



Town of Indian Trail
Minutes of Special Council Meeting
May 6, 2010
Civic Building
6:00 P.M.

The following members of the governing body were present:

Mayor: John J. Quinn

Council Members: Robert Allen, Gary D'Onofrio, Jeffrey Goodall, John Hullinger, Darlene Luther

Absent Members: Town Clerk Peggy Piontek

Staff Members: Town Manager Joe Fivas, Finance Director Marsha Sutton, Planning Director Shelley DeHart, Town Engineer Scott Kaufhold, Tax Collector Janice Cook, and Assistant to Town Manager Miriam Lowery, Staff Accountant Jennifer Smith, and Lieutenant Chase Coble UCSO, Deputy Clerk Trena Sims

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Quinn called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one signed up to speak.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Fivas expressed his appreciation to the entire Finance Department and other Departments for their hard work and cooperation in putting this budget together. He presented a power point summarizing the information contained in the budget packet. Topics included: Budget book accessibility, significant strides from last year, improve aesthetics, next year as document is improved more value added information will be included, budget schedule, goals and initiatives, new organizational chart, example of what each department budgets are and their expense to the town, revenue summary, maintain the 14.5 cent tax rate and no fee increases, town revenue stable, sales tax estimation, very close to maximizing current revenue stream, any additional programs would require discussion before implementation, sanitation and law enforcement consume 11.68 of 14.5, transportation and park fund is another 2.5 everything else equates to .32, 6 year Capital Improvement Plan, 2013 budget may look much different, 2012 tax reevaluation (if negative we would lose funds), expense summary, explanation of the Administration Budget (Town Manager, Human Resources, Clerk staff and a variety of administration functions of Town), anticipation of retirement and insurance premium rate increase, review of health care plan to better benefit employees for families, need for new accounting and tax package software, having staff devoted to improve our economic development, implementing direction from Council to add Events Coordinator/Public Information Officer and Economic Development Coordinator, GIS servicing should be their own department, Information Technology should have one point of contact with Town, law enforcement increase 10.24 involves multiple contributing factors, waiting for an analysis to determine number of contracted deputies, planning a Neighborhood Services Department which will include sanitation to ensure good neighborhood outreach in an effort to sell ourselves, expansion of our Public Works Department, recommending to purchase a backhoe and dump truck this year, this would be a precursor to begin the development of a stronger public works department starting 2011-2012 cost analysis comparing costs for securing personnel for this department as opposed to contracting for services (funding from road and stormwater), Capital Improvement Plan is a starting point for discussion, changing pole banners, entrance signage, Highway 74 aesthetics, impact of bypass, funding streetscape improvements, we need space for community gathering is in 2010-2011 budget (this year critical), community and regional park, community center fully integrated, quality of life issues critical to what we will become in the future, quality of life activities are critical to what we become in the future, infrastructure improvements schedule. infrastructure improvements schedule to include pedestrian, neighborhood street, economic development and traffic improvements funding to be discussed at future meetings.

Mr. Hullinger inquired about the organization chart, pointing out 31 full time and 3 part time employees, asking for a comparison to the current staffing. Mr. Fivas replied it would be an addition of 2 full time employees.

Mr. D'Onofrio thanked Mr. Fivas for the professional, easy to follow format of the budget. He likes the deliberate attention to events and value added aspects of Town functions and community events, he feels the citizens really look for that promoting pride, setting us apart and taking us to the next level from other local communities. A starting point for economic development with a strategy and tools in place to make it happen, such as a staff member to

promote the positive accomplishments of the town, provides a sense of positive development, pride and accomplishment which he believes our citizens are looking for. Mr. D'Onofrio stressed the importance for the citizens to realize that Council has not voted to spend the proposed funds for the Capital Improvement Plan, but it points out where we might consider going in the future.

Mr. Goodall complimented the comprehensiveness of the budget presentation that the issues discussed at the goals and initiatives session have been included without a tax increase. He noted and appreciates the cuts in the budget across the board with all Departments along with the staff's devotion to the Town. He believes the two new positions suggested are long overdue as these are tasks that our professional staff is currently doing in addition to their daily jobs, the rationale and justification of the reorganization makes sense and creates efficiency. The salary study to benchmark our community against others is critical, with the hopes that an outline with positions and rankings with salary ranges will be created so staff knows where they are and can go. The hotline is another great idea. Events define the character and identity of the town. He pointed out that we have used interns in the past and suggested that we might find a source for them at the Wingate University MBA program. He suggested Council forgo the proposed 1% salary increase and divert those funds back to the new community and economical development.

Mr. Fivas commented that, although Council's comments and appreciation is directed at him, it is a real testament to our employees that they have been willing to work within this change and provide good solid feedback on so many issues and work within those confines. He believes they are ready and agree with what's in this document and are excited about implementing it. This staff is very talented and can find employment in other places, but they want to be here and be a part of the change and see it evolve. He complimented the staff, expressed his appreciation to them and informed Council that the credit goes to them.

Ms. Luther echoed the compliments of previous Council members on the budget document and staff. She pointed out the beautifications issues, events, parks which will bring people and increase property value which will generate additional tax revenue without having to raise the tax rate. Ms. Luther advised that the sanitation savings potential could be used for implementation of other things. She mentioned the annexation of some of the pocket neighborhoods that are not technically in the town. If the goals set out for economic development and business friendly, we will have more commercial development which will also increase tax revenue.

Mr. Fivas replied that we want to create such a demand for people that they want to identify with us, services will assist in that. His goal is for people wanting to make choices and choose us.

Mayor Quinn provided history on the last attempt at annexation and advised that he appreciates Mr. Fivas's approach to sell the people on our town and perhaps they will request to be annexed, along with the presentation, comments and that he has encouraged the Council to challenge some of the things in the budget. He completely supports beautification, and wonders where, in the citizen survey, events and economical development came in on the list. He recalls public safety right behind roads. Mayor Quinn advised that this Council, as ones in the past, have bypassed a fundamental, essential service by not looking at that more carefully by going through the process

of funding and providing that. He wonders what the point of hiring a public relations person, what would they be promoting? Good results generate good will and reception. He has a serious issue with using tax payer funds to hire a public relations person to promote and sell them on something that they don't like. Mayor Quinn provided history on the citizen survey and public safety issues. Mayor Quinn stated that if we are not providing a fundamental service to ensure people feel safe and are safe, we are dropping the ball. Mayor Quinn feels that we should consider flexibility and look at ordinances to make us "business friendly"; these will go a long way to change our reputation. It is his belief that we are neglecting the fundamental issue of public safety.

Mr. Fivas advised that this individual is referred to in the document as a Public Information Officer, not public relations.

APPROVED: _____
John J. Quinn, Mayor

Attest: _____
Trena Sims, Deputy Town Clerk