

TOWN OF SILER CITY

The Siler City Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on **Monday, June 22, 2015** at 6:30pm in City Hall Conference Room with Mayor John Grimes presiding.

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT: Cindy Bray, Larry Cheek, Mike Constantino, Lewis Fadely, John Grimes, Bill Haiges, Thomas "Chip" Price and Tony Siler.

TOWN STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager Bryan Thompson, Finance Director Tammy Speicher, Parks and Recreation Director Jessica Puckett, Parks Maintenance Supervisor Greg Blevins, and Town Clerk Jenifer Everage.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Thompson asked to add 2014/2015 Budget Amendment 2015.11 to the consent agenda and Pearl Herndon Insurance Claim to new business item a.

A motion to approve the agenda with the additions was made by Commissioner Fadely, seconded by Commissioner Haiges and unanimously approved.

CONSENT

A motion to approve the consent agenda which includes 2014/2015 Budget Amendment 2015.11 was made by Commissioner Fadely, seconded by Commissioner Price and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS**Pearl Herndon Insurance Claim**

Commissioner Bray stated she asked Pearl Herndon to be added to the agenda concerning a flat tire she had on Raleigh Street.

Pearl Herndon shared the following with the Board of Commissioners:

My parents, Doris and Pete Albright were well known citizens in the Town of Siler City. One of the many things they taught me was to respect others and to be fair and honest in all situations. Thank you for giving me the chance to explain what happened on Tuesday, June 16 around 7:18am.

I was driving through Raleigh Street with my grandson. As I drove past the post office on the left, continuing through the following stoplight, I noticed water all in the road as far down as Ronnie Collins office. I looked to the right and saw around four to five city workers wearing lime green shirts on the sidewalk in conversation and orange cones grouped together on the curb. No vehicle was right in front of me. Looking ahead, at all the water in the road, I do not recall any vehicle before the stoplight at Ronnie Collins office or at railroad tracks driving ahead of me either. While driving down Raleigh Street, My vehicle drove through a 4-5 inch hole, approximately 2 ½ to 3 feet wide and 3 ½ - 4 feet long with water flowing over it. Immediately after I hit this hole, my car began driving differently and I knew I had a flat tire and possibly more damage. I pulled in the Marathon Gas Station. When I got out to look at the damage, my left front tire was not going flat, it was completely flat.

Herndon then shared photo of the tire pictures and hole in road at 10:15am.

Herndon stated at 7:22am, I called the Police Department, to report what had just happened. Right after the phone call ended, Joey, drove by in a city truck and I yelled and motioned for him to stop. He pulled in and I briefly told him what had just taken place. He said he didn't know anything about it, because he hadn't even been up there yet. He said I would have to discuss it with Terry or Bryan and left.

Next Officer Moody arrived. I explained to him about the incident. He took a picture of the tire, along with my license and registration and got back in his car. Officer Griffin then pulled up, but did not get involved. Shortly, Officer Moody stated to me that he had contacted the city workers, and they had stated

that a Southern States truck was driving down Raleigh Street, made the hole and my car drove through right behind it and there was nothing they could do.

After that, Bryan arrived. I explained to Bryan what had happened and asked for the Town of Siler City to pay for the damage. He said he needed to talk with Southern States, investigate more and would get back with me. Bryan also took a picture of the damaged tire still on my car and asked Officer Moody to file a report so he could send it to the insurance adjuster. After Bryan left, I asked Officer Moody to change my tire, because I couldn't get in touch with any family members. He said he couldn't do it, but to just leave the car at the gas station until I could get some help.

While getting ready to walk home with my grandson, Officer Griffin asked what he could do to help. Thumbs up to Officer Griffin for changing my tire.

At 10:45, as I was traveling up Raleigh Street to Siler City Radiator, I couldn't help but to notice all of the warning signs up going both ways that were not there that morning. Herndon shared photos of the warning signs on route.

Siler City Radiator inspected my car for damage underneath and found no further damage.

On Wednesday, June 17, the Town of Siler City's insurance adjuster (Chris McKay) called me. I would like to explain our conversation for various reasons.

On Thursday, June 18, I went to speak with Chief Tyson about the kindness Officer Griffin showed me and pick up the incident report. This report showed 4 incorrect responses that Officer Moody said I stated. I did speak with Chief Tyson concerning this. I would like to read this report to you.

Herndon then read the police report to the Board of Commissioners.

Last, my conversation with Mr. McKay on Wednesday, June 17, was unacceptable. I was given the chance to explain my side of the incident, but it was obvious he had made his decision from the police report and made it clear in our conversation that the town would be sending me a denial letter. I was treated with nothing but disrespect.

If the Town of Siler City knew there was a water break on Raleigh Street, and at 7:18 water was continuing to flow, covering the road, workers at scene but in conversation, no cones placed in the road giving any warning for citizens driving through this area, even for large overweight vehicles, then why should I be responsible for this incident when it could have been prevented?

Now, you have heard what really happened, and with all respect, as a citizen of Siler City, I feel, I deserve to be reimbursed for this incident. Thank you.

The Board of Commissioners thanked Herndon for her presentation.

Thompson stated that there was a water break on Raleigh Street and the Town filed a claim with the NCLM Insurance and the claim was denied.

Siler City Airport Runway/Rehab Project Update

Thompson shared the bids for the Siler City Airport Runway/Rehab Project. The Board of Commissioners discussed the project.

Paul Braxton Field Discussion

Puckett shared the following information with the Board of Commissioners: parks and recreation staff has compiled a report on the current conditions, challenges and solutions for the regulation soccer field located at Braxton Park.

Proposed Solutions

Attachment B: McGill Associates

Attachment C: A. Morton Thomas & Associates

Attachment D: Rivers & Associates

Background

In 2013, the Town partnered with the Chatham Soccer League to convert the baseball field at Braxton Park into a 65 x 110 yard, or "Regulation" size, soccer field. The area was graded and then irrigation was installed under a new layer of Bermuda sod.

The sod was installed beginning in March 2013. A grand opening ribbon cutting was held on September 7, 2013.

Due to a high volume of usage, the field suffered from significant wear and tear. In order to give the field time to rest, the field was closed to all activity beginning the week of June 7, 2014.

Re-opening of the field was delayed from August 1, 2014 to September 1, 2014 due to ruts in the northwest end of the field caused by improper mowing after a period of high saturations of rain. The field was rolled with a landscaping drum roller before games were allowed to occur in order to ensure the safety of the school players. This process smoothed out any and all ruts on the field at that time.

Rentals and public use of the field continued into November, officially closing for the winter the week of December 1, 2014. It was re-opened on May 26, 2015.

Current Conditions

The field is currently open to both public use and private rental. The sod is firm with no wetness. The irrigation system is being utilized in the proper form and schedule as needed for this time of year and current drought conditions.

Maintenance Schedule

Please see Attachment A, prepared by Park Maintenance Supervisor, Gregg Blevins.

Challenges

Whenever there is any measurement of rain, the northwest end of the field, closest to Braxton Manor, will stay saturated and moist for an extended period of time longer than the rest of the field. Environmental factors such as but not limited to, the volume of rain, amount of sunshine and temperature dictates how long the surface is too saturated or too moist to safely play on.

Safety is our number one priority and this excess water retention causes significant time delays in returning the field to use after any rainfall.

Proposed Solutions

Staff sent out a request for proposals to Professional Engineers for the identification of what causes the high water retention and what, if any, potential solutions exist. The proposals were also to include cost estimates to their proposed solutions.

Three engineering firms submitted a proposal: McGill Associates, A. Morton Thomas & Associates and Rivers & Associates.

Paul Braxton Soccer Field Turf Management Schedule 2015-16

Irrigation Audit

After a complete audit of the existing irrigation system, I found the system to be in good working order. A couple of minor adjustments to a sprinkler head and tweaking of the field controller was all that was needed. All stations worked properly with adequate pressure. No leaks were detected. I will manage and adjust the system throughout the year to match season and weather conditions for optimum turf grass health as well as playability.

Mowing

We are currently trying to lower the mowing height to around 1.5" to 2". This is a tedious process to the thick growing nature of Bermuda grass and our inability to mow more than once per week. My goal is to be at the correct height by the first of July.

Goal- Mowing 2 to 3 times per week.

Aerification

Core aerification at the minimum three times per year.

Late spring after green-up from dormancy

Early summer

Mid-summer

Weed Program: Pre and Post-Emergence

First Application- late February to early March

Second Application-Late April to early May

Third application- early fall

Post applications as needed to spot control.

Fall-winter applications to control Poa Annua.

Fertilizer

Late spring-0.5 Lbs. N per M

May-June - 1 Lbs. N per M

July- August- 1Lbs. N per M

Fall Potash application (rate per soil test results)

We will be using a well-balanced professional grade fertilizer with minor elements.

The consensus of the Board of Commissioners was to have a land survey done at the Park.

CLOSED SESSION

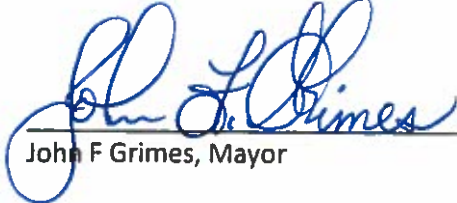
A motion to go into closed session § 143-318.11 To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. General policy matters may not be discussed in a closed session and nothing herein shall be construed to permit a public body to close a meeting that otherwise would be open merely because an attorney employed or retained by the public body is a participant. The public body may consider and give instructions to an attorney concerning the handling or settlement of a claim, judicial action, mediation, arbitration, or administrative procedure. If the public body has approved or considered a settlement, other than a malpractice settlement by or on behalf of a hospital, in closed session, the terms of that settlement shall be reported to the public body and entered into its

minutes as soon as possible within a reasonable time after the settlement is concluded was made by Commissioner Price, seconded by Commissioner Haiges and unanimously approved.

A motion to come out of closed session was made by Commissioner Haiges, seconded by Commissioner Constantino and unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business the Board of Commissioners adjourned.



John F Grimes, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jenifer J Everage, Town Clerk

