

### **Call to Order**

The Belhaven Town Council met in regular session and held a public hearing on Monday, June 27, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. at the Belhaven 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, Howard D. Moore and Robert L. Stanley. Councilman McKee "Mac" Pigott was not present at the meeting. Dr. Guinn Leverett, Town Manager; Mr. Steve Nobles, Finance Director and Mrs. Marie J. Adams, Town Clerk were also present.

### **Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance**

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.

### **Public Hearings**

#### **A. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012**

Mayor O'Neal called the proposed budget for fiscal year 2011-2012 public hearing to order at 7:30 P.M. and asked for any comments from the public. There were none. Mayor O'Neal declared the public hearing closed at 7:04 P.M.

#### **B. Zoning Ordinance Amendment**

Mayor O'Neal stated that a zoning ordinance amendment was not necessary due to churches being allowed in the Industrial Zone as a Conditional Use. There was no public hearing for this issue.

### **Approval of Minutes – June 13, 2011 Budget Workshop and Regular Session**

Mayor O'Neal announced that the minutes of the June 13, 2011 Budget Workshop and Regular Session were open for review and adoption. There being no corrections to the minutes, Councilman Carawan made the motion to adopt the minutes as written. Councilman Stanley seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 4 to 0.

### **Public Comments**

Mayor O'Neal stated that the Council would hear general comments from the public. Mr. Frederick Moore, resident of 478 W. Bay Street stated that he was concerned with the Police Department's officers speeding and racing and asked what the Town was going to do, as he was concerned that someone was going to get hurt. Mayor O'Neal stated that the Chief had been addressed concerning this issue and that if Mr. Moore was aware of any problems to come back to the meeting again.

Pungo District Hospital Foundation (PDHF) Use of Town Property for Lucky Ducky Regatta  
Mayor O'Neal stated that Pungo District Hospital Foundation (PDHF) had sponsored a fundraiser (Lucky Ducky Regatta) in conjunction with the July 4<sup>th</sup> Festivities and needed use of the Town property along Wynne's Gut between the Water Street bridge and Pantego Creek. Councilman Guy was in agreement and aware of the ongoing fundraiser and made the motion

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to allow use of Wynne's Gut (Town property) from the Water Street Bridge to Pantego Creek for the PDHF fundraiser (Lucky Ducky Regatta) and stated that they be responsible for any clean-up of the property following the event. Councilman Stanley seconded the motion which carried 4 to 0.

**Adoption of Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2011-2012**

Mayor O'Neal stated that the Council should consider the adoption of the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. Councilman Carawan stated that he appreciated the hard work from the administrative staff and the Council as the Council had a lot of input in the budget. Mayor O'Neal stated there were no increases in utility rates (due to spending); was proud that the utility rates or the tax rates were not being increased; tough times and a tight budget; thanked Finance Officer Nobles for the hard work on the budget; was pleased with the public water accesses that will be increased with the Wynne Gut grant which includes boat slips and with the Cooperage property with boat slips and fishing at the landing of the "old bridge" over Pantego Creek upon the completion of the new bridge and with the water access for swimming at the Community House as there has been no contamination in a few years. Mayor O'Neal stated that Beaufort County decreased the recreation budget to the Town even though 90% of the participants are in the County and stated his disappointment with the County not assisting, as requested by the Town with the sewer bypass which takes on the sewer from the County; stated that Town residents will not be burdened with the sewer bypass costs; stated that Recreation is beneficial as the Town's first year chartered Babe Ruth Girls Softball teams 16U and 8U won in the tournaments and will be representing East Beaufort at the State level in New Bern, NC; stated that he was concerned with the summer program of the Boys and Girls Club as 10 children from Belhaven are being bused to Washington due to the lack of participation in Belhaven and was concerned at the summer program was costing \$85.00 per child and that during these tough times some parents were unable to fund – will have the executive director attend the next Council meeting.

Mayor O'Neal asked for a motion to adopt the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. Councilman Carawan made the motion to adopt the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 as follows:

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

**Water Street Bridge (Bridge #324 STIP Project No. B-4500) – Award Contract for Construction, Engineering and Inspection**

Mayor O’Neal stated that the Town had requested proposals as required for (Bridge #324 STIP Project No. B-4500) for the construction engineering and physical inspections of the Water Street Bridge as it is being replaced. Town Manager Leverett stated that this is necessary due to the fact that the Town does not have qualified town personnel to perform these duties. Town Manager Leverett stated that eight proposals were received and that he had preferred two of the eight as those firms had work experience in North Carolina with one of them (Florence and Hutcheson) performing this service for the Pungo Creek and Pantego Creek bridges. Mayor O’Neal stated that the cost to replace the Water Street Bridge is close to \$1 million with the town’s portion being an estimated \$200,000. Mayor O’Neal stated that this cost was “insane” especially considering the size of the bridge being replaced. Following some discussion, Councilman Carawan made the motion that the Town Manager enter into a contract with Florence and Hutcheson for the award of the construction engineering and inspection of the Water Street Bridge. Councilman Stanley seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 4 to 0.

**Town Manager’s Report**

Town Manager Leverett reported briefly on the following issues:

**the Market** – Saturday, June 21 was the best day yet with over 300 patrons at the Market and the best part of all was the sense that everyone was having a good time;

**Stop sign at the corner of Haslin and Water Streets** – announced that at the last meeting this intersection was brought up under “Citizens Comments” as an area of concern and it was stated that perhaps another stop sign was needed – following some discussion the Council suggested to add another stop sign on Water Street heading east from the boat ramp. Council consensus was to try this for approximately 60 days.

**Chester Freeman, Jr. proposed donation of property to the Town;** following Council discussion, councilman Carawan made the motion to check on the procedures of the acceptance of this property with the Town Attorney. Councilman Stanley seconded the motion which carried, 4 to 0.

**Army Corps of Engineers forwarded a draft “Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment” concerning the installation of “reef balls”** or other river bed wave attenuation devices to be placed inside our new breakwater. This is not official but is being considered and would add another dimension of safety to our harbor. This document can be reviewed at the Municipal Building.

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**Mayor /Council Miscellaneous Items of Concern**

Mayor O'Neal stated that he was real pleased with **the community gardens and that the Town of Belhaven was fortunate to have Mr. Walter Harris** working with the Town as he had taken over the care of the gardens.

Councilman Carawan stated that the air conditioning, as the audience could tell from the window a/c units that were being utilized, had quit working in the Civic Center. Councilman Carawan stated that Town Manager Leverett had proposed that the Town purchase and install the new unit to save money.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mayor O'Neal declared the meeting adjourned at 7:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie J. Adams, CMC  
Town Clerk