

**TOWN OF GRIFTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP
June 1, 2010**

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

Absent: Buddy Albritton

Meeting called 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: Ayden, Farmville, Griffon Baseball league representation requested.

Manager Albright explained that the Town managers from each of the Towns met to discuss some issues rising out of the league. Ayden and Farmville have had similar issues as Griffon. Manager Albright explained that representation will help insure that Griffon will have a say in how the money will be allocated, informed on the decision making process, and better able to respond to citizens concerns as they arise.

Commissioner Hill asked about eligibility of the son of the citizen that came to the board. Manager Albright responded that he was allowed to play with the Griffon team, but the question was whether or not he could travel to Ayden to play in the league, which is no.

Commissioner Hill asked if you live on the Lenoir County side you cannot play in Ayden? Manager Albright explained there are boundaries to ensure the fairness of the league. Commissioner Clements responded that if players reside within Griffon Town limits but on the Lenoir County side, they are allowed to play. Yet the individual in question lives outside of the Town limits.

Commissioner Whitehurst stated that this individual was allowed to play in Griffon because he started in Griffon. He agreed with the league that he was out of the district if not in the corporate city limits. Ayden, Farmville, Griffon made a ruling that if you went to Griffon Schools you played in Griffon. Individual goes to Contentnea but at the time he started playing he lived within the Griffon School area, but not eligible for the following years because he is out of town.

Mayor Jackson agrees that we should abide by the rules previously set by Babe Ruth baseball.

Commissioner Spikes ask how many people from each town are represented on the board. Manager Albright answered two.

Item will be placed on consent agenda for the following week.

Second Item of discussion: NC STEP Budget Amendment Request

Manager Albright explains that the NC STEP grant will expire soon and the committee needs to begin implementing the funds of the strategic plan. The grant expires at the end of September. Items need to be in action by this date. The budget shows the deletion of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge and the addition of purchasing land for a downtown amphitheater, parking, and trails in between Water and Main St.

Mayor Jackson asks if anyone has spoke with the property owners. Manager Albright answers not yet.

Commissioner Spikes asks if this is all grant money or if the Town will have to spend any out of pocket. Mayor Jackson answers that its grant money the Town already has that will be lost if not used.

Item will be placed on the consent agenda for the following week.

Third Item of discussion: Recreation Master Plan Resolution

Manager Albright explains that one of the items in the STEP plan was to do a recreation master plan. Graduate Assistant Alicia Arnold was instructed to work compiling elements for the plan. The NC Division of Community Assistance, Lee Padrick, volunteered his office to assist for a minimal price. Thus a resolution requesting their assistance is presented.

Mayor Jackson asks to place this item on the consent agenda.

Fourth Item of discussion: FY 2010-2011 Sewer Budget Rates

Manager Albright presents the FY 2010-2011 Budget. Proposed budget is \$2,169,255.00. Reduction of \$128,487.00 from the current budget, 5.6% reduction. This budget calls for a 5 cent tax increase, garbage rate increase by \$5, and elimination of two positions. Two reasons: economies decrease in sales tax, and property tax decline from motor vehicles. 5 cents on tax rate = approx. \$40,000. Eliminating 2 positions saves \$80-\$85 thousand. Garbage rate increase = approx. \$67,000. Sewer increase = approx. \$70,000. These increases correlate to the decreases in revenues. Mandated increase in retirement system from the state which equates to \$30,000.

Manager Albright explains the four options for the increased sewer rates. He explains that options 1 and 3 spreads increase across the board for all customers. Options 2 puts the increase on customers who use more than the minimum. Options 4 is a combination of 1 and 2. Around 1,000 customers, approximately 700 use more than the minimum 2,000 gallons. Average customer over minimum uses additional 2,400 gallons. Manager Albright asks for direction from the board.

Mayor Jackson states that he would like to use the one fairest to everyone across the board.

Commissioner Whitehurst states that it seems like Option 4 will be the fairest and Mayor Jackson agrees.

Commissioner Spikes says that she does not want to see someone charged for what they are not using.

Manager Albright explains that there is still an over 2,000 gallon charge and that this increase is for upgrading the treatment system itself, which has nothing to do with the amount of gallons used. Manager Albright explains that Phase 2 coming in the future will be a plant expansion pertaining to the amount of water used.

Commissioner Hill asks about citizens on fixed income, and how these increases will affect them.

Commissioner Clements explains that the Town cannot absorb the burden caused by the decreased revenues and the CMSD costs.

Commissioner Spikes ask how much the increases will cost the minimum customer for Option 4 and garbage pickup.

Manager Albright responds \$8.25 for Option 4. Option 1 or 3 plus garbage would be \$9.75 per month.

Commissioner Hill asks when this needs to be voted on. Manager Albright responds that this needs to be decided at the Board meeting the following week.

Commissioners agree on Option 4 for the sewer rates.

Commissioner Clements commends Manager Albright on his effort and work with the budget.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Clements thanks the County Commissioner and others for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Spikes ask about Town Hall Day. Manager Albright explains that this is the day for Town Officials to lobby the general assembly.

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

Fifth Item of discussion: Approval for Closed Session (GS 143-318.11 A 6 – Personnel Matter)

Motion made by Commissioner Spikes, Seconded by Commissioner Clements. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Commissioner Spikes to go out of Closed Session, Seconded by Commissioner Whitehurst. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted
Angel Hudson
Town Clerk