

TOWN OF GRIFTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP
March 2, 2010

Present: Mayor Pro-Tem Alton Clements; Commissioners Ardathy Spikes, Richard Hill, Buddy Albritton, Sammy Whitehurst; Manager Joe Albright

Absent: Mayor Billy Ray Jackson

Meeting called to order.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clements 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

Manager Albright introduced Alecia Arnold stating that she is a graduate student at ECU and she will be working with us under the Municipal Management Initiative Grant Program. Manager Albright stated that Ms. Arnold is already doing a great job and she will be with us for 20 hours a week up to 1 year.

Ms. Arnold addressed the Board saying that she is excited to be here and excited to work with the Board and staff.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Shad Festival Ordinance –

Manager Albright presented an ordinance and the letter of request from the Shad Festival Committee Chairman, Dave Bosley.

Manager Albright recommended it be put on the consent agenda at the next regular Board meeting.

Commissioner Whitehurst asked if the ordinance would be enforced by the Police Department. Manager Albright replied by answering yes.

Commissioner Hill wanted to know if it would be enforced at the upcoming Shad Festival in April of this year.

Manager Albright responded by stating that the Shad Festival would issue the permits and will go through the steps that are already in place. A list of all permits will be given to the Police Chief.

Commissioner Hill wanted to know what area this ordinance pertains to. Manager Albright responded by saying it would pertain to any area the Shad Festival occupies.

Commissioner Spikes asked about yard sales. Manager Albright responded by stating that would be a judgment call on the people involved.

Manager Albright also stated that people not complying would have the opportunity to comply before any citations are issued.

2. NC STEP Committee Update

- Streetscape Master Plan

Manager Albright stated that the streetscape master plan is just an update on where we stand in the project. One of the goals is Downtown Revitalization. As part of the project, two public input meetings were held last week. The input received will be incorporated into the final document. This document will be presented to the Committee on March 30th and then to the Board at the April workshop meeting.

- Tuscarora Long House

One of the Strategic/Action items under the goal of Tourism Development is the construction of a Tuscarora Longhouse replica. Manager Albright, Commissioner Whitehurst, and Committee member Wayne Hardee asked the Board for permission to proceed with the project. Permission is necessary because it is a grant funded project so permission from the Board is needed to spend the funds and the Town also has to grant permission for the property to be used.

Manager Albright asked Committee member Wayne Hardee to inform the Board of the ideas of the longhouse and what the STEEP committee is planning to do.

Mr. Hardee stated that the piece of property was parcel #02721 and is across the street from the Civic Center. This piece of property also connects to the overlook park.

Mr. Hardee stated that they would fortify the front part with Cypress Logs based on what John White's drawing was of what he first saw when he came here. Mr. Hardee presented a model replica so the Board could see the idea. It will also include a fire pit and a garden of the things that were grown during that time. Mr. Hardee stated that he has talked with the Department of Insurance and the building code officer and it was explained that as long as the poles are kept at 6ft or lower and the house itself is not occupied or entered there should be no problems.

Manager Albright pointed out that the grant allocation is \$10,000 and this will be paying for materials and hopefully the labor will be donated.

Manager Albright recommended this be put on the consent agenda at the next regular Board meeting.

-Façade Grant

Manager Albright stated that the guidelines and applications are in the agenda packet. The grant amount is \$10,000. The Rural Center has approved the guidelines and we could do up to 5 grants. Manager Albright recommended a

grant deadline because it will be competitive and we don't want to short change anyone.

Mayor Pro-Tem asked Manager Albright about the Elected Officials training on March 25th.

Manager Albright stated that this required legislative training needs to be done, by all members of the Board and anyone who will be on a Board, by the end of the year and the meeting on March 25th would consist of a webinar that would fulfill these requirements. However, it does need to be a special meeting since all members of the Board will be present. The Town Clerk will be there to take minutes.

Manager Albright gave an update on the temporary timber easement requested by Russell Houston, his wife, and Paul Porterfield. It was very clear to Mr. Albright that they did not want to log the property but because of the elevation and location they could not make any other use of it. Manager Albright stated that he gave them a couple of options besides an easement and one of the options was to try to get a conservation easement for the State of NC. This is basically a grant issued to the Town to buy the property. Usually the grant is given by the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund. This way the property would be left undisturbed forever but could be used for passive recreation.

Manager Albright stated that they were very receptive to this idea.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Albritton mentioned some concerns about the drainage on McCrae Street.

Commissioner Whitehurst stated that on Monday, March 15th there will be a citizen's group meeting to discuss the Recreation Master Plan, which is part of the STEP program.

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted
Angel Hudson
Town Clerk