. Mr. Hicks suggested waiting until spring time to see how much improvement has been made. If the board then feels additional improvements need to be made, Mr. Hicks recommended reviewing the terms of the town’s thoroughfare plan and establishing trimming as part of the town’s regular maintenance.

Consideration of the Draft Agenda for the February 7, 2014 Town Board Retreat

No changes were made to the proposed agenda.

Consideration of the Agenda for the January 21, 2014 Town Board Meeting

No changes were made to the proposed agenda.

Chamber of Commerce report

There was no report from the Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor and Town Commissioners reports

Mayor Eagles recommended adding another representative from the town's extra-territorial jurisdiction to the Planning Board.

He also noted that DOT has approved a dedicated left turn light at the Main street and Redford Place Drive intersection. DOT will also be repairing the crosswalk light at this intersection.

Mayor Eagles announced the creation of the Town Center Development Committee, naming Commissioner Hodge as chair and Commissioner Ronnie Currin as vice-chair.

Town Department reports

Mr. Lloyd reported 17 new single-family homes in December; 321 new homes in the 2013 calendar year and 152 in the fiscal year.

Parks and Recreation Director JG Ferguson reported that online registration for spring sports continues to be strong and well-received.

Police Chief Matt Anderson reported that the department received 13,700 calls in the 2013 calendar year.

Town Attorney Report

Mr. York had no report.

Town Manger Report

Mr. Hicks said that staff is looking at alternatives to garbage billing that will ultimately save the town time and money. He also reported that Frances Cheek has offered to take on the organization of the Fourth of July celebration privately.

Closed Session

Mayor Eagles asked for a closed session to discuss personnel matters, pursuant NC GS § 143-318.11.

Commissioner Whitley made the motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Hodge seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Whitley made the motion to return to regular session. Commissioner Whitaker seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. No action was taken.

Adjournment

With no other business, Commissioner Whitley motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Whitaker seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Leslie Rudd, Town Clerk

C. Frank Eagles, Mayor

TB 1/6/2014