

## **Belhaven Town Council Meeting**

**Minutes – March 23, 2009**

### **Regular Session**

#### **Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance**

The Belhaven Town Council met in regular session on Monday, March 23, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in 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. Mayor O'Neal recognized and introduced Mr. Johnny Donnell Clark, Deacon with Hoggard's Temple Church of God in Christ who gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Approval of Minutes – March 9, 2009 Regular Session**

Mayor O'Neal announced that the minutes of the March 9, 2009 regular session meeting were open for review and adoption. There being no corrections to the minutes, Councilman Carawan made the motion to adopt the minutes. Councilman Guy seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

#### **Public Comments**

Mayor O'Neal asked for any comments from the public. There were none.

#### **Recreation Advisory Commission Appointments**

Mayor O'Neal asked that Councilman Guy report on the appointment for the Recreation Advisory Commission as he was the Council representative on this commission. Councilman Guy stated that the original board of ten members had some members to resign before their terms were expired. Councilman Guy stated that the Advisory Commission had misinterpreted their guidelines and had been appointing members instead of taking names to the Council to be appointed. Councilman Guy stated that Mr. T. W. Allen had been filling the position left by the resignation of Mr. Sport Sawyer, and that Mr. Dennis Webster had been filling the position left by Mr. Jason Baker, whose term expires this month and the position left vacant by Mr. Trevin Franks had been filled by Mr. Felix Burgess. Councilman Guy also stated that two members' terms expire this month and that Mr. Chad Bond and Mr. Wilbert Smith had agreed to be re-appointed if the Council desired to reappoint them. Mayor O'Neal stated that the appointment of members was the Council's duty and asked that should anyone want to serve on the Recreation Commission to please contact Town Clerk Adams. Town Manager Leverett stated that the Recreation Commission could appoint its officers. Following some discussion, Councilman Pigott made the motion to re-appoint Mr. Chad Bond and Mr. Wilbert Smith to the Recreation Advisory Commission with terms expiring March 2012. Councilman Guy seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5 to 0. Mayor O'Neal encouraged those who would like to serve on this commission to contact the Town.

#### **KWIKCALL Group Plans**

Mayor O'Neal stated that Town Manager Leverett had been researching the possibility of an emergency notification system for the citizens to be notified of emergency situations. Town Manager Leverett stated that 1,000 calls can be made within 10 minutes through an internet system with KWIKCALL. Town Manager Leverett stated that contract package he was suggesting for Council approval would be 5,000 calls at \$350.00. Councilman Pigott asked when this contract would expire. Town Manager Leverett stated that when

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the Town used the 5,000 calls. Town Manager Leverett stated that there would be a test call to inform the citizens that signed up for the service, that it was now enacted. Mr. Leverett asked for approval of the contract and permission to include the notification soliciting the citizens' telephone numbers to be included in this month's utility bill. Following some discussion Councilman Pigott made the motion for the Town Manager to proceed with the contract in the amount of \$350.00 for 5,000 calls and to insert the notice soliciting the telephone numbers in the Town's utility bills.

### **Battalina Creek Subdivision – Bond**

Town Manager Leverett stated that he had contacted Mr. Ross Bebe, Developer/Owner of the Battalina Creek Subdivision concerning the lack of progress at Battalina Creek. Mayor O'Neal stated that the bond would take of completing the subdivision, which has been referenced as 2/3 complete. Councilman Carawan made the motion to call the bond. Councilman Pigott seconded the motion. Following his discussion, it was determined that the Town should "call the bond" for the completion of the subdivision. Councilman Pigott questioned if the "call of the bond" would generate funds through the Town. Town Manager Leverett stated "no"; that by "calling the bond" another developer would get involved to complete the project. The motion carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

### **Pantego Street Drainage Improvements Report – Mr. Marty Overholt**

Mayor O'Neal recognized Mr. Marty Overholt, Code Enforcement Officer with the Town, who is overseeing the pilot project of tiling the ditch on Pantego Street. Mr. Overholt stated that engineers, Kimley-Horn, had suggested that the Town use a permeable French Drainage System for tiling the ditch on Pantego Street. Mr. Overholt stated that by just installing a tile in a ditch and covering with dirt, over time, causes the ground water to "take over the property". Mr. Overholt explained that some areas have direct water from the creek. Mr. Overholt explained that this French drain consisted of 1' of #5 stone, 8" pipe with sock and 2' more of stone. Fabric would then be placed over the stone and topsoil placed on the fabric for grass seeding. Mr. Overholt explained that the cost is expensive due to the cost of stone, as this project costs \$18-\$20 per foot and that there were 16 miles of ditch. Mr. Overholt then stated that the labor for this project was being performed "in-house" with Town employees Street Foreman, Bud Adams; Mr. Glenn Flynn and Mr. Felix Burgess. Mr. Overholt explained that this would enhance the quality of life, as there would be no mosquito breeding places with this drainage system, and would save on property insurance as improvements help with the rating for the flood insurance. Mayor O'Neal questioned if Powell Bill funds were being used for this project. Town Manager Leverett stated, "yes". Councilman Pigott asked if grant funds were being used. Mr. Overholt stated, "no" that this project was not part of a watershed grant but in the future may be party of a grant project. Following some discussion, Councilman Moore made the motion for the Town to proceed with the 1,000' pilot project on Pantego Street from Pamlico Street to Wynne's Gut. Councilman Stanley seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

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#### **Report of Community Garden**

Mr. Overholt stated that the properties which the Town would be using for community gardens were ready to be rowed and planted. Mr. Overholt stated that he was going to plant some potatoes in each of the three gardens (Pantego Street between Wynne's Gut and Northside Park, corner of King and Bay Streets and the corner of E. Pantego and Lamont Street). Mayor O'Neal encouraged citizens to contact Mr. Overholt should they want to participate in the community gardens as it was now time to plant. Following some discussion, Town Manger Leverett stated that he would put notice in the utility billing informing the citizens of the community gardens. Councilman Pigott suggested, if needed, that Community Service participants be utilized to work in these gardens.

#### **Town Manager's Report**

Town Manager Leverett reported briefly on the following:

Final Report on the old generating site at the Fire Department – had final report to be presented to the state, the report should clear the Town from monitoring at this time;  
Recall Election – have sent information to Representative Arthur Williams, waiting for this direction to proceed; used the Hybrid Electric Car that is being promoted by ElectriCities and each member town is using for 1 week, Town Manager Leverett stated that using the hybrid car was enjoyable.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mayor O'Neal declared the meeting adjourned at 7:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie J. Adams, CMC  
Town Clerk