

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANFORD
SANFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

The City Council met at the Sanford Municipal Center, 225 E. Weatherspoon Street, on Wednesday, August 2, 2011, at 1:00 P.M. The following people were present:

Mayor Cornelia P. Olive	Council Member Bob Brown
Mayor Pro Tem Sam Gaskins	Council Member James Williams
Council Member Walter H. McNeil, Jr.	Council Member Charles Taylor
Council Member L. I. (Poly) Cohen	City Clerk Bonnie D. White
City Manager Hal Hegwer	City Attorney Susan C. Patterson

Absent:

Council Member Linwood S. Mann, Sr.

Mayor Cornelia Olive called the meeting to order. Council Member L. I. "Poly" Cohen delivered the invocation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No citizens signed up to speak.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Sam Gaskins made the motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Council Member Bob Brown, the motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of July 13, 2011 Law and Finance Meeting Minutes – (Filed in Vault)

Approval of February 2, 2010 Minutes of Released Closed Session of the Law & Finance Committee – (Filed in Vault)

Approval of Grant Project Ordinance Amendment – North Carolina Housing Agency 2010 Urgent Repair Program (URP-10) – (Exhibit A)

Approval of Submission of USDA Housing Preservation Grant Application FY 2011 with Application Costs and Advertising Fees – (Exhibit B)

Approval of Resolution in Support of the Temporary Closure of Sunset Street for National Night Out – (Exhibit C)

Approval of Resolution in Support of the Temporary Closure of Portions of Several Streets for the Purpose of a 5K and 10K Fun Race and Fundraiser – (Exhibit D)

Approval of Resolution in Support of the Temporary Closure of a Portion of Oakdale Street for the Purpose of a Church Bazaar – (Exhibit E)

Approval of Authorizing the City Manager to Sign Documents Relating to Round 1 North Carolina Department of Commerce Energy Office Grant

ALL THE ITEMS LISTED ABOVE WERE DISCUSSED AT THE LAW AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2011.

City Manager Hal Hegwer stated that on the July 13, 2011, Law and Finance Committee Meeting minutes, staff has made a minor change to the minutes. He said that where it reads Mr. Marchant, we changed it to read Dr. Marchant.

Council Member Walter McNeil, Jr., made a motion to adopt the consent agenda with the corrections to the July 13, 2011, Law and Finance Committee Meeting minutes. Council Member L. I. "Poly" Cohen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Consider Presentation of NC Housing Finance Agency Project Activities – 2009 Single Family Rehabilitation Program and 2010 Urgent Repair Project – (Exhibit F)

Community Development Manager Karen Kennedy stated that the City is in the closeout phase of the grant administration for these two projects. Warren Wooten with The Wooten Company presented a powerpoint presentation (Exhibit F) as to how these funds were spent from the 2009 Single-Family Rehabilitation Program and 2010 Urgent Repair Project.

Mr. Wooten stated that the purpose of the Urgent Repair Project (URP) is for emergency repairs for the elderly or those with special needs and income below 50 percent of the area median income. URP funds are used to correct housing conditions that threaten life, health or safety, such as failing septic systems, dangerous heating systems, or rotten floors, and to construct ramps and other accessibility modifications that enable homeowners to continue living in the home after an injury or illness, etc. They can spend a maximum of \$5,000 per home for urgent repairs. They replace a lot of roofs under this program.

Mr. Wooten explained that Single-Family Rehabilitation funds are used to serve elderly and disabled homeowners, as well as households with elderly and/or disabled full-time household members or with a child under the age of six whose health is threatened by the presence of lead hazards, with incomes at or below eighty percent of area median incomes. He displayed pictures of before and after of repairs that have been made to the homes in Sanford with these two programs.

In the SFR program, \$433,525 were expended which is 108 percent more than the City received. When they went to do repairs on the seventh house, there was not going to be enough money for the repairs. They went back to the Housing Finance Agency and told them there was a house in need and ask for more money and they said yes.

In the URP program, \$75,241 were expended with a \$2,000 local match. For every dollar the City put in, we received \$36 of state funds in this program. Eight units were served under the SFR program and 16 units served in the URP program.

Mr. Wooten said that when people question the cost of these programs, it is important to look at the benefits. By investing in these types of housing programs, you lower the number of people who go into assisted living facilities which cost approximately \$60 per day and nursing homes which cost approximately \$120 per day.

Mr. Wooten advised that the City received another \$75,000 in 2011 URP funds. There are some unfortunate changes to the program due to the funding sources. This program used to be funded out of fairly unrestricted funds and that is not the case now. They are going to have to move to Home Funds to fund this program for this future route. Because of the change for the unrestricted funds to the Home Funds, the biggest change is that it is no longer going to be a grant but a forgiven loan like the SFR program. It forgives the loan \$1,000 per year, and they have to sign an unsecured note on the property to receive the benefits. The effect is if they were to move, for example within a six-year period, there may be a portion of the loan they may have to pay back because it is now an unsecured note; it is like a lien on the property without a lien. Council Member Williams said that if they meet all the qualifications, they do not have to pay it back. Mr. Wooten replied that is correct.

A benefit because of the change of the funding source is that it will be easier for Mrs. Kennedy to find people to qualify for this program.

Consider Appointment to Historic Preservation Commission – (Exhibit G)

Council Member Charles Taylor nominated Cheryl Myers. Council Member Walter McNeil, Jr. made the motion to close the nominations and appoint Cheryl Myers by acclamation. Seconded by Council Member L. I. “Poly” Cohen, the motion carried unanimously.

Consider Appointment to Lee County Environmental Affairs Board - (Exhibit H)

Council Member Charles Taylor nominated Craig Shore. Mayor Pro Tem Sam Gaskins made the motion to close the nominations and appoint Craig Shore by acclamation. Seconded by Council Member Walter McNeil, Jr., the motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Report on Animal Control by the Lee County Sheriff’s Department – (Exhibit I)

Lieutenant David Prevatte gave a report on animal control enforcement since they took it over in February. He introduced the officers that were present in the audience. They were Lieutenant T. C. Yarborough-overall supervisor of animal enforcement with 36 years of law enforcement experience; Sergeant Rodriguez – who does the day-to-day operations of animal control enforcement division with 16 years of law enforcement experience; Detective Chuck Thomas who handles all of the felony cases of animal cruelty with 12 years of law enforcement; Corporal Kenneth Gilstrap – who has 6 years of law enforcement experience and 8 years in the military as a veteran; Deputy Frank McDaniels who has 6 years of law enforcement experience and 2 years of full-time military experience.

Lieutenant Prevatte gave a background of the progress in the past year. The Health Board approached the Sheriff’s Department six months ago with some of the problems and concerns they were having with animal control enforcement. They researched animal control and went to at least ten different sheriff’s offices in the State of North Carolina and looked at

their programs. About one-third of all the sheriff departments in North Carolina operate similar to the way the sheriff's office is operating here now. He said that our county is unique in that enforcement is handled by law enforcement and they still maintain the Health Department's role at the shelter. The purpose of maintaining that role is that the shelter could focus more on adoptions. He stated that they have received a lot of training in the past months. They provide a seven-day a week service. Their schedules are 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. that you will always have an animal control officer available. After hours, all deputies will respond to any call that comes in after 9 P.M. They will assess the situation and if they can resolve it, they will. If there are more services that need to be provided, they will contact an animal control enforcement officer for further assistance. They respond to emergencies after hours.

Lt. Prevatte stated that some of the strengths the former Animal Control Division had was that they had a corporate partner which was Wal-Mart. They were also licensed by the Department of Agriculture. However, some of their weaknesses were lack of experience and their inability to enforce a lot of their citations. You now have certified law enforcement officers that go out and enforce the civil and criminal side of enforcement. The Town of Broadway adopted Lee County's ordinance.

He passed out statistics (Exhibit I) regarding the activities of the enforcement since February. Mayor Olive asked if they receive a call on foxes, do they respond to the resident or do they tell them to contact Wildlife? He replied that they respond to the situation of foxes and packs of dogs.

Lt. Prevatte announced that the Lee County Sheriff's office will be sponsoring a rabies clinic at the Sheriff's Office on Saturday, August 13, from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. The cost will be \$7 for vaccination and they are working with the Maple Springs Animal Care Hospital.

Council Member Walter McNeil invited everyone to participate in National Night Out tonight.

Mayor Olive apologized for wearing dark glasses because she had some surgery on her eyes and will have to wear them for a little while.

City Manager Hegwer announced that a couple of NNO events had been cancelled and one new event has been added at the last minute and Council has a new schedule at their seats.

ALL EXHIBITS CONTAINED HEREIN ARE HEREBY INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on motion of Council Member Bob Brown; seconded by Council Member Williams, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

CORNELIA P. OLIVE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BONNIE D. WHITE, CITY CLERK