

ERWIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 3, 2007
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, May 3, 2007 at 7:00 P. M. in Erwin, North Carolina.

Board members present were Commissioners Norma Ennis, W. N. Porter, Ricky Blackmon, Mark Whitman, and Randy Baker.

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.

Commissioner Brian Gurkin was absent.

Commissioner Baker gave the invocation.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioner Blackmon made a motion to approve Item (A). Approval of Minutes for 4/03/2007 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting, Item (B). Proclamation of Municipal Clerk's Week, Item (C). Proclamation Supporting "National Day of Prayer" on 5/03/2007, Item (D) Resolution of Support for the Clean Water Act of 2007. Commissioner Whitman seconded the motion. The Board voted 5 for and 1 absent (Gurkin).

(Pages 7171 A-C)

NEW BUSINESS

**SUBMITTAL OF MANAGER'S PROPOSED FY 07-08 TOWN OF ERWIN BUDGET
AND CIP**

Town Manager Alan Thornton presented the Board of Commissioners a draft of the proposed FY 07-08 Town of Erwin Budget and (CIP) Capital Improvement Plan. The proposed budget reflects a 7% increase over last year's budget. The new budget includes the salary study pay plan which became effective April 2007, financing of various equipment upgrades such as a street sweeper, dump truck and replacement plan of vehicles for Public Works and Police Department. The budget also includes a salary increase for employees based upon the CPI. The Budget Officer does not recommend a tax increase. Mr. Thornton asked the Board to review the proposed budget and schedule as many budget work sessions as necessary to obtain an acceptable Budget. Mr. Thornton suggested the Board schedule a required Public Hearing for its June regular meeting prior to adopting the budget.

Commissioner Ennis made a motion to hold a work session to discuss the Proposed FY 07-08 Town of Erwin Budget on Wednesday, May 16th, 2007 at 6:00 P. M. and was seconded by

MINUTES OF MAY 3, 2007 CONTINUED

Commissioner Whitman. The Board voted 5 for and 1 absent (Gurkin).

Commissioner Blackmon requested the Budget Officer provide the current budget, revenue to date, estimated revenue to be spent by the end of fiscal year, Department Heads and Managers recommendations for revenues and expenditures along with all capital outlay recommendations at the budget workshop.

CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON TOWN OF ERWIN FY 07-08 BUDGET

Commissioner Ennis made a motion to hold a Public Hearing on the FY 07-08 Town of Erwin Budget on Thursday , June 7th, 2007 Regular Board Meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Baker. The Board voted 5 for and 1 absent (Gurkin).

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Blackmon made a motion to appoint applicant Catherine Fisher, 200 North 10th Street, Erwin NC as an In-Town Alternate member for a 3 year term on the Erwin Planning Board and appoint In-Town Alternate member Mark Prevatt as a full-time In-Town Member. Commissioner Ennis seconded the motion. The Board voted 5 for and 1 absent (Gurkin).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jim Hartman, a General Contractor in Erwin requested that the Board allow him more than three (3) minutes to speak.

Commissioner Ennis made a motion to allow Mr. Hartman ten (10) minutes to speak and was seconded by Commissioner Whitman. The Board voted 5 for and 1 absent (Gurkin).

Mr. Hartman said he had lived in Erwin for more than twelve years and has seen a lot that has gone on in Erwin. Mr. Hartman said he watched the Mill close just after he opened a business in Erwin. Mr. Hartman said he watched different staff members come and go and the way businesses had been treated in Erwin. Mr. Hartman said instead of giving new businesses open arms they were being ushered out of town. Mr. Hartman suggested the code be revamped.

Commissioner Porter suggested Mr. Hartman give examples of how the businesses were being mistreated.

Mr. Hartman said businesses were not allowed to come into town when they would like too. Mr. Hartman said he owns a couple pieces of commercial property on Denim Drive behind Wal-mart but is unable to lease the property to people because it is not the exact same type of business as before. Mr. Hartman said it took him six (6) months to have the property rezoned. Mr. Hartman said he had his property rezoned to B-2 zoning. Mr. Hartman got his permits to build the storage buildings. Mr. Hartman said he spent (\$10,000) ten thousand dollars in clearing and scraping the property, and then another (\$10,000) ten thousand dollars for drainage improvements. Mr. Hartman said the property was used for a storage area (junk yard) for over (50) fifty years. Mr. Hartman said he had spent close to over \$100,000

MINUTES OF MAY 3, 2007 CONTINUED

one hundred thousand dollars in materials and after a few months of no work on the site a stop order was posted on the property because of an expired permit. Mr. Hartman thought if you had done any site work during the permit period the permit would automatically extend for another six (6) months. Mr. Hartman was told he did not have the correct zoning and according to the residential code (Mr. Hartman feels the residential code should not overlap with business code) was not allowed to build an accessory building except 40% of the main structure. Mr. Hartman said his main structure is only (1,000) one thousand sq. ft. Mr. Hartman said his other concern was the Board has allowed others to continue to make improvements to their property without required permits and proper zoning. Mr. Hartman said there is already a storage unit with the same zoning and their office space is half the size of his office. Mr. Hartman wanted to know what he will have to do in order to proceed with his building project. Mr. Hartman said he wanted to help small businesses. The business will have storage for their equipment and share cost for expense of a secretary and phone answering services.

REPORTS FROM TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF

Town Hall Day is May 9th.

Presentation by Dr. James H. Johnson, Jr. on May 14th.

Report of Inter and Intra Departmental Budget Adjustments provided for Boards review.

DOT provided an estimated cost of \$10,000 to install Town of Erwin signs.

An update on the Code Enforcement Service Report was provided.

REPORTS FROM BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Porter thanked everyone for all the calls and visits he received during his stay in the hospital.

Mayor Carson said the Clean up Day was a success and she thanked Public Works for getting up the trash bags afterwards.

Mark Whitman commended the Parks & Recreation Director for doing a great job at the park.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Blackmon made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 P.M. and was seconded by Commissioner Ennis. The Board voted 5 for and 1 absent (Gurkin)

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

Town Clerk, Pamela S. Addison

Mayor Patsy M. Carson