

**ERWIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**MAY 16, 2007**  
**BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION**  
**ERWIN, NORTH CAROLINA**

The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Erwin with Mayor Patsy Carson presiding, held a Budget Workshop Session in the Town Hall on Wednesday, May 16th, 2007 at 6:00 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 and Town Clerk Pam Addison were present.

Mayor Patsy Carson called the meeting to order at 6:00 P. M.

Commissioner Brian Gurkin was absent.

Commissioner Ennis gave the invocation.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 at their May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Mr. Thornton provided each Board member a copy of the budget worksheets containing departmental requests and the projected revenues as requested by the Board. The Board was presented a list of proposed capital outlay expenditures items and the costs for each department.

**CONSIDERATION OF GARBAGE FEES**

The Town of Erwin garbage rates have been the same since FY 02/03 budget, however; the cost to provide the service continues to increase. The Town will experience a forty two thousand dollar (\$42,000) shortfall of revenue collected for garbage services compared to the cost paid to Republic Waste to provide those services to 1,924 customers. Surrounding Towns are already charging a much higher rate than Erwin for the same garbage service and those towns are considering an increase in their rates for the new budget. Mr. Thornton provided the Board a spreadsheet with a breakdown of how the fees are generated depending on the number of carts for residential, and size of a dumpster for commercial customers. A twenty two percent (22%) increase of the current rates is considered necessary to cover the current cost for the service. The contract with Republic Waste will expire September 1, 2008 and the cost will most likely have another substantial increase due to the cost of fuel. Town Manager Alan Thornton suggested the Board consider slightly revising the rates now in order to cover the shortfall and help soften the blow before it is time to renew the contract.

Commissioner Baker pointed out how some commercial customers were complaining about having to be included with the contract for Republic Waste. The commercial customers argue they could save money if they were allowed to choose their own waste vendor.

Town Manager Alan Thornton suggested this may be something the Board may wish to discuss when renewing the contract.

## **MINUTES OF MAY 16, 2007 CONTINUED**

Commissioner Blackmon reminded the Board they discussed offsetting the cost of utilities with garbage fees at the time the utilities were sold and he did not want to raise the fees 22% until it was necessary. Commissioner Blackmon suggested increasing the fees at a smaller percentage now and if necessary again when the contract is renewed.

The Board of Commissioners directed Town Manager Alan Thornton to provide a schedule of fees for the garbage with only an 11% increase at the next regular meeting.

Town Manager Alan Thornton said the continued growth in Harnett County has made a positive impact on the sales tax revenue. In 2002 the revenue for sales tax received was \$430,000 and now we receive estimated revenue of over \$600,000. Those revenues help offset the higher cost of operations, maintenance and, gas.

### **CONSIDERATION OF ANIMAL CONTROL**

Town Manager Thornton said he set aside money in the proposed budget to continue using a part time animal control officer or to join with other towns within the county and allow the County of Harnett to furnish a shared, full time animal control officer. The Municipalities of Coats, Angier, Lillington and Erwin approached the County of Harnett to provide some assistance with animal control service. The County agreed to provide a fulltime uniformed officer; new truck; insurance coverage and all animals be taken care of and housed in Lillington at the County's facility. The Town's shared portion will be \$10,000. The Town of Erwin currently spends \$13,000 annually. A new truck will be needed if the Town does not share with the other municipalities.

The Commissioners were concerned about the amount of time the officer will spend in Erwin, and how fast the response time will be when needed.

Commissioner Baker suggested the residents continue to call the Erwin Police Department with animal control complaints and the Police Department forward the calls to the County.

The Board agreed to accept the contract with the following stipulations; a clause be added stating the contract become void after sixty (60) days if not satisfied with the service and the contract include a response time for complaints.

### **CAPITAL OUTLAY**

The Board suggested adding the cost of a large metal storage building. This is needed to store the new equipment for Public Works.

Administration will purchase a new copier and the old copier will be moved to the Erwin Police Department.

Planning & Inspections will purchase a new printer.

Police Department will purchase one new vehicle and a used SUV for a School Resource Officer. The new vehicle will be a 5 year lease purchase.

**MINUTES OF MAY 16, 2007 CONTINUED**

Powell Bill will share ½ the cost of a new dump truck and ½ the cost of a new street sweeper. This will be a 5 year lease purchase agreement.

Public Works Administration will purchase a new computer & various equipment.

Public Works Street will purchase new push mowers, weed eaters.

Parks & Recreation will purchase new weed eaters, & other equipment.

Library will be installing new carpeting, and adding a new copier.

Community Center is adding Video/Audio Equipment for staff training center.

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The Board was presented a Proposed Schedule of Debt Service showing the FY 06-07 for comparison.

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**OTHER BUSINESS**

Town Employees will receive an increase of salaries according to CPI on July 1. It should not exceed 2.75%.

Several Board members requested some improvements be made to Rotary Park. Mr. Thornton provided some information about prefabricated concrete restrooms for their consideration.

Commissioner Blackmon brought the Board's attention to an area near Rotary Park that belongs to DOT and major repairs are needed to fix the tile in the ditch before it caves in.

The Budget Public Hearing is set for June 7, 2007.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Baker made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 P.M. and was seconded by Commissioner Whitman. The Board voted 5 for and 1 absent (Gurkin)

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

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**Town Clerk, Pamela S. Addison**

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**Mayor Patsy M. Carson**