



**Town of Indian Trail**  
**Minutes of Town Council**  
**May 18, 2009**  
**Civic Building**  
**6:00 P.M.**

The following members of the governing body were present:

Mayor Pro Tem: Shirley Howe

Council Members: Gary D'Onofrio, Jeff Goodall, John Hullinger, Dan Schallenkamp

Staff Members: Interim Town Manager Peggy Piontek, Finance Director Marsha Sutton, Planning Director Shelley DeHart, Town Engineer Scott Kaufhold, Tax Collector Janice Cook, and Assistant to the Town Manager Miriam Lowery, Interim Town Clerk Trena Sims

Absent: Mayor John Quinn

Press/Media: Marty Minchin of the Charlotte Observer

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Pro Tem Howe called the meeting to order.

Councilmember Goodall asked if anyone knew where the Mayor was tonight. Ms. Piontek informed him that Mayor Quinn is attending the HOA/Community Leaders Forum at the VFW. Councilmember Goodall confirmed that this was not a town sponsored event.

Dan Schallenkamp made a motion to add to the end of the agenda, discussion of the agenda for the next MCIC Mayors/Commissioners conference.

Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

## **BUDGET REVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

Marsha Sutton presented the revised budget work session booklet for May 18th. This is basically the same budget presented on May 7th with minor changes; with the exception of law enforcement. Law enforcement Option 1 includes five officers to all be hired as of July 1 and Option 2 is for eight officers to be hired in a staggered pattern. She then opened up the floor for questions.

Councilmember Schallenkamp asked to be reminded, in regards to Option 2, about the \$150,000 that comes from fund 11 which are funds that were put aside for a new town hall. Ms. Sutton stated that currently this fund holds a little over \$1.5 million. Since the administration building is to be up fitted, this was the likely place to retrieve funds. Councilmember Schallenkamp asked if these funds could be used since the funds in the account were designated to be for a new town hall. Ms. Sutton replied that these are board designated funds and there is not a statutory requirement. Councilmember Schallenkamp expressed concern of taking the money out of savings. We would not want to draw out \$150,000 out of savings for the next three and half years on the contract, and he would like to discuss how this money would be made up in future years; which could be the normal increase in property values. Ms. Sutton believes it was around \$75,000 from last year to this year. She stated that the \$150,000 would be a onetime draw out of the capital fund for building structure. This could be looked at from the perspective that the tax revenue will increase and hopefully so will the other revenues; the cost would be absorbed in future years.

Councilmember Schallenkamp stated that the \$150,000 is close to the cost of the vehicles. The vehicle cost up front and amortized over the next years. Ms. Sutton confirmed that the amount is \$192,000 and it is amortized over a four year period. Ms. Sutton stated that we will get to the point where we will be replacing vehicles; no replacement schedule available.

Councilmember Schallenkamp asked if there was any talk of the Town replacing vehicles that we have not paid for up front. Sgt. Coble responded that as of now there was no talk regarding that specifically; but in future years, as the cars age out, then possibly the County could look to the Towns to purchase the cars as capital upfront.

Councilmember D'Onofrio asked about the projected sales tax revenue and the significant increase over last year. Ms. Sutton stated that this estimate was based on historical data and explained the process. This was budgeted very conservatively over the years. There was general discussion as to the sales tax revenue and how it is calculated.

Ms. Sutton confirmed that the law enforcement money is coming out of Fund 10 which is the Town's general funds; the money for the potential Town Hall up fit is to come out of Fund 11.

Councilmember Hullinger asked about the information for groups that requested donations. Ms. Sutton pointed it out under administration. This money was put in there as it was indicated to her that the amount to outside agencies should be reduced from previous years; the budgeted

amount can be changed. Councilmember Hullinger believes grants to outside agencies should be done away with; the town should not donate tax money.

Councilmember Schallenkamp asked about the crime statistic service that Sgt. Coble previously presented to Council. This service uses information from the county's 911 system and citizens can go onto the website and find out what is happening around them. The cost was about \$3,500 a year with a two year commitment. Discussion followed as to what the costs would be for the Citizen Observer system, the benefits of the system and how the system works.

Councilmember Schallenkamp believes this should be included in the budget and then have on the agenda for the July meeting to make the decision whether to agree to the contract. Council was in agreement with this suggestion.

Ms. Sutton asked for a consensus as to whether to choose Option 1 or Option 2 in regards to the number of deputies to be hired for the upcoming year. Councilmembers D'Onofrio, Goodall and Howe opted for Option 1; Councilmembers Schallenkamp and Hullinger opted for Option 2. They each stated their reasoning behind their individual decision.

Ms. Sutton stated that the original intent was to bring in five officers now with three to be added next year.

There was discussion as to why Council majority would choose not to follow the recommendation of the Public Safety Advisory Committee and as to how the officers would be phased in during the year.

There was consensus to go with the structure that has been recommended.

Council discussed proposed contributions to agencies. The Council generally feels that contributions should be reduced and there was general discussion as to how the amounts are to be reduced and to which organizations to contribute.

Jeff Goodall made a motion to have a cap of \$15,500 cap for charity contributions and then figure out where to send.

Motion Failed 3 - 2 with Shirley Howe, John Hullinger, and Dan Schallenkamp opposing.

Dan Schallenkamp made a motion to set funding level of grants to \$17,750.00, which is the same as last year.

Motion Failed 4 - 1 with Shirley Howe, Gary D'Onofrio, Jeff Goodall, and John Hullinger opposing.

John Hullinger made a motion set funding level to zero.

Motion Failed 3 - 2 with Shirley Howe, Gary D'Onofrio, and Dan Schallenkamp opposing.

Shirley Howe made a motion to approve set the charities to be the Indian Trail Athletic Association, Indian Trail Arts and Historical Society and all the Boy Scout & Girl Scout troops for a total of \$10,500.00

Motion Passed 3 - 2 with John Hullinger, and Dan Schallenkamp opposing.

There was general discussion of the amount set aside for parks and if the proposed allocation of \$250,000 is tied to a particular parcel. It was determined this amount is set aside for no particular parcel, but if the Town is in a situation where property is located this money could be used in conjunction with grant money to purchase the property.

Ms. Lowery handed out a spread sheet and briefly went over some personnel information in comparison with other towns to Indian Trail.

Ms. Sutton asked if Council would like to designate a 1/2 cent tax be set aside for parks. There was discussion regarding this matter.

Dan Schallenkamp made a motion to approve in the coming year's budget designate 1/2 cent tax continuously each year, unless the next Council changes this.

Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

In the budget Ms. Sutton has set aside a 3% salary reserve for future designation if the economy turns around. This would be released only at the Council's directive. Within the proposed budget the five lowest paid employees would receive a merit increase to try to put them within their salary range. This matter was discussed further.

Jeff Goodall made a motion to approve within the budget a 3% pay increase across the board except for those getting the merit increases to be effective July 1.

Motion Passed 3 - 2 with Gary D'Onofrio, and Dan Schallenkamp opposing.

Jeff Goodall made a motion to approve Option 1 as presented by the Finance Director for the public safety.

Motion Passed 3 - 2 with John Hullinger, and Dan Schallenkamp opposing.

Councilmember Goodall asked to talk about the status of the electronic sign for the front of Town Hall. Ms. Piontek stated that we are waiting on an ordinance to be put into place regarding the sign. We do have the \$30,000 set aside in the current budget and she requested that Council appropriate the funds in the upcoming budget year to be used for the sign.

Jeff Goodall made a motion keep the designated amount of \$30,000 cap for the electronic sign as was designated last year.

Motion Passed 3 - 2 with John Hullinger, and Dan Schallenkamp opposing.

**MCIC Conference**

Councilmember Schallenkamp stated that the agenda for the next MCIC (Mayors/Commissioners) Conference to be held on May 21st has two items on it requested by Mayor Quinn; one concerning law enforcement and the other an updated fire study. He reminded Council of the Resolution that was passed where any member of Council that serves on an outside board would seek Council consensus for any voting matters and also that if anyone spoke on a matter, the intended information would be brought before Council first. He would request the Mayor share his presentation point of view may be. After deliberation the following motion was made.

Jeff Goodall made a motion upon confirming verbiage of the referenced Resolution direct the Interim Town Manager to engage the Town Attorney, Mayor and Chairman of the MCIC and state that Items 4 and 6 on their next agenda may be an apparent violation to a Resolution passed by Council as the Mayor has not shared any information about Items 4 & 6 and therefore the Town of Indian Trail cannot support these items.  
Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

**CLOSED SESSION - Personnel**

Shirley Howe made a motion to enter closed session NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, condition of appointment of a public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee.  
Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Shirley Howe made a motion to approve returning to open session.  
Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Council held additional discussion regarding potential employee salary adjustments.

Jeff Goodall made a motion to approve 3% increase applies to all employees who have been here at least 60 days before July 1 except for those receiving merit raises.  
Motion Passed 4 - 1 with Gary D'Onofrio opposing.

**ADJOURN**

John Hullinger made a motion to adjourn  
Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

APPROVED:

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Shirley Howe, Mayor Pro Tem

Attest:

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Trena Sims, Interim Town Clerk