

Town Council Regular Meeting

Green Level Municipal Building

Thursday, August 10, 2023

MINUTES

Governing Body Members Present: Mayor Sandra McCollum, Mayor Pro-Tem Remonia Enoch, Councilmember Patricia Jones, Councilmember Jose McBroom & Councilmember Theodore Howard.

Governing Body Members Not Present: None.

Green Level Officials Present: Town Administrator Barrett Brown, Town Attorney Eugene Russell & Town Clerk Taylor Prince

Also in Attendance: Alliance Code Enforcer Tristan Smith, Parks & Recreation Director Brandon Enoch & Public Works Director A.J. Simmons.

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

Roll Call: Town Clerk Taylor Prince conducted a roll call of the Town Council. All council members were present.

Invocation: Councilmember Jose McBroom

First Public Hearing: Moratorium Extension

Mayor McCollum opened the first Public Hearing for the extension to the moratorium on any development approval required by law in the Town of Green Level and its extraterritorial jurisdictions. The proposed extension is six months, expiring on February 12, 2024. There were a few residents present who spoke of their understanding and favor of the extension.

Councilmember Jones made a motion to approve the extension of the moratorium. Mayor Pro-Tem Enoch seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Councilmember Jones made a motion to close the Public Hearing and begin the regular Town Council Meeting. Councilmember Howard seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Approval of Agenda: Mayor McCollum inquired if there were any amendments needed for the August 10, 2023, drafted agenda and all council members stated “No”. Mayor McCollum stated that with no amendments there was no need for a vote and the agenda would proceed as drafted.

Approval of Minutes: Mayor McCollum stated that unfortunately we do not have the July 13th, 2023, minutes. Mayor Pro-Tem Enoch made a motion to table the July 13th, 2023, minutes to be approved at the September meeting. Councilmember McBroom seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Public Comments: There were 3 public comments. The first was from Ida Kleiner, she spoke on behalf of the Bedford Hills HOA regarding safety concerns in their area. She stated a need for stop signs and speed limit signs in the area to increase safety. The second was from James Griffin, who agreed with Ida Kleiner’s comment on the need for speed limit and stop signs. The third was from Randy Gill, he expressed concerns about water flooding his yard from the park.

Real Estate Report: Real Estate Agent Bethea Catina reported a need to update some language in lot listings of town property. She stated that currently the language is vague regarding instructions for sale of the lots. Language is needed to specify that the land should be for business or commercial purposes only. Updating this language will protect interests and the vision moving forward. She reported that surveying had been completed and mentioned a few encroachments but reported no alarming findings.

Code Enforcement Report: Code Enforcement Officer Tristan Smith reported on investigations into reports of a well being dug on the corner of West Simpson Street and NC Highway 49. He stated that after speaking to neighbors and witnesses he has concluded there was no evidence of digging. He reported contact attempts with Dollar General concerning the removal of surveying stakes and was waiting for a response. He stated he would connect with Public Works to work on the stop signs and speed limit signs requested by the public. He provided a PowerPoint presentation with further details, which was sent via email to council members.

Parks & Recreation Report: Parks & Recreations Director Brandon Enoch reported the department was able to complete all summer projects. Newer projects have been identified, such as correcting water fountain issues, installing the new baseball scoreboard and maintaining lawn and grounds care. He stated that public safety is the department's number one concern, and they are taking the time to ensure all projects are done correctly. He stated that football uniform fittings are underway and there is a set schedule for practices and games. He invited everyone to stop by for practice and to attend games. He reported that the Movie in the Park event had to be cancelled due to weather, and due to the high cost, will not be rescheduled. The department is working on brainstorming more events for the future. Mr. Enoch reported the Back-to-School drive is still in progress, and donations are being accepted. He reports that currently communication is diminishing, as there is some difficulty contacting parents and participants with changes and announcements. He reports an implementation of OnSolve will help with this issue, ensuring everyone will receive the same information in an effective manner. He reported that Zac Patterson has been contracted to fix the water fountain, and he has provided two options for the repairs. One of which is a basic repair to get the fountain functioning, the second includes more in-depth repair and replacements that will allow for longevity of the organic life surrounding and in the water. He reports that phase one of the Community Center renovations has been completed, along with a mission statement and vision. He reports that currently the building cannot be open to the public and noted there are a few inspections and food codes that will need to be addressed. He requested a sense of direction for Phase Two of the Community Center and the fountain. Mr. Enoch introduced two proposals for events, a Fall Festival, and an R&BBQ.

Mayor Pro-Tem Enoch inquired as to the pricing for the two options to fix the fountain and the details of the repairs. Mr. Enoch stated option one, the barebones repair, would cost an estimated \$14,000, while option two would cost around \$25,000 but provide a longer life span of the fountain and the organic life. Mayor Pro-Tem Enoch advised Mr. Enoch to provide that information to The Council.

Town Administrator Updates:

HR Updates: Town Administrator Barret Brown reports two new hires, Taylor Prince as Town Clerk and Arthur Simmons as Public Works Director. Both started with the Town of Green Level on August 7th, 2023.

Public Works: Public Works Director Arthur Simmons thanks the council for the opportunity and asked to be notified of any tasks that the council would like to be prioritized. He stated he wants to address all public and council concerns. Mayor Pro-Tem Enoch requested that the stop signs and speed limit signs requested by the public be a priority and requested Public Works communicate with Utility Billing.

Mayor McCollum requested that Mr. Simmons stay in contact with Town Administrator Brown regarding requests and attend upcoming meetings.

General Administration: Mr. Brown mentioned there are two upcoming meetings on August 17th that Arthur Simmons has been invited to and he has been included in those communications. Mr. Brown reported there is a meeting with Yates Construction on August 17th to discuss a schedule for the completion of the pump station. It is expected to start in September and be completed by Thanksgiving. He stated there is also a meeting on the 17th to discuss SRF Federal Funding for Drinking and Clean Water. The Powell Bill application was submitted August 1st. Mr. Brown assured the council that the speed limit and stop signs can go up quickly and Public Works is currently working on replacing faded signs and clearing any brush blocking view. He reported two sections of the fence have been removed from the park, fixing the view for those leaving and coming in.

Town Attorney Updates: No updates for Attorney Eugene Russell.

Town Council Comments:

Councilmember Howard did not have any further comments.

Councilmember McBroom did not have any further comments.

Councilmember Jones thanked everyone for attending the meeting and stated all residents of Green Level have a voice.

Mayor Pro-Tem Enoch inquired if the Parks & Recreation department could place boxes in the lobby of Town Hall for the school drive. She also reminded the public of a food drive happening that upcoming Saturday for Bridging the Gap starting at 9:30 AM.

Mayor Pro-Tem Enoch made a motion to go into a closed session in accordance with NC General Statute Article 33 C. 143-318.11 (a3). Councilmember Jones seconded.

The motion passed unanimously (5-0)

CLOSED SESSION

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor Prince

Town Clerk

Town of Green Level