TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2014
TOWN OF SAWMILLS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 PM

COUNCIL PRESENT
Bob Gibbs
Joe Wesson
Gerelene Blevins
Jeff Wilson
Trena McRary Kirby

STAFF PRESENT
Seth Eckard
Kim Trivette
Terry Taylor
Elinor Hiltz

COUNCIL ABSENT
Johnny Wilson

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

INVOCATION: Mayor Bob Gibbs 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.

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

APPROVE APRIL 15, 2014 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to approve the April 15, 2014 regular meeting minutes.

Gerelene Blevins made a motion, and Trena McRary Kirby seconded, to approve the minutes. All were in favor.

APPROVE APRIL 24, 2014 SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to approve the April 24, 2014 Special Budget Workshop meeting minutes.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Trena McRary Kirby seconded, to approve the minutes. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Gibbs asked if anyone had any questions or comments at this time.

JoAnn and Casey Miller thanked the Council for their donation to Special Olympics. Casey Miller also gave Council a Thank You letter.

RECOGNITIONS:

RECYCLE REWARDS WINNER: Town Administrator Seth Eckard announced James Fox as the May Recycle Rewards winner. A credit of twenty-eight dollars ($28.00) will be added to Mr. Fox's sanitation bill and his certificate will be available at the Town Hall for pick up.

No Council action was required.

YARD OF THE MONTH WINNERS: Mayor Bob Gibbs announced Stacey Cooke, Brenda and Ethan, from the 28630 zip code, and Audrey and Maxine Champion, from the 28638 zip code, as the May Yard of the Month winners. Mayor Bob Gibbs stated that both certificates would be available at the Town Hall for pick up.

No Council action was required.

NEW COUNTY COMMISSIONER DONNIE POTTER: Councilman Joe Wesson presented Commissioner Donnie Potter with a Certificate of Achievement on his recent win in the Caldwell County Commissioner's election.

No Council action was required.

PLANNING MATTERS:

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEMBERS: Town Planner Elinor Hiltz stated two positions on the Board of Adjustments expire in June 2014 and one position is vacant due to a deceased member. This term expires June 2015. Town Planner Elinor Hiltz advised Council that Carolyn Evert and Mark Townsend are willing to serve another term and Dino DiBernardi is willing to serve the remaining term for the deceased member Elden Smith. Dino DiBernardi would be representing the ETJ along with Mark Townsend.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Gerelene Blevins seconded to approve staff's recommendations to re-appoint the two existing members for another term and appoint Mr. Dino DiBernardi to the vacant seat. All were in favor.

ANNUAL PLANNING BOARD REPORT: Town Planner Elinor Hiltz gave a brief overview of the Annual Planning Board Report. The report is from May 2013 to May 2014 and includes a detailed review of the activities, problems and actions of the Planning Board as well as any budget request and/or recommendations.

Council had no questions on the report.

No Council action was required.

CALL FOR A PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENTS TO SECTIONS 153.075, 153.146 AND 153.147 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES: Town Planner Elinor Hiltz went over the proposed changes to the Code of Ordinances. The "Manufactured Home Checklist", will add an exemption to the Town's current policy. The exemption will allow legal non-conforming mobile homes, found in Sawmills, to be moved to another site in Sawmills as long as the home meets the standards in the Mobile Home Checklist. Mayor Bob Gibbs called for a motion to hold a Public Hearing.

Jeff Wilson made a motion, and Gerelene Blevins seconded, to call for the Public Hearing on June 17, 2014 to adopt proposed text amendments to Sections 153.075, 153.146 and 153.147 of the Code Ordinances. All were in favor.

CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENTS TO SECTIONS 153.074 AND 153.081 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES: Town Planner Elinor Hiltz went over the proposed changes to the Code of Ordinances which will create regulations so that citizens can keep livestock within the Town. Town citizen Reed Lingerfelt asked if he could keep a pig in his yard in a pen. The Town Planner Elinor Hiltz and Council advised Mr. Reed Lingerfelt that he did not have enough acreage according to the Ordinance. Mayor Bob Gibbs called for a motion to hold a Public Hearing.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Gerelene Blevins seconded, to call for the Public Hearing on June 17, 2014 to adopt proposed text amendments to Sections 153.074 and 153.081 of the Code of Ordinances. All were in favor.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

APPROVE PROPOSED BAD DEBT WRITE-OFF: Town Administrator Seth Eckard stated the Town had a list of 2010 accounts that have gone unpaid for Utility and Sanitation services. The Town does not expect to collect payment for these accounts and recommends that Council approve they be written off. The total amount of these accounts is $3,924.38. Town Administrator Seth Eckard also advised Council that included in the list is 14 accounts the Town has submitted to the NC Debt Setoff for payment. The Town submits an account with a balance over $50 to the NC Debt Setoff Program for collection. Town Administrator Seth Eckard stated the Town has recovered $2,708.28 from previous years, and currently has collected $908.03, totaling $3,835.50 and there are sufficient funds in the budget to cover this.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Trena McRary Kirby seconded, to approve staff to write off the 2010 list of bad debts accounts. All were in favor.

PRESENTATION OF FY 2014-2015 BUDGET AND CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING: Town Administrator Seth Eckard presented to Council a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. Town Administrator Seth Eckard stated that the budget is balanced as required by the NC Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act. The Town's overall budget for FY 2014-2015 totals $3,092,391. A few highlights of the proposed

budget include no property tax increase for next year, but a minor increase to the water and sewer rates for customers. There is a new sewer availability fee and right of way encroachment fee proposed. Town Administrator Seth Eckard also stated that there was an allocation to the Capital Reserve Fund, but no appropriation of General Fund unassigned reserves will be made. The Town will also maintain its current levels of service to the citizens and benefits for its employees. Council must hold a Public Hearing on June 17, 2014 to adopt the budget.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Jeff Wilson seconded, to hold a Public Hearing on June 17, 2014 to adopt the budget for FY 2014-2015. All were in favor.

APPROVED ECN CODERED AGREEMENT: Town Administrator Seth Eckard presented Council with the contract from the Emergency Communication Network (ECN) CodeRED notification system for approval. Council discussed using the CodeRED notification system during a budget workshop sessions. This system is designed to send messages to the Town's citizens for a variety of different things. The cost of the contract is $11,250.00 for three years. The Town can make yearly payments in the amount of $3,750.00. The contract will renew during the three year term unless either party gives a thirty (30) day notice to cancel. The Town would like to implement the CodeRed system beginning July 1, 2014.

Trena McRary Kirby made a motion, and Gerelene Blevins seconded, to approve the contract with Emergency Communication Network. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Gibbs asked if anyone had any questions or comments at this time.

Donnie Potter thanked the Town Council for their support of him running for County Commissioner. Mr. Donnie Potter commends the Council for doing a good job of managing the Town's funds by keeping the budget in great shape.

UPDATES:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT SEWER PROJECT MONTHLY UPDATE: Administrator Eckard stated Lisa Helton, Project Administrator with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments has enclosed an update on the Community Development Block Grant Sewer Project showing how some of the funds have been spent as of May 7, 2014.

No Council action was required.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MONTHLY STATUS REPORT AND UPDATE: Administrator Eckard stated Nancy Coley, Community Development Administrator with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments has enclosed an update and the monthly status report for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) which shows that all requirements are on schedule for the Haystation, LLC.

No Council action was required.

CODE ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT: Administrator Seth Eckard stated the Town Planner Elinor Hiltz has enclosed an updated status report of Code Enforcement cases and the progress that has been made on each case as of May 2014.

No Council action was required.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT: Administrator Seth Eckard made the following announcements:

- The Town Hall and Public Works will be closed on Monday, May 26, 2014 for Memorial Day.
- The Sawmills' Farmers Market was still looking for a Market Manager.
- The Town of Sawmills may have a buyer that has expressed marketing the Town's water tower.

COUNCIL COMMENT: Mayor Bob Gibbs asked if anyone on the Council had any questions or comments at this time.

Councilwoman Gerelene Blevins asked about using the CodeRED system to check on senior citizens that lived alone. Mayor Bob Gibbs advised they would check into possibly getting a list for the Sheriff's Department to do Welfare Checks.

Councilman Joe Wesson thanked everyone for coming and stated he appreciates the citizens' comments. Councilman Joe Wesson also commended Lex Menz, with the Lenoir News Topic, on an excellent article on School Resource Officer Deputy Hawn.

ADJOURN: Mayor Bob Gibbs asked for a motion to adjourn.

Trena McRary Kirby made a motion, and Gerelene Blevins seconded, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Kim Trivette, Interim Town Clerk

Bob Gibbs, Mayor