

**Belhaven Town Council
Public Hearing/Regular Session
Monday, April 28, 2008 - Minutes**

Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

The Belhaven Town Council met in regular session and public hearing on Monday, April 28, 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 introduced Dr. Douglas Cogdell, Minister with White Plains Church Ministries who would give the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor O'Neal also stated that Minister Cogdell would inform the citizens of the National Day of Prayer which will be held on Thursday, May 1 and encouraged the citizens to attend this event which would be held on the front lawn of the Wilkinson Center at 12 noon. Minister Cogdell gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing – CDBG Application – Mr. Don Harvey, Project Manager with The Wooten Company

Mayor O'Neal stated that Mr. Don Harvey, Project Manager with The Wooten Company would be giving some background information on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Applications. Mr. Harvey stated that there are different types of grant categories such as: Community Revitalization which strengthens neighborhoods with repair to infrastructure like water and sewer and street drainage and may create jobs; Scattered Housing Site which he would not suggest applying for due to that this type of project funds every three years and would repair/replace housing in different areas of town not one neighborhood; Infrastructure where severe water and sewer problems could be repaired; Economic Development create/retention of jobs; Non Profit would develop housing and would fund the extension of water and sewer to that particular site and Small Business would be funding for Entrepreneurial Business. Mr. Harvey clarified that all of these different categories of grant applications would be for low to moderate income areas/families.

Mayor O'Neal opened the public hearing for comments at 7:11 P.M. There were no public comments.

Councilman Pigott asked when was the deadline for application for the Community Revitalization grant. Mr. Harvey stated August 29 and that this was a very competitive grant with one in four being funded. Mr. Harvey stated that the deadline for the infrastructure grant was July 21.

Approval of Minutes – April 14, 2008 Regular Session

Mayor O'Neal stated that the minutes of the April 14, 2008 meeting were open for review and adoption. There being no corrections to the minutes, Councilman Pigott made the motion to approve. Councilman Moore seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

Environmental Services, Inc. (ESI) – Contaminated Soil Former Generating Plant located at the Fire Station – Haslin Street

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Mayor O'Neal stated that the former generating site for the Town of Belhaven's electric system is located at the present location of the fire station on Haslin Street. Mayor O'Neal stated that this same site had been monitored per North Carolina Department of Environment Health and Natural Resources (NCDENR) state regulations some years ago and that monitoring had ceased due to funds not available from the state. Mayor O'Neal explained that recently, NCDENR had contacted the town and stated that funds were available and that the Town would be responsible for contracting to have the monitoring of the site performed. Mayor O'Neal stated that a contract was needed for Environmental Services, Inc. to provide the monitoring services of this site in conjunction with the Town's engineers Cavanaugh & Associates. Mayor O'Neal stated that the contract for this service was \$10,582.00 with Environmental Services, Inc.

Councilmen Guy and Carawan questioned the previous monitoring system and the duration of monitoring. ITM Leverett stated that new monitoring wells would be installed and that the purpose of the monitoring was to determine the amount of contamination.

Following some additional discussion, Councilman Carawan made the motion that the Town Manager executes any necessary documents on behalf of the town according to the North Carolina Department of Environment Health and Natural Resources. Councilman Stanley seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Councilman Pigott stated that the Town was officially notified in October of 2007 but none of the elected officials had been informed of the action. Councilman Pigott stated that the Town needed to monitor the site as specified and proceed with clean up. Councilmen Carawan and Moore concurred with Councilman Pigott's statement.

The motion carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

Wynne's Gut Bridge Inspection and Analysis

Mayor O'Neal asked ITM Leverett to update the Council and public on this item. ITM Leverett stated that the bridge on Water Street over Wynne's Gut is inspected every two years and is scheduled for replacement. ITM Leverett stated that Councilman Pigott had mentioned at an earlier Council meeting the possibility of removing the bridge with no replacement. Following much discussion, the Council agreed to hold a public hearing to hear public input concerning to remove, repair or replace the existing bridge. Councilman Moore stated emphatically that he did not want the bridge replaced as he felt the current bridge was a landmark. Councilman Pigott made the motion to hold a public hearing concerning the Wynne's Gut Bridge as to remove, repair or to replace. Councilman Moore seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

Planning Board Appointment

Mayor O'Neal stated that the appointment of a regular Planning Board member would be postponed until the next meeting and asked that any citizen interested in serving contact the Mayor. Councilman Pigott made the motion to postpone the Planning Board

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appointment of a regular member. Councilman Guy seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

Recreation Advisory Committee – Appointment

Mayor O’Neal stated that Mr. Joseph Smith had resigned from the Recreation Advisory Committee due to his moving. Mayor O’Neal stated that Sheila Cahoon had agreed to serve in this capacity, if appointed. Councilman Moore made the motion to appoint Sheila Cahoon to serve on the Belhaven Recreation Advisory Committee with a term expiring March 2010. Councilman Carawan seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

Councilman Guy Leaves Meeting at this Time

Councilman Pigott made the motion that Councilman Guy be excused from the meeting due to a family emergency. Councilman Carawan seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 4 to 0. Councilman Guy left the meeting at 7:32 P.M.

Budget Amendment #11 – Fiscal Year 2007/2008

Mayor O’Neal stated that this budget amendment was necessary due to the Town receiving a watershed project matching grant in the amount of \$15,000. Mayor O’Neal explained that the town’s portion would also be \$15,000 for the grant which would cover the feasibility study.

Councilman Moore made the following motion:

BUDGET AMENDMENT #11 FY 07/08

WATER RESOURCES CONTRIBUTING \$15,000 AND THE TOWN OF BELHAVEN CONTRIBUTING \$15,000.

INCREASE REVENUE ACCOUNT #10-399-000 (FUND BALANCE APPROPRIATED) BY \$15,000

FROM \$487,543 TO \$502,543

INCREASE REVENUE ACCOUNT #10-348-010 (STATE GRANT-DIV WATER RESOURCES) BY \$15,000

FROM \$0 TO \$15,000

INCREASE EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT #10-690-074 (DRAINAGE FEASIBILITY STUDY) BY \$30,000

FROM \$0 TO \$30,000

Councilman Pigott seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 4 to 0.

Other Business

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DOT Flap Gate Project Update

Department of Transportation (DOT) – Flap gate project – Councilman Pigott reported that this drainage project should begin within the next two weeks and that a portion of Main Street may be closed for 1 -3 days and have one lane of traffic for 2-3 weeks. Councilman Pigott asked for the local businesses’ and citizens’ understanding in this matter.

Turnpike Properties – Linear Bay – Sewer Request

Councilman Pigott stated that he was concerned with the Town of Belhaven’s condition of our sewer facility with I & I and had expresses the town’s needs at the Beaufort County Economic Development Committee meetings. Councilman Pigott also made the motion that the Town Manager send back the \$49,000 to Turnpike Properties because the contract was not appropriate with the Town’s I & I problems. Councilman Stanley seconded the motion.

Mayor O’Neal stated that he felt the contract with Turnpike Properties was an awful deal for the citizens of Belhaven and would cause a negative cash flow for Belhaven for many years.

Mayor O’Neal asked for a call on the motion. The motion carried unanimously, 4 to 0.

Councilman Pigott stated that he did not want to discourage developers from coming to town, but developers would need to pay to fix our I & I problems

Sewer Workshop

ITM Leverett stated that the Town Council would hold a sewer workshop on Tuesday, April 29, 2008 at 6:00 PM at the Boyette Civic Center. Mayor O’Neal encouraged the public to attend to learn more about the town’s sewer system and infrastructure. Councilman Moore stated that it did not seem fair that out of town residents paid the same sewer rate and in-town residents.

Public Comments

Mayor O’Neal recognized Mrs. Ellen Allen of 519 Water Street who asked that the Council look into the feasibility study which was discussed about a year ago. Mayor O’Neal stated that the feasibility study was not performed at that time but talked about.

Mrs. Phyllis Freeman of 363 E. Pantego Street stated that she was concerned because the Sheriff’s Department had told her family that they could not park on the street in front of their house and that a lady in her neighborhood was told she could not cross the street between the cars. Mayor O’Neal stated that the Sheriff’ Department was not familiar with some residences not having off street parking and they were aware of the situation now. Mayor O’Neal called upon Col. Harry Meredith with the Sheriff’s Department who stated that this parking could continue as long as a safety was not compromised.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor O'Neal adjourned the meeting at 7:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie J. Adams, CMC
Town Clerk