

**TOWN OF SELMA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 11, 2017**

PRESENT: Mayor Cheryl Oliver, Mayor Pro-Tem Jackie Lacy, Councilmember Tommy Holmes, Councilmember William Overby, Councilmember Mark Petersen, Town Manager Jon Barlow, and Town Attorney Alan “Chip” Hewett.

OTHER STAFF PRESENT: Finance Director Karen Johnson, Planning/Economic Development Director Julie Maybee, Police Chief Richard Cooper, Fire Chief Phillip McDaniel, and Town Clerk Brenda Thorne.

CONVOCATION: Mayor Oliver called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Jernigan Building located at 110 East Anderson Street and declared a quorum was present.

Steve Reed of *The Selma News* led in prayer.

PLEDGE TO FLAG: Mayor Pro-Tem Jackie Lacy led in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made by Councilmember Mark Petersen and seconded by Councilmember Tommy Holmes to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes
Regular Council Meeting – June 13, 2017
Special Council Meeting – June 22, 2017
Closed Sessions – June 5, 6, 13, and 22, 2017

Motion and Findings of Fact for Phillips Towing

Mayor Oliver asked that Councilmember Overby’s comments regarding building a pipeline to Smithfield for sludge removal be added to the June 13, 2017 Regular Council meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Councilmember Mark Petersen and seconded by Councilmember Tommy Holmes to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

**RECOGNITIONS/
PRESENTATIONS –
New Reverse 911 System
Presentation – Fire Chief
Phillip McDaniel:**

Fire Chief Phillip McDaniel thanked County Commissioner Ted Godwin for his assistance in the conversion from Code Red to Everbridge for Johnston County’s Reverse 911 System.

Fire Chief McDaniel stated that as of July 1, 2017, Johnston County has transitioned the vendor for our reverse 911 system from

CodeRed to Everbridge. He said that this system was much more user friendly and adaptable than the former. Chief McDaniel stated that the Everbridge System is called JOCOAlerts, and is already in place. He said that the system is only for emergencies such as weather warnings, evacuations, missing persons, etc.

Fire Chief McDaniel advised Town Council that he would like to form a committee that would devise Selma's side of the system for non-emergency messages.

Town Manager Barlow recommended that a Councilmember serve on this committee.

A motion was made by Councilmember William Overby and seconded by Councilmember Mark Petersen authorizing Fire Chief McDaniel to form a committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Oliver stated that she would like Councilmember Mark Petersen to be on that committee.

**Historic Properties Sign
Presentation – Ray
Jaklitsch and Susanne
Pote:**

Ray Jaklitsch, Chairperson for the Historic Properties Commission, President of the Selma Historical Homeowners' Association, and Member of the Selma Development Partnership, stated that he was present tonight to seek Town Council's approval for funding and purchasing of three markers for three Historical Districts. He said that Susanne Pote would provide more details on the recommended sign that was chosen by the Historical Properties Commission.

Mr. Jaklitsch stated that the sign, which is being proposed does not come cheap. He said that the criteria used in choosing the signage were that it requires no maintenance; it could not be easily vandalized; and it was something to be proud of.

Mr. Jaklitsch stated that there was quite a lot of renovation activity in the historical district. He said there were several larger homes that were undergoing major restoration and numerous other homes in private ownership that were being updated. Mr. Jaklitsch stated that he had completed a two-year, \$50,000 restoration project on a house on West Waddell Street, which was the May 2017 recipient of the Selma beautification award.

Mr. Jaklitsch stated that property owners were making a significant effort and expense to restore and maintain historical properties. He said that the Historical Properties Commission would like for the Town to join in this partnership and fund the signage.

Mr. Jaklitsch stated that property owners in these historical districts were proud of their homes, and have worked hard to get this historical district designation. He said that Selma joins other Towns such as Beaufort, New Bern and Raleigh's Oakwood Historical District. Mr. Jaklitsch stated that Selma deserved to match these historic towns in the quality and substance of its signage.

Susanne Pote stated that the estimated cost for the sign would be \$2,000 for the sign and \$500 for the post and shipping. She said that the Historical Properties Commission was asking for three signs, which would be one for each historical district.

Mayor Oliver thanked the Historical Properties Commission for their work on this project.

Councilmember Overby asked for a copy of the map.

A motion was made by Mayor Cheryl Oliver and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Jackie Lacy to approve the funding for the three historical property signs at \$2,500 each. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jaklitsch thanked Planning/Economic Development Director Julie Maybee for her help.

**Moccasin Creek Update –
Johnston County
Commissioner Ted
Godwin:**

Johnston County Commissioner Ted Godwin stated that he was present to give an update on the Moccasin Creek Watershed. He said that residents who live along the Creek paid a \$0.04 cent tax rate, which has been decreased over the years to \$0.015.

Mr. Godwin stated that the Moccasin Creek Board has a meeting scheduled this Thursday, July 13, 2017 regarding increasing the tax rate back up to \$0.04, and welcomed anyone present to attend.

**OPEN FORUM/
CITIZENS' REQUESTS:**

No one was present to address Town Council.

**PLANNING &
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT –
Introduction of New
Planner II – Dervin Spell:**

Planning/Economic Development Director Julie Maybee introduced new employee Dervin Spell. She said that Mr. Spell would be filling the Planner II position that the Town has needed for some time. Ms. Maybee stated that Mr. Spell received his Undergraduate Degree in Urban Regional Planning from East Carolina University and his Graduate Degree in Geography from UNC Charlotte.

Town Council welcomed Mr. Spell to the Town of Selma.

Mr. Spell thanked Town Council and staff for giving him this opportunity.

**Blighted/Unsafe
Properties Report Update:**

Planning/Economic Development Director Julie Maybee presented Town Council with an updated blighted/unsafe properties report. She said that there were 9 open cases and 72 closed cases. Ms. Maybee advised that Town staff along with the Johnston County Building Inspections Department were continuing to work on these properties.

Ms. Maybee advised Town Council that the Historic Properties Commission had two vacant positions, and were looking for volunteers to fill those positions. She conveyed that a full board is needed to perform various quasi-judicial functions.

Mayor Oliver asked that staff provide an update on items 47 and 48 that were listed on the closed report.

Mayor Oliver thanked Ms. Maybee for the updated report.

**TOWN MANAGER'S
REPORT &
RECOMMENDATIONS –
Review and Consideration
of Power Washing Quotes
for Depot:**

Town Manager Barlow stated that Town Council had requested that the Union Station Train Depot building be pressure washed. He said that Dirt Doctors out of Smithfield had just pressure washed the old Town Hall building, and staff was quite satisfied with the work that was performed. Mr. Barlow reviewed the proposal from Dirt Doctor, which contained two options for pressure washing the Depot.

Mr. Barlow stated the first option included pressure washing the Depot building, awning behind the building, black fence, concrete behind the building, and concrete in front of building up to the black fence. He said that this cost was \$2,365.00.

Mr. Barlow stated that the second option included just the building, awning behind the building, and black fence at a cost of \$1,355.00.

Councilmember Holmes recommended investing the Town's money into its own pressure washer, and have someone from the Town's staff to wash the building.

A motion was made by Mayor Cheryl Oliver and seconded by Councilmember Mark Petersen to accept option 1 of the proposal submitted by Dirt Doctor in the amount of \$2,365.00. Voting Yes: Mayor Cheryl Oliver, Mayor Pro-Tem Jackie Lacy, Councilmember William Overby and Councilmember Mark Petersen. Voting No: Councilmember Tommy Holmes. Motion carried.

Wi-Fi Project Update:

Town Manager Barlow stated that all the hardware has been installed for Wi-fi connection on the Town's buildings. He said that this week, work was begun on making the links work. He said that currently, Town Hall, Public Works and the Library were complete. Mr. Barlow stated that the Police Department and Water Department were currently being worked on with the Electric Department and Jernigan Building to follow. He said that there have been some issues at the Police Department with the line of sight.

Councilmember Overby asked if the data from the cameras would be saved for several days. He said that data could possibly be used in a police investigation if necessary.

Town Manager Barlow stated that he did not know, but would look into it.

Financial Statements:

Town Manager Barlow reviewed the financial statements for month ending June 30, 2017. He said that in the General Fund, revenues exceeded expenditures by about \$147,000; in the Water Fund, revenues exceeded expenditures by about \$114,000; and in the Sewer Fund, revenues exceeded expenditures by about \$565,000. Mr. Barlow stated that in the Electric Fund, expenditures exceeded revenues by about \$149,000.

Town Manager Barlow stated that in the year-to-date comparison, all the funds looked good except for the Electric Fund. Mr. Barlow stated that he expected the Electric Fund to improve once the new electric rates take effect in July.

Requests for Follow-Up:

Town Council asked for follow-up reports on the following items:

- 1) Budget Ordinance Amendment #37; why there was a \$32,000 decrease in Public Works;
- 2) A letter needs to be sent to Mr. Ron Parrish regarding Eason Lane; and
- 3) A meeting needs to be scheduled with Ricks Road Engineers and residents/property owners along Ricks Road.

**TOWN ATTORNEY'S
REPORT –
Rules of Procedure
Updates:**

Town Attorney Chip Hewett reviewed voting procedures for Town Council. Attorney Hewett advised that a good source for this information was Attorney Frayda Bluestein from the UNC School of Government. He also reviewed NCGS 160A-69, NCGS 160A-71, and NCGS 160A-75. Attorney Hewett advised Town Council that Selma was unique, because Selma's Mayor has voting rights. He said that in many other Towns, the Mayor presides over the meeting and only votes in the event of a tie. Attorney Hewett also reviewed other voting scenarios with Town Council.

Mayor Oliver asked Town Attorney Hewett if he could add the voting procedures to the Town Council's Rules of Procedure and have available at the August meeting.

Attorney Hewett stated that he would.

**MAYOR'S REPORT &
RECOMMENDATIONS –
Resolution Regarding
Flood Mitigation Within
the Lower Neuse Basin:**

Mayor Oliver read and requested that the following Resolution Regarding Flood Mitigation Within the Lower Neuse Basin be entered into the minutes.

A motion was made by Councilmember William Overby and seconded by Councilmember Mark Petersen to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Oliver also asked that copies of the Resolution be sent to Mr. Durwood Stephenson, and our State and National Legislatures.

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING GREATER EFFORTS
TO AVOID FLOODING IMPACTS WITHIN THE LOWER
NEUSE BASIN**

WHEREAS, the Neuse River Basin encompasses 74 municipalities and 19 reservoirs and drains land from 18 of North Carolina's counties covering approximately 6,234 square miles, totaling nearly 4 million acres; and

WHEREAS, roughly one-sixth of the state's population lives within the Neuse River Basin; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. 70 CORRIDOR COMMISSION OF N.C., INC. represents Counties and Towns adjoining the Neuse River and have experienced severe flooding in 1996 due to Hurricane Fran which brought floodwaters exceeding flood stage; and

WHEREAS, in July 1997, the United States Army Corps of Engineers received authorization to conduct a study on flood risk management, environmental protection and restoration, and related purposes for the Neuse River Basin; and

WHEREAS, in September 1999, Hurricane Floyd caused a second round of flooding which devastated portions of eastern North Carolina located along the rivers, particularly the Neuse River and caused an estimated \$3 billion dollars' worth of damage, damaged more than 56,000 homes, and resulted in 1,500 floodwater rescues in eastern North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the state and federal response to this catastrophe was the permanent displacement of homes, families, and businesses through a buy-out program which caused significant harm to the cities, counties, and communities affected where long-time neighbors often generational, were forced to part ways to start new lives in new neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the USACE presented findings from the study authorized in 1999 to the Civil Works Review Board and concluded that USACE lacked interest in Flood Risk Reduction at the time, citing steps being taken by the North Carolina Department of Emergency Management (NCDEM) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to reduce flooding losses through floodplain mapping, emergency preparedness and response, risk communication and a flood-prone structure buy-out program; and

WHEREAS, the USACE report suggested the expenditure of more than \$38 million dollars for environmental restoration measures but failed to request any funds to reduce the risk of flooding for those living and working along the Neuse River; and

WHEREAS, in October of 2016, areas along the Neuse River were once again devastated as a result of flooding precipitated by Hurricane Matthew; and

WHEREAS, the estimated flood damage from Hurricane Matthew exceeded 1.5 billion dollars resulting in damage to more than 100,000 homes, destroying entire towns, and taking at least 28 lives; and

WHEREAS, the record setting flooding caused by Hurricane Matthew did not occur until several days after the hurricane had passed as accumulated rainfall in the higher elevations of the state made its way toward the coast; and

WHEREAS, the relatively flat terrain of eastern North Carolina slowed the fast moving waters coming from higher elevations causing a significant increase in both the depth and breadth of the Neuse River from Smithfield through Kinston as the river reached record heights and overflowed its banks, inundating a record number of properties with floodwater; and

WHEREAS, the recent impact of Hurricane Matthew to counties, municipalities, businesses, and residents located along the Neuse River indicate that the efforts taken by the NCDEM and FEMA were insufficient to prevent or significantly reduce the amount of damage sustained as a result of Hurricane Matthew; and

WHEREAS, it is now apparent that mapping, emergency preparedness and risk communication did little to prevent the damage incurred by Hurricane Matthew; and

WHEREAS, the use of flood control measures have proven successful as demonstrated by estimates calculated by the USGS such as the study that concluded that the installation of Falls dam reduced the frequency of flooding experienced as a result of Hurricane Fran from once every 10-25 years to once every 50-100 years; and

WHEREAS, the use of flood control measures could have prevented, or significantly reduced the extent of damage caused by Hurricane Matthew.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. 70 CORRIDOR COMMISSION OF N.C., INC. does hereby request that the State of N.C. and the appropriate federal agencies engage, develop, and financially support greater efforts to avoid devastating damages to persons and property in the Lower Neuse Basin through the implementation of flood control measures and that specific consideration be given, but not limited to, (1) construction of flood control reservoirs along the Neuse River, (2) identification of alternative water supplies for the City of Raleigh that would allow lowering of Falls Lake during times of anticipated flooding, (3) additional mitigation by NCDOT to address significant stormwater impacts from highway construction and (4) active “snag, drag, and dredge” operations within the Neuse River and its tributaries to reduce obstructions to flow and removal of materials that would impact the flood level of the River.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be provided to all members of the General Assembly and to the Congressional delegation for the State of N.C. and that all affected Towns and Counties and their elected officials, Chamber of Commerce, and all persons representing and/or residing along the Neuse River Basin encourage and coordinate with all organization and/or individuals to provide all necessary preventative actions to facilitate flood reduction measures as set forth herein.

DULY ADOPTED THIS 11TH DAY OF JULY 2017.

General Comments:

Mayor Oliver stated that the ElectriCities Developments brochure had an article on the Warm Group’s \$12 million investment in the former SONA Plant.

Mayor Oliver stated that Tom White from North Carolina State University is exploring options to create a Workforce Availability Study for the Town of Selma.

Mayor Oliver thanked the Selma Police Department and other organizations involved in the successful ACE Team Operation. She also thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for a great 4th of July celebration.

Mayor Oliver noted that the transition from Selma EMS to Johnston County EMS went smoothly.

Mayor Oliver advised everyone of an upcoming ribbon cutting at Danoni's (formerly Short's) and a grand opening at New Dixie/Hardee's.

Set Date for July Work Session:

Mayor Oliver stated that a Work Session date needed to be set so that Ms. Marjorie Regan could present the information she has gathered regarding the PEG Channel.

It was the consensus of Town Council to schedule a Work Session meeting on Monday, July 31, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Jernigan Building.

COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Councilmember Holmes stated that he wanted the minutes to reflect that he would not be available to attend all the Work Sessions.

Mayor Oliver stated that in a prior budget meeting a question arose about whether a dump truck that Public Works had requested was included in the Capital Outlay Plan for fiscal year 2017/2018. She said that she went back and found that the dump truck had been requested in the 2017/2018 Capital Outlay Plan.

Councilmember Petersen stated that Selma Middle School and Smithfield-Selma High School both have new principals for the upcoming 2017/2018 school year. He said that he would like to invite Principal Chris Germanoski (Selma Middle School) and Principal David Allen (Smithfield-Selma High School) to the next Town Council meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Lacy asked if something could be done about the train delays. She said that she had received complaints about trains blocking the tracks anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour.

CLOSED SESSION:

Attorney Hewett advised that Town Council needed to go into closed session per NCGS 143-318-11(6) to discuss a personnel issue.

A motion was made by Councilmember Mark Petersen and seconded by Councilmember William Overby to go into closed session. Motion carried unanimously. 7:45 p.m.

Town Council returned to regular session with no action.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilmember Mark Petersen and seconded by Councilmember William Overby to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

BRENDA W. THORNE, Town Clerk