

Belhaven Town Council
Regular Session
Minutes – February 25, 2008

Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

The Belhaven Town Council met in regular session on Monday, February 25, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. at the Boyette Civic Center at 257 W. Pungo Street. Mayor Adam W. O'Neal called the meeting to order with the following Council members present: Steve W. Carawan, J. Nelson Guy, Mayor Pro-Tem; Howard D. Moore, McKee (Mac) Pigott and Robert L. Stanley. Interim Town Manager, Dr. Guinn Leverett and Town Clerk Marie J. Adams were also present. Mayor O'Neal recognized Mr. Amos Wilson, Minister of Mt. Olive Pentecostal Holiness Church who gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes Regular Session – February 11, 2008

Mayor O'Neal stated that the minutes of the February 11, 2008 regular session were open for review and adoption. There being no corrections to the minutes, Councilman Pigott made the motion to approve the February 11, 2008 regular session minutes. Councilman Moore seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

Approval of Minutes Closed Session - February 11, 2008

Mayor O'Neal stated that the minutes of the February 11, 2008 closed session minutes were open for review and adoption. There being corrections to the minutes Pigott made the motion to approve the February 11, 2008 closed session minutes. Councilman Moore seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

Public Comments

Mayor O'Neal stated that this time in the meeting had been set aside for public comments. There were none.

North Carolina Department of Transportation – Mr. John Williams

Mayor O'Neal stated that the Council had met with the Department of Transportation (DOT) in January concerning the repair/replacement of several bridges in the communities leading into Belhaven. At that time, the Mayor and Council had suggested that the DOT bring back their suggestions for the bridge repair/replacements. Mayor O'Neal recognized and introduced Mr. John Williams with DOT. Mr. Williams stated that four bridges in the Belhaven Community were scheduled for repairs/replacement. Mr. Williams stated that three of the bridges were on NC Hwy 99 #4417 Jacks Creek Bridge, ##3611 Pantego Creek Bridge, #3808 and one was on 264 #4413 Broad Creek Bridge. Mr. Williams stated that the DOT was under some constraints due to the re being no construction in the water from February 15 through June 15; evacuation routes and detours for traffic. Mr. Williams stated that the Pantego Creek Bridge on NC Hwy 99 just as you are entering Belhaven will be left open during the entire construction timeline as the new bridge will be built adjacent to the existing bridge. Mr. Williams stated that the bridges on Hwy 99 would not be closed simultaneously.

Councilman Carawan stated that he would like for DOT to keep traffic on site if at all possible during bridge replacements but wanted to be cooperative with the DOT.

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Mr. Eatmon who also attended the meeting representing DOT stated that having a temporary bridge during bridge replacement was as expensive as a new bridge. Following some additional discussion, Councilman Carawan made the motion that Proposed Schedule B be followed which includes an onsite detour for B-4417 Jack Creek Bridge; B3611 Pantego Creek Bridge – traffic kept on-site for the 15-18 month duration; B3809 Pungo Creek Bridge – 9 month duration traffic sent off-site; B4417 Jack Creek; B4413 Pantego Creek (Broad Creek) – 15 -18 month duration, traffic kept on site. Councilman Stanley seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5o to 0.

Resolution: Preservation Month Cemeteries (Black Bottom) Latham Cemetery

Mayor O’Neal stated that a citizen had contacted him concerning the condition of the Black Bottom Cemetery (sometimes referred to as Latham Cemetery). Mayor O’Neal stated that he and Interim Town Manager Leverett had walked the cemetery and were very concerned with what was found. Mayor O’Neal stated that human remains were exposed where graves had collapsed. Mayor O’Neal stated that this cemetery was a “horrific sight”, covered a large area and had no headstones. Mayor O’Neal stated that the population in 1899 was 40 and in twelve months had grown to 700 he believes due to the number of employees at the Cooperage Mill. Mayor O’Neal explained that most of the burials in this cemetery were employees of the Cooperage Mill, WWII Veterans, Vietnam Veterans and a former black Doctor was buried at Black Bottom. Mayor O’Neal explained that Ms. Marie Whitaker had contacted the Town Council on two previous occasions concerning the condition of this cemetery. Mayor O’Neal stated that Mr. John Wood, a restoration specialist with North Carolina Archives and History had recommended that the town not take over the ownership of this cemetery but to take over the maintenance. Mayor O’Neal stated that Public Works Director Paul Wood had been working with his crews and crews from the NC Corrections Department at the cemetery and made remarkable progress removing underbrush and marking graves which had no markings for graves.

Mayor O’Neal read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PRESERVATION
MONTH OF MAY
IN CONJUNCTION WITH
BLACK BOTTOM CEMETERY

WHEREAS, the building of a proper future is built upon the proper foundation of the past; and

WHEREAS, the proper celebration of the lives of many of the people who actually built this Town has been neglected in the graves that bear their remains,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

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1. Belhaven will join the rest of the country in celebrating the month of May as PRESERVATION MONTH; and
2. Commencing now, the Town Manager be authorized and directed to formulate a program and plan to help restore the Cemetery known as Black Bottom by utilizing all appropriate resources available to the Town of Belhaven and to her citizens; and
3. To continue the clean-up process already initiated with such excellent results.

ADOPTED, BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BELHAVEN, this the 25th day of February 2008.

Adam W. O’Neal, Mayor

ATTEST:

Marie J. Adams, CMC
Town Clerk

/GL

Councilman Stanley made the motion to adopt the Resolution Supporting Preservation Month of May in Conjunction with Black Bottom Cemetery. Councilman Guy seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

Mayor O’Neal invited the public to view this cemetery on Old County Road at the end of Pine Street and also stated that the representative from the stated said that he had never seen a cemetery inside town limits in this bad condition. Councilman Stanley offered a “Thank You” to PWD Paul Wood and to the Masons who will also assist in the clean up and thanked everyone involved in the restoration.

USDA Grant and Loan Funds – Intent

Mayor O’Neal stated that Mr. Doug Causey with USDA had contacted the Town concerning the Town’s intent on the secured funding of \$1,800,000.00 for the construction of a new Police/Fire/Rescue Building. Following discussion from the Council and consideration that local banks may have lower funding, Councilman Carawan made the motion that the Town keep the funds available for an additional 60 days. Councilman Stanley seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

Recreation Advisory Committee

Mayor O’Neal stated there was a need for a Recreation Advisory Committee and that he had asked those willing to serve to notify town staff. Mayor O’Neal stated that the following could serve in this capacity for terms stated:

Chad Bond – 1 Year Term; Tony Stanley – 2 Year Term; Brian Butler – 3 Year Term; Lindsay Hubers – 2 Year Term; Joseph Smith – 2 Year Term; Sport Sawyer – 3 Year

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Term; Jason Baker – 1 Year Term; Trevon Franks – 3 Year Term; Wilbert Smith – 1 Year term; and Council representative J. Nelson Guy – 3 year term. Councilman Carawan made the motion to approve the Recreation Advisory Committee and their terms as stated by the Mayor. Councilman Stanley seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

Planning Board Appointments

Mayor O’Neal stated that the Planning Board and Board of Adjustments had been acting as one board, but the Town Charter stated there were two boards. Mayor O’Neal stated that the following could serve on the Planning Board for the following terms: Regular Members: Phil Reynolds – Term Expiring 3-2011; Jesse Rogers – Term Expiring 3-2011; Becky Latham – Term Expiring 3-2011 and Alternate In-Town Member: Shane Hubers – Term Expiring 3-2011 and one Extraterritorial Regular Member (ETJ): Elton Braddy – Term Expiring 2011. Councilman Guy made the motion to approve the appointees to the Belhaven Planning Board as stated by the Mayor. Councilman Moore seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

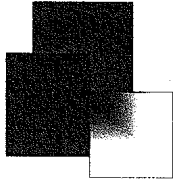
Board of Adjustment Appointments

Mayor O’Neal read the following names of persons who could serve on the Belhaven Board of Adjustment with terms as follows: Doug Alligood, Regular Member – Term Expires 3-2011; Chuck Latham, ETJ Member – Term Expires 3-2011; Two Regular Members – Terms Expiring 3-2010: Julian Goff and Greg Satterthwaite; One ETJ Member – Term Expiring 3-2010: George Eldridge; Alternate In Town Member – Ricky Radcliffe – Term Expiring 3-2011; and Leon Jennette, ETJ Alternate Member, Term Expiring 3-2011. Councilman Carawan made the motion to approve the appointees to the Belhaven Board of Adjustment as stated by the Mayor. Councilman Pigott seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

Beaufort Hyde Construction, LLC (BHC) Request for Extension of Grant

Mayor O’Neal recognized Mr. George Ebron who read the request from Community Developers of Beaufort Hyde (CDBH) for a grant extension for the BHC. Mr. Ebron read a letter presented to the Council from Mr. Wade Horne, Executive Director of CDBH, Inc.

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Community Developers of Beaufort-Hyde, Inc.



February 23, 2008

Town of Belhaven
P.O. Box 220
Belhaven, NC 27810

Dear Mayor O'Neal and Town Council:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Town Council regarding the no cost extension of the Department of Commerce CFC Economic Development Grant between the Town of Belhaven and Beaufort-Hyde Construction, LLC. Unfortunately I cannot be present to address the Council as I have a prior engagement in Atlanta and was not given notice of this meeting until Friday.

We would like to ask the Town of Belhaven to request a one-year grant extension from the NC Department of Commerce to run infrastructure to the George R. Ebron Jr. Industrial Park. Extension of the grant would benefit the Town of Belhaven and allow Beaufort-Hyde Construction, LLC to continue planning and developing the project. There is no cost associated with extending the grant and the extension is guaranteed according to the NC Department of Commerce. This grant will be highly beneficial to the community as we bring the necessary infrastructure to the industrial park, which will attract new businesses, create additional jobs for area citizens, and provide water and sewer to adjacent properties such as Battalina Creek.

Community Developers of Beaufort-Hyde, Inc. is the sole owner of Beaufort-Hyde Construction, LLC. Beaufort-Hyde Construction, LLC is a legally incorporated entity, which has no assets or direct funding. As requested, a list of CDBH's Board of Directors can be found on the left side of this page.

It is our hope that the Town of Belhaven will agree to request a grant extension to bring in the needed infrastructure at no cost to the Town. This will assist Beaufort-Hyde Construction, LLC and other businesses who choose to locate in the George R. Ebron Jr. Industrial Park to come to fruition, which will be beneficial to the citizens of Belhaven and surrounding areas. Please contact me should you require additional information regarding the grant extension request.

Sincerely,

Wade Horne
Executive Director

- Board of Directors**
- George R. Ebron, Jr.
Chairman
- Ruth Mann
Vice Chairman
- Charles Smith
Secretary/Treasurer
- Deborah Brooks
Member
- Christine Davis
Member
- John Smith
Member
- Wade Horne
Executive Director

293 East Water Street
PO Box 115
Belhaven, North Carolina 27810

www.cdbh.org

Telephone: (252) 943-3058
Fax: (252) 943-9113
Email: community3058@embarqmail.com

Mayor O'Neal asked if there were board members for BHC. Councilman Ebron stated no. Mayor O'Neal stated that this grant was given through the Town in the amount of \$263,339 for the town to extend water and sewer lines to the proposed site of the BHC panelized housing plant. With the implementation of this grant the BHC is mandated to produce at least 20 jobs for low to moderate income (LMI) people. Mayor O'Neal stated that to date roughly \$32,000 had been spent from the grant proceeds for the engineering

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feasibility for the expansion of water and sewer lines to this proposed site. Mayor O’Neal stated that should the jobs not be created then the Town is liable to pay back the funds spent. Mayor O’Neal stated that BHC was a for-profit entity and had not met the commitments thus far – he did not feel that the grant should be extended. Mayor O’Neal stated that conversations he had with the Department of Commerce concerning this grant, officials had stated that the monies spent thus far would not have to be repaid but if the grant was extended and additional monies spent then much more would have to be repaid. Mayor O’Neal stated that the Town should be promoting a town owned industrial park. Following some additional discussion, Councilman Pigott made the motion not to extend Grant # 05-E-1410 as requested by BHC through CDBH. Councilman Moore seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5 to 0. Councilman Carawan stated that jobs were important but did not feel like supporting this grant would assist with jobs at this time. Councilman Pigott stated that he was recently appointed to the Beaufort County Economic Development Commission Board which had met this morning, were seeking to acquire land for an industrial park in the Belhaven community.

Resolution Appointing Designee to Execute Documents Necessary with the Mosquito Control

Mayor O’Neal stated that the Town needed to appoint someone to act on behalf of the Town by executing the paper work that deals with the funding for mosquito control with the state. Mayor O’Neal stated that Robin J. Godsell has held this position as Finance Officer due to her access to the accounting information. Councilman Carawan made the motion adopting the resolution appointing Robin J. Godsell to act on behalf of the Town in executing documents for the mosquito funding through the state. Councilman Stanley seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

Resolution
Designating Official to Sign on
Behalf of Mosquito Control

Upon motion of Councilman Steve W. Carawan, seconded by Councilman Robert L. Stanley, it is hereby ordered that Robin J. Godsell, as agent for the Town of Belhaven, is hereby authorized and empowered to sign and execute all papers and documents necessary in connection with the request made to the Division of Environmental Health, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, for aid in control of mosquitoes.

She is further authorized and required to carry out all agreements stipulated in the project application submitted by us to the division of Environmental Health, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and to perform other acts that are proper and necessary in connection with the operation of this project. Acts of said person on behalf of said Town of Belhaven, are in all respects validated approved and confirmed.

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The undersigned Marie J. Adams, Clerk of the Town of Belhaven, hereby certified that the foregoing is a true copy of the resolution of the Town Council at a meeting held on the 25th day of February, 2008.

Marie J. Adams, CMC
Town Clerk

July 4th Fireworks

Mayor O'Neal stated that he had met with Mr. J. W. Cleary who was in charge of displaying the fireworks for Belhaven over the past several years along with Mr. Wesley Waters and Mr. Jason Cleary. Mr. Cleary explained the dangers involved in lighting the fireworks as the town does not use electronic igniters. Mayor O'Neal displayed a shirt which was worn by J. W. at last year's fireworks display which showed large burned areas of the shirt. Mayor O'Neal stated that he felt the igniters were needed to insure a needed level of safety when the fireworks are ignited. Mayor O'Neal explained that the igniters were \$6,000 and the rack in which to display the fireworks for ignition was \$5,500 for a total of \$11,500. Mayor O'Neal stated that the igniter and rack could be used for many years and felt that it would be money well spent. Councilman Carawan stated that he was conservative but he felt this purchase could not be put off. Councilman Guy stated that had been problem with the barge igniting in years past, when fireworks were ignited from a barge. Councilman Guy made the motion to pursue the purchasing of the igniter and rack and that fundraisers will be implemented through the Celebrations Committee to offset some of the costs. Councilman Stanley seconded the motion which carried, 4 to 1. Councilmen Moore and Carawan voted in favor of the motion, Councilman Pigott voted against the motion.

Other Business/Announcements

Councilman Pigott stated that he had been approached by a citizen concerning **voluntary recycling** along with the household garbage collection. Following some discussion, the consensus of the Council was to obtain information from our local contractor (GDS) concerning implementing voluntary recycling.

Councilman Carawan stated that in May 17, 2006 an Emergency Meeting was held by the Town Council concerning a \$10,000 loan for the startup of BHC for the application of a loan. Councilman Carawan made the motion that the town should review to see if the \$10,000 had been paid back, if not **extend a bill to BHC for \$10,000**. Councilman Pigott seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

Interim Town Manager Leverett stated that no one spoke under **Citizens Comments**- he stated that the agenda is normally available the Thursday afternoon prior to the meeting on Monday and encouraged citizens to sign up at the Municipal Building prior to the meeting. Councilman Guy suggested that citizens be allowed to sign up to speak at the meeting place 30 minutes prior to the meeting. Mayor O'Neal stated that this issue could be discussed at the next Council meeting.

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Mayor O'Neal stated that he would like to publicly thank Mr. Chad Arthur of **Arthur Carpentry for his assistance in expediting the completion of her porch and foreseeing the purchase of the new stove and refrigerator for Ms. Joyce Topping, resident which had been out of her home for 14 months due to neglect by prior consultants** to complete the home as requested. Mayor O'Neal stated that Mr. Arthur stopped a job he was working on and came and completed the job. Mayor O'Neal stated that Mr. Arthur should be commended.

Mayor O'Neal stated that he received a \$250.00 check made out the Town of Belhaven from Mr. Danny Daniels to offset the cost of lodging in Washington, DC for which the Mayor and Interim Town Manager will be attending conferences to try to get the breakwater feasibility study moved up on the priority list. Mayor O'Neal stated that Mr. Daniels was a Belhaven native who showed support of his hometown.

Recess and Reconvene Into Closed Session for Personnel 143-318.11(6)

Mayor O'Neal stated there was a need for closed session for personnel issues as in accordance with the General Statutes 143-318.11(6). The meeting recessed at 8:14 P.M. at which time Mayor O'Neal stated that Town Clerk Adams could leave the meeting.

Reconvene Into Regular Session and Adjournment

Mayor O'Neal reconvened the meeting into regular session at 8:40 PM and called the news media back into the meeting room. The Council had no action upon reconvening into regular session and stated that personnel matters were discussed. There being no further business, Mayor O'Neal adjourned the meeting at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie J. Adams, CMC
Town Clerk

Guinn Leverett, Interim Town Manager
Recording Secretary