

**Belhaven Town Council**  
**Regular Session – Minutes**  
**Monday, September 14, 2009**

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

Mayor Adam W. O’Neal, called the meeting to order on Monday, September 14, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. at the Boyette Civic Center at 257 W. Pungo Street. Council members present were: Steve W. Carawan, J. Nelson Guy, Mayor Pro-Tem; Howard D. Moore, McKee “Mac” Pigott and Robert L. Stanley. Town Manager, Dr. Guinn Leverett; Finance Officer Kyle J. DeHaven and Town Clerk Marie J. Adams were also present. 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 audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes – August 24, 2009 Regular Session**

Mayor O’Neal announced that the minutes of the August 24, 2009 regular session meeting were open for review and adoption. There being no corrections to the minutes, Councilman Guy made the motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Moore seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

**Public Comments**

Mayor O’Neal recognized Mr. Johnny Donnell Clark of 485 Belhaven Square who thanked Mayor O’Neal on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club for taking him and several members of the Club to the North Carolina State University Football Game.

**Eagle Scout Project – Mr. Nathan Cahoon – Council Approval**

Mayor O’Neal stated that Nathan Cahoon had submitted his proposed Eagle Scout project (permanently set picnic tables near the Concession Stand of the Little League Ball field) and that the Recreation Advisory Commission had approved the project. Mayor O’Neal asked if Nathan Cahoon was in the audience. He was not present. Councilman Pigott questioned if Code Enforcement Officer Overholt had approved the project. Town Manager Leverett stated, “yes”. Councilman Pigott made the motion approving the Eagle Scout project of Mr. Nathan Cahoon as building and permanently setting picnic tables in concrete at the Little League Ball Field. Councilman Stanley seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

**Proclamation – Dr. Thomas F. Ertle Day, Saturday, September 26, 2009**

Mayor O’Neal stated that Dr. Ertle had been struggling with cancer and he wanted to recognize him for his community involvement and his humanitarian efforts overseas. Mayor O’Neal stated that Dr. Ertle was a blessing to our community. Mayor O’Neal stated that the proclamation in Dr. Ertle’s honor was naming Saturday, September 26, 2009 as the Dr. Thomas F. Ertle Day and further stated that some local leaders involved in the community were sponsoring a fishing tournament to benefit Dr. Ertle and his family on that same day. Mayor O’Neal stated that Public Works Director, Mr. Paul Wood and Mr. Ricky Radcliffe could be contacted for participation or for additional information concerning the benefit tournament. Mayor O’Neal then read the following proclamation with his signature and attested by the Town Clerk.

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**Proclamation  
Dr. Thomas F. Ertle Day  
Saturday, September 26, 2009**

WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas F. Ertle was born in Camden, New Jersey on August 19, 1951; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ertle graduated from Haddon Heights High School, Graduated from LaSalle University (undergraduate), graduated from Temple University Medical School 1977 as Doctor of Podiatric Medicine; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ertle was commissioned Captain in the United States Army in 1978 and was stationed in Fort Bragg, NC for three years attached to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne and was physician for the Golden Knight Parachute Team; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ertle married Cindy Allen in 1978, moved to Johnstown , PA in 1981 and was in private practice for twenty years and had two sons; Matt and Luke; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ertle and his wife Cindy, moved to Belhaven in June of 2001 where he, again, had a private podiatry practice, as well as a private podiatry practice at the Outpatient Clinic of Roanoke – Chowan Hospital in Ahoskie, NC, he was a former member of the Belhaven Rotary Club and now an honorary member of the Ahoskie Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ertle is a true humanitarian as he has been the former President of the Hearts of Haiti Board of Directors, led and participated in medical work teams to Haiti from 1984-2006 and went on mission trips to Bolivia and Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ertle and his wife Cindy, demonstrated profound humanitarian principals to a Haitian family by fulfilling a promise, mutually given, to care for the children of the other in the event of tragedy; which resulted in the legal guardianship of Jeff Deshomme from Haiti in 2006; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that Saturday, September 26, 2009 is proclaimed the Dr. Thomas F. Ertle Day in conjunction with a community sponsored fishing tournament with proceeds benefiting Dr. Ertle and his family, as he has shown humanity in ultimate ways through his special missions and service to the Belhaven Community.

PROCLAIMED, this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2009 by Adam W. O’Neal, Mayor of the Town of Belhaven.

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Adam W. O’Neal, Mayor

ATTEST:

Marie J. Adams, CMC  
Town Clerk

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**Notice from the State of North Carolina – Reduction in Beer and Wine Tax and Powell Bill Funds to Local Municipalities**

Mayor O’Neal stated that the Town had received a notice concerning reduction in Beer and Wine Taxes to local municipalities and asked Town Manager Leverett to give further information. Town Manager Leverett stated that not only were the Beer and Wine Tax Distribution being reduced but also the Powell Bill Funds. Town Manager Leverett stated that the Town will receive less money from the state than budgeted. Mayor O’Neal stated that for example the Beer and Wine Tax last year was \$8,500 and this year could be reduced to an estimated \$2,800. Councilman Pigott stated that the state budget cuts they will an increase utility taxes which would in turn could increase utility bills over 20%. Councilman Carawan stated that in the past when local funds have been reduced with the State saying that the tax would increase back to the normal percentage the next year; Councilman Carawan stated he would like to go on record by stating that he doubted the Town would see that increase as once the state takes the money it would not be given back. Finance Officer DeHaven stated that this decrease in tax shares was across the board for local municipalities.

**Disposal Bans – Recycling**

Mayor O’Neal asked Town Manager Leverett to explain recycled to be effective on October 1, 2009. Town Manager Leverett stated that the new disposal ban is on plastic bottles. Town Manager Leverett stated that recycle bins for the plastic bottles would be placed at the Town of Belhaven Public Works Compound on Lee Street. Councilman Carawan asked if recyclable items could still be bundled. Town Manager Leverett stated, “yes”. Mayor O’Neal asked for more detailed information to be available at the next Council meeting. Councilman Carawan stated that more information would be needed to compose a strategy for the recycling.

**Budget Amendment #1 for Fiscal Year 2009/2010**

Mayor O’Neal stated that a budget amendment was needed for the purchase of a Kubota Tractor 3440 Diesel. Mayor O’Neal stated that the Council was made aware that the 36 year old Massey Ferguson needed replacing. Mayor O’Neal read the following budget amendment:

Increase revenue account #10-399-000 (Fund Balance Appropriated) by \$15,000;  
From \$263,758.00 to \$278,758.00 and

Increase expenditure account #10-560-073 (Capital Outlay – Equipment) by \$15,000;  
From \$12,000.00 to \$27,000.00.

Councilman Pigott made the motion to adopt budget amendment #1 as read by Mayor O’Neal. Councilman Carawan seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 5 to 0.

**Town Manager’s Report**

Town Manager Leverett stated that ElectriCities had an Emergency Assistance Program which would allow Belhaven to get assistance from more inland cities which may not be

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affected in case of a hurricane; and stated that he had met with The Wooten Company and USDA concerning finalizing application for the sewer by-pass and the sewer inflow and infiltration.

**Mayor/Council Concerns**

Mayor O’Neal asked if there were any other concerns or questions from the Council. There were none.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mayor O’Neal declared the meeting adjourned at 7:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie J. Adams, CMC  
Town Clerk