

**TOWN OF GRIFTON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
FEBRUARY 1, 2011**

Present: Mayor Billy Ray Jackson; Commissioners Ardathy Spikes, Buddy Albritton, Richard Hill, Sammy Whitehurst, Alton Clements; Manager Joe Albright

Absent: None

Mayor Jackson called the meeting to order.

Mayor Jackson led the Board of Commissioners in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Recognition of Persons to be Heard; None**

**Discussion Items:**

**First Item of Discussion: *East Carolina Council Board Appointment***

Manager Albright informed the Board that each year ECC member governments are asked to appoint or reappoint a member to the ECC Board. Commissioner Whitehurst was our representative in 2010 and the Board will need to appoint or reappoint a member for 2011. Manager Albright asked that this item be put on the consent agenda at the next regular Board meeting. The Board agreed.

**Second Item of Discussion: *Drainage-Buckleberry Canal***

Manager Albright stated that the Board asked him to investigate the drainage problems on Lewis Drive that are caused by poor drainage of the Buckleberry Canal. After talking with Al Cannon, of the Drainage District, it was confirmed that there is not a single specific problem and the ditch needs to be dipped and cleaned from Lewis Drive to Brown Hodges Road. Mr. Cannon stated that this would cost approximately \$30,000. Manager Albright asked the Board for direction and advice on this matter. Manager Albright also reminded the Board that the Town has no authority to clean the ditch but the Drainage District does have that authority.

The Board advised Manager Albright to talk with Mr. Cannon and find out how much the Town would have to pay in order for this work to go ahead and be done. Mayor Jackson stated that he felt we should not be responsible for more than 1/3 of the cost. It was decided that this matter be brought back to the Board when further information is obtained.

**Third Item of Discussion: *Retreat-Agenda Items***

Manager Albright reminded the Board that the annual Board retreat will begin on Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am, Manager Albright asked for discussion items other than the obvious such as: finances, where we are at, where we need to be and where we are going. Streets, Salaries, and Benefits were among some of the items mentioned.

Mayor Jackson asked Manager Albright for an update on the Railroad Track. Manager Albright stated that he will follow up on this issue.

Commissioner Hill asked about the Harvey Building use that was requested at the prior meeting. Manager Albright responded by stating that all items have not been received that were requested in the letter.

Commissioner Clements made mention of the building that is falling apart beside the old Newby's building. Manager Albright responded by saying the building is owned by Dick Adams and Charles Smithwick and they are in the process of redoing the building and looking into the façade grant application process.

#### **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Albritton brought up the issue of the street lights that are still out. Manager Albright stated that the street lights that have been shot out more than two times could be fixed, however, there would be a cost to the Town.

Commissioner Whitehurst stated that he met with the Recreation Commission last Wednesday night and they are supposed to be getting us a master plan. Recommendations were made for the master plan also.

Commissioner Whitehurst stated that the lights at Brown Hodges Ball Field are in such bad shape they may need to be taken down immediately because of liability issues. He stated that the lights were donated in 1968 and have served their purpose well but they need some major attention. He also stated that Daniel Albritton is working on a quote for replacement.

Manager Albright brought to the Board's attention that the Town owns the Fields and lights so the liability is the Town's.

Commissioner Whitehurst stated that he has talked with Ed Coley and Mr. Coley would like to hold some fundraisers to help with this project.

Commissioner Spikes made a motion to enter into closed session to discuss Property Acquisition as authorized by N.C.G.S. Chapter 143-318.11(a)(5). Seconded by Commissioner Hill. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Clements made a motion to go out of closed session. Seconded by Commissioner Whitehurst. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Spikes made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Hill. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted  
Angel Hudson  
Town Clerk