

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF MINT HILL, NORTH CAROLINA**

February 12, 2015

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Mint Hill met in regular session on Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Mint Hill Town Hall.

ATTENDANCE

Mayor: Ted H. Biggers, Jr.

Commissioners: Lloyd Austin, Carl M. Ellington, Richard Newton and Katrina (Tina) W. Ross

Town Attorney: Kevin M. Bringewatt

Town Manager: Brian L. Welch

Planning Director: John Hoard

Police Lieutenant: John Rowell

Town Clerk: Michelle Wells Farrar

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Biggers called the meeting to order, ruled a quorum present and the meeting duly constituted to carry on business. Following the invocation offered by Commissioner Austin, Mayor Biggers led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Addition, Deletion or Arrangement of Agenda Items: A resolution supporting Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation property purchase and a resolution to oppose House Bill 25 and Senate Bill 36 were added by consensus of the Board.

Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2015 Quarterly Developers Workshop and Regular Meeting: Upon the motion of Commissioner Austin, seconded by Commissioner Ellington, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 8, 2015 quarterly developers workshop and regular meeting.

Consent Agenda: (a) Accept November and December Tax Collector's Report; (b) Accept Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014; and, (c) Accept September, October and November's Treasurers Report.

Commissioner Ross asked to pull Item C for discussion.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Ellington, seconded by Commissioner Austin, the Board unanimously approved Consent Items a and b. (Copy filed with minutes of record.)

(c) Accept September, October and November's Treasurers Report: Commissioner Ross asked if the accounts with PNC Bank were closed or in the process of being closed. Manager Welch said yes. Commissioner Ross was concerned that the Town had used nearly 95% of the budgeted amount for bank service fees. Manager Welch said the Town had changed over to First Citizens and they would not be charging service fees. Commissioner Ross asked about the

animal control line item. Manager Welch said the Town pays annually for the last budget year. Therefore, the Town would budget more for next fiscal year to pay for the service calls received for this year. Commissioner Ross asked about the \$31,500 remaining for donations; would it be simpler to pay all of the donations at one time? Manager Welch said the Town didn't receive Tourism monies until October and April. The Town essentially borrowed from savings to give donations if they are paid through the tourism funding.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Ross, seconded by Commissioner Ellington, the Board unanimously approved Consent Item c. (Copy filed with minutes of record.)

Mayor Biggers welcomed Mason Jeffers and Garrett Bowen (Patrol Leader) in attendance from Troop 226 of Unionville Baptist Church. Mayor Biggers presented Mason and Garrett with a Town Lapel Pin.

Mayor Biggers recognized Robyn Imire the Volunteer Coordinator for the Mint Hill Police Department. Ms. Imire recognized the following volunteers: Dave Marcinko, Elaine Long, Tim McLaughlin, Ed Lutz and Steve Peterson. She thanked them for all they do for the Police Department. Mayor Biggers stated he was very proud of the Police Department. He was excited that Mint Hill was ranked the 13th Safest City in North Carolina. He had challenged Chief Ledford to obtain the number one ranking. He thanked the volunteers for their work at the Police Department and for the Town of Mint Hill.

Public Hearing on #ZC14-10, Filed by Truliant Federal Credit Union, Requesting a Text Amendment to Section 6.5.10, Permitted Modification of Size or Number of Permitted Signs: Manager Welch said the applicant had requested it be deferred for many months and was not prepared to present tonight. He recommended the Board close the public hearing. If the applicant chose to file the application again then it would be brought before the Board at that time.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Ross, seconded by Commissioner Newton, the Board unanimously voted to close the Public Hearing on #ZC14-10.

Public Comments: None.

Mecklenburg County Park Resolution: Upon the motion of Commissioner Austin, seconded by Commissioner Ellington, the Board unanimously passed the following resolution.

Whereas, Mecklenburg County intends to purchase property located at 10631 Fairview Road, for the purpose of developing a regional park; and,

Whereas, Mecklenburg County is committed to develop the park consistent with the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Master Plan adopted in 2008; and,

Whereas, The Board's stated goal in the Mint Hill Land Use Plan is to endorse a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities to persons of all age categories, placed at conveniently located sites throughout Mint Hill; and,

Whereas, the Board recognizes the property Mecklenburg County is considering to purchase to be a suitable, convenient location for a regional park; and,

Whereas, the approval related to the specifics of the regional park will occur through a Conditional Rezoning process;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Mint Hill hereby supports Mecklenburg County in the purchase of property located at 10631 Fairview Road for the purpose of developing a regional park.

Adopted the 12th day of February, 2015.

Resolution Against Passage Of Senate Bill 25 And House Bill 36 Zoning/Design & Aesthetic Controls: Upon the motion of Commissioner Austin, seconded by Commissioner Ross, the Board unanimously passed the following resolution.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 25 and House Bill 36 as written would significantly restrict the authority of local governments to adopt and enforce design controls per local ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Mint Hill places great value on quality design and architecture, and sustained community character; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Mint Hill has adopted ordinances that control elements of design and placement of residential structures to achieve the community values of development and place-making; and

WHEREAS, local elected officials and their appointees in the Town of Mint Hill understand aesthetic concerns and are best equipped to make decisions regarding local design controls; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 25 and House Bill 36 would move the authority to enact local design control ordinances from local government to state government; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 25 and House Bill 36 would create a conflict between other general statutes, such as GS 160A-452, and recent court decisions that authorize local governments to adopt and enforce design controls and maintain quality aesthetic and neighborhood environments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mint Hill Board of Commissioners are against the passage of Senate Bill 25 and House Bill 36 and urge all members of the North Carolina General Assembly to vote "NO" in Committee and if necessary on the floor of the General Assembly.

Adopted the 12th day of February, 2015.

State of the Utility Presentation by Charlotte Mecklenburg Utility Department: Mr. Barry Gullet, Charlotte Mecklenburg Utilities Director, began his presentation by stating they had changed their name to Charlotte Water; the process for the name change had been ongoing for a few years. Many residents weren't aware of the name for their water supplier. Charlotte Water would now be displayed on vehicles, uniforms and identification badges.

Mr. Gullet stated he would like to check in with each of the towns and cities approximately once a year just to update the Boards. He explained that an in-depth overview of the Charlotte Water capital and financial planning was on-going. He stated success required investments and long-term financial planning to sustain viability, economic growth and quality while utilizing the best national practices. The rate increases would allow monies to be reinvested into infrastructure. He stated Charlotte Water had a Triple A rating by Standard and Poor Index and was currently being evaluated by Moody's. He said South Carolina had renewed the Biosolids Application and the North Carolina permit was pending.

He noted Charlotte Water had agreed to purchase private plants in March in the following neighborhoods: Ashe Plantation, Oxford Glen and Farmwood East. He was asked if Charlotte Water had considered purchasing the private plant in the Glencroft Neighborhood. He hadn't been aware of that plant but agreed to look into it.

Mayor Biggers thanked him for coming out and giving an update to the Board.

Mecklenburg County Livable Communities Plan Presentation: Ms. Heidi Pruess, Community Plan and Sustainability Officer for Mecklenburg County, outlined the projected population data; the population in 2010 was 919,628 and was projected to reach 1,687,000 by 2050. The Mecklenburg County Livable Communities Plan process had included reflecting on more than 200 plans, more than 2,000 community voices, 57 community organizations, 150 workgroup members, and elected input. She reviewed the guiding principles and the plan. She explained the website and the website search. She stated the next steps were to have an endorsement of the plan by the area cities/towns; begin collaboration discussions, establish goals and targets and then to have annual reporting in July 2016.

Mayor Biggers asked what types of plans were included among the 200 plans that were reviewed. Ms. Pruess stated Land Use, Economic Development, Healthcare, and Mecklenburg County School plans.

The Board thanked Ms. Pruess for her time and stated they would consider adopting a resolution to support the process of the plan at their next meeting.

Other Business/Council Matters: Commissioner Newton attended an event hosted by the Mint Hill Chamber of Commerce in the Summerwood neighborhood and the Centralia Council of Governments meeting.

Commissioner Ellington said he would be attending the Planning Board meeting on February 16, 2015.

Commissioner Ross attended the Random Act of Culture event by Carolina Opera at Jimmie's Restaurant. She asked about the workplace initiative Arts and Science email that had gone out to Town Staff; was the Chili Cook Off going to be used as the main fundraiser as in previous years? Manager Welch said the event hadn't raised a great deal of money in the past and the Town would now be taking employee contributions. She stated the Idlewild Volunteer Fire Department Banquet was well attended. The first week in February was National Burn Awareness week and 1,100 children die annually from burns and scalds. The Mint Hill Volunteer Fire Department (MHVFD) had responded to 240 EMS calls and 95 Fire calls for the month of January for a total of 335. She stated the MHVFD had made national news regarding the house fire in St. Ives where a cat was found hiding in a wall by one of our firefighters. She said the most recent Coffee with a Cop was very well attended. She had attended a "Business After Hours" event hosted by the Mint Hill Chamber of Commerce and a Park and Recreation Planning Session.

Commissioner Austin had attended the Park and Recreation Planning Session, the Summerwood neighborhood "Business After Hours" and the Economic Development meeting. He asked the Town Staff to please place an informational note in the tax refunds that were being mailed to residents. He had received three checks and had called Town Hall to find out why he had received them.

Mayor Biggers said the Independence High School Drama department was teaming up with the Ardrey Kell High School Drama department. He stated Independence had produced a very good play. He thanked the Mint Hill Volunteer Fire Department, Mint Hill Police Department, Mint Hill Public Works and Town Hall Staff.

Adjournment: Upon the motion of Commissioner Ross, seconded by Commissioner Ellington, the Board unanimously agreed that the meeting be adjourned. Mayor Biggers adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Michelle Wells Farrar, CMC, Town Clerk