

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANFORD
SANFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

The City Council met at the Sanford Municipal Center, 225 E. Weatherspoon Street, on Tuesday, September 18, 2012, at 7 P.M., in the Council Chambers. The following people were present:

Mayor Cornelia P. Olive
Mayor Pro Tem Sam Gaskins
Council Member James Williams
Council Member Rebecca Wyhof
City Manager Hal Hegwer

Council Member Jimmy Haire
Council Member Walter H. McNeil, Jr.
Council Member L. I. (Poly) Cohen
City Clerk Bonnie D. White
City Attorney Susan C. Patterson

Absent:

Council Member Charles Taylor

Mayor Cornelia Olive called the meeting to order. A moment of silence was observed. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENT – (Exhibit A)

Joel Murr residing at 4620 Lemon Heights Drive, John McVay - residing at 2216 Cliffside Drive, and Tim Murr - residing at 600 Lantern Run encouraged council members to attend the forthcoming “God Belongs In My City” walk to occur on September 29, beginning at 10 A.M. The walk will start at the Kiwanis Children’s Park and end at Depot Park.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member L. I. “Poly” Cohen made the motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Council Member Walter McNeil, Jr., the motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Resolution in Support of the Temporary Closure of a Portion of Maple Avenue – (Exhibit B)

Resolution was approved for the temporary closure of Maple Avenue from Market Street to Third Street for the purpose of an outside community meal, sponsored by the Bread of Life Ministries on Saturday, September 29, between the hours of 9 A.M. and 5 P.M.

Approval of Documents Related to the NC Housing Finance Agency 2012 Urgent Repair Project – (Exhibit C)

- City of Sanford Assistance Policy
- City of Sanford Procurement and Disbursement Policies
- Agreement for Professional Services with The Wooten Company

Approval of Offer from Eddie and Cecilia Taylor to Purchase Lot 8, Block P Along Hudson Avenue in the Washington Park Community Development Area – (Exhibit D)

Acceptance of an offer of \$3,300 from Eddie and Cecilia Taylor to purchase Lot 8, Block P along Hudson Avenue was approved. No upset bids were received.

Approval of Department of Transportation Reimbursement Agreement for DOT Project Consisting of Construction, Maintenance, and/or Improvement Work to Install Pedestrian Heads and Appurtenances at the Intersection of Woodland Avenue and Main Street (NC87) Within the City Limits as Requested by the Municipality – (Exhibit E)

Approval of Minutes of Retreat of the City Council Dated February 8, 2012 – (Filed in Minute Book 77)

Approval of Minutes of Law and Finance Meeting Dated August 1, 2012 – (Filed in Vault)

Approval of Minutes of Law and Finance Meeting Dated August 15, 2012 – (Filed in Vault)

Approval of Minutes of Meeting of the City Council Dated September 4, 2012 – (Filed in Minute Book 78)

Mayor Pro Tem Sam Gaskins made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Council Member Jimmy Haire, the motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Consider Discussion of Internet Sweepstakes

Council Member Jimmy Haire stated that he would like to get a consensus from council members to have staff to pursue enacting a fee on internet sweepstakes parlors; first to find out how many units there are in the City. It appears to him there are three types: the console that sits on the floor in clubs, billiard halls, Moose Club, Elks Club and convenience stores; there is the type that sits on the desk like a computer and most of those tend to be at the places where the sweepstakes signs are out front; and then the third type is where the machine is not connected to the internet. There is apparently a preloaded chip or cd in it and you go in the establishment and you say you want to purchase a phone card/paper with a pin number on it that entitles you to make telephone calls until your time is used up. Mr. Haire said that rather than staff trying to decipher machine A, B, or C, we need to gather a total for the total number of machines in Sanford, whether they are a pay to play, phone time, or internet sweepstakes machines. That should be our first objective. The last count we had was pushing 500 units plus. Mr. Haire thought it would be around 700 or more. He felt Sanford has more than any other city near its size.

Mr. Hegwer said that we have one more business opened and the count continues to change. There may be some that have gone out of business. Mr. Haire said it will take a lot of time and talent and the Council should be willing to press ahead once we receive the number of units. Mr. Haire asked for the consensus of Council before staff proceeds with the count.

Mr. Haire said that Representative Bill Owens has submitted a Bill before the General Assembly which would allow local governments to collect \$1,000 per year per location and \$500 per machine. One of the establishments has 108 machines in it. You will need to count the businesses that say "sweepstakes" and those that say "Business Center." There is one behind Bubba's Subs that opened as a sweepstakes parlor and it did not make it, but now there is a new sign out front that says "Coming Soon – Business Center/Internet Sweepstakes." He said we need to get the count first and then we will discuss what type fee to assess. We do not know if the Bill will pass in the General Assembly or not.

After discussing the issue, it was the consensus of council for staff to pursue with counting the number of units associated with the sweepstakes located in Sanford and also to hold a public hearing on the matter in the future. Ms. Wyhof encouraged all residents affected by the sweepstakes to attend the public hearing because she has received a lot of phone calls regarding this issue.

ALL EXHIBITS CONTAINED HEREIN ARE HEREBY INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE AND MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES.

OTHER BUSINESS

City Attorney Susan Patterson stated that she placed at council members' seats, a memo with red highlights regarding information from the grant process on the Urgent Repair Program. It is to help Council understand that the grant program has requirements on keeping information confidential within the program. The Urgent Repair Program is for individuals who live in town and are in need, both physically and otherwise, to help make repairs/rehabilitations to their homes. There were requests by council members that this information be shared with civic organizations and churches who would like to volunteer to help those individuals that did not qualify for the program. It is admirable for non-profits and churches to reach out and help those in need in our community; however, the grant program puts limitations on the ability of staff to share that information. Health care information about disabilities would be protected by the HIPPA Act. The grant says that only the City employees who are involved, the consultants, auditors and the Housing Finance Agency are allowed to look at the information on the application. However, after the program is over, if the individuals who did not qualify for a grant this time would contact the City, make the specific request, and give permission that their information can be shared with non-profits, that might be a way for the City to acquire information outside the grant program for people who could use help with handicap ramps, bathroom rehabilitations, etc. She encouraged the people in the public who applied for the Urgent Repair Grant Program, in the event they are not funded, to contact Mrs. Kennedy and give her written permission for their information to be shared with non-profits or churches.

Attorney Patterson advised that information from the applicants cannot be given to council members because the City would risk losing its grant funding.

Mr. Hegwer referred to a document written by Community Development Director Bob Bridwell entitled, "The Saving of a Treasure: The Endor Iron Furnace." He made a presentation to Lee County yesterday at its meeting at some of the commissioners' requests. Mr. Bridwell will make a presentation to Council at a later date.

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ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned on motion of Council Member Walter McNeil, Jr., seconded by Council Member L. I. "Poly" Cohen, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

CORNELIA P. OLIVE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BONNIE D. WHITE, CITY CLERK