

TOWN OF LITTLETON
LITTLETON, NORTH CAROLINA

July 07, 2014

AGENDA

Regular Scheduled Monthly Board Meeting 6:30 pm

1. Call Regular meeting to order 6:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance followed by Invocation.
3. Motion to Approve Agenda
4. Consider approval of minutes of meeting(s) held June, 2014.
5. Approval for payment of bills made in June, 2014.
6. Consider Budget Amendments July 2014
7. Board of Adjustments and Planning Board Appointments
8. New Police Chief Introduction
9. Citizens Comments/Concerns limited to 5 minutes.
 - a. Main Street Parking – Ray Holloman
 - b. 2014-2015 - Privilege License - Ray Holloman
 - c. Fire Ordinance – Richard Kohl
 - d. Police Department – Matt Rinkerman, John Cooper, Michael Hartnett
10. Commissioners reports on activities in June 2014.
11. Citizens Comments – comments/questions limited to 2 minutes.
12. Mayor’s remarks.
13. Motion to enter into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a) (6) to discuss personnel. (and (3) to consult with attorney)
14. Adjourn.

Next regular meeting scheduled Monday, August 04, 2014 at 6:30 pm.

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Littleton held their regular board meeting on Monday, July 07, 2014, at 6:30 pm at the Littleton Town Hall. Present were Commissioners Gerleen Pitchford, Sylvia Alston, Terry Newsom, Clara Debnam and Heidi Hogan. Mayor Diana Bobbitt presided over the meeting. Twenty-one members of the public attended.

Mayor Nada Diana Bobbitt opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the invocation.

Commissioner Alston made a motion seconded by Commissioner Debnam, to approve the Agenda for tonight's meeting. The motion was voted and carried.

Commissioner Alston made a motion seconded by Commissioner Hogan, to approve the minutes from June as written. The motion was voted and carried.

Commissioner Alston made a motion seconded by Commissioner Hogan, to approve the payment of the bills made in the month of June 2014. The motion was voted and carried.

Commissioner Debnam made a motion seconded by Commissioner Alston, to approve the budget amendments as prepared. The motion was voted and carried.

The Mayor requested a motion to table agenda item on Board of Adjustments and Planning Board appointments until the work session on July 15, 2014. Commissioner Hogan made the motion seconded by Commissioner Pitchford. The motion was voted and carried.

Commissioner Pitchford introduced and welcomed Ms. Winifred Bowens (in attendance) as new Police Chief of the Town of Littleton.

Citizens Comments/Concerns:

Mr. Ray Holloman was not in attendance.

Mr. Richard Kohl brought to the Board a proposed exemption to Littleton Ordinance Title IX, General Regulations, and Section 92.02 revision for consideration. A copy is hereby incorporated into the minutes. Commissioner Newsom responded to Mr.Kohl's comments and also presented a draft ordinance to be reviewed by the Town Board of Commissioners. A copy is hereby incorporated into the minutes.

Mr. Matt Rinkerman expressed the concerns of local citizens on the lack of police coverage. He suggested the Town try to do a better job communicating and relaying information regarding the facts of the current police situation.

Mr. John Carter came to the Board with questions and concerns on the qualifications of the recently appointed Police Commissioner. Following a brief discussion the Board assured Mr. Carter that Commissioner Pitchford was qualified. And already working with neighboring Sheriff's Departments and the new Littleton Police Chief for the safety and security of the community.

Cemetery Report – Commissioner Alston reported that the cemetery had erected “Welcome” signs, it had recently been mowed and purchased gravel for the roads.

Street Report – Commissioner Hogan reported she continues working with several vendors for the best estimates on brush, yard waste removal.

Library Report – Commissioner Hogan reported that the Library project continues on schedule. They will be placing a “volunteer” signup sheet for anyone interested in volunteering to move the current library and clean-up of the former site. Projected opening at this time is mid-September

Finance Report – Commissioner Pitchford read the June Finance Report. A copy is hereby incorporated into the minutes.

Water/Sewer Report – Commissioner Debnam read the June Water/Sewer Report. A copy is hereby incorporated into the minutes. She also reminded everyone of the upcoming water shut off to repair and replace hydrants and valves on during the overnight hours of July 08-July 09, 2014. Commissioner Pitchford made the motion to approve the proposed fee schedule and policy changes for the water and sewer department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hogan. The motion was voted and carried. A copy of is hereby incorporated into the minutes. Commissioner Alston asked for an update on the hydrant repairs to be completed by the end of the month. Mr. Keith Hamm reported the work would be completed by the end of the month. He also assured the Mayor and the Board there would not be any issues or complications with turning off the main water supply.

Police Report – Commissioner Pitchford read the June Police Report. A copy is hereby incorporated into the minutes.

Citizens’ comments on the Commissioners Report –

Mr. Matt Rinkerman requested that the Board place “Draft” copies of the minutes on the website prior to approval by the Board in the best efforts of communications. Town Attorney Mr. Gilbert Chichester consulted with the Clerk and this could be done as long as it is clearly identified as a “Draft”.

Mr. John Carter asked what the current police coverage situation is. Commissioner Pitchford acknowledged that the Town currently is not able to provide 24 hour. The Town is always covered by the Halifax County Sherriff’s Department during hours when a Littleton Police Officer is not on duty. Commissioner Pitchford requested Sherriff Wes Tripp who was in attendance if he would speak on these concerns. Sherriff Tripp assured the citizens that Halifax County was here to support the Town of Littleton and Chief Winifred Bowens.

Commissioner Alston made a motion to apply any funds remaining in the police budget at the end of the year roll over into the new fiscal year. Commissioner Newsom seconded and the motion carried.

Motion to enter into closed session by citing [G.S. 143-318/.11(c)] Commissioner Alston, seconded by Commissioner Pitchford to discuss personnel matters. The process of hiring a Police Chief was discussed and the board updated. Closed Session adjourned.

Motion made to reenter Regular Board Meeting.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alston, seconded by Commissioner Hogan to hire Winifred Bowens at the annual salary of \$39,000.00. The motion carried.

Mr. Michael Hartnett spoke briefly on the lack of local economic development. Commissioner Hogan and Commissioner Alston commented on the current situation, downtown improvements and new businesses in Littleton.

Mayor Bobbitt advised the next regular board meeting is August 4, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. and next regular work is scheduled for July 15, 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Alston made a motion seconded by Commissioner Pitchford to adjourn the session at 7:20 pm. The motion was voted and carried.

Clerk