

MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING
JORDAN ROOM, MATTHEWS TOWN HALL
MARCH 28, 2016 – 5:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor James Taylor; Commissioners John Higdon, Chris Melton, Jeff Miller, John Urban and Larry Whitley; Town Manager Hazen Blodgett; Town Clerk Lori Canapinno

ABSENT: Commissioner John Ross

ALSO PRESENT: Planning and Development Director Kathi Ingrish; Senior Planner Jay Camp

The Board of Commissioners met to review the Matthews Station Street/Lat Purser development and to hear predevelopment conferences regarding property at 10252 Monroe Road and the 200 block of Matthews Township Parkway.

MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HOOD ROOM, MATTHEWS TOWN HALL
MARCH 28, 2016 - 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Mayor James Taylor; Commissioners John Higdon, Chris Melton, Jeff Miller, John Urban and Larry Whitley; Town Attorney Charles Buckley; Town Manager Hazen Blodgett; Town Clerk Lori Canapinno

ABSENT: Commissioner John Ross

ALSO PRESENT: Assistant Town Manager Becky Hawke; Communications Director Jen Thompson; Police Chief Rob Hunter; Finance Director Chris Tucker

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

INVOCATION

Mr. Melton rendered an invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Members of Boy Scout Troops 140 and 39 led the audience in the Pledge.

PRESENTATION ON EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR – KAREN GREEN

Mayor Taylor introduced Police Officer Karen Green as the town's Employee of the Year. He described Officer Green as a perfect example of a servant to the community who shows a positive attitude to all who she encounters. As a DARE officer dealing with children she goes above and beyond, including the time she purchased beds for several children because she knew they didn't have any.

Police Chief Rob Hunter described how proud and honored he is to be represented by and work with someone like Karen Green. He is thankful for her work and her years of service to the town.

Officer Green spoke of her family and friends, noting that life is short and precious and that she was raised to respect people and work hard.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Harvey Boyd, 350 Crestdale Road, Matthews addressed the Board. He spoke in favor of the upcoming decision to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a town holiday. He also spoke about the history of the Crestdale community in Matthews, describing its development since 1844 and the need to celebrate that rich history. The community is working on highlighting that through signage and other methods.

Mr. Whitley displayed a video clip on Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. and discussed his goal to bring the recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day to the Board. He lauded the step toward showing equality for everyone and encouraged the message of civil rights for every person.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes of the March 14, 2016 Board of Commissioners Special Meeting**
- B. Approve Closed Session Minutes of the February 22, 2016 Board of Commissioners Meeting**
- C. Approve Making Martin Luther King, Jr. Day a Town Holiday**
- D. Approve Audit Contract**
- E. Approve Mileage Reimbursement for Planning Conference to Commissioner Higdon in the Amount of \$216.00**
- F. Approve Technology Reimbursement to Commissioner Melton in the Amount of \$281.44**
- G. Approve Police Department Request to Solicit Donations on Behalf of the Special Olympics of North Carolina on Saturday, May 21, 2016**
- H. Approve Tax Refunds**
- I. Approve Budget Amendments to:**
 - 1) Recognize Donations to the Police Department's Citizen Volunteer Program in Honor of John Singer in the Amount of \$635.00**
 - 2) Amend Budgets for Tourism & CIP Funds**

Motion by Mr. Whitley to approve consent agenda items A through I2. The motion was seconded by Mr. Higdon and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDER TEMPORARY STREET CLOSURE REQUEST FROM MATTHEWS HELP CENTER

Mr. Melton noted that he is a member of the Help Center's Board of Directors but receives no financial benefits from the position. Mr. Buckley confirmed that Mr. Melton would be able to vote on this issue.

Help Center Executive Director Kaye McHan explained the request, which would close a portion of West Charles Street on April 30th from 6-10 pm as part of their Carolina Festival fundraiser. Chief Rob Hunter noted that the Police Department had no concerns with the request.

Motion by Mr. Whitley to approve the request to close the portion of West Charles Street between #s 300 and 409, from 6-10 pm on April 30, 2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller and unanimously approved.

RECEIVE MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT

Finance Director Chris Tucker reviewed the budget report through February 2016. Mr. Tucker explained that the general fund and tourism funds were both trending well. The revenue shortfall in ad valorem taxes is due to the continuing process of revaluation refunds. He expects to receive an update on that process from Mecklenburg County next week.

APPROVE CHANGES TO PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Assistant Town Manager Becky Hawke described minor job title and description changes, which will allow for more flexibility to the locations these employees can be assigned.

Motion by Mr. Melton to approve the changes as outlined in Ms. Hawke's memo dated March 28. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller and unanimously approved.

CONSIDER COST-SHARING WITH CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION TO DEVELOP OPTIONS FOR PHILLIPS HOUSE AND PROPERTY

Town Manager Hazen Blodgett explained that the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission (CMHLC) acquired the Phillips house, barn and vacant property a few months ago. They would like to hire a design group to work with stakeholders to figure out the vision of the community and determine the best use for the property. The proposal is for the Adams Group to perform that facilitation and consultant work at a cost of \$12,500. The CMHLC is proposing that the Town partner with them for 25%, which is \$3,125, plus printing costs. Staff recommends approval, with the additional condition that if the property sells for more than its purchase price, then the Town will be reimbursed for this expenditure up to \$3,125.

Mayor Taylor noted that the reimbursement was his suggestion but that Dr. Morrill of the MCHLC couldn't commit to that at this time, but the Town's motion could be made contingent upon the agreement of the Historic Landmarks Commission, provided that they make a return on their investment.

Mr. Higdon said he believed the best use of the property is to remain as a residence and an example of how Matthews used to be. Dr. Morrill explained that the intent of the visioning process is to explore all options but no specific uses are being suggested or promoted.

Motion by Mr. Miller to approve Town's share of 25% of the cost of this project, equaling \$3,125, plus any additional printing-related costs; with the condition that - contingent upon Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission approval - the Town will be reimbursed 25% of any excess funds received after the sale of the property above its purchase price, to a maximum of \$3,125 plus the cost of additional printing services. The motion was seconded by Mr. Urban and unanimously approved.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Taylor noted the discussion regarding House Bill 2 that passed last week in response to Charlotte's nondiscrimination ordinance. Some communities are passing resolutions in support of Charlotte's ordinance. He asked the Board to consider passing a resolution criticizing the state legislature's whittling away of local control.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Blodgett noted the upcoming Quad meeting this Thursday at 6:30 pm at the Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Miller to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Urban and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Canapinno
Town Clerk