

Belhaven Town Council -Minutes
Emergency Called Meeting – May 17, 2006

Attendance: Mr. Tim Johnson, Town Manager
Mr. Martin C. Overholt, Recording Secretary
Mr. Adam W. O’Neal, Mayor
And Councilmembers:
Mr. George R. Ebron, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem
Ms. Cynthia Heath
Mr. Albert Baker
Dr. Charles O. Boyette
Mr. Steve W. Carawan

Mayor O’Neal called the meeting to order at 3:08 P.M. in the Council Chambers at Town Hall. Mayor O’Neal questioned the need for the meeting and the manner in which it was called.

Councilman Boyette spoke of the need for the meeting. Councilman Boyette stated that he received a call from Senator Marc Basnight’s office stating that if the Town of Belhaven would commit \$10,000.00 for the start up of the Beaufort Hyde Construction Training Facility that there was a chance that the State would approve \$250,000.00 for the same facility. Councilman Boyette further stated that time was of the essence due to the nature of the Short Session and that a response from the Town was needed within 24 hours.

Councilman Carawan then asked that a caveat be that if the grant did not go through that the \$10,000.00 would be returned. Town Manager Johnson stated that that may jeopardize the grant.

Mayor O’Neal stated he felt that since the meeting was called without the News Media present and that the public was not in attendance that it seemed they were being pushed to do this. Mayor O’Neal further stated that taxpayer funds were being committed for an unknown reason.

Councilwoman Heath stated that Mayor O’Neal’s platform for election was supporting jobs and training for the citizens and that a \$10,000.00 investment on behalf of the citizens with the possibility of a \$250,000.00 was a huge benefit to the town. Mayor O’Neal said that he agreed with Councilwoman Heath but did not like the way in which the meeting was called. Councilman Boyette again stated the reasons behind the meeting and the emergency nature of the issue.

Councilman Carawan again stated that the Council should include the caveat that if the grant did not come through that the \$10,000.00 should not be given.

Councilman Boyette then made a motion to appropriate \$10,000.00 for an Economic Incentive to CDBH for the Beaufort Hyde Construction Training Center to be expended if the \$250,000.00 grant from the State was given and that the money be appropriated in the 2006/2007 Budget.

Ms. Heath seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was then adjourned at 3:18 pm.

Martin C. Overholt
Recording Secretary

Adam W. O'Neal, Mayor

Marie J. Adams, CMC
Town Clerk