



**Town of Indian Trail**  
**Minutes of Town Council**

**May 14, 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.

Staff Members: Town Manager Joe Fivas, Town Clerk Peggy Piontek, Town Attorney Keith Merritt, Director of Community & Economic Development Kelly Barnhardt, Planning Director Shelley DeHart, 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 led in the Pledge of Allegiance and announced there are openings on Indian Trail Boards and Committees.

## **ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Christopher King made a motion to approve adding Site solutions as item 8a and move the other items down one (a to b etc.).

Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

David Waddell made a motion to approve adding Council Budget Schedule as item 8f.

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 Indian Trail Presbyterian Church

Mayor Alvarez read the Proclamation and presented it to Reverend Jim Johns **(COPY ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART OF THE RECORD)**

### b. Union County Council on Aging

Linda Smosky and Don Helms Representatives for Council of the Aging requested donations from the Town of Indian Trail and provided their history and overall mission and goal, which is to giving the senior citizens in Union County the opportunity to stay here. Ms. Smosky explained the many services the organization provides, funding opportunities and statistics on various matters.

### c. Presentation to Bill Smith, Union County Urban Forrester for his work on the Mayor's Tree Initiative

Mayor Alvarez explained the Mayor's Tree Initiative, thanking Mr. Smith for his assistance and support. He presented Mr. Smith with a collage of photographs from the project. Mayor Alvarez thanked Ms. DeHart and staff for their hard work on this project.

### d. Recycling Update by Waste Pro

Jennifer Herring a representative for Waste Pro provided statistics on the recycle waste increase and saving of trees, energy, and space as a result of providing residents the larger recycling container.

e. Lupus Awareness Month Proclamation

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Art Spurr, 4300 Woodcreek Court, Indian Trail, NC spoke on high density housing advising that crime was increased where he came from in Compton, Ca once it was offered. Vandalism increased 200% when Meridian Apartments were put up. He expressed his concern that Indian Trail does not have operational risk management programs when an event is being held. He proposed that the Public Safety Committee be tasked with making up a risk management plan and procedures for the town.

Amanda Faulkenberry, 519 Picketts Circle, Indian Trail, NC explained a situation on a recent Public Information Request, describing duplicates that were printed. She advised she has yet to receive an explanation on the duplicates and is questioning why it was not noticed. She suggested that be provided suggestions on how to improve the process.

Jerry Morse, 271 Unionville Indian Trail Road, Indian Trail, NC advised he is a concerned citizen trying to improve Indian Trail and the quality of life. He started to get involved when the Animal Control Ordinance came up and then the Law Enforcement contract came up. He would like everyone to feel comfortable speaking their mind and not be judged.

Michael Faulkenberry, 519 Picketts circle, Indian Trail, NC stated the Public Comments Policy informs residents that they are being recorded by the Town but that not only are the citizens being recorded they are also being videoed by a town official. He will be submitting a Public Information Request tomorrow for copies of the videos by Robert Allen. He stated a comment made by Mr. Merritt in 2009.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approval of April 23, 2013 draft minutes
- b. Tax Report for Month End April 2013 **(COPY ATTACHED HERETO AND**

**MADE A PART OF THE RECORD)**

- c. MSLO Rocky River Road **(COPY ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART OF THE RECORD)**
- d. Budget Amendments **(COPY ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART OF THE RECORD)**

Christopher King made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.  
Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

*None*

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

- a. Site Solutions - This item was added as a result of a motion made under Additions and Deletions

Mr. Fivas advised we are here today to provide Council with some ideas and thoughts for consideration. With the hopes that they will provide direction on where they want to go with the design. Mr. Fivas explained that both Council and staff have mentioned that this park should have both active and passive amenities and Site Solutions has created some new ideas.

Jeff Ashbaugh provided the concept designs for Chestnut Park, explaining both the active and passive amenities. Council had a discussion on the amenities and by consensus Council agreed that Site Solutions and staff were on the right track in designing the concept.

- b. Town Manager Budget Recommendation

Mr. Fivas advised what you will see in the overall budget is a continuation of projects we have been discussing for a while. A key point is this is a draft and we will be happy to make whatever changes suggested. He thanked the Council, residents and staff for their hard work, advising we have one of the most efficient governments with approximately 30 employees. Mr. Fivas stated that most of this budget discusses tackling traffic congestion issues. He presented to Council the Towns accomplishments, budget process, population growth, tax classification, organization chart, municipal tax rates for towns our size, debit service ratio, intergovernmental ration, a penny chart showing how each penny is spent, town revenues and an expense summary. Mr. Fivas provided some highlights from the past year: law enforcement contract, pathways 2 progress initiative, and reduction of solid waste expenditures and an overview of most departments.

Council had a lengthy discussion with Mr. Fivas, topics included: infrastructure, current debt and the purpose and benefits of the Capital Reserve Fund. Mr. Fivas announced that the proposed budget will be available for the public on the Town website, with the Town Clerk and at the Indian Trail Library after 5:00 pm tomorrow.

c. Council requested Community Center/Municipal Center Financing Information

Mr. Fivas explained staff did some basic analysis and are willing to do more if requested. He advised there are many different options: installment purchase loans or bonds. Mr. Fivas advised to move forward you are looking at a mix of options, there has been a fund put together that can be used to build a Municipal Center (\$1,400,000), it's a start and is accruing interest; he explained the many ways it can be used. Mr. Fivas gave cost estimates to finance \$4,000,000 for 5, 10 & 15 years.

d. Council Consideration of Approval of Indian Trail Citizen Academy

Rebecca Carter explained how the academy would work, its benefits to both the citizens and staff. Council discussed graduation, course information, applicants and the possibility of it being applied to community service hours.

Robert Allen made a motion to approve the development and implementation of the program. Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

e. Prohibitive Costs and policies of obtaining public information - *This matter was requested by Council Member Waddell*

Mr. Waddell explained this is the result of what Ms. Faulkenberry referred to in Public Comments. Mr. Waddell feels the two sides are: cost must be charged for basic materials the other side is that this is public information and should not create a hardship on the individuals requesting it. He explained that you can receive a hard copy of the information or digital copy and provided the inconveniences of digital copies. Mr. Waddell suggested that staff address the junk mail, procedures and duplications. Mr. Fivas provided the explanation on the duplications and advised that staff removed all duplications and advertisements resolving the issue. Council had a lengthy discussion on this matter requesting that Mr. Merritt review the current policy and bring back suggested policy options to assist in the resolution of this problem.

f. Council Budget Schedule - This item was added as a result of a motion made under Additions and Deletions

Mr. Fivas explained that there was conversation about amending the budget schedule that Council adopted on March 26, 2013 and requested that Council provide staff with direction on how to proceed with the schedule. By consensus Council directed staff to continue with the adopted schedule.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**None**

**MANAGERS REPORT**

Mr. Fivas complimented Ms. Sutton and Ms. Smith on putting the budget together, advising this is simply a starting point and staff will make any changes requested by Council. He complimented all other staff members for putting their own budget together. He agrees we need to take Risk Management seriously, and we do go through a risk assessment for our events. Mr. Fivas reminded everyone there is another movie night on Friday, Family Fun Day is June 8th and getting ready for the July 4th parade as well.

**12. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor Alvarez advised he was at the movie on Friday night and requested that EMS stay for the entire event and to please have a first aid kit available as well. He reminded everyone about the Historical Society Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser being held at VFW on Friday, May 17th.

Mr. Waddell said when the budget comes out he encouraged the public look at it and if you have any ideas, reservations, concerns to let them know, this is your town, we're doing your business, we work for you. This and the ballot box as a resident of the town you have a responsibility to look things over and be represented.

Ms. Luther stated that Waste Pro cost savings really jumped out a \$2,500,000 over a five year savings along with increased and better services. That savings could fund one third of our parks.

Mr. Allen stated he had the pleasure of attending the Sun Valley JROTC Navy Ball stating it was incredible and explained some highlights of the event. He thanked the Town Clerk for the Proclamation she created for him to present to them advising the Commanders were touched

and very appreciative. Mr. Allen explained the many things the JROTC does for our community, they are an asset to be cherished and it was his pleasure to acknowledge them.

Mr. Cohn stated as Council Members we have idpad and gadgets up here but requested when someone makes a presentation, let's not use our ipads and be respectful to those that are presenting. He stated that the savings with Waste Pro is great, thanked staff for what they do, stating that you work hard and do a great job, I appreciate you and believes most people in this room do as well. Understand there's a band of 4 up here and now I'm in your band. Back in February we were a band and were screaming at each other, we work hard up here and do the right thing for Indian Trail. We don't think alike but we all have the same goal in mind for the betterment of our town. He knows apartments are a big topic, when you think about it we think it's not what we need or want but we should at least look at it. If you tell me you don't want them, they won't go up but I'm asking the citizens to sit down, be reasonable and look at it.

Mr. King stated that this evening Mr. Fivas spoke briefly about the financing options with the Community/Municipal Center, we didn't really touch on it, but it is a topic that will he will bring back after the budget is approved

**CLOSED SESSION**

*None*

**ADJOURN**

Christopher King made a motion to adjourn  
Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**APPROVED:**

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**Michael L. Alvarez, Mayor**

Attest:

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Peggy Piontek, Town Clerk