

**ERWIN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 6, 2008
REGULAR MEETING
ERWIN, NORTH CAROLINA**

The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Erwin with Mayor Patsy Carson presiding, held its regular meeting in the Town Hall on Thursday, March 6, 2008 at 7:00 P. M. in Erwin, North Carolina.

Board members present were Commissioners Norma Ennis, Randy Baker, and W. N. Porter.

Commissioner Mark Whitman was absent and Commissioners William Corbett and Michael West were out of town attending classes for Essentials of Municipal Government.

Town Manager Alan Thornton, Town Clerk Pam Addison and Town Attorney Mac Hunter were present.

Mayor Patsy Carson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P. M.

Bishop Frank Taylor gave the invocation.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

Commissioner Baker made a motion to add **Consent Item (D)** Resolution Honoring Those Who Serve. Commissioner Ennis seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously.

CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioner Baker made a motion to approve Items **(A)** Approval of Minutes for 2/07/08 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting; **(B)** Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week Proclamation **(C)** Tax Releases/Adjustments; **(D)** Resolution Honoring Those Who Serve. Commissioner Ennis seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously.

(Pages 7231 A-C)

NEW BUSINESS

UPDATE ON EAST ERWIN DRAINAGE STUDY

Thomas L. Murray Project Manager with W K Dickson provided the Mayor and Board of Commissioners with an update of work that has been done regarding the East Erwin storm water management projects. Mr. Murray discussed the main goals of the project and how they intend to solve the flooding problems in the eastern part of Erwin. The Storm Water Ordinances will be reviewed later and suggestions will be made to help manage storm water issues in the future. The most affected flooding area being considered consist of a tributary on the eastern side of the Town that drains down Sixth Street along Denim Drive , past Maye Street and River Road before it joins into the Black River on the far eastern side of town. The field work and existing conditions analysis has been completed using a ten year storm event.

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The field work determined twenty eight structures within the ten-year flood plain and considered at risk. All the roads in the area were overtopped. Even during a two year event all the roads in that area were flooded except Denim Drive. Mr. Murray provided several reasons for flooding in the area and presented three alternatives to help migrate flooding. Mr. Murray recommended doing the project in phases. Mr. Murray suggests beginning the project at the downstream portions (more severe areas) toward Prince Street and continuing to move upstream as you eliminate the flooding in those areas. Alternative one and two are similar except one is based on two year event and the other is a ten year event. Alternative three includes a retention area on private undeveloped property at the intersection of St. Matthews and Denim Dr. Mr. Murray said there are grants available for land acquisitions and constructing retention areas. The cost estimates will be forthcoming shortly.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING FINANCING TERMS FOR LEASE PURCHASE

Commissioner Baker made a motion to approve a Resolution Approving Financing Terms with BB & T for \$77,0000; a 3 year lease purchase and an annual interest rate of 2.76% to purchase one 2008 Crown Victoria, one 2008 F150 4x2 Truck and one 2007 F550 Dump Truck. Commissioner Ennis seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously.

(Pages 7232 A-B)

OTHER BUSINESS

PFC Richard Kolath was wounded while in Iraq and will be returning to his home in Erwin on Saturday. The Public and Board are invited to come to a parade and help extend a warm welcome to PFC Richard Kolath.

The staff is working toward developing a Wellness Program for employees and all Board members are welcome to participate if they choose.

The Board received a revised schedule of cost estimates for the PARFT Grant. The engineer's design work was not included in the original cost estimate.

After brief discussion Commissioner Baker made a motion to approve the revised schedule for the PARTF Grant and was seconded by Commissioner Porter. The Board voted unanimously.

An extension was given to Allen Ray Johnson in December for a house at 10777 US Hwy 421 to make improvements. Mr. Johnson was granted an extension to complete renovations by January 31, 2008; but the house still remains uninhabitable. The staff request instructions on what steps the Board wishes to take in order to resolve this issue.

Mr. Johnson was present. The Board gave permission for Mr. Johnson to come forward and give his reason why the renovations where not completed.

MINUTES OF MARCH 6, 2008 CONTINUED

Mr. Johnson said his health and finances were the reasons for the delay. Mr. Johnson asks if the stop order could be removed to allow more time to complete the renovations.

Commissioner Baker made a motion to place on the agenda for April , but leave the stop work order in place. Commissioner Ennis seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously.

Brain Lagana, Code Enforcement Officer gave a brief update of other dilapidated houses to be considered for condemnation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Carson briefly explained the purpose of the comment period and asked that persons who wish speak to be courteous and follow guidelines. The Board is not obligated to give answers to any concerns discussed during the comment period.

Wesley Hamilton, 2220 NC Hwy 82 came forward and spoke on behalf of Antioch Church members in regards to liquor by the drink. Mr. Hamilton requested the Board seriously consider an open meeting so the citizens and others that live in the planning zone come together and discuss the positives and negatives of the issue that was voted on to bring before the people. Mr. Hamilton requested the Board hold a forum to be held at the same time to explain why they felt it was so necessary to bring the vote before the people.

Don Davis, 164 Don Ron Road came forward and spoke on behalf of friends who are concerned about the liquor by the drink referendum. Mr. Davis stated liquor will continue to take lives, create more broken homes, contribute to child abuse and that many of the people who drink become alcoholics. Mr. Davis said litter of beer and wine bottles are thrown into his yard and along the ditches in his neighborhood more than ever since the opening of Wal-Mart. Meth Labs are now becoming another serious problem in this area. Mr. Davis, said the City Manager of Dunn said he has not seen any difference since they have liquor by the drink, they have seen no new restaurants and not expecting any for the next twenty five years. Mr. Davis said he will not vote for liquor by the drink.

Bill Larrison, said he was a concerned citizen about the upcoming vote of liquor by the drink. Mr. Larrison said he has lived in Erwin just under two years and has found Erwin to be a very pleasant, family oriented community. Mr. Larrison said he enjoys working and living in Erwin. The community is very pleasant and he enjoys evenings at the park and walking on the trails. Mr. Larrison said liquor by the drink would only serve to distract our Christian values. Mr. Larrison said drinking and driving under the influence is an issue that faces our State and Nation and he feels liquor by the drink will only encourage more. Mr. Larrison said he would also like to see more discussion on the subject.

Commissioner Porter said he feels it will not pass, but the citizens of Erwin should have the right to vote for or against the issue of liquor by the drink.

Commissioner Porter also thanked the Erwin Police Department for their help in solving a problem in his neighborhood.

Commissioner Porter requested the Board give consideration to Mrs. Freeman's Day Care request.

MINUTES OF MARCH 6, 2008 CONTINUED

Town Attorney Mac Hunter stated the Board has made their final decision; the applicant was required to appeal the decision with Superior Court in Harnett County within thirty days. Mrs. Freeman did not file the appeal. Mrs. Freeman may file a new application, but it must be substantially different from her first application and go back thru the process or the Board may amend the ordinance.

Commissioner Porter requested Mrs. Thomas with the Harnett County Child Care referrals to come and speak on behalf of Mrs. Freeman.

Mrs. Thomas said she had worked with Mrs. Freeman before she became licensed and she now has a two year degree in Childcare Education. Mrs. Freeman far exceeds the expectations of the State as far as education in early childhood. A **child care home** is licensed to care for five or fewer preschool age children, and an additional three or more school age children. As a childcare provider, you must be trained for CPR and First Aid, a background check and, fingerprinting is required. The State comes and inspects your home for safety and health reasons before they are licensed. Mrs. Freeman has a four star grade and a five star day care is the highest grade given to a Daycare Home.

Commissioner Ennis was in agreement with Commissioner Porter and feels Mrs. Freeman should have never been refused the Conditional Use permit.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ennis made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 P.M. and was seconded by Commissioner Porter. The Board voted unanimously.

MINUTES RECORDED AND TYPED BY PAMELA S. ADDISON, TOWN CLERK.

Town Clerk, Pamela S. Addison

Mayor Patsy M. Carson