



Town of Indian Trail
Minutes of Town Council
April 23, 2013
Civic Building
6:30 P.M.

The following members of the governing body were present:

Mayor: Michael L. Alvarez

Council Members: Robert Allen, David Cohn, Christopher King, Darlene Luther, and David Waddell.

Absent Members: Planning Director Shelley DeHart.

Staff Members: Town Manager Joe Fivas, Town Clerk Peggy Piontek, Town Attorney Keith Merritt, Director of Community & Economic Development Kelly Barnhardt, Finance Director Marsha Sutton, Tax Collector Janice Cook, Director of Engineering and Public Works Scott Kaufhold , Director of Human Resources Miriam Lowery, Senior Planner Rox Burhans , and Public Information Officer/Events Coordinator Rebecca Carter.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Alvarez called the meeting to order, invited Boy Scout Troop 97 to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance and announced that the Town is looking for applicants for the various Boards and Committees.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

David Waddell made a motion to approve adding the Urban Archery 2014 Renewal to the Consent Agenda as item d.

Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA

Christopher King made a motion to approve the agenda.

Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

PRESENTATIONS

- a. Proclamation for Donate Life Month

Mayor Alvarez read the Proclamation. **(COPY ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART OF THE MINUTES)**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sonny Gontro, 13803 Independence, Indian Trail, NC advised he is representing the Indian Trail Business Association and announced they are partnering with Indian Trail Elementary School for a fundraiser on May 11th from 11 am - 2 pm. The event is called Indian Trial for kids dedicated to health, fitness, safety & environmental awareness is free and provided Council and the audience with events planned for the day inviting everyone to come out.

Carlton Aldrich, 2033 Fripp Lane, Indian Trail suggested we have music or Marching Bands at the July 4th Parade. Also suggested that Political Parties be permitted to participate in parade. Mr. Fivas informed Mr. Aldrich that he believes we don't have any limits on parade entries and that we have tried on numerous occasions with many different marching bands to get them to play in the parade with no success.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of April 9, 2013 draft minutes
- b. Woolpert Capital Project Ordinance **(COPY ATTACHED HEREWITH AND MADE A PART OF THE MINUTES)**
- c. Budget Amendments **(COPY ATTACHED HEREWITH AND MADE A PART OF THE MINUTES)**
- d. Urban Archery Participation Form for 2014 *this item was added as a result of a motion made under additions and deletions.* **(COPY ATTACHED HEREWITH AND MADE A PART OF THE MINUTES)**

Christopher King made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion Passed 4 - 1 with David Waddell opposing.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Council consideration of approval of Chestnut Change Order

Mr. Fivas displayed recent photographs of the project along with some examples of anticipated items in the park. Mr. Fivas reviewed this matter from the last meeting, advising the change order before them is for \$1,300,000.00

Robert Allen made a motion to approve the Change Order **(COPY ATTACHED HEREWITH AND MADE A PART OF THE MINUTES)**

Motion Passed 4 - 1 with David Waddell opposing.

b. Council consideration of approval of Chestnut Corridor Right-of Way Agreement

Mr. Fivas explained that staff and legal has been working with the property owners to negotiate the Right of Way for the Chestnut Connector and if approved the design would begin and construction commence in the fall of this year.

Christopher King made a motion to approve the Chestnut Corridor Right-of Way Agreement. **(COPY ATTACHED HEREWITH AND MADE A PART OF THE MINUTES)**

Motion Passed 4 - 1 with David Waddell opposing.

c. Council consideration of approval of design and permitting for Chestnut Extension to US-74

Mr. Fivas advised that now that the previous item has been approved this item will get us the design for the project, costing \$45,000.00.

Christopher King made a motion to approve the design and permitting for Chestnut Extension to US-74 **(COPY ATTACHED HEREWITH AND MADE A PART OF THE MINUTES)**

Motion Passed 4 - 1 with David Waddell opposing.

d. Council consideration of Amendment to Capital Project Ordinance for Chestnut Park

Mr. Fivas advised that the initial contract required a project ordinance; this is an update to that ordinance.

Robert Allen made a motion to approve the Amendment to Capital Project Ordinance for Chestnut Park **(COPY ATTACHED HEREWITH AND MADE A PART OF THE MINUTES)**

Motion Passed 4 - 1 with David Waddell opposing.

e. Council consideration of changing the permanent name of Sardis Park to Crooked Creek Park of Indian Trail - requested by Council Member King

Mr. King advised that the names given to the two parks were given for identification purposes to avoid confusion. He is suggesting the name Crooked Creek Park as when he went out to the park there is a crooked creek running through it. He is requesting to officially name the park Crooked Creek Park of Indian Trail and inquired if any other Council Member have any other ideas. All Council Members agreed with the name.

Christopher King made a motion to approve changing the permanent name of Sardis Park to Crooked Creek Park of Indian Trail
Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

- f. Council consideration of supporting a Resolution supporting local government authority - requested by Council member Luther

Ms. Luther advised that the State is trying to take control away from Elected Officials and residents of cities. Ms. Luther referred to House Bill 150, building inspections, annexations of donut holes; there is a lot of actions at State level trying to take over municipal controls. Ms. Luther requested Council to support this Resolution.

Darlene Luther made a motion to approve the Resolution Supporting Local Government Authority (**COPY ATTACHED HEREWITH AND MADE A PART OF THE MINUTES**)
Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Ms. Luther read the Resolution into the record.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Council discussion and update on Wayfinding designs

Mr. Fivas explained the presenter is late and requested this matter be moved further along in the agenda.

Robert Allen made a motion to approve suspending the Rules and moving to item 9a to Item 10.5.
Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

BUDGET ITEMS

- a. Law Enforcement Needs Assessment - this matter was requested by Mayor Alvarez

Mayor Alvarez advised this item was requested before the contract negotiations by Mr. Waddell but no vote was taken. Mayor Alvarez suggested we find out the cost of having an independent agency perform a study to determine a needs assessment and have Council review it to determine if it's necessary and possibly add it to the 2013/2014 budget. After a discussion, by consensus Council directed that this item be included as a line item in the upcoming budget.

b. Addition of Law Enforcement Deputies - this matter was requested by Mayor Alvarez

Mayor Alvarez advised he is not expecting any action until after the needs assessment has been complete; as we cannot be sure how many, if any, officers we will need and would like the assessment to include this. His concern is with the new parks, and increase in housing, he would like Council to be aware of cost and what the needs are in advance. Council had a lengthy discussion resulting in the decision that the needs assessment will determine if we should add any more deputies.

c. Discussion of Community Center/ Municipal Center - requested by Council Member Luther

Ms. Luther stated this is just to start the discussion on building a New Town Hall and Community Center. We've spoken for quite a while and this is something we will definitely need as we build towards the future. We did have a study done that indicated 25-30,000 square feet would be required; and if we're going to do it is it something we consider now or do it later. The value is lower than it's ever been, it will go up and is starting to do so, and the interest rates are low. It's more about a cost saving thing for the long term for the town. Council discussed this matter and by consensus directed the Town Manager to provide them with financing options to be presented at whatever meeting he feels is necessary.

d. Discussion and update on video/audio options for Town Council meetings

Mr. Fivas advised that staff looked at changing our audio system with a saving of approximately \$4-5,000 a year all the way to having options with cameras and those costs are probably \$15-20,000 for good cameras. Council had a discussion on this subject with Mr. Fivas suggesting that staff provide Council with some options but not include it in the budget. Council can determine if it goes into the budget during the budget discussions.

e. Discussion and update on searchable UDO and Town Ordinances

Mr. Fivas advised that staff researched companies that will codify codes, digitalize it and put into a comprehensive system with diagnostic tools, the whole process from beginning to end; redoing our ordinances, putting it into the system with the UDO both being searchable, base system is somewhere between \$15-20,000.

Mr. Fivas stated that our codes need to be reevaluated and updated, suggesting we should start the process of updating our codes and then we can determine if we want to make it searchable.

f. Discussion and update on website improvements

Mr. Fivas advised that staff reviewed our system and got some diagnostics and we agree that our system is out of date and needs to be redone. Some of the comments we received is that we still have some usable

time with what we have now. Mr. Fivas suggested starting the planning process and be prepared for next year's budget process and launch it then. Staff can do research and bring the information back to Council early next year.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND UPDATE ON WAYFINDING DESIGNS - *this item was moved as a result of a motion made by council Member Allen*

Mr. Bizzell complimented staff on the quick response to questions during the process. He informed Council that the key to success is a large scale boulevard sign. One of the most important features is an iconic image that people can identify and Indian Trail does not have it.

All of the colors are within NCDOT and MUTD standards so there is no issue with them. From a traffic standpoint the light sign will be better seen at night, the dark background is better during the day.

Mr. Bizzell provided the anatomy of a wayfinding sign is: a well done sign provides no more than 3-4 destinations on a sign, consistent message on top of every sign (LOGO), and having a dividing line between change of directions. Messages need to be clear, consistent and easy to read.

Gateway signs should create a presence when you hit Indian Trail on 74, suggesting putting it on the west side near the new Chestnut Connector. The best way to connect to people is website and gateway signs suggesting stone work and copper will create a nice image. Mr. Bizzell presented two images advising the smaller gateway sign doesn't have an electronic message board. From a mapping standpoint - 2.5 miles of 74 makes it easy to create branding identity. Boulevard signs will be located at major intersections; wayfinding positions will cover about 24 different locations. If you're driving through Indian Trail you should be reminded about a brand every 4-5 minutes.

Mr. Bizzell showed Council 3 different pole and bracket designs. The next step, based on sign and pole design approval includes final working on drawings for signage selection, selecting qualified fabrication firms, prepare a request for pricing (RFP), making exact sign locations, preparing NCDOT approval documents and submit them to NCDOT. It takes approximately 90-120 days to get approval. Mr. Bizzell informed Council that oversized boulevard street signs do not require NCDOT approval providing a good opportunity to start the project and get visible results to the project quickly. By consensus Council approved the conceptual designs presented and Mr. Bizzell advised that he will stake and photograph locations within the next 30 days.

MANAGERS REPORT

Mr. Fivas reminded everyone about trash day Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and that the Sunset Series is starting the next week.

Mr. Fivas informed Council about the bond process that the Finance Department did a great job on presentation to prepare strong documents and we have shocked everyone involved in our bond process.

Most people thought we'd get AA3 but we received AA2 & AA+, which is unheard of. They like our fiscal conservativeness and how we run the town, good sell on debt, capital reserve fund, appreciate our fund balance and our answers to their questions were acceptable. We were able to go out and sell our bonds and we were able to get an interest rate below 2% when we thought we would get 3% a savings of \$50-80,000 per year for the next 3 years. He advised that everyone should take pride that the people in NY are evaluating all aspects of our town and gave us one step below an AAA rating. This is a rating that is generally given to cities like Charlotte and Huntersville. He thanked Ms. Sutton & Ms. Smith for all their hard work.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Luther stated that it's great to hear the news about our bond rating and is proud of our town government. She is excited about the new Indian Trail wayfinding signs, parks, and roads and feels it's a great time to be a part of it. Ms. Luther commented on the bombing in Boston and stated: God Bless the victims of Boston.

Mr. Allen stated it is a good time to be in Indian Trail, these are things discussed for years and it's nice to see dirt moving, years from now seeing the trees grown, build out of Sun Valley Commons a \$60,000,000 project, we'll have options. Thoughts and prayers for the people in Boston and all of us, freedoms taken for granted but bought and paid for in blood.

Mayor Alvarez stated not to forget the people in West Texas and Boston. Acknowledged that tomorrow Governor McCrory will be signing Kilah's Law into law, great kudos to the Town of Indian Trail for protecting one of its own and taking it one step further. He thanked the Town of Stallings for stepping up as the first town to adopt the Resolution. With these tragedies it makes one look in the mirror at themselves and he does not like what he has seen, he has acted rash, insulting to people and not led the meetings the way he should have. Today he makes a vow to the Town of Indian Trail to step it up and be a better example of the leader he was elected to be and not get into personal arguments with anyone. Disagreements are one thing; attack the opinion but never the person.

Mr. Waddell commented on the Donate Life Proclamation advising you need to have a living will and put it in there. On parades, he really appreciated Mr. Aldrich's comments on the July 4th parade, he would love to see them, he was in a marching band, we have two high schools here and doesn't see it as a problem. There is a re-evaluation coming up in Union County requesting that Council consider it when deciding on budget. He expressed concern about the Connector, what's going to happen at 74, intersection by hardware store is dangerous now, and he's nervous about that. As for the Resolution to local authority, he did get sarcastic, read portion advising that he's fine with the State keeping an eye on local government.

Mr. King stated it was a great productive meeting tonight, one of the best he's seen in a while. Mr. Waddell was the swing vote tonight for the first time. The bond rating is excellent news on top of the great meeting.

Mr. Cohn thanked staff for doing a great job on the bond, shows how hard you work and how good you are, thank you for saving the taxpayers money. He thinks they are fantastic.

Mr. Fivas advised we call the local High Schools to participate in the July 4th Parade and every year they say no.

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURN

Robert Allen made a motion to adjourn
Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

APPROVED:

Michael L. Alvarez, Mayor

Attest:

Peggy Piontek, Town Clerk