

Date: February 12, 2015
Meeting of: Locust City Council
Time: 7:30 pm
Members Present: Larry Baucom, Roger Hypes, Harry Fletcher, Michael Haigler, David Walker, JC Burris and Michael Hinson

Members Absent:

Order: Mayor Huber

Pledge: Mayor Huber

Prayer: Mayor Huber

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING ORDINANCE TEXT CHANGE FOR BONDING

No one spoke for or against

Call to order at 7:32pm

Council decided to add an Executive Session to the agenda immediately following adoption of the agenda. GS: 143-318.11 (Legal)

M/S/A Council Members David Walker and Larry Baucom **(7-0)**
Motion to adopt agenda as presented

M/S/A Council Members Larry Baucom and David Walker **(7-0)**
Motion to enter into Executive Session GS: 143-318.11 (Legal) at 7:32pm

Out of Executive Session at 7:49pm

M/S/A Council Members Larry Baucom and David Walker **(7-0)**
Motion to approve January 2015 minutes

Financial Reports were reviewed and accepted

General Fund and Waste Water Fund Budget amendments were reviewed

M/S/A Council Members David Walker and Roger Hypes (7-0)
Motion to approve all budget amendments

Mayor's Report – Vickie Coggins with the Esther House spoke on the sexual assault proclamation that she presented to the City for adoption. The City of Locust and The Officer Jeff Shelton Memorial Foundation agreed on a joint statement that was read by the Mayor. This statement will be the only statement released by the City, Ms. Shelton or the Officer Jeff Shelton Foundation.

M/S/A Council Members David Walker and Harry Fletcher (7-0)
Motion to adopt April 2015 Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation

Administrator's Report – The purchase orders were reviewed. Cabarrus, Stanly and Union Counties have proposed a regional hazard mitigation plan and a resolution was presented.

M/S/A Council Members Harry Fletcher and David Walker (7-0)
Motion to adopt Regional Hazard Mitigation Resolution

M/S/A Council Members David Walker and Roger Hypes (7-0)
Motion to approve purchase orders

Parks – Parks Director Tate Osborne went to the Directors Conference in Durham and brought back lots of good ideas. Emily Jones has been busy with getting our Spring and Summer activities lined up and it looks to be a promising season.

PW – March 9 is bulk goods. Council wants a couple individuals to meet with a couple County Commissioners regarding the sewer rate structure. Council Member Haigler, Baucom and Walker will be in on the meeting. The Department has been dealing with a large vacuum leak on Church Street. Thanks to all the guys for their hard work.

M/S/A Council Members Larry Baucom and Roger Hypes (7-0)
Motion to approve meeting with County Commissioners and select Council Members

Zoning/ABC – ABC store sales continue to rise over sales from last year. Planning and Zoning Director Scott Efird has been working on a grant for more sidewalks up 200N and around the park behind Locust Elementary School. We received a grant for most of the project but the City

will need to participate to an estimated cost of \$75,000-100,000 which will cover engineering fees, surveying and right of ways.

M/S/A

Council Members David Walker and Roger Hypes

(7-0)

Motion to adopt Bonding Text Change in Ordinance

PD – Chief Hartsell has researched extensively body cameras for the officers. They will improve citizen safety and officer safety. The recordings are admissible in court.

Economic Dev – Economic Summit last month with local realtors was great. The next meeting will be February 23, 2015 at 7:00pm with builders and contractors. St. Jude is building the Dream Home in RedBridge in Locust. The ground breaking is coming up soon and they will be selling raffle tickets to raffle off this beautiful home. There will only be 10,000 tickets sold and they will cost \$100 a ticket.

Senior Services/RPO – Senior Center has been very active and they are keeping a full calendar. RPO has changed the way highways and projects are funded in NC. They are by ranks on merit.

Public Comment Period – Brenda Boyles of Locust addressed the Council about the sewer right of way that runs along her back yard. When it rains the water is standing creating a marsh looking area. It is making it hard to maintain.

Board Closing Comments – Thanks to all who have come out to our meetings. It's nice to see citizen participation. Thanks to all PD and City staff for all that they do.

Recess Meeting until Saturday, February 28th at 8:00am for a working budget retreat

Meeting called back to order at 8:03am

Council Member Michael Hinson was not present but counts as a "yes" vote

City Administrator Tim Fesperman opened the meeting by remarking on what the City's goals, expectations and accomplishments are going to be in the upcoming budget year. He stated that increasing the fund balance was a priority as well as employee retention. He also wants to look into cost effective ways to make accessibility to the Citizens easy for sewer services such as debit/credit card payments. We want to be proactive versus reactive in our solutions. We want to have an attitude of forward thinking.

Finance Director Michael Rupp gave a review analysis of the last 10 years of the financial summary and debt analysis. He introduced to the Council for information only a new purchasing policy. He let the Council know that this next year would be our toughest budget year as we have the Motorola lease payment, no more business license revenues and the rising costs in health insurance.

Police Chief Frank Hartsell thanked the Council for the approval of the Body Cameras as they have been very beneficial. The only request he has is to continue the rolling stock replacement.

Public Works Director Tim Flieger gave an overview of how the last few months have been. He is requesting an additional staff member for his department and some much needed equipment such as a backhoe, chipper, plow and spreader for the work truck to handle small areas during snow and 2 new mowing decks. Also to resurface Edgewood Street. Vacuum main repair and station maintenance.

Break at 10:00am

Back at 10:05am

M/S/A

Council Members David Walker and Larry Baucom

(7-0)

Motion to enter into Executive Session GS: 143-318.11 (Personnel) at 10:05am

Out of Executive Session at 10:25am

Break at 10:25am

Back at 10:30am

Planning and Zoning Director Scott Efird presented an overview of the last 4 years. He spoke on adopting an ordinance to have a house demolished due to minimum housing standards. The cost would run about \$5,000. The Veterans Memorial is going to cost about \$65,000 for the total project. He would like the City to cover the cost of the curb and gutter to get the project rolling. He says if people progress then they will be more apt to participate as well. He gave a brief presentation on the sidewalk project and reminded the Council of the City's portion of the project if they decide to participate. The project is completely funded with grant money except the engineering fees, surveying and right of way costs which would result in a cost to the City of about \$75,000-\$100,000. He said that was shooting high but he wanted to be safe. He has about 60 days left to sign the contract and send it off.

Parks and Rec Director Tate Osborne gave a presentation of the needs for the park and athletic complex. There are several requests with some importance highlighted on the basketball courts as he feels a fence is greatly needed for safety concerns. He wants to re-grade infields 2&3 to help with standing water when it rains which causes us to have to cancel tournaments. Batting cages and nets, irrigation pump, field laser striper, creative cloud to help with marketing so that we aren't outsourcing and other departments can use as well.

Break at 11:45am

Back at 12:05am

Council Member Roger Hypes spoke about the Senior Center and potentially the City helping contribute to the upkeep of the Senior Center. The County Commissioners are supposed to speak about this very thing. Council wants to wait to see what County decides to do. Council discussed the sewer tap fees then prioritized the department heads requests for the upcoming budget year.

M/S/A

Council Members Harry Fletcher and Roger Hypes

(7-0)

Motion to adjourn at 12:50 pm

Stephen Huber, Mayor

Amy Meachum, City Clerk