

**TOWN OF GRIFTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 14, 2012**

Present: Mayor Billy Ray Jackson; Commissioners Buddy Albritton, Richard Hill, Sammy Whitehurst, Will Barnes, Mary Grace Bright; Manager Joe Albright, Clerk Angel Hudson

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.

Commissioner Albritton made a motion to accept the January minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnes. Motion carried unanimously.

Recognition of Persons to be Heard:

Linwood Thorbs, of 1911 Andrew Johnson Drive, Kinston NC, came before the Board to ask the Town to help with supplies in order to establish an RBI ball team. Mr. Thorbs wants to get the black kids more involved in baseball.

Manager Albright recommended that Mr. Thorbs get a budget together and report back to the Board in order to determine what type of funds he is requesting.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Bright made a motion to approve the consent agenda excluding #4 (Hodges Field-Light Replacement) as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Albritton. Motion carried unanimously for the following items:

1. Sewer Rehab Project Plans and Specifications Approval-Resolution: 2012-02
2. Contentnea Creek Bridge Water Line Relocation-Bid Rejection
3. Mower Replacement
5. Appointment-Eastern Carolina Council

Discussion Items

4. Hodges Field – Light Replacement

Manager Albright informed the Board that he made a call to Mr. Sullivan with the Perkins West Wells Foundation about grant possibilities. Mr. Sullivan informed Manager Albright that they meet quarterly so we will be too late to submit an application this time. He also informed Manager Albright that they require the applications to be submitted at least a month before the meetings. The next meeting will be in May so we would need to submit the application by April. Manager Albright also stated that he did not get a definitive answer whether or not we would receive reimbursement if we go ahead and start the project.

Manager Albright still recommended that we go ahead with the project or shut the field down because of the rotten poles that are still standing.

Commissioner Bright asked about delaying until May to see if we will receive the grant and in the meantime ask the school about using their fields. She does not want the grant denied

because the project has already been started. She also stated that it may be a way for kids of all races to play together.

Manager Albright is concerned with the number of teams that will be trying to use the field. He also stated that he is looking at it from a facility point. He stated that we do not fund the program but we do provide the facility and because the facility is in disrepair we need to fix it. Commissioner Whitehurst said he did not think it was feasible to put tape around the field and expect to keep people off the field. Discussion was made by the Board to go ahead and take the poles down. Manager Albright agreed that if the Board chooses to wait for grant funds then the poles need to come down for safety and liability issues. Commissioner Albritton recommended cutting the poles down and using our staff to do so and it wouldn't cost the Town anything. Manager Albright stated that he was not comfortable, from a safety standpoint, asking the employees to cut the poles down. He also stated that we do not have the equipment to do so. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Albritton made a motion to cut the poles down at the Hodges Field. Seconded by Commissioner Hill. Motion carried unanimously. Manager Albright stated that he would ask the Town of Ayden for help in getting the poles down. Commissioner Whitehurst recommended using the sale of the scrap to help with the new poles on the field.

1. Façade Grant Application-Grifton Auto Parts

Manager Albright stated that Grifton Auto Parts has applied for the maximum grant for two legally distinguishable parcels of property (parcels 09186 and 08888). The maximum for each building is \$2000.00 which will bring the total award to \$4000.00. The Community Development Committee has unanimously recommended approval of the maximum amount of funding. Therefore, Manager Albright recommends that the Board award Grifton Auto Parts the maximum of \$4000.00. Commissioner Albritton made a motion to award the amount of \$4000.00 to Grifton Auto Parts. Seconded by Commissioner Barnes. Motion carried.

2. Land sale Offer

Manager Albright stated the Ms. Jacqueline Suggs has offered her property for sale to the Town of Grifton. The parcels being offered are 14758 and 27081 which are on Gordon Street. Ms. Suggs is offering the properties for \$26,845. Manager Albright recommended, because of financial constraints, that the Board not purchase the property at this time. Commissioner Whitehurst made a motion to decline the property from Ms. Jacqueline Suggs. Seconded by Commissioner Albritton. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners Comments

None

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted
Angel Hudson
Town of Grifton