

**TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2013
TOWN OF SAWMILLS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 PM**

COUNCIL PRESENT

Bob Gibbs
Donnie Potter
Trena McRary Kirby
Joe Wesson
Jeff Wilson
Johnny Wilson

STAFF PRESENT

Seth Eckard
Susan Nagle
Terry Taylor

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Bob Gibbs called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Pastor Buford Pennell gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Bob Gibbs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Trena McRary Kirby made a motion, and Donnie Potter seconded, to adopt the agenda. All were in favor.

APPROVE MAY 21, 2013 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to approve the May 21, 2013 regular meeting minutes.

Donnie Potter made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to approve the minutes. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Gibbs asked if anyone wished to speak during public comment.

No one wished to speak.

PUBLIC HEARING: ADOPT PROPOSED FY 2013-2014 BUDGET:

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to open the public hearing.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Donnie Potter seconded, to open the public hearing. All were in favor.

STAFF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS: Town Administrator Seth Eckard stated the proposed FY 2013-2014 budget was enclosed and staff had no additional comments at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Gibbs asked if anyone wished to speak on the proposed FY 2013-2014 budget.

No one wished to speak.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

Donnie Potter made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to close the public hearing. All were in favor.

COUNCIL ACTION: Trena McRary Kirby made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to adopt the proposed FY 2013-2014 budget. All were in favor.

RECOGNITIONS:

RECYCLE REWARDS WINNER: Town Administrator Seth Eckard announced Don and Karen Turnmire as the June Recycle Rewards winners. A credit of twenty-eight dollars (\$28.00) will be added to Mr. and Mrs. Turnmire's sanitation bill and their certificate will be available at the Town Hall for them to pick up.

No Council action was required.

YARD OF THE MONTH WINNERS: Mayor Bob Gibbs announced Johnnie and Patricia Greene, from the 28630 zip code, and Fay and Skip Icenhour, from the 28638 zip code, as the June yard of the month winners. Mayor Gibbs stated that since the winners were not present, their certificates would be available at the Town Hall for them to pick up.

No Council action was required.

RETIREMENT OF SAWMILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Mayor Gibbs announced that after thirty-three (33) years in public education in the Caldwell County School system, Sawmills Elementary School Principal, Robin DiBernardi will retire on July 1, 2013. Mayor Gibbs presented Mrs. DiBernardi with a certificate of appreciation and congratulated her on a well-deserved retirement.

No Council action was required.

CHARITY CHASE HALF MARATHON RUNNER: Mayor Gibbs announced 11-year old Gaden Nichols competed in the 13.1 Charity Chase Marathon with Sawmills Elementary School P.E. Teacher Phillip Harkey and finished in 3rd place with a time of 2 hours and 19 minutes. Mayor Gibbs presented Mr. Nichols with a certificate of appreciation.

No Council action was required.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

REQUEST FOR A DONATION TO SAWMILLS FARMERS MARKET: Administrator Eckard stated that the Sawmills Farmers Market has requested a donation of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) to provide one dollar (\$1.00) vouchers to school children during their annual “Kids Day.”

Donnie Potter made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to give a donation in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) to the Sawmills Farmers Market. All were in favor.

APPROVE PROPOSED CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH WESTERN PIEDMONT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS: Administrator Eckard stated the current contract with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) for planning and code enforcement assistance needs to be renewed. The renewal contract will cover the period of July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2013.

Donnie Potter made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to approve a renewal contract with the WPCOG in the amount of twenty-thousand, five-hundred dollars (\$20,500.00) for planning and code enforcement services. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION:

ADOPT PROPOSED ADOPT-A-SPOT PROGRAM: Administrator Eckard stated this program would help to make our Town cleaner by having citizens volunteer and agree to clean litter from their adopted area. Volunteers will be responsible for their adopted area on a quarterly basis for a two-year period and follow all requirements outlined in the program.

Donnie Potter made a motion, and Trena McRary Kirby seconded, to adopt the Adopt-A-Spot program with the Town providing volunteers with supplies and a recognition sign (where possible).. All were in favor.

APPROVE CREATION OF CALDWELL COUNTY RAILROAD COMMISSION AND ADOPT PROPOSED BY LAWS: Administrator Eckard stated the Caldwell County Railroad Commission amended their bylaws concerning future funding because the 2013 Sales Tax Re-Investment Program Agreement Extension no longer funds the Caldwell County Railroad Commission.

The changes in the bylaws state the Town of Sawmills will be responsible for one-ninth (1/9) of the total annual operating expenses in the amount of four hundred-forty dollars (\$440.00) for the fiscal year 2013-2014. The Railroad Commission is responsible for the infrastructure and the right-of-ways and the amount the Town is responsible for covers the cost of operations, not the cost to operate the railroad.

Jeff Wilson made a motion, and Donnie Potter seconded to approve creation of Caldwell County Railroad Commission and adopt amended bylaws. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Gibbs asked if anyone wished to speak during public comment.

No one wished to speak.

UPDATES:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MONTHLY STATUS REPORT: Administrator Eckard stated the enclosed report shows that all the requirements are on schedule for the Haystation, LLC. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

No Council action was required.

CODE ENFORCEMENT MONTHLY REPORT: Administrator Eckard stated the enclosed report shows an update of the progress made throughout the Town by Planner Johnny Wear.

No Council action was required.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Town Administrator Seth Eckard made the following announcements:

- The past four (4) year history of unemployment in Caldwell County shows things are improving slowly and, as of April 2013, we are at the ten percent (10%) mark. Caldwell County still has a higher unemployment rate than the state average which is around 8.7 percent.
- According to discgolfreviewcourse.com, the Sawmills Disc Golf course currently has a rating of 3.4 out of 5 stars, which puts us in the top fifty (50) in North Carolina. The Hickory Disc Golf Club hosts a random Double's Tournament every Friday afternoon at 5:30 pm with a cost of five dollars (\$5.00). There was 28 people playing in the tournament on Friday, June 14, 2013.
- Deadline to submit names for engraving on the Veterans wall for this year is July 1, 2013. There are currently 42 names submitted for this year.
- The Town offices will be closed, Thursday, July 4, 2013 in observance of Independence Day and will re-open, Friday, July 5, 2013. Recycling will be on regular schedule. Trash pick-up for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday will be regular schedule and Thursday's pick up will be on Friday.
- The Farmers Market is still going strong every Tuesday from 3:00 to 7:00 pm.
- The Town of Sawmills was awarded a seven hundred and fifty thousand dollar (\$750,000.00) Community Development Block Grant for sewer infrastructure in the Duff Drive area, which will supply sewer access to sixty-six (66) low to moderate-income homes.
- The Haystation, LLC will be purchasing trucks with the grant money and also hiring ten (10) new employees instead of adding on to their facilities.

COUNCIL COMMENT: Mayor Gibbs asked if anyone on the Council wished to speak.

No one wished to speak.

ADJOURN: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to adjourn.

Donnie Potter made a motion, and Jeff Wilson seconded, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Susan Nagle, Town Clerk

Bob Gibbs, Mayor