



**Minutes
Town of Chadbourn, North Carolina
Chadbourn Council Regular Meeting**

February 7, 2012

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Chadbourn Town Council was held Tuesday, February 7, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Meeting Room.

Members Present: Mayor, Kenneth Waddell; Mayor Pro Tem, Fax Rector; Councilmembers: Rashad Roberts, Brian Edwards and Edwin Roberts

Members Absent: Phillip Honeycutt

Others Present: Stevie Cox, Town Manager; Patricia Garrell, Town Clerk; Steven Shaw, Police Chief; Michael Foss, Public Works Director; Harold Pope, Town Attorney

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Waddell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Patricia Garrell, Town Clerk took roll call.

INVOCATION

Councilmember Brian Edwards led the assembly in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Waddell led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Waddell stated that before Council approved the agenda, he was going to address the Public Comments placement on the agenda. Mayor Waddell stated that the Public Comments would stay at the beginning of the meeting rather than the end. Mayor Waddell stated that keeping the Public Comments at the beginning helped Council to get a more complete perspective of citizens' comments before they voted. Mayor Waddell stated that if it does not work out, Council could return it back to the end of the meeting.

Mayor Waddell stated that Town Manager Stevie Cox has requested that one item be added to the agenda.

Town Manager Stevie Cox stated that he would like to add Tammy Jones, with The Adams Company, to the agenda after the Closed Session, under Action Items to include the CDBG, which would be item number 12.

Councilmember Rector made a motion to approve the Agenda and add Tammy Jones, with The Adams Company, to the Agenda after item number 11, which would be item 12. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rashad Roberts to approve the Agenda. The motion carried with a vote of 4 - 0.

Approval of Minutes of Town Council Meetings

1. Regular Meeting Minutes – January 3, 2012

Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes listed above. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rashad Roberts. The motion carried with a vote of 4 - 0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CITIZEN REQUEST

Anyone seeking to speak under Public Comments must complete a comment card and submit it to the Town Clerk prior to the start of the Town Council Meeting. When you come up to speak, you will need to state your name, address, what organization that you represent and your topic of concern.

Evelyn Anderson stated that there were no Comment Cards to fill out.

Evelyn Anderson stated that there was a fire hydrant at Wilson and Princess. Ms. Anderson stated there was a fire near her house and asked if this fire hydrant was used. Ms. Anderson stated it was just a question and there were no concerns.

Evelyn Anderson stated that nothing was being done about aggressive dogs near the intersection of Lewis and Wilson Streets. Ms. Anderson stated that she walks the neighborhood early every morning and has been threatened by dogs several times. Ms. Anderson also stated that one nipped at her pants a while back. Ms. Anderson stated that she has called the Police Department to report the situation, but had not received a response.

Police Chief Shaw stated that he spoke with Ms. Anderson a while back, but was unaware she was waiting for a call back recently. He also stated the Town allowed the department to buy several heavy-duty dog sized traps. Chief Shaw stated that they are working, but it is a slow process. Chief Shaw stated that they have to have a waiver signed in order to set a dog trap on a citizen's property.

Public Works Director, Michael Foss stated that his department had picked up eight dangerous dogs in the neighborhood since they deployed the Town's new cage traps.

Councilmember Edwards stated that he had concerns about the apparent lack of communication about the troublesome dogs. Councilmember Edwards stated that he would like to see a Police Officer be around when she is walking to observe the dogs for her safety.

Mayor Waddell advised Ms. Anderson to carry a cell phone and call 911 if she had trouble with dogs when she was walking. Mayor Waddell also stated that he understood about aggressive dogs as he walks and recently encountered some himself.

Mayor Waddell closed the Public Comments session.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed below are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one introduction/motion/second/roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

1. **Approval of the Town Council Schedule for 2012 and the Fiscal Year 2012 – 2013 Budget Preparation Schedule.**
2. **Budget Amendment for the Acceptance of FEMA Funds – BA-11/12/15A.**
3. **Budget Amendment for the Acceptance of FEMA Funds – BA-11/12/16.**
4. **Budget Amendment for Acceptance of North Carolina Department of Transportation Funds for the Street Department – BA-11/12/17.**
5. **Budget Amendment for the Police Department – BA-11/12/18.**
6. **Budget Amendment for the Sewer Department – BA-11/12/19.**

7. **Budget Amendment for the Street Department – BA-11/12/20.**
8. **Budget Amendment for the Water Department – BA-11/12/21.**
9. **Budget Amendment for the Water Department – BA-11/12/22.**

Councilmember Rashad Roberts made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items listed above. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rector. The motion carried with a vote of 4 - 0.

(Clerk's Note: A copy of the Budget Amendment Memo's are hereby attached and therefore made a part of these minutes)

CLOSED SESSION

1. **Discussion of Possible Litigation – General Statutes 143-318-11(a) (3)**

Mayor Waddell asked Council to make a motion to go into Closed Session.

A motion was made by Councilmember Rashad Roberts to go into Closed Session for Discussion of Possible Litigation – General Statutes 143-318-11(a) (3). Councilmember Rector seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4 – 0.

Mayor Waddell closed the Town Council Meeting to the public to go into Closed Session at 7:43 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilmember Rector to go back into open session. Councilmember Rashad Roberts seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4 – 0.

The Closed Session was approximately twenty (20) minutes.

ACTION AGENDA

1. **Community Development Block Grant funding application process.**

Presented by: Tammy Jones with the Adams Company

Tammy Jones stated that the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding process is intended to inform the citizens of the possibility of an application for community development assistance. The application would be submitted to the NC Department of Commerce, Division of Community Investment and Assistance. All persons are invited to comment regarding any proposed application that might be considered. Prior to submission of an application, a second public hearing would be held which would identify the program category and details of the specific application. Ms. Jones stated that if the Town of Chadbourn intended to submit an application, it must be completed by February 29, 2012.

2. **Presentation by Southern Software.**

Presented by: Cameron Dew, Patrick Pusser and Lee McGraw with Southern Software

Mr. Dew presented Southern Software's Financial Management System. Mr. Dew compared the cost of our current software to that of Southern Software. The cost would be about the same as our current software for the first five years. In the sixth year, it would be about half the cost. Mr. Pusser gave a demonstration of the software showing the user friendly features.

No action was taken by Council.

3. **Approval of the Settlement of Chadbourn Rural Water Association Lawsuit.**

Presented by: Attorney Harold G. Pope

After discussion by Council, a motion was made by Councilmember Rector to approve the settlement agreement for the Chadbourn Rural Water Association Lawsuit. Councilmember Edwin Roberts seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0.

4. **Selection and Approval of an Auditor for Fiscal Year 2012 - 2013.**

Presented by: Finance Officer, Patricia Garrell

Finance Officer, Patricia Garrell, requested that Council appoint an auditor for the 2012 – 2013 fiscal year.

After discussion by Council, a motion was made by Councilmember Rector to instruct Staff to send a request to all CPA's in Columbus County for a one to three year contract. Councilmember Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0.

5. **Appointment of a Downtown Development Committee.**

Presented by: Mayor Kenneth Waddell

Mayor Waddell is requesting Town Council's approval of the appointment of a Downtown Development Committee.

Mayor Waddell stated that he met with business owners to establish a Downtown Development Committee. Mayor Waddell stated that if Council would give the committee some funding and support, the downtown area could see much needed improvement. Mayor Waddell also stated that citizens, businesses and Council needed to work together and be involved.

No action was taken by Council.

6. **Review of Water and Sewer Rates.**

Presented by: Russell Gause, Community Liaison for Concerned Citizens of Chadbourn for Better Government (CCCBG)

Mr. Russell Gause read a letter from the CCCBG and presented a petition. The letter stated that they are requesting the rates for water and sewer be lowered. Mr. Gause also stated that the CCCBG is requesting that the water, sewer and stormwater fees be eliminated.

No action was taken by Council.

7. **Change of the Public Comments Section of the Town Council Agenda.**

Presented by: Russell Gause, Community Liaison for Concerned Citizens of Chadbourn for Better Government (CCCBG)

No action taken. Mayor Waddell addressed the change in Public Comments Section in the beginning of the Council meeting.

8. **Enforcement and Fines for Noise Ordinance Violations.**

Presented by: Delton Johnson

Mr. Johnson stated that he wanted to bless everyone.

No action was taken by Council.

9. **Funding for the Chadbourn Arts Council Building.**

Presented by: Mayor Kenneth Waddell

Mayor Waddell stated that he wanted to update the public with what was going on with the Arts Building. Mayor Waddell stated that the building was looked at with need of repairs to the roof and walls. Mayor Waddell stated that he had received an estimate of \$15,000 for the roof repairs. He also stated that it appears to be more than the roof that needs replacement as the walls are also in bad shape. He further stated that "The Revitalization Committee" does not have enough money to maintain the other building and repair this building. Mayor Waddell stated that the building was unsafe in its present condition. He also stated that Todd Steel had been asked to look at the building and provide a professional evaluation of the condition of the building to determine if it would be worth fixing.

10. Budget Amendment for the Public Works Department.

Presented by: Public Works Director Michael Foss

Public Works Director Michael Foss is requesting that Town Council approve the budget amendment for the purchase and installation of a new 2 inch meter at W. E. Bailey's Warehouse. The Budget Amendment is for \$4,100.

After discussion by Council, a motion was made by Councilmember Rector to approve the B/A 11/12-23 in the amount of \$4,100. Councilmember Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0.

(Clerk's Note: Copies of the Action Agenda items are hereby attached and therefore made a part of these minutes)

OTHER ITEMS

Mayor Waddell asked if anyone had any announcements.

Town Manager Stevie Cox stated that Columbus County is accepting applications for the 2012 Urgent Repair Grant, and the grant application will be available on the Town's web site for those who would like to apply for the funding.

CLOSED SESSION

1. **Discussion of Personnel Issues.** Pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(a) (6). The Town Council will be conducting the annual evaluation of the Town Manager.

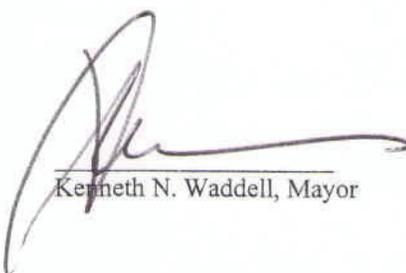
Mayor Waddell stated that the Closed Session would be postponed to the March Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mayor Waddell adjourned the meeting at 9:37 p.m.

Attest:


Patricia Garrell, Town Clerk


Kenneth N. Waddell, Mayor