

Town Of Oakboro
Board of Commissioners
Minutes for Regular Meeting
August 15, 2016
7:00 PM

Mayor Burgess called the Board of Commissioner's regular meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Roll Call was taken with Commissioners Efird, Broadway, Huneycutt and Harvey present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Burgess.

Commissioner Huneycutt referred to Dr. Watts for Devotions.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Efird and the motion carried.

Commissioner Huneycutt made a motion to approve the minutes from July 18, 2016 and August 1, 2016. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harvey and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Efird to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$51,822.58. Commissioner Huneycutt seconded the motion and it carried.

OPEN FORUM

Mrs. Lynn Huneycutt commented that she would like to thank the employees of the Town of Oakboro for their hard work at a tough job. She asked for the Town to start up the Historical Preservation District. She requested that our town move quickly to get a committee for our Oakboro School to reopen. She would love to see the museum move into the old school building at no cost, possibly setting up a "Yesterday Years" and maybe charge admission. She also thinks it would be nice if the Nutrition Site could move into the old school building, as well as the Library.

Tim Cratty thanked everyone for the chance to speak. He asked where the town stood on hiring a Town Administrator. He was under the impression that applications were taken for the position. He congratulated TJ Smith on his position as Interim Police Chief. He asked what kind of timeframe we're looking at on hiring a new Chief of Police. What is the deadline for accepting applications?

Page Two
August 15, 2016
Minutes for Regular Meeting
7:00 PM

Commissioner Harvey responded to Mr. Cratty saying that we've reviewed all candidates from the first applications that we got for Town Administrator and it was the consensus of the Board that we not go forward with any of those. Our plans are to repost for that position. Commissioner Efirid added that right now, there is no timetable for that. Most of the applications that we looked at had requirements, so expensive, that we couldn't afford them. We want to make the right choice and will take more time before hiring someone.

Mayor Burgess responded to Mr. Cratty in regards to the Police Chief. We've set 3 months, from the application deadline, to choose a new Police Chief.

Chief Joe Lowder took the opportunity to address everyone, for the first time, as a collective group since going out on 6 months medical leave. He wanted to thank the Board for the opportunity to get back into Law Enforcement on a fulltime scale in 2007. He has been assisting Interim Chief, TJ Smith on a lot of the administration portions of the police department functions. He complimented TJ Smith on being a quick study, saying he's raring to go. He wanted everyone to know that he's not going away; he will always be available to help. He voiced that he's very proud of his family's 88 years in law enforcement. He thanked the Board for being progressive, outgoing, proactive and hard working. He wanted to give a special thanks to Larry Branch for all of his hard work in acquiring grants.

Mayor Burgess thanked Chief Lowder for his kind words and said that he had a letter to share with him from the Greater Oakboro Business Association (GOBA). GOBA's President, David Heath, was in attendance and it was the wishes of the members present at previous GOBA meeting that this letter be read to Chief Lowder.

Mayor Burgess read the letter and it is included in the minute book.

Mayor Burgess made comment to Mrs. Lynn Huneycutt, in response to her question about a committee for School Board. He told her that we are waiting on the Board of Education to step up and join us, with the county, as far as forming an advisory committee.

**Page Three
August 15, 2016
Minutes for Regular Meeting
7:00 PM**

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Budget and Finance – Commissioner Harvey: Nothing to report

Cemetery and Streets – Commissioner Efirm: Efirm reported that we're almost complete with putting down the final pavement for the Ruby Ridge Subdivision.

Police Department – Commissioner Broadway: He recognized Interim Chief Smith for a report. Smith reported that there were 248 calls for the month of July, 2016. 12 alarm calls, 1 traffic accident, 1 road block, 1 intoxicated driver, 59 escorts, 4 suspicious vehicles, 33 traffic stops, 18 investigations, 1 prowler call, 1 assist Fire Department, 2 property damage, 1 larceny, 3 suspicious persons reports, 10 disturbances, assisted 2 motorist, 4 warrants, 5 EMS calls and 1 911 hang-up.

Parks and Recreation – Commissioner Efirm: Efirm recognized Daniel Smith for a report. Smith reported that there would be a Parks and Recreation workshop on this coming Saturday morning, August 20, 2016 at 9:00 am at the new site down on Rocky River on Hwy. 205. Commissioners are planning on attending and, of course, the workshop is open to anyone. He also wanted to recognize two people that were in attendance – Mayor Joyce Little and Larry Branch, for playing such a big part in the success of the park facilities. The work they've done as Mayor and staff here for the town have allowed us to have facilities that are some of the nicest in the State of North Carolina. He also appreciates everything the Commissioners have done over the years in making that place become a reality.

Advisory Board – Commissioner Efirm: After months of consideration, the Planning and Zoning Committee has sent us a resolution to amend the zoning ordinance for Oakboro to include finger flags for the purpose of advertising. In the past this has been illegal, and not part of our ordinance but this would allow finger flags to be displayed from Friday evenings at 5:00 pm until Sunday evenings at 8:00 pm., and during any State Holiday. They would like for this to go to a Public Hearing.

Commissioner Huneycutt made a motion that we set a Public Hearing for September 12, 2016 at 7:00 PM in order to change the text in the zoning

**Page Four
August 15, 2016
Minutes for Regular Meeting
7:00 PM**

ordinance for finger flags. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Broadway and it carried.

Mayor Burgess had in front of him a resolution concerning our application for the CDBG Block Grant. We have to adopt this resolution in order to go forward with the application for the grant.

Commissioner Broadway made a motion to adopt the grant. Commissioner Efirid seconded the motion and it carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Harvey to set a Public Hearing on September 12, 2016 at 7:00 PM to review the application for the CDBG Block Grant. Commissioner Huneycutt seconded the motion and it carried.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Efirid: He wished Chief Lowder the best. He personally thanked him for everything that he's done for Oakboro because it truly has been a safe place to live for years. With one door closing, we have one opening and he thanked Interim Chief Smith for the time he has put in the last couple of weeks. He has gone way beyond what we expected for him to do in this amount of time in converting everything and getting things in order.

Broadway: He thanked Chief Joe Lowder and says he will miss him. He thanked Interim Chief Smith for the job he's doing.

Huneycutt: He hated to say goodbye to Joe because of his great deal of service to the town of Oakboro. He appreciates the Chief and it has been his privilege to live in a community that is safe. Huneycutt also expressed that we are all very blessed to have people that truly care about our town. He thanked our Town's employees as well. He told Chief Lowder that he sat the bar high and he's very appreciative.

Harvey: She thanked everyone for coming out, especially our police officers because she knows they are all working a lot of overtime. She thanked Dr. Watts for his years of support for Oakboro. She expressed her thanks to Chief Lowder for all he's done for Oakboro.

Mayor Burgess: He expressed his appreciation for Chief Lowder; going back years when the Chief was the Mayor and he was serving on the Board of Commissioners.

**Page Five
August 15, 2016
Minutes for Regular Meeting
7:00 PM**

Again, Mayor Burgess thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He announced that we will be going into Closed Session to discuss personnel.

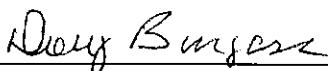
Commissioner Huneycutt made a motion to go into Closed Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harvey and it carried.

Action was taken in Closed Session.

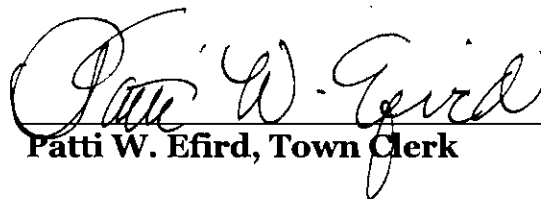
Commissioner Harvey made a motion to put lettering and lights on the new Interceptor for approximately \$3000.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Broadway and the motion carried.

Commissioner Efird made a motion to continue this meeting until Saturday, August 20, 2016 at 9:00 AM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Broadway and it carried.

This the 15th day of August, 2016.



Doug Burgess, Mayor



Patti W. Efird, Town Clerk

