

TOWN OF SILER CITY

The Siler City Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on **Monday, August 21, 2017** at 7:00pm in City Hall Courtroom with Mayor John Grimes presiding. Commissioner Price gave the invocation and the Boy Scout Troop 924 lead the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Siler recited the Town of Siler City Mission Statement and Commissioner Bray recited the Town of Siler City Vision Statement.

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, Town Attorney William Morgan, Finance Director Roy Lynch, Parks & Recreation Director Joseph Keel, Planning Director Jack Meadows, Police Chief Gary Tyson, and Town Clerk Jenifer Johnson.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Grimes asked if any Board Member would like to add early voting to the agenda.

A motion to add early voting in Siler City to the agenda under New Business was made by Commissioner Constantino, seconded by Commissioner Haiges, the motion passed with 6 votes in favor and 1 against.

A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cheek, seconded by Commissioner Haiges and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Grimes asked if the Board of Commissioners would like to extend the time limit on the public comment section of the agenda.

A motion to extend the public comment section of the agenda from 15 to 20 minutes was made by Commissioner Haiges, seconded by Commissioner Constantino and unanimously approved.

Louis Forrasi, 320 W 11th Street, Apt. A104, Siler City, NC 27344

I just want to emphasize that early voting is very important, it shows democracy and it's a civil right. If you make it easier for the citizens of Siler City. We should make it easier for the citizens of Siler City. Instead of having to travel all the way to Pittsboro to vote. Using their gas money and deters them from voting. I don't know what the objective would be with the objections, but if it's just \$4,200, seems like a minor amount to keep people from having to drive all the way to Pittsboro. Other than that, I'll give my time to whoever's next.

Nancy Jacobs, 138 Weatherbend, Pittsboro, NC 27312

I live in Chatham County. Earlier this month I learned that Siler City does not provide an early voting site for its residents for municipal elections. I do not live in Siler City, but I volunteer here every week, and this affects the people that I work with in a negative way. If people want to vote early, they have to drive about 20 miles to Pittsboro to vote. That's 40 miles round trip. If they can't get there, and can't get to the polls on voting day, they don't get to vote. I've brought over 100 signed postcards from people from all over the triangle who were surprised and shocked to find this out. Voting is one of our rights and it should be easy and free to do. Instead, this town has made it more difficult. 1.9% of eligible voters in

Siler City voted early in 2015 in Pittsboro when there was no early voting site in Siler City. When you had early voting in Siler City in 2016, more than 70% of eligible voters voted early. This is not a partisan issue, and it's not just a Siler City issue, it's a social justice issue. Everyone should be able to exercise this right without having to worry about paying for gasoline, or if their car is dependable, or asking for a ride, or taking off work and losing pay, or getting child care in order to vote. It's not fair to have to make those choices to vote for your choice of who will best represent you in our democracy. I'd like to ask people in this room to raise their hands if they are in favor of having early voting here in October. I respectfully ask the boards to make early voting a standard here in Siler City and actually in all municipalities in Chatham County.

Commissioner Bray asked how many of the postcards were signed by citizens of Siler City. Jacobs replied: There are very few, about 10 out of 120.

Commissioner Siler asked in Siler City or the city limits. Jacobs replied: In the city limits.

William Milholen, 79 Medinah Lane, Siler City, NC 27344

Mayor and Board of Commissioners and Bryan, the Manager, I want to thank you for the opportunity to express one of our freedoms tonight and get up and speak in front of you folks. I'm one of the founders of Basic Machinery Company, here in Siler City, 43 years ago, and I have voted in every elections that I'm eligible to vote in, but I'm not eligible to vote in Siler City because I live just outside, but I am a tax payer. I pay taxes on about 4 properties that aid your budget every year, but I don't get to vote. I would like to commend you on what you have done as all the industries have left to be able to hold your budget every year and keep it in place and not raise your taxes way way up. I don't like taxes and I think most people don't like taxes, but we're talking about one thing tonight that you have to spend my tax dollars for early voting, that I don't think is required. I have voted all my life without going to early voting. We have absentee voting for anybody that wants to vote early. If I'm traveling out of the country, I'll vote absentee before I go. But I usually get to the polls early or late, after work or before work to vote. I am against it because you're spending my tax dollars. So, that's all I have to say. I hope you don't do it and I am appalled that only 43% of the registered voters, voted. That's what we need to work on is getting more people to the polls, not open up places that they can go at their convenience, but make them come to the poll and learn what it's all about. Thank you

Albert Reddick, 328 Martin Luther King, Jr Blvd, Siler City, NC 27344

Mr. Mayor, Commissioners, Town Manager, I'm appalled that I substitute in seventeen school districts in this county that you have the boy scouts tonight and you are telling them that you do not believe in their human right and the civil right to vote in early voting. The population of Pittsboro is less than Siler City. We all pay taxes. What is in the law that requires that we have a different standard as opposed to equal right to vote. I'm also disappointed that two black Commissioners on the Commission, who are members of the NAACP and do not see this as a civil rights issue, but sit there blindly as a positive issue, you have been on the payroll too long. Now what I would like to present in evidence is this newspaper article, how to early vote, and ironically on the same side of this article is another article that we sit here blindly as this nation is reeling with racial issues. Here on this newspaper is the Siler City Police Department Probe Vandalism, the Siler City Police Department is investigating an issue of racial graffiti in the restroom at Chatham County Health Department. How tragic and egregious can we get. And you wasting time tonight on whether or not to have early voting. This is not an issue of paying, the Chatham County Democratic

Party has already offer to pay the expense for early voting. So you don't have to worry about your tax payer's money. Appreciate that. This is a letter that's been submitted. The cost for early voting has already been placed on the table by the Chatham County Democratic Party. Thank you.

Commissioner Siler: You said you have two black people on the board, both of them are registered with the NAACP, I just want to let you know I'm not a member.

Reddick: Well there is one that is and it is a tragedy.

Mayor Grimes called the meeting back to order and told Reddick that we will not lose our decorum in the courtroom.

Mayor Pro Tem Cheek: I am a thinker for myself and if I'm a member of the NAACP that doesn't represent how I will represent the Town of Siler City. And no one is going to tell me just because I belong to the NAACP that I have to vote like the NAACP. I want to let you know first I felt good about it, but I'll make my comment again how I really feel about early voting. But to get things clear, I'm not going to be attacked by any person, telling me what I should do or what I shouldn't do because I belong to an organization. I believe in the Town of Siler City and I represent all the people of Siler City and that's how I will be as long as I stay on the Board.

Commissioner Bray: I have been on the Board for 8 years and Larry Cheek and Tony Siler are two of the best members that Siler City has ever had and I don't appreciate them being attacked because they have been two of the best members for the entire community of Siler City. So for anyone to say anything different is wrong.

Commissioner Fadely: Commissioner Cheek not only is our Mayor Pro Tem, he also spends his extra time representing us on TARPO, helping this town get grants, he puts in a lot of time for this town, that has resulted in tremendous benefit for this town. If not for his presence on TARPO we would not have received many of the grant we have received would not have come to fruition.

Commissioner Haiges: Mayor Pro Tem Cheek was on the Affordable Housing Taskforce and as commissioners we represent the citizens of Siler City regardless of race, creed, or color and I think that's the way it should be. I don't look at anything that's one particular issue as a member of this board, we look at it from the entire community and what's best for the entire town. Whether I'm for or against it, we will have that discussion. But I feel that these two gentlemen are outstanding members of this community and this board.

Commissioner Fadely: I don't think personal attacks on these commissioners is warranted in this type of hearing.

Mayor Grimes: Do it all you want to outside this courtroom and not in here.

Arnold Headen, 1107 Alston Bridge Road, Siler City, NC 27344

Mayor and Board, first we must expand our reach to all of our citizens. We must not rely on the quantity of our eviction to supersede our quality. As representative who govern our great town, I want us to show

the spirit of togetherness by allowing all people of Siler City the opportunity to use the early voting privilege with the least amount of stress. Some are not as fortunate as others. I have a church in the neighborhood I grew up in and I'm only there for one reason because it's a need. But we are trying to tell people how to vote, but to vote and walk the line of democracy. So, can we agreed we need early voting in Siler City for all elections that expresses the act of democracy. Thank you for your time.

Rosa Sutton, 807 13th Street, Siler City, NC 27344

I actually didn't come here tonight to hear all this, but its ok. I did come to let you know, that I do have a check, I had planned to bring the check, but I jumped into the wrong vehicle. So, I will personally deliver it to you tomorrow for Parks and Recreation. I usually do this, I have for the past two years, so I did want the make up for what I missed last year by bring the check tomorrow. But hearing everybody talk about early voting. I have participated in politic activities for a long time, but in 2014 when my son was killed. But all those years we have provided transportation for people who are handicap and cannot get out. And this was being done for free through us. Each and every election, because I feel like that is my sacred duty is to do that. Not that care what party they vote for, I don't care, I just care that they get there to vote. Not everybody has the pleasure of doing the absentee ballot. People still have to take them to the election office or to the post office, one of the two. So, I guess while I'm standing here, I will give my opinion. I do support early voting. It's usually 10 or 12 days, maybe a little bit longer every year we will take people to the polls. And we provide that transportation free of charge.

CONSENT

A motion to approve the consent agenda which includes the June 19, 2017 Minutes (Incorporation by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule B), Mutual Use Agreement with Chatham County (Incorporation by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule C), RFQ-Professional Engineering Services – WTP Improvement (Incorporation by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule D) was made by Commissioner Siler, seconded by Commissioner Bray and unanimously approved.

PRESENTATIONS

Loves Creek Watershed Stewards Update

Meadows shared that the explicit goal of the Siler City Board of Commissioners has been to develop and promote an overall environment that advances the ability for the existing business community to thrive and expand and enhance the community's ability to attract new commercial and industrial investments. In part, this goal has been met with a number of initiatives spurred-on by the Board of Commissioners and Town Staff including, but not limited to: UDO review and revisions; Appearance Committee recommendations; consistent support to Chatham EDC; active grant advocacy for new and expanding local businesses; façade grants; expedited planning and zoning-related processes; multilevel partnership for CAM Site project; commitment to airport improvements; commissioning critical studies such as Downtown Master Plan and Pedestrian Master Plan; expressed interest with brownfield studies/evaluations; and investments in "quality of life" improvements such as the Loves Creek Greenway and Safe Routes to School projects. *(Incorporation by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule E)*

As a means to continue these efforts, the Loves Creek Watershed Stewards offered presentations back in 2014 and 2015 on additional measures that can be taken to further increase the long-term viability for existing and future developments. A number of important development areas within the corporate limits

of the Town endure continued storm water and flood hazard issues. In addition to storm water capacity shortages, water quality issues are compounded by underutilization of best management practices (BMPs) within the Loves Creek Watershed. Loves Creek is listed as federally impaired stream. This designation makes Siler City eligible for federal, state, and private grants to improve water quality of the stream. Community meetings have been held at least quarterly since 2014 to discuss the Loves Creek Watershed area and issues, grant funding and criteria, project ideas and prioritization. The Loves Creek Watershed Stewards have acquired ~\$450,000 in grant funds since 2014.

Staff invites the Loves Creek Watershed Stewards back to offer a presentation that details current and proposed projects that can improve water quality, storm water, watershed, and flood hazard issues. By addressing these important issues the Town can improve future development/redevelopment capacity and capability, recreation opportunities, and aesthetics. The Loves Creek Watershed Stewards will discuss the following stream restoration projects: Boling Lane Park; and \$270,000 Environmental Enhancement Grant.

Grace Messenger with Piedmont Land Conservancy shared a draft proposed downtown Siler City floodplain trail and park map with the Board of Commissioners and updated them on the Boling Lane Park project. Messenger requested the closure of the Boling Lane Park for 2 to 3 weeks for planting, which would be November 1 to 15, 2017.

The consensus of the Board of Commissioners was to close Boling Lane Park for the requested timeline.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Town of Siler City proposes text amendments to §18 Definitions (vegetative buffer), §235-§242 (floodplain, floodway, & non-encroachment area development regulations), & Appendix K – Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. The proposed revisions reflect updated regulations from FEMA and the Town must adopt the revised regulations in order to remain eligible in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

Mayor Grimes opened the public hearing for Town of Siler City proposes text amendments to §18 Definitions (vegetative buffer), §235-§242 (floodplain, floodway, non-encroachment areas), & Appendix K – Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. The proposed revisions reflect updated regulations from FEMA and the Town must adopt the revised regulations in order to remain eligible in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) at 7:43pm. (Incorporation by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule F)

Meadows shared the following documents:

1. FEMA letter dated May 17, 2017
2. FEMA Fact Sheet – Freeboard
3. Board of Commissioners meeting minutes – March 17, 2003
4. Draft (red letter and yellow highlighted) - Article 2, 9, 10, 16, & Appendix K
5. Final Ordinance Amending - Article 2, 9, 10, 16, & Appendix K
6. Worksheet

Meadows stated that the proposed amendments were first discussed by staff from the NC Department of Emergency Management. Town staff shared the model ordinance provided by State staff with the Planning Board. The Planning Board reviewed the model and selected recommended options that are highlighted in Appendix K.

Meadows shared the compatibility with existing Comprehensive Land Development Plan:

1. Modifying the development ordinances to be more user friendly where possible.
2. Maintain the integrity of existing neighborhoods.
3. Stream buffers and onsite storm water control are critical to minimize environmental impacts.
4. The Planning Region is drained by tributaries of the Rocky and Deep Rivers. Flood hazard areas, as delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, exist on Loves Creek, Blood Run Creek, Little Brush Creek, and Rocky River. Fortunately, very few existing structures are located in the designated flood hazard areas. The Loves Creek flood hazard area is the largest of all of the designated flood prone areas and has the greatest impact on land development within the Siler City Planning Region. The principal flood hazard areas on Loves Creek are located (i) west of the U.S. 421 bypass from the bypass to the Siler City Country Club and (ii) west of Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks between West Dolphin Street and West Sixth Street.
5. Wehadkee-Chewacla soils occur in flood-prone areas and have severe limitations for urban uses.

Meadows shared the Planning Board recommendations from the August 14, 2017 meeting:

1. The amendment is consistent with the adopted LDP and any other officially adopted plan because the LDP recommends:
 - a. Modifying the development ordinances to be more user friendly where possible.
 - b. Maintain the integrity of existing neighborhoods.
 - c. Stream buffers and onsite storm water control are critical to minimize environmental impacts.
 - d. The Planning Region is drained by tributaries of the Rocky and Deep Rivers. Flood hazard areas, as delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, exist on Loves Creek, Blood Run Creek, Little Brush Creek, and Rocky River. Fortunately, very few existing structures are located in the designated flood hazard areas. The Loves Creek flood hazard area is the largest of all of the designated flood prone areas and has the greatest impact on land development within the Siler City Planning Region. The principal flood hazard areas on Loves Creek are located (i) west of the U.S. 421 bypass from the bypass to the Siler City Country Club and (ii) west of Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks between West Dolphin Street and West Sixth Street.
 - e. Wehadkee-Chewacla soils occur in flood-prone areas and have severe limitations for urban uses.
2. Approve the amendment:
 - a. Because of changed or changing conditions in a particular neighborhood or community as a whole;
 - b. To promote and forward the purposes of the adopted Siler City Land Development Plan; and
 - c. To promote the general health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Siler City.

Mayor Grimes closed the public hearing at 8:03pm.

A motion that the text amendments to §18 Definitions (vegetative buffer), §235-§242 (floodplain, floodway, non-encroachment areas), & Appendix K – Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. The proposed revisions reflect updated regulations from FEMA and the Town must adopt the revised regulations in order to remain eligible in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is consistent with the adopted Land Development Plan and any other officially adopted plan because modifying the development ordinances to be more user friendly where possible, maintain the integrity of existing neighborhoods, the Planning Region is drained by tributaries of the Rocky and Deep Rivers, flood hazard areas, as delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, exist on Loves Creek, Blood Run Creek, Little Brush Creek, and Rocky River, fortunately, very few existing structures are located in the designated flood hazard areas, the Loves Creek flood hazard area is the largest of all of the designated flood prone areas and has the greatest impact on land development within the Siler City Planning Region, the principal flood hazard areas on Loves Creek are located (i) west of the U.S. 421 bypass from the bypass to the Siler City Country Club and (ii) west of Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks between West Dolphin Street and West Sixth Street, and Wehadkee-Chewacla soils occur in flood-prone areas and have severe limitations for urban uses was made by Commissioner Fadely, seconded by Commissioner Constantino and unanimously approved.

A motion that the text amendments to §18 Definitions (vegetative buffer), §235-§242 (floodplain, floodway, non-encroachment areas), & Appendix K – Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, the proposed revisions reflect updated regulations from FEMA and the Town must adopt the revised regulations in order to remain eligible in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is reasonable and in the public interest to promote and forward the purposes of the adopted Siler City Land Development Plan was made by Commissioner Haiges, seconded by Commissioner Fadely and unanimously approved.

A motion to approve the text amendments to §18 Definitions (vegetative buffer), §235-§242 (floodplain, floodway, non-encroachment areas), & Appendix K – Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, the proposed revisions reflect updated regulations from FEMA and the Town must adopt the revised regulations in order to remain eligible in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to correct manifest error with ordinance, to promote and forward the purposes of the adopted Siler City Land Development Plan, and to promote the general health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Siler City was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cheek, seconded by Commissioner Haiges and unanimously approved.

Town of Siler City proposes to adopt updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for its corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). The FIRMs have been updated by FEMA and the Town must adopt the updated FIRMs in order to remain eligible in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The updated FIRMs will become effective on November 17, 2017

Mayor Grimes opened the public hearing for Town of Siler City proposes to adopt updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for its corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). The FIRMs have been updated by FEMA and the Town must adopt the updated FIRMs in order to remain eligible in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The updated FIRMs will become effective on November 17, 2017 at 8:06pm. (Incorporation by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule G)

Meadows shared the compatibility with the existing Comprehensive Land Development Plan:

1. Stream buffers and onsite storm water control are critical to minimize environmental impacts.

2. The Planning Region is drained by tributaries of the Rocky and Deep Rivers. Flood hazard areas, as delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, exist on Loves Creek, Blood Run Creek, Little Brush Creek, and Rocky River. Fortunately, very few existing structures are located in the designated flood hazard areas. The Loves Creek flood hazard area is the largest of all of the designated flood prone areas and has the greatest impact on land development within the Siler City Planning Region. The principal flood hazard areas on Loves Creek are located (i) west of the U.S. 421 bypass from the bypass to the Siler City Country Club and (ii) west of Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks between West Dolphin Street and West Sixth Street.
3. Wehadkee-Chewacla soils occur in flood-prone areas and have severe limitations for urban uses.

Meadows shared the Planning Board recommendations from the August 14, 2017 meeting:

1. The amendment is consistent with the adopted LDP and any other officially adopted plan because the LDP recommends:
 - a. Stream buffers and onsite storm water control are critical to minimize environmental impacts.
 - b. The Planning Region is drained by tributaries of the Rocky and Deep Rivers. Flood hazard areas, as delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, exist on Loves Creek, Blood Run Creek, Little Brush Creek, and Rocky River. Fortunately, very few existing structures are located in the designated flood hazard areas. The Loves Creek flood hazard area is the largest of all of the designated flood prone areas and has the greatest impact on land development within the Siler City Planning Region. The principal flood hazard areas on Loves Creek are located (i) west of the U.S. 421 bypass from the bypass to the Siler City Country Club and (ii) west of Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks between West Dolphin Street and West Sixth Street.
 - c. Wehadkee-Chewacla soils occur in flood-prone areas and have severe limitations for urban uses.
2. Approve the amendment:
 - a. Because of changed or changing conditions in a particular neighborhood or community as a whole;
 - b. To promote and forward the purposes of the adopted Siler City Land Development Plan; and
 - c. To promote the general health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Siler City.

Mayor Grimes closed the public hearing at 8:10pm.

A motion that the map amendment for updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for its corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), the FIRMs have been updated by FEMA and the Town must adopt the updated FIRMs in order to remain eligible in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the updated FIRMs will become effective on November 17, 2017 is consistent with the adopted Land Development Plan and any other officially adopted plan because of changed or changing conditions in a particular neighborhood or community as a whole, to promote and forward the purposes of the adopted Siler City Land Development Plan and to promote the general health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Siler City was made by Commissioner Fadely, seconded by Commissioner Siler and unanimously approved.

A motion that the map amendment for updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for its corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), the FIRMs have been updated by FEMA and the Town must

adopt the updated FIRMs in order to remain eligible in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the updated FIRMs will become effective on November 17, 2017 is reasonable and in the public interest because of changed or changing conditions in a particular neighborhood or community as a whole and to promote and forward the purposes of the adopted Siler City Land Development Plan was made by Commissioner Haiges, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cheek and unanimously approved.

A motion to approve the map amendment for updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for its corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), the FIRMs have been updated by FEMA and the Town must adopt the updated FIRMs in order to remain eligible in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the updated FIRMs will become effective on November 17, 2017 to correct manifest error with the zoning map, because of changed or changing conditions in a particular neighborhood or community as a whole, to promote and forward the purposes of the adopted Siler City Land Development Plan and to promote the general health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Siler City was made by Mayor Pro Tem Cheek, seconded by Commissioner Fadely and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

RFP – Bray Park Aquatic Facility

Thompson shared two Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the construction phase of the Bray Park Aquatic Facility project. One RFP is for the construction of the pool and the other RFP is for the renovation to the pool house. Both RFPs are for consideration to release for publication and solicit bids. (Incorporation by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule H)

A motion to approve both RFP's for the Aquatic Facility and send out for bid was made by Commissioner Fadely, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cheek and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Fall-o-ween Groundbreaking Event

Keel stated that the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting a Fall-O-Ween event at Bray Park on October 27th from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. This event will include the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Bray Park Aquatic Facility, bouncy houses and activities. Everyone is encouraged to wear your costumes and bring a bag to hold candy that will be given out. Shortly following the Fall-O-Ween event, the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department will be showing Lego Batman on the big outdoor screen. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and stay for the family friendly movie. (Incorporation by reference as if fully set forth herein Schedule I)

Mayor Grimes called for a 5 minute recess at 8:52pm. Mayor Grimes called the meeting back to order at 9:02pm.

Early Voting in Siler City

Mayor Grimes stated that we heard the comments from the public, what is the desire of the Board. Commissioner Constantino stated that he had a letter in front of him that the Chatham County Democrat Party would pay for it. I think we have an obligation to make it as easy as we can for all the citizens to vote and I don't have a history in Chatham County, but I've been living here 13 years and I've watched the

family, in-laws and their not writing a letter and mailing it, there just not going to do it. Someone made a comment that when there was a facility that 70% of the registered voters voted. I think we should give the citizens and the community the opportunity to vote as easily as we can make it. And if this helps that, I don't know whether it does or not, it's not an expense on our budget. I think we should consider it. Commissioner Haiges stated that he agrees and I'm very much in favor of making it easier for registered voters to vote. Aside from this meeting and what I've seen in the paper, I have not heard any great outcry to have it, but I think that it's sort of mixing apples to oranges when we talk about 2016, that was a national election, a presidential election, it was house and senate races. I think comparing the 2 is like apples and oranges. And I appreciate the offer from the County Democrat Party, but I don't feel that we should accept that. The reason I think that is to me it is setting us up on a slippery slope, its pay to play. If the Democrat Party wants it and they just throw some money at it, then the Republic Party can come and say they want to throw some money at it too. I don't think we should be in the position of accepting money from any political party or any politically affiliated group. I would be in favor of early voting if the County Board of Elections is willing to pay for it. One of the questions I have is I know Pittsboro has the early voting site because the Board of Elections is located there. Do they pay for the privilege of an early voting site? Thompson stated that we've had multiple conversation with the Board of Elections and that is a spilt cost between all the municipalities and the county. Commissioners Haiges asked why the County Board of Elections doesn't offer a site in Goldston and Siler City. Thompson stated that while they do have it in the larger election, in speaking with Pandora Paschal, because it would be impossible to service that many voters at one location. Commissioner Haiges stated that if the County Board of Elections is willing to pay for it, then I'm all for it.

Mayor Pro Tem Cheek stated that he may have been attacked tonight and put pressure on him to vote for it, but anytime I'm pressured on anything I do what my mind tells me to do. And when I looked at the price of \$4,243, I thought that's not a bad price, but when you accept it from the Democrat Party, my concern is what if the Republic Party or any other group wants to put pressure on the City to do something that they want. From that statement, they wanted to pressure me tonight and I am strictly against it.

Commissioner Bray stated we could use that money for the pool.

Commissioner Siler stated that he has thought about this and Mayor Pro Tem Cheek doesn't have any influence on me and the way I vote. I'm my own man and I vote the way I want. We talk over some issues sometimes and I disagree with what he says sometimes and he might disagree with what I say. But looking at the early voting, here in Siler City, folks don't want to come out and vote. For me, I'm against it.

Commissioner Fadely stated that he had an issue with the \$4,200 offered too. We sit kind of like judges on this motion and have to make a ruling. If I walked in to court and offered a judge \$4,200, I would be in jail. I don't think that was thought through very well and it was a poor decision.

Commissioner Price stated he had concerns about the donation, that it does seem like a pay to play. And looking back on other elections, early voting has not been any issue here until the last 30 days. In the time that I have been on the Board, I have not had the first citizen say anything about it at all. Turn out is so small that I have never seen a line at the poll.

A motion to offer early voting site in Siler City if the Chatham County Board of Elections pays for it was made by Commissioner Haiges, seconded by Commissioner Constantino.

The Board of Commissioners discussed the motion. Commissioner Haiges withdrew his motion.

A motion to ask the County Board of Elections to pay for an early voting site for one week in Siler City for each election cycle was made by Commissioner Haiges.

The Board of Commissioners discussed the motion. The motion died because of a lack of a second. The Board would like to get more information from the Board of Elections. Thompson stated that we would need to have a called meeting.

A motion to table early voting and have the Town Manager asked more questions of the Board of Elections was made by Commissioner Siler, seconded by Commissioner Price and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Siler was excused from the meeting.

TOWN ATTORNEY INFORMATION

Nothing to report.

MANAGERS REPORT

A Local Officials meeting on the Highway 64 Project will be held on September 7 at 6pm.

GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Cheek stated that he and Meadows attended a TARPO meeting. And the Third Street project they didn't push it because we're not aware of what Mountaire may do. And that project was going to cost more than we originally thought it was going to cost. Also, while he was at the meeting he spoke to the engineer about the round a bounds, and he shared the width concern with the engineer. Cheek stated that the engineer said the concrete would be able to handle it, that's why it's designed that way.

Commissioner Haiges asked about the Raleigh Street and Third Street closure notices and when would it be closed.

CLOSED SESSION

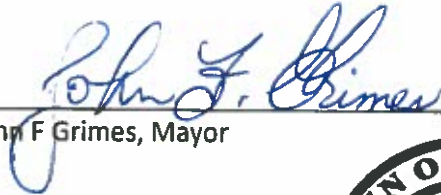
A motion to go into closed session § 143-318.11 (a) (5) To establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract was made by Commissioner Fadely, seconded by Commissioner Haiges and unanimously approved.

A motion to come out of closed session was made by Commissioner Haiges, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Cheek and unanimously approved.

The Board of Commissioners discussed the planning and permitting process for Mountaire Farms.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business the Board of Commissioners adjourned at 9:57pm.



John F Grimes, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jenifer K Johnson, Town Clerk

