

SPENCER BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING
JUNE 10, 2008
7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Jody Everhart
Mayor Pro-Tem Jeff Morris
Aldermen: Scott Benfield
Nick Bishop
Donnie Hinson
C. E. Spear
Ken Womble

Also present were Town Manager Larry Smith and Attorney Rivers Lawther.

Mayor Everhart opened the meeting with prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

RECOGNITION – Alderman Morris commended police officers Pacilio and Bard for their recent heroic actions during a fire at an apartment complex along with the firefighters who were there.

STUDENT APPRECIATION AWARDS were presented by Mayor Everhart to Tiffany Vang, North Rowan Elementary; William Robertson, North Rowan Middle; and Daniel Overcash, North Rowan High School.

BUDGET PRESENTATION – FY 2008/09 – Town Manager Larry Smith presented his Budget Message and gave a summary of the proposed 2008/09 budget.

1. PUBLIC HEARING – BUDGET FY 2008-09

Mayor Everhart opened the public hearing. Bob Oswald, 410 7th Street, presented the Board with a donation to the police department representing 2 cents on his property value. He approves of the Board's proposed pay increase. He observed that the property tax is only ½ of the revenues. He is concerned about the expenses from certified mail by the Code Enforcement Officer. There was no other public comment and Mayor Everhart closed the public hearing.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN BISHOP TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY 2008/09. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD TO SET THE TAX RATE AT 58 CENTS PER \$100 VALUATION. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN WOMBLE AND WAS DEFEATED BY A VOTE OF FOUR:
AYES: BENFIELD, WOMBLE
NAYS: BISHOP, HINSON, MORRIS, SPEAR**

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN MORRIS TO GO INTO DISCUSSION ABOUT THE BUDGET. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Alderman Hinson expressed concern about two items: 1) he feels the purchase of a new police car is not necessary, and 2) he would like to see a hiring freeze for six months during which time any vacant positions could not be filled.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN HINSON TO IMPOSE A HIRING FREEZE FOR SIX MONTHS. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN MORRIS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Alderman Spear's abstention counts as an affirmative vote.)

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN HINSON TO CUT \$26,000 FOR A NEW PATROL CAR FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD AND DEFEATED BY A VOTE OF FOUR:

AYES: BENFIELD, HINSON

NAYS: BISHOP, MORRIS, SPEAR, WOMBLE

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN MORRIS TO APPROVE THE BUDGET WITH ONE RIDER, THE SIX-MONTH HIRING FREEZE, AND THE TAX RATE AT 60 CENTS PER \$100 VALUATION. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN BISHOP AND CARRIED BY A VOTE OF FOUR (WITH MAYOR EVERHART BREAKING THE TIE):

AYES: BISHOP, MORRIS, SPEAR, EVERHART

NAYS: BENFIELD, HINSON, WOMBLE

OLD BUSINESS

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN BISHOP TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING AND BUDGET WORKSHOP ON MAY 13, 2008, AND THE BUDGET WORKSHOP ON MAY 21, 2008. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN WOMBLE AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. MAYORAL & COMMITTEE REPORTS were given by Chairmen of their respective committees and Mayor Everhart.

4. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS were given by Police Chief Robert Bennett, Fire Chief Jay Baker, Public Works Director Barry Pruett, Land Management Director Dustin Wilson, and Town Clerk Lisa Perdue.

5. TOWN MANAGER LARRY SMITH reported on major town projects and meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

6. OPEN COMMENT

Bob Oswald, 410 7th Street, thinks the Board should respond to citizen concerns made during the “Open Comment” portion of the meeting.

7. DISCUSSION – REQUEST FOR STREET LIGHTS – 400 BLOCK IREDELL AVE.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD TO AUTHORIZE DUKE ENERGY TO INSTALL TWO COBRA-HEAD STREET LIGHTS IN THE 400 BLOCK OF IREDELL AVENUE. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN WOMBLE AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. DISCUSSION – REQUEST FOR STREET LIGHT – 500 BLOCK STEEPLECHASE

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD TO AUTHORIZE DUKE ENERGY TO INSTALL ONE COBRA-HEAD LIGHT IN THE 500 BLOCK OF STEEPLECHASE TRAIL. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN WOMBLE AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION – BY-LAWS

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN BISHOP TO ADOPT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 08-03 CONCERNING COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION, INCREASING THEIR MEMBERSHIP TO NINE INSIDE MEMBERS AND TWO ETJ MEMBERS. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN MORRIS AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – DANIEL ALMAZAN

Mr. Almazan was not present to address the Board.

11. NOISE ORDINANCE EXTENSION – NRHS REUNION

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN WOMBLE TO EXTEND THE NOISE ORDINANCE ON OCTOBER 18TH UNTIL 1:00 A.M. ON OCTOBER 19TH FOR THE 50TH REUNION OF NORTH ROWAN HIGH SCHOOL TO BE HELD AT THE NC TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN SPEAR AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. DONATION REQUEST – NRHS CHEERLEADERS

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN MORRIS TO DONATE \$100 TO THE NORTH ROWAN HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN WOMBLE AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. DONATION REQUEST – CAITLIN CRAWFORD

Since Ms. Crawford was not present, and no funds remain in the line item for donations, no action was taken on this agenda item.

14. BUDGET AMENDMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD TO APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENT 2008-08. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN BISHOP AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

The need to establish criteria for donations and how they benefit the Town was referred to the Finance Committee for review and establishment of some guidelines.

With no further business, Mayor Everhart adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa B. Perdue
Clerk to the Board