



SOUTH HILL TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2008 AT 7:00 PM

The regular monthly meeting of the South Hill Town Council was held on Monday, September 8, 2008 in the Council Chambers of the South Hill Town Hall located at 211 South Mecklenburg Avenue in South Hill, Virginia.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Honorable Mayor Earl O. Horne called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. INVOCATION

Mayor Horne rendered the invocation.

3. ROLL CALL

Mayor Horne called upon Anna Cratch to call the roll which was as follows:

A. Council Members

Lillie Feggins-Boone	M. B. "Millie" Bracey	William R. Gregory
J. Woodrow "Woody" Kidd	Mike Moody	C. Leroy Sasser

Council members Chad J. Barbour and Gregg Harper were not present at the meeting.

B. Staff in Attendance

Kim Callis, Town Manager	Anna Cratch, Town Clerk
Julie Hancock, Human Resources Manager	Charles Hudson, Code Compl. Official
Norman Hudson, Police Chief	Heidi Porter, Finance Director
Bill Wilson, Public Works Director	

4. RESOLUTIONS FOR THE 2008 SOUTH HILL DIXIE YOUTH SOFTBALL ALL-STAR TEAMS: DARLINGS, ANGELS AND DEBS

Kim Callis presented original Resolutions of Congratulations and Appreciation to each member of the 2008 South Hill Dixie Youth Darlings, Angels and Debs Softball All-Star teams who represented South Hill.

The Darlings served as ambassadors for South Hill and competed fiercely at the Dixie Youth Softball World Series in Pineville, Louisiana.

The Angels were undefeated in winning the district and state Dixie Youth tournament championships. This is the second year in a row that they have been to the World Series. They were awarded the sportsmanship trophy in Alexandria.

The Debs served as ambassadors for South Hill and competed fiercely at the Dixie Youth Softball World Series in Alexandria, Louisiana. Most of the members of the Debs team have left for college and were not able to be present to receive their resolutions.

Mr. Callis thanked Stuart Taylor, Vice President of the South Hill Dixie Youth League; Jimmy Martin; Melinda Walker; and all the players, coaches, parents and friends for their outstanding representation of our Town. He informed them that the Town is very proud of them. All present clapped in appreciation of those who were acknowledged.

Mayor Horne again thanked everyone involved with the teams and asked for God's blessing upon them. He informed everyone that Council and staff have worked very hard to make Parker Park the great facility that it is.

A motion was made by Councilman Sasser, second by Councilman Kidd, to approve the Resolutions of Congratulations and Appreciation as attached for the 2008 South Hill Dixie Youth Darlings, Angels and Debs Softball All-Star teams. **A roll-call vote** was requested and voiced as follows:

Councilman Barbour-Absent	Councilwoman Feggins-Boone-Aye
Councilwoman Bracey-Aye	Councilman Gregory-Aye
Councilman Harper-Absent	Councilman Kidd-Aye
Councilman Moody-Aye	Councilman Sasser-Aye.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 11 AND 19, 2008

A motion was made by Councilman Moody, second by Councilman Kidd, to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the regular meeting held on August 11, 2008 and the special meeting held on August 19, 2008, since all Council members had received copies prior to the meeting, and approve as submitted by Anna Cratch. Motion carried unanimously.

6. SERVICE AWARDS

Kim Callis commended Tony Seward with Public Works for his 20 years of service to the Town effective September 12, 2008. Mr. Seward was unable to attend the meeting but will be presented with his Certificate of Accomplishment at a later time.

7. CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICIAL'S REPORT

Charles Hudson presented his report of activity for the month of August 2008 as follows:

Inspections Completed	-	99
Permits Issued	-	32
Fees Collected	-	\$ 2,040.62
UEZ Exemption	-	\$ Ø
Rehab Exemption	-	\$ Ø
General Exemption	-	\$ Ø
Work Value	-	\$ 106,821.00

Jobs Completed - 43

New businesses for the month of August include Dogwoodyhill (Flea Market), Beverly’s Secretary Service, Marian’s Boutique, Helping Hands Massage Therapy, Jiggetts Car Wash and First Choice Settlements LLC.

A motion was made by Councilman Kidd, second by Councilman Moody, to approve the report of the Code Compliance Official for the month of August 2008 as submitted by Charles Hudson. Motion carried unanimously.

8. POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT

Norman Hudson presented his police report for the month of August 2008. Chief Hudson informed Council there were a total of 301 arrests, 721 complaints, and 555 call types in August. He presented the following administrative news:

- Captain Mike Mayer attended the VACP Conference at the Homestead.
- Officer Carie Dalton completed General Instructor Recertification at the training academy in Lynchburg.

A motion was made by Councilman Sasser, second by Councilman Kidd, to approve the report of the Police Department for the month of August 2008 as submitted by Chief Hudson. Motion carried unanimously.

Norman Hudson requested permission to hold a vehicle sale on October 11.

A motion was made by Councilman Kidd, second by Councilman Gregory, to authorize the Police Department to have a vehicle sale on October 11. Motion carried unanimously.

9. FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Heidi Porter submitted the financial report for month ended August 31, 2008 as follows:

General Fund	-	\$3,966,008.96	Investment Account	-	\$1,237,375.88
Water and Sewer Fund	-	139,644.69	Certificate of Deposit	-	\$ 70,000.00
Cemetery Fund	-	52,024.79	Total Police Dept. Savings	-	\$ 9,297.33
CDBG2 Halifax	-	4,096.52	Total Past Due Taxes All Yrs.-	-	\$ 50,585.35
Twin Oaks II	-	<19,137.27>			
Total in Checking	-	\$4,142,637.69			

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bracey, second by Councilwoman Feggins-Boone, to approve the financial report for month ended August 31, 2008 as submitted by Heidi Porter. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Porter reported that an ad listing delinquent taxpayers will be placed in the South Hill Enterprise on September 24.

10. JOHN FEILD, VIRGINIA ROANOKE RIVER BASIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VRRBAC) – CONCERNS REGARDING WATER ALLOCATIONS AND WITHDRAWALS FROM THE JOHN H. KERR RESERVOIR

John Feild informed Council that Raleigh, Durham and Cary are looking to the John H. Kerr Reservoir for future water supply. The VRRBAC considers this a major threat to the economic viability of a major portion of Southern Virginia.

According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) rules, up to 50,000-acre feet (AF) of storage can be allocated for water supply at Kerr Reservoir. There is currently 28,885 AF of water supply allocation left for Kerr Reservoir. Raleigh, Durham, Cary, and Granville County, N.C. have an active request in the USACE for 26,000 AF. If granted, this request would only leave 2,885 AF left for reallocation in Kerr Reservoir. Virginia Beach has already been granted an allocation downstream in Lake Gaston that allows them to take 60 million gallons per day. They also have a 10,200 AF allocation in Kerr Reservoir for use when Dominion Virginia Power cannot otherwise meet its downstream flow requirements. The VRRBAC feels it is imperative that a hold be put on this request until an updated policy for water allocation exists with the USACE which meets the water demands of the 21st century.

The VRRBAC desires a policy or law change which protects regions with water resources from losing their natural resources. VRRBAC has passed resolutions stating its opposition to any inter-basin transfers that would have a substantial negative impact on the people of the Basin. The consensus of VRRBAC is that the group must protect the water resources and the region's growth potential.

On August 1, the VRRBAC met in Washington with Senator Ruff, Delegate Wright, Senator Webb and Senator Warner's staff, Congressman Goode and his staff, and two representatives from the USACE to open the dialogue to have their involvement toward working to change the current law or regulations to protect the natural water resources of regions like our Basin from having natural water resources and economic opportunity usurped. Congressman Goode indicated that it will take more support than one or two congressional representatives to get legislation passed that would preserve an equitable percentage for citizens within the Basin.

Mr. Feild stated that the Kerr Lake Regional Water Authority, which serves Warren, Vance and parts of Granville County, has mentioned that they want to sell all the water they can. Mayor Horne commented that the Roanoke River Service Authority had to get permits authorizing the number of gallons that could be withdrawn. Mr. Feild commented that those permits are hopefully sufficient. He stressed that the area needs to get together regionally and acquire sufficient allocation out of the main storage facility for the Basin to head off the preempting usurping of the water by entities outside of the Basin. He explained that the allocations are a federally made allotment of water, and the withdrawal permits are a state function, so they run along two parallel tracts.

A three-year moratorium is in place which gives the region the chance to get into the queue and put in requests for necessary allocations. Mr. Feild stated that even though our projections of growth are not as dramatic as Raleigh, Durham and Cary, we still will have growth in Mecklenburg, Brunswick, Charlotte, and Halifax counties. Local communities including Clarkesville, Chase City and Boydton are starting to step up to the plate and adopt resolutions.

Mayor Horne commented that the South Hill Town Council will be glad to adopt a resolution as well. He asked Mr. Feild to keep Council updated on the matter.

11. CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

A. Rhonda Czerniawski, Southern Textile Service – Company Picnic at Centennial Park on October 11

On behalf of Southern Textile Service, Rhonda Czerniawski addressed Council to request permission for a company picnic at Centennial Park on October 11, 2008.

A motion was made by Councilman Sasser, second by Councilman Kidd, to authorize Southern Textile Service to hold a company picnic on October 11, 2008 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Centennial Park. Motion carried unanimously.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Street Committee – West Atlantic Street Parking

Councilwoman Feggins-Boone commented that for a number of years, parking on West Atlantic Street between Mecklenburg Avenue and Brunswick Avenue has been limited to two hours. Pursuant to a citizen request, the Street Committee has reviewed the need for the two-hour limit. As this section of Atlantic Street is no longer a heavy retail area, it appears the two-hour limit is no longer necessary or warranted. Most of the primary businesses in this area have private parking lots, and there is also a public parking lot nearby.

Councilwoman Bracey commented that she did not feel that businesses should park there all day.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Feggins-Boone, second by Councilman Sasser, to eliminate the two hour parking limit on West Atlantic Street between Mecklenburg Avenue and Brunswick Avenue, effective immediately, and to direct the Public Works Department to remove all related signs. Motion carried unanimously.

13. APPOINTMENTS

A. South Hill Board of Building Code Appeals

Mayor Horne informed Council that Doug Bugg's appointment on the Board of Building Code Appeals will expire on September 13, 2008. Mr. Bugg does not wish to serve again. Council thanked him for his years of service. The Board would like to recommend the appointment of Stuart Taylor who also serves as Chairman of the South Hill Planning Commission.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bracey, second by Councilman Kidd, to appoint Stuart Taylor to the South Hill Board of Building Code Appeals for a five-year term commencing September 14, 2008 and ending September 13, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Lake Country Area Agency on Aging (LCAAA)

Mayor Horne reported that Spencer Crowder's three-year appointment on the LCAAA will expire on September 30, 2008. Mr. Crowder has been contacted and does wish to serve another term. Mayor Horne commented that Mr. Crowder is very knowledgeable and is doing a very good job in this position.

A motion was made by Councilman Kidd, second by Councilman Sasser, to reappoint Spencer Crowder to the LCAAA for another three-year term commencing October 1, 2008 and ending September 30, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

14. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Kim Callis submitted the following report for the month of August 2008:

A. Roanoke River Service Authority (RRSA) Repair and Maintenance Agreement

Kim Callis informed Council that the RRSA requests assistance from the Town of South Hill from time to time in maintaining the Authority's water treatment and transmission facilities. The original 1999 agreement under which the Town's assistance was provided has expired, and the nature of services has changed dramatically. Mr. Callis presented Council with a new agreement he drafted for maintenance services which would be retroactive to July 1, 2008. Jeff Hinkle, Executive Director of the RRSA, has reviewed the draft and concurs with its provisions. The agreement has also been reviewed by Jimmy Butts, legal counsel for both the Town and the RRSA.

A motion was made by Councilman Kidd, second by Councilwoman Feggins-Boone, to approve and authorize the Town Manager to execute the "Agreement to Provide Repair and Maintenance Services" between the Town and the Roanoke River Service Authority retroactive to July 1, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Fire Department Loan Resolution

Mr. Callis informed Council that the South Hill Volunteer Fire Department is arranging a \$600,000 tax-exempt loan from First Citizens Bank to be used toward the purchase of a new tanker and to refinance existing debt at a lower interest rate. Mr. Callis presented Council with a resolution approving the loan which is required by federal tax laws and First Citizens Bank in order for the loan to be tax-exempt. The resolution does not obligate the Town to repay the debt. Council adopted a similar resolution for the 2005 Fire Department loan.

A motion was made by Councilman Kidd, second by Councilman Sasser, to adopt the resolution approving a \$600,000 tax-exempt loan by First Citizens Bank & Trust Company to the South Hill Volunteer Fire Department for the purchase of a new tanker and to refinance existing debt. A **roll-call vote** was requested and voiced as follows:

Councilman Barbour-Absent	Councilwoman Feggins-Boone-Aye
Councilwoman Bracey-Aye	Councilman Gregory-Aye
Councilman Harper-Absent	Councilman Kidd-Aye
Councilman Moody-Aye	Councilman Sasser-Aye.

C. Meherrin River Blueway Initiative Resolution

Kim Callis reported that the Town of South Hill held a public meeting on August 19, 2008 for the purpose of hearing comments regarding the establishment of a system of managed water trails and supporting facilities along the Meherrin River and other waterways in Southern Virginia. The comments from the meeting were overwhelmingly supportive of developing blueways. Mr. Callis presented Council with a resolution indicating the Town's support of the blueway initiative.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Bracey, second by Councilwoman Feggins-Boone, to adopt the Meherrin River Blueway Initiative Resolution indicating the Town of South Hill's support of the development of water access, parking and support facilities on Town owned properties along the Meherrin River; and the Town's commitment to maintaining these areas as parks for use by citizens and guests. A **roll-call vote** was requested and voiced as follows:

Councilman Barbour-Absent
Councilwoman Bracey-Aye
Councilman Harper-Absent
Councilman Moody-Aye

Councilwoman Feggins-Boone-Aye
Councilman Gregory-Aye
Councilman Kidd-Aye
Councilman Sasser-Aye.

Mayor Horne stated that Sandra Tanner informed him that Emporia is on board with the initiative as well. The Blueway Trail is going to be a huge plus for our area. Mayor Horne thanked Max Crowder and the boy scouts for being a part of the project.

Kim Callis reported that Public Works has already started work on the ramps to be installed above the dam at Whittles Mill. In answer to a question by Councilman Moody in regards to what is being done to prohibit individuals from being on the dam, Mr. Callis stated that it is being addressed as part of the project to get the powerhouse up and running again.

D. Raleigh Avenue Resolution

Mr. Callis informed Council that Ed Myers of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is attempting to obtain land and rights of way (ROWs) necessary for the Raleigh Avenue extension project which will eventually connect U.S. Highway 1/58 to State Highway 47. The current phase will run from Highway 1 to 58 up to Parker Park. VDOT will require that the Town execute certain deeds conveying land and ROWs to VDOT. Mr. Callis presented Council with a proposed resolution authorizing the construction of the Raleigh Avenue extension and the conveyance of all necessary Town owned land to VDOT. The issue has been discussed with the Town Attorney.

The first step in the project is obtaining the ROWs. The Town and the IDA own property. One of the challenges is going to be that there are some graves located along part of the IDA property. Getting the ROWs and relocating the graves properly will take some time.

A motion was made by Councilman Kidd, second by Councilwoman Feggins-Boone, to adopt the Resolution – Raleigh Avenue Extension authorizing the construction of a roadway connecting U.S. Highway 1/58 to State Highway 47 and the conveyance of all necessary Town owned land to VDOT; and to further authorize the Town Manager to execute all related documents. A roll-call vote was requested and voiced as follows:

Councilman Barbour-Absent
Councilwoman Bracey-Aye
Councilman Harper-Absent
Councilman Moody-Aye

Councilwoman Feggins-Boone-Aye
Councilman Gregory-Aye
Councilman Kidd-Aye
Councilman Sasser-Aye.

15. HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER’S REPORT

Julie Hancock presented the following administrative news for the month of August 2008:

A. Personnel Report

1) New Hires

- Robert Watkins joined the Water Sewer division of Public Works as a permanent full time employee effective August 11, 2008.

2) Education

- Heidi Porter, Finance, completed 2008 Comparative Report Transmittal Forms training in the compilation and filing of the data necessary for annual publishing of the Comparative Report of Local Government Revenues and Expenditures by the Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts.
- Allen Elliott, Public Works, renewed his Pesticide Applicator certification. He and Robert Owens passed the core test for commercial pesticide certification.
- Brian Bratten and Brad Clark, Public Works, completed a Virginia Rural Water Association class in Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection on August 26.
- Jerry Eyler, Public Works, renewed his Virginia State Inspector's License on August 26.
- Jerry Eyler and Keith Miller, Public Works, attended a Ford clinic dealing with their new diesel engine design on July 10. The 2008 Ford F350, which was put into service in June, has this engine.
- Charles Hudson, Code Compliance, attended VPMIA biannual School of Instruction on August 7 and 8. Discussion of recent Virginia Code changes was of particular interest.

This agenda item was for informational purposes only; therefore, no Council action was taken.

16. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bill Wilson submitted the following report for the month of August 2008:

A. Cross Connection Control and Backflow Prevention Program in Waterworks

Bill Wilson reported that the Town adopted an ordinance on March 12, 2001 to establish and enforce a program of cross connection control and backflow prevention in accordance with the Virginia Department of Health, Waterworks Regulations, Part II, Article 3. The purpose of this program is to ensure the potable water supply is being protected against any potential sources of contamination. So as to maintain compliance with the aforesaid ordinance and regulations, Mr. Wilson presented Council with a copy of a letter the Public Works Department will be sending to each resident that has a lawn irrigation system. Before property owners utilize their irrigation systems next spring/summer, staff wants to make sure they understand the potential hazards and that their backflow preventer is functioning properly.

This agenda item was for informational purposes only; therefore, no Council action was taken.

17. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

18. NEW BUSINESS

Kim Callis announced that Farmer's Day is coming up on September 27 at Centennial Park. The Monster Mash will be October 23 at the Market Square. Casper's performance on September 4 went extremely well; 700 people were in attendance.

19. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Prospective Business – § 2.2-3711 (A)(5)

Pursuant to Prospective Business – § 2.2-3711 (A)(5) of the Code of Virginia and on **motion** of **Councilman Kidd** and **second** of **Councilwoman Feggins-Boone**, the South Hill Town Council entered into **Executive Session** to discuss a prospective business matter. The members voted unanimously to enter into said Executive Session.

There was no action taken in Executive Session on the prospective business matter.

WHEREAS, the South Hill Town Council has convened an executive meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, § 2.2-3711 (A)(5) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Council that such executive meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South Hill Town Council hereby certifies that to the best of each member’s knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law were discussed in the executive meeting to which certification resolution applies, and (2) only such business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Council.

A motion was made by Councilman Sasser, second by Councilman Moody, to approve **Resolution 233**, dated September 8, 2008, and return to **Open Session**. All members present voted affirmatively.

20. OPEN SESSION

There was no action taken on the prospective business matter in Open Session following the Executive Session.

Robert Collins who lives on Brunswick Avenue informed Council that he has a problem with foot traffic. Mr. Collins stated that vehicles are stopping and dropping people off who are then walking through Mr. Taylor’s property and rental property to get to the Budget Inn. They are being picked up later. This goes on all night long. A neighbor leaves her outside light on all the time due to the traffic.

Mayor Horne suggested that a “no trespassing” sign be posted and then the police department or 911 should be called with the time of occurrence if it continues. Council cannot take action on foot traffic.

21. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business matters before the South Hill Town Council, Mayor Horne adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Anna B. Cratch.

Signed:

Attest:

Earl O. Horne, Mayor

Anna B. Cratch, Town Clerk