

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2012
TOWN OF SAWMILLS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 PM

COUNCIL PRESENT

Bob Gibbs
Trena McRary Kirby
Donnie Potter
Joe Wesson
Jeff Wilson
Johnny Wilson

STAFF PRESENT

Seth Eckard
Susan Nagle
Terry Taylor

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bob Gibbs called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Pastor John Greene gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Bob Gibbs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to adopt the agenda with the following addition: add Abatement of Crotts MHP Property as agenda item 8D.

Jeff Wilson made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to adopt the agenda with the addition. All were in favor.

APPROVE APRIL 17, 2012 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to approve the April 17, 2012 regular meeting minutes.

Donnie Potter made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to approve the minutes. All were in favor.

APPROVE APRIL 26, 2012 SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to approve the April 26, 2012 special budget workshop meeting minutes.

Donnie Potter made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to approve the minutes. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Gibbs asked if anyone wished to speak during public comment.

No one wished to speak.

RECOGNITIONS:

YARD OF THE MONTH WINNERS: Mayor Bob Gibbs announced Hilde Gilbert, from the 28630 zip code, and Jeff and Teresa Branch, from the 28638 zip code, as the May Yard of the Month winners. Mayor Gibbs presented Ms. Gilbert with a certificate and stated that since Mr. and Mrs. Branch were not present their certificate would be available at the Town Hall for them to pick up at their convenience.

No Council action was required.

RECYCLE REWARDS PROGRAM WINNER: Town Administrator Seth Eckard announced Jack and Debbie Mason as the May Recycle Rewards winner. Administrator Eckard stated a twenty-eight dollar (\$28.00) credit will be added to Mr. and Mrs. Mason's sanitation bill and their certificate would be available at the Town Hall for them to pick up at their convenience.

No Council action was required.

PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED FY 2012-2013 BUDGET: Town Administrator Seth Eckard presented the Council with the FY 2012-2013 Budget.

Total budget of:	\$2,829,936.00
General Fund Budget of:	\$2,105,636.00
Utility Fund Budget of:	\$724,300.00
Fund Balance Appropriated	\$0.00

As required by State Law the budget is balanced.

The budget includes the current tax rate of .20 (twenty cents) per \$100.00 (One hundred Dollar) valuation.

The water rates will increase by \$1.25 (one dollar and twenty-five cents) changing the current \$13.00 minimum usage rate for 2,000 gallons to \$14.25 (fourteen dollars and twenty-five cents). The rate per additional 1,000 gallons of usage will increase by \$.50 (fifty cents) changing the current rate of \$4.00 (four dollars) per additional 1,000 gallons of usage to \$4.50 (four dollars and fifty cents).

The sewer rates will increase by \$1.25 (one dollar and twenty-five cents) changing the current \$15.00 (fifteen dollar) minimum usage rate for 2,000 gallons to \$16.25 (sixteen dollars and twenty-five cents). The rate per additional 1,000 gallons of usage will increase by \$.50 (fifty cents) changing the current rate of \$4.00 (four dollars) per additional 1,000 gallons of usage to \$4.50 (four dollars and fifty cents).

The current sanitation rate of \$7.00 (seven dollars) per month, or \$84.00 (eighty-four dollars) per year, will remain the same.

There is also included in the budget a 2% (two percent) cost of living adjustment for Town employees and up to a 3% (three percent) merit pay increase, which is based on employee performance reviews.

See enclosed list of the proposed FY 2012-2013 fee structure.

Trena McRary Kirby made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to hold a public hearing on the budget at the June 19, 2012 Council meeting. All were in favor.

ADOPT PROPOSED RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH THE WESTERN PIEDMONT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS: Town Administrator Seth Eckard stated the contract with Benchmark CMR, Inc. for Town Planner Emily Hines expires on June 30, 2012. The enclosed contract, with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (W.P.C.O.G.), provides for planning and code enforcement assistance eight (8) hours a week.

The contract will be effective July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 and will be billed in equal monthly payments not to exceed \$ 19,600.00 (nineteen-thousand, six-hundred dollars).

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Donnie Potter seconded, to approve a contract with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments for planning assistance and code enforcement services. All were in favor.

APPROVE CASH BOND REFUND TO SHELDA AULTMAN: Miss Aultman recently contacted the Town regarding a manufactured home removed at 1978 Stamey Road and identified as parcel number 2766-25-0362. According to an agreement with Miss Aultman and the Town of Sawmills dated February 27, 2006, Miss Aultman would sign a cash bond in the amount of \$1,870.00 (one-thousand eight-hundred and seventy dollars). The cash bond would cover the cost to remove the manufactured home, which at that time, was grandfathered in and in violation of the Town's zoning ordinance. The agreement stated the Town would retain the cash bond until the manufactured home was removed.

Trena McRary Kirby made a motion, and Johnny Wilson seconded, to issue a refund to Miss Shelda Aultman as she is now in compliance with the terms of the agreement. All were in favor.

ABATEMENT OF CROTTS MOBILE HOME PARK PROPERTY: The Town has received a complaint concerning trash and debris at Crotts Mobile Home Park located on Cahah Mountain Road and identified as parcel numbers 2766-45-0879, 2766-45-0764 and 2766-45-1736. Upon investigation by the Code Enforcement Committee, said property was found to be in violation of the Sawmills Code of Ordinances Chapter 91: Nuisances; Sanitation; Environment.

The Town received the following four bids for the cost of abatement:

Kris Williams Grading, Inc.	Lenoir, NC	\$2,745.00
Kevin Annas Landscaping	Hudson, NC	\$2,400.00
Appalachian Excavating & Grading, LLC	Granite Falls, NC	\$2,652.00
Gragg's Grading Company, Inc.	Hudson, NC	\$2,895.00

Other costs associated with abatement will be from the landfill for the debris removal. This cost will be determined once abatement is completed.

Donnie Potter made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to award the bid to Kris Williams Grading, Inc. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION:

PRESENTATION ON SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE HELPING HANDS CLINIC: Lilly Skok Bunch, Executive Director of the Helping Hands Clinic in Lenoir, addressed the Council on some of the services provided by the clinic. Miss Bunch stated that the clinic is completely funded by private donations and is hoping the Town could find some resources in its operating budget to support the clinic's work.

No Council action was required.

ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SECTION 130.05 OF THE SAWMILLS CODE OF ORDINANCES: Town Administrator Seth Eckard stated that during the last meeting Council asked Attorney Terry Taylor to amend Section 130.05 of the Sawmills Code of Ordinances to follow the same guidelines as the state concerning concealed handguns in the parks. The enclosed resolution will allow the carrying of concealed handguns in all areas of the parks.

After discussion, Johnny Wilson made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to adopt the resolution amending Section 130.05 of the Sawmills Code of Ordinances allowing concealed carry handguns in all areas of the parks. Those in favor were Trena McRary Kirby, Joe Wesson, Jeff Wilson, and Johnny Wilson. Those opposed were Donnie Potter. The motion carried by a 4-1 vote.

ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PERSONNEL POLICY AND THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY: Town Administrator Seth Eckard stated the Personnel Committee met on April 26, 2012 to discuss changes to the newly adopted personnel policy for recommendation to the Council. Town Administrator Seth Eckard introduced Office Manager Kim Trivette who explained the following proposed changes:

- The Town Administrator will schedule two and a half (2 ½) days off for Christmas holidays at his discretion to best accommodate employees' holiday schedule and meet the normal business schedules required by the Town allowing for the half day off every year so that staff will no longer need Council approval.
- The drug policy will change to a zero tolerance policy immediately terminating any employee, or candidate for employment, who receives a positive test result.

Donnie Potter made a motion, and Trena McRary Kirby seconded, to approve the amendments to the personnel policy and the substance abuse policy. All were in favor.

APPOINT MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: Town Administrator Seth Eckard stated that the Sawmills Code of Ordinances requires five (5) members to serve on the Board of Adjustment. Three (3) members should reside within the town limits and two (2) members should reside within the ETJ (extra territorial jurisdiction) limits of the town.

Town Planner Emily Hines has contacted the attached list of five (5) members who previously served on the Board, and all have given their consent to serve again.

Trena McRary Kirby made a motion, and Donnie Potter seconded, to appoint the previous five members to serve another term.

UPDATES:

COUNCIL COMMENT: Mayor Gibbs asked if anyone on the Council had anything to say.

Joe Wesson thanked everyone on the staff who worked on the budget this year.

Mayor Gibbs announced that the Sawmills Today program will feature the Parks and Recreation Department, along with the Optimist Club, and will talk about what is going on at the Town's ball fields. The Sawmills Today program will be televised the week of May 21st.

In addition, a reminder that the Sawmills Farmers Market is held every Tuesday from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm and growing each week.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Town Administrator Seth Eckard made the following announcements:


- The Town Hall will be closed on May 28, 2012 for Memorial Day and trash will be picked up a day later than normal that week.
- Due to increased activity at the Baird Drive Park, the restrooms will now be open from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.
- Deadline to submit names for engraving on the Veterans Monument for this year is June 30, 2012.

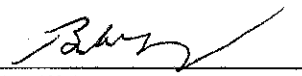
PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Gibbs asked if anyone wished to speak during public comment.

No one wished to speak.

ADJOURN: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to adjourn.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Johnny Wilson seconded, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.


Susan Nagle, Town Clerk


Bob Gibbs, Mayor