

**TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2014
TOWN OF SAWMILLS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 PM**

COUNCIL PRESENT

Bob Gibbs
Trena McRary Kirby
Joe Wesson
Gerelene Blevins
Jeff Wilson
Johnny Wilson

STAFF PRESENT

Seth Eckard
Susan Nagle
Terry Taylor
Elinor Hiltz

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.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Gerelene Blevins seconded, to adopt the agenda with changes. All were in favor.

APPROVE FEBRUARY 18, 2014 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to approve the February 18, 2014 regular meeting minutes.

Trena McRary Kirby made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to approve the minutes. All were in favor.

APPROVE FEBRUARY 18, 2014 CLOSED SESSION MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to approve the February 18, 2014 closed session meeting minutes.

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

APPROVE MARCH 13, 2014 SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING

MINUTES: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to approve the March 13, 2014 special budget workshop meeting minutes.

Johnny Wilson made a motion, and Jeff Wilson seconded, to approve the minutes. All were in favor.

PUBLIC HEARING: ADOPT TEXT AMENDMENT TO SECTION 153.190-153.197 OF CODE OF ORDINANCES:

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

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

STAFF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS: Planner Elinor Hiltz stated all local governments are required to amend their zoning ordinance to comply with a new state law for Board of Adjustment procedures. The Planning Board reviewed sections 153.190-153.197 of the Code of Ordinances and recommends Council approve the attached amendments to comply with state law.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Gibbs asked if anyone had any questions or comments at this time.

There were no comments or questions.

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

Trena McRary Kirby made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to close the public hearing. All were in favor.

COUNCIL ACTION: Joe Wesson made a motion, and Gerelene Blevins seconded, to adopt the text amendment to section 153.190-153.197 of the code of ordinances to comply with state law. All were in favor.

PUBLIC HEARING: APPROVE AN APPLICATION FOR CDBG FUNDING AND CALL FOR A SECOND PUBLIC HEARING:

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

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

STAFF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS: Mayor Gibbs introduced Lisa Helton with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG).

Miss Helton stated this is the first of two public hearings required by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) for an application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding and Council will need to call for a second public hearing on this matter

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Gibbs asked if anyone had any questions or comments at this time.

There were no comments or questions.

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

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

COUNCIL ACTION: Joe Wesson made a motion, and Gerelene Blevins seconded, to call for a second public hearing on March 25, 2014 at 6:00 pm at the Sawmills Town Hall to discuss an application for CDBG funding for a sewer project. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Gibbs asked if anyone had any questions or comments at this time.

No one wished to speak.

RECOGNITIONS:

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

No Council action was required.

FINANCIAL MATTERS: FUNDING REQUEST FOR CALDWELL COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS: Mayor Gibbs introduced Jo Ann and Casey Miller representatives for the Caldwell County Special Olympics.

Jo Ann Miller requested a donation on behalf of the Caldwell County Special Olympics to help with the purchase of t-shirts and provide lunch for all participants in the Spring Olympic Games.

Gerelene Blevins made a motion, and Trena McRary Kirby seconded, to approve a donation to Caldwell County Special Olympics in the amount of \$150.00.

DISCUSSION:

DUKE ENERGY CORPORATION LEASE AGREEMENT FOR VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK: Mayor Gibbs introduced Robin Nicholson a representative from Duke Energy Corporation.

Robin Nicholson gave a brief update on the status of the Catawba-Wateree and Hydroelectric licensing agreement between Duke Energy Corporation and the Town of Sawmills. Miss Nicholson stated on August 29, 2006 the Catawba-Wateree and Hydroelectric License Agreement, for the new operational license, was filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) after about three years of negotiations. The plan for the first five-year period of the new operational license is an upgrade to the Conley Creek Access Area to include a two-mile walking trail if the Town agrees to the maintenance of the trail.

No Council action was required.

ADOPT A PROCLAMATION FOR AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH: Mayor Gibbs introduced Libby Brown, board member, with the local chapter of the American Red Cross.

Miss Brown stated the American Red Cross invites all Municipalities in Caldwell County to proclaim March 2014 as American Red Cross Month by signing the enclosed proclamation.

Joe Wesson made a motion, and Gerelene Blevins seconded, to adopt a Proclamation Naming March 2014 as American Red Cross Month. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Gibbs asked if anyone had any questions or comments at this time.

David Powell spoke in regards to the local chapter of the American Red Cross in Caldwell County.

UPDATES:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MONTHLY STATUS REPORT:

Administrator Eckard stated the enclosed monthly status report for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) shows that all requirements are on schedule for the Haystation, LLC.

No Council action was required.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT SEWER PROJECT MONTHLY UPDATE: Administrator Eckard stated Lisa Helton, Program Administrator with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments has enclosed an update on the Community Development Block Grant Sewer Project.

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 Elinor Hiltz.

No Council action was required.

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

- The Town of Sawmills Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2014 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Veterans Memorial Park.
- The Sawmills Community Optimist Club opening day for T-Ball will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2014 at 11:00 am at the Sawmills Municipal Park on Baird Dr.
- The next budget workshop will be held on Thursday, April 3, 2014 in the Town Hall Council Chambers starting at 5:00 pm.
- Operational updates were included in Council's weekly e-mail.

COUNCIL COMMENT: Mayor Gibbs asked if anyone on the Council had any questions or comments at this time.

Councilman Joe Wesson and Councilman Johnny Wilson thanked everyone for coming.

CLOSED SESSION: ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGE: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to go into closed session.

Johnny Wilson made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to go into closed session. All were in favor.

Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to come out of closed session and return to the regular meeting.

Trena McRary Kirby made a motion, and Jeff Wilson seconded, to come out of closed session and return to the regular meeting. All were in favor.

ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION: No action was taken in closed session.

ADJOURN: Mayor Gibbs asked for a motion to adjourn.

Gerelene Blevins made a motion, and Joe Wesson seconded, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

Susan Nagle, Town Clerk

Bob Gibbs, Mayor