

MINUTES
ARCHER LODGE TOWN COUNCIL/PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2010
ARCHER LODGE COMMUNITY CENTER

PRESENT: Mike Gordon, Mayor; Carlton Vinson, Mayor Pro Tem; Jeff Barnes, Councilman; Clyde Castleberry, Councilman; Matt Mulhollem, Councilman; John Perry, Councilman

ALSO PRESENT: David Mills, Town Attorney and Lisa Barnes, Acting Clerk.

ITEM 1 Call to Order

At 7:07 p.m., Mayor Gordon called the meeting to order. Councilman Mulhollem led us in prayer.

ITEM 2 Public Hearing – Adoption of Budget Ordinance

At 7:09 p.m., Mayor Gordon opened the floor for any public comments. One resident spoke concerning the budget. See attachment 1. At 7:15 p.m., the public hearing closed.

ITEM 3 Action Agenda

(3a.) Councilman Mulhollem made a motion that the minutes of the regular meeting on January 11, 2010 be approved. It was second by Councilman Perry and approved by all with a show of hands.

(3b.) Councilman Barnes made a motion to adjust the agenda by adding a public comment period after this agenda item as Item (3c). It was second by Mayor Pro Tem Vinson and approved by all with a show of hands.

(3c.) Public Comment Period –

Mayor Gordon opened the floor for any public comments at 7:17 p.m. One resident spoke. See attachment 2. The floor was closed at 7:20 p.m.

ITEM 4 Action Items

(4a.) Adoption of budget ordinance – Mayor Pro Tem Vinson would like to propose that we accept this budget ordinance for this fiscal year but would note in doing so that we have eliminated a line item in the revenues anticipated and the expenditures authorized that was \$90,000 that we never actually anticipated in receiving or spending on behalf of the fire department but we were instructed that it was in our best interest that we get it on the budget with a note that we want to look for down the road. Just to clear up any confusion since we did not anticipate it happening this year because everything has already been billed tax wise, we just took it off to clear up any confusion. So that is missing from the revenues and expenditures category. Everything else is as shown. That reduced our total from \$208,000 to \$118,638. Mayor Pro Tem Vinson moved that we accept this budget. It was second by Councilman Castleberry and accepted by all with a show of hands.

ITEM 5 Administrative or Committee Reports

(5a.) Mayor Gordon said that the Planning Board had its first organizational meeting on Thursday, February 4. The Board went over information that had been gathered from the County Planning Board, they chose a chair person, which is Teresa Bruton and a secretary, which is Susan Locklear. It was basically an information gathering session and greeting session. The County Planning Board Chairman, Jim Jenkins came and spoke to them.

ITEM 6 Items for Discussion

(6a.) Archer Lodge Fire Department – Chief Pete Barnes spoke to the council and thanked them for taking the fire department tax out of the town budget. It was a concern for the department because the letter of intent that was written in 2008 stated that it would be collected by the County. The fire tax has been collected by the County since the 1964-65 fiscal year and it has worked very well. He stated that if it isn't broke, don't fix it. He said that was the way they stood when they wrote the letter and that is the way they stand now, united as a fire department membership and board. The fire department attorney is currently writing up a contract now for the council to review.

(6b.) Joining the League of Municipalities and obtaining insurance - Elected officials have to carry liability insurance and workman's compensation and the League is in the process of getting us a quote for this insurance coverage. Also the League has offered us a free membership through the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 2010. The League has been very helpful throughout this process. They have all kinds of expertise from administrative to legal. They will be getting us a quote for the membership after the June 30th period. Mayor Pro Tem Vinson moved that we accept the Leagues invitation and move towards joining them as soon as possible and take advantage of what they can offer us. Mayor Gordon had hoped to have the prices for these services but did not

receive them in time from the League. Out of 540 some municipalities, only 3 are not members. Councilman Perry offered assistance in obtaining the insurance. Mayor Pro Tem Vinson withdrew his motion since there was an ordinance that they had put together that we will need to adopt to join the League once the information has been received. The League has already provided services and advice to us. Attorney Mills stated that we needed to do this as soon as possible. Councilman Perry asked what was in the budget for this and Mayor Pro Tem Vinson said that we put in \$5,000 for the liability insurance for the remainder of the year. Since we have no staff or no vehicles, it should be rather cheap.

Item 7 Adjournment

Before the motion to adjourn, Mayor Pro Tem Vinson wanted to recognize a member of the Archer Lodge Exploratory Committee, Mark Jackson who was deployed to Iraq last year and has just returned safely home to now the Town of Archer Lodge.

Councilman Barnes made the motion that the meeting adjourn and was second by Councilman Castleberry and approved by all.

Mike Gordon, Mayor

Submitted by: Lisa Barnes, acting clerk

Attachment 1

Public Hearing Comments on the Adoption of the Budget Ordinance:

Debbie Barnes – A retired employee from the Office of State Budget of Management for many years wanted to know as far as administration goes, since that appears to be 64 percent of our budget, what the breakdown was and did we model it after another town, and if so, who. Mayor Pro Tem Vinson said that we did model it after several other towns, the town of East Over, Mills River, and Selma. Barnes asked as far as staffing and salaries. Vinson said we used the services and advice of our consultant, C. L. Gobble, who was the town manager of Louisburg for 26 years. He stated that this is the actual budget that the Exploratory Committee submitted to the Legislature for their approval. Barnes said it just seems a little top heavy on administration. Vinson stated that it is simply because there is no fire protection, no police protection and there is not a lot of other things in there. The biggest part of the administration budget is that there is a substantial amount of up fit in terms of equipment, computers, and software in order to connect to the county and state and we were advised to make sure we had that in there up front, plus there will be desk, chairs, and hopefully we might be able to get those for free, but we did budget for it. She wanted to know if we have a breakdown of what administration costs are and is it available. Vinson said yes. It was on website as well. This is for this fiscal year. Town Clerk/Administrator plus benefits, which includes payroll tax, insurance and benefits that was budgeted for 4-5 months, but may only be used for 3 months is \$20,833. The next item is Legal council for \$12,000. Under real estate and utilities, office space was budgeted for a total of \$5,000. Office space utilities include electricity \$500 per month for 5 months, fax and two phones with two lines \$150 a month, computer and technology equipment and service for \$18,000, we are not sure when this will take place; furnishings for \$1000, water and sewer for \$325, and cable services for on-line access was budgeted at \$1500. Item D is insurance, which includes liability, property, worker's comp and bonding. We got input from several other towns and put in \$5,000 in the budget. We do not have any town employees, so it will just be liability for the town. Barnes asked if we were only going to have one staff member and Vinson replied yes, for the present time. Under the Miscellaneous category, we budgeted \$1000 for advertising, such as public notices and mailings, \$1000 for signage at some point and time, and then office supplies \$1000. The next item was tax collection expenses which is 2% times the total that we will bill and that was budgeted at \$3075 and then an end of year audit for \$2500. These expense items should add up to \$76,733.

Attachment 2

Public Comment – Eddie Boyce commended the council on approving a conservative budget during these trying times. Two things, when we eventually get some money he asked that we add an American flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to our agenda and the other item he asked that when we have public comments, they should be limited to town residents only. Mayor Pro Tem Vinson addressed one of his issues, the American flag, we have been working on that item. We have contacted Representative Etheridge's office and they are planning on sending us one. However, we will need a stand for it. Mr. Boyce offered to go pick it up as well, but we are hoping the government will mail it to us.