

TOWN OF SILER CITY

The Siler City Town Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Courtroom with Mayor Charles Johnson presiding. After the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, the invocation was given by Commissioner Price. A motion to approve the minutes from the July 16, 2012 meeting was made by Commissioner Price, seconded by Commissioner Adams and unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sam Adams, Larry Cheek, Michael Constantino, Thomas K. Price, III and Tony Siler.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Cindy Bray and John Grimes.

TOWN STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager Joel J. Brower, Town Attorney William Morgan, Police Chief Gary Tyson, Recreation Director Donald Dones and Finance Director Tammy Speicher.

AMUSEMENTS BUSINESS LICENSE-KENNETH BANKS: Town Manager Brower explained that Kenneth Banks has submitted an application to open KMB5, Inc. as an internet sweepstakes business at 205 Chatham Square. He plans to have 20 to 30 machines with operation hours of 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. The Siler City Planning Board issued a special use permit to operate an amusements business at this location on July 9, 2012. This application was brought before the Town Board on July 16th where the Board directed Brower to investigate Mr. Banks and any prospective employees with the assistance from Police Chief Gary Tyson. After reviewing the application and speaking with references, Brower reported he and Chief Tyson did not see any problem that would prohibit Mr. Banks from operating an amusement business. Commissioner Cheek made a motion to approve an amusements business license for Kenneth Banks and unanimously carried upon a second by Commissioner Constantino. *(Schedule 5-A)*

APPLICATION FOR AMUSEMENTS BUSINESS LICENSE FROM RICK EARNHARDT: Town Manager Brower advised that Rick Earnhardt is requesting a business license to operate an internet sweepstakes business at 1121 E. 11th Street. Earnhardt proposed 40 machines with hours of operation from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. The Siler City Planning Board issued a special use permit for this type business at this physical location on July 12, 2010. The SUP continues to be valid for other persons wishing to operate this type business. Once the Board receives an application, it has to wait 14 days before the license can be approved to comply with Siler City Code, Chapter 6. During this time, the Board will direct the Town Manager to investigate the proposed operator and employees of the business to determine any issues that might prohibit them from operating this type business. In response to a question, Earnhardt advised they have 7 current facilities in Raleigh, Franklinville, and High Point. They hope to hire 6 to 8 full-time employees. A motion directing Town Manager Brower to investigate the applicant and any employees of this proposed amusements business was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Siler and unanimously carried. *(Schedule 5-B)*

SILER CITY MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION REQUEST TO CLOSE CERTAIN STREETS FOR HALLOWEEN HOOPLA: Zoann Adams, President of the Siler City Merchants Association, requested permission to close N. Chatham Avenue from Raleigh Street to Third Street for the 4th Annual Halloween Hoopla to be held Saturday, October 27th. She also requested that the Town supply barricades and trash cans. Brower advised NCDOT permission will be required for closure of these streets. Commissioner Cheek moved to request permission from DOT for the closure of N. Chatham Avenue for the Halloween Hoopla and was unanimously approved upon a second by Commissioner Price. *(Schedule 5-C)*

SILER CITY MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION REQUEST TO HOLD A VETERAN'S DAY PARADE: Mrs. Adams advised the Merchants Association is requesting permission to hold a first ever Veteran's Day Parade on Saturday, November 10, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. to follow the same route as the Christmas Parade. She will be speaking with Police Chief Tyson to obtain a parade permit and seek the help of the Police Department with traffic control. Adams pointed out they will be seeking representation from all branches of service. Commissioner Cheek stated he feels this is a great idea and thanked the SCMA for all the efforts and opportunities they are bringing to the community. Brower explained permission is not needed from the Town Board to have the parade as Chief Tyson approves and issues parade permits. Chief Tyson advised he has already approved the permit. *(Schedule 5-D)*

SILER CITY MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION REQUEST FOR LOCATION APPROVAL AND HANGING OF NEW BANNERS: Mrs. Adams stated 24 banners have previously been placed in the downtown area. The SCMA will be purchasing 24 more banners to replace the 12 "old light colored banners" as they have not weathered well and also 12 more to extend further out on 3rd Street and Raleigh Street. She is requesting Town staff to hang the banners when they take down the Christmas decorations in January. Approvals will also be needed from Progress Energy, CenturyLink and NCDOT. In conjunction with the NC STEP program, the new banners will have "EXPLORE" and show the website www.exploresilercity.com which one of the STEP committees developed. They will also include the tag line "Delightfully Unexpected". A motion to approve the hanging of the new banners by Town staff after location approval from the Town, NCDOT and Progress Energy was made by Commissioner Constantino, seconded by Commissioner Siler and unanimously carried. *(Schedule 5-E)*

PROCLAMATION SUPPORTING BUY CHATHAM CAMPAIGN: Alyssa Stepusin advised Board members that a study was done by UNC Center for Competitive Economies that found that \$.64 of every dollar spent by Chatham County residents is spent outside the County. The "Buy Chatham Campaign" is a joint effort of the Chatham County EDC, Chatham Chamber of Commerce, SCMA and Pittsboro Business Association. This group is seeking support of the Town Board to commit to buy in Chatham County as often as possible. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve and support the "Buy Chatham" Campaign. Upon a second by Commissioner Price, the motion unanimously carried. *(Schedule 5-F)*

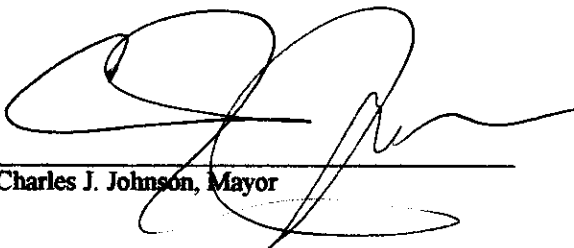
PROPOSED SOCCER FIELD PROJECT AT PAUL BRAXTON FIELD-PAUL CUADROS & CHATHAM SOCCER LEAGUE: Paul Cuadros reminded Board members that the proposed futsal court at Bray Park he presented at a previous meeting did not receive their requested grant from the US Soccer Foundation; however, he advised he and others involved in the soccer community see an opportunity for the Siler City Parks & Recreation to use the \$40,000 received from the Oak Foundation to convert the Paul Braxton Field into a soccer facility for league and tournament play. The Paul Braxton Field is currently used for soccer through the Chatham Soccer League and the J-M soccer team began using it as a

practice facility in 2012. This effort would be beneficial not only for the soccer community and the kids but also an economic incentive. Cuadros pointed out statistics that show almost 75% of kids participating in Siler City recreational opportunities are male with 54% of participants African American, 35% of participants were Caucasian and 10% were Hispanic-Latino. The soccer park could hopefully increase female participation and increase the participation of Hispanic-Latino kids. Cuadros explained that the conversion of Paul Braxton Field would allow the Chatham Soccer League, which is a youth oriented league only, to create a recreational and possible regulation size space to play regular games on weekends and hopefully have mini-tournaments. He stated that currently parents and players from Siler City must travel outside the town to play and practice. This field conversion would allow Siler City residents to play in their town and bring players and parents from Pittsboro and NE Chatham to Siler City where they could shop and eat helping economic revitalization. The Chatham Soccer League currently serves over 600 kids. As Paul Braxton Field has been used mainly for baseball, the first step would be filling in the baseball infield with grass by sod or seeding and generally improve the park. If the field was converted to a regulation size soccer field, it would require grading the field and removing a light post. New fencing and irrigation installation would also be needed. If the field was converted to a regulation size field, it would be the only one in Chatham County. Commissioner Constantino clarified that the only change is moving the light post on the field. Cuadros reported that the conversion project has \$40,000 in a pledged gift from the Oak Foundation. There is also a group of conversion partners who have promised some funding toward this effort. The removal of the light post will cost around \$6,000 with new fencing approximately \$20,000 to \$25,000. He has no estimate for the cost of sodding, irrigation or signage. Businesses could advertise with signs on the fencing. Cuadros pointed out he is not seeking approval at this point, but sharing ideas this group has to use this available funding. He thinks it is important to "discuss everything on the table" stating that he believes everyone wants the children to benefit from the programming the Town can provide and also helping with economic development. In response to a question from Commissioner Cheek, Cuadros advised the maintenance of the soccer park would be a partnership between the soccer league and the Parks & Recreation Department. Scheduling use of the field would be done by Siler City Recreation Director Donald Dones. Commissioner Price asked how the use of the field for soccer only would affect the multipurpose of the field now? Recreation Director Dones advised with this proposal, the field would be used for soccer only. Bray Park is primarily a baseball park. Paul Braxton field is used at times as an overflow practice field for softball/baseball during travel ball tournaments with Dones noting PB field is rarely used. Commissioner Siler asked if football practice is held at Paul Braxton and how the conversion of the field would affect it with Dones replying that all football practice and games will be held at Bray Park. Dones response to a question by Commissioner Price was that even if the Paul Braxton Field is converted to soccer only, there will continue to be soccer fields at Bray Park. Price asked what times games would be played and if the noise factored has been considered? Mr. Cuadros advised soccer games for kids are over by dusk. Dones stated that the SC Recreation Department asks that play always be finished by 11:00 p.m. in respect to persons living in close proximity to the park. Commissioner Siler asked if bleachers would be placed on one side or both? Cuadros stated that is something that will need to be discussed and figured out. Many persons bring their own chairs to recreational games. In response to a question from Commissioner Adams regarding a timeline, Cuadros advised the Oak Foundation would be able to write a check quickly and the Town Board will need to decide if this is the best plan and use of Paul Braxton and move forward with deciding the specifics of converting Paul Braxton Field into a soccer park. He hopes this could be done by spring of 2013. Commissioner Cheek asked if there would need to be funding from the Town with Cuadros answering no. He answered the Town could lend in-kind assistance such as labor, removing old equipment, etc. Discussion ensued regarding sodding the field and how expensive it could be. Sandy Morse, Jordan-Matthews High School Athletic Director, pointed out there were several options in sodding the field. Commissioner Constantino encouraged Board members to view this project as an "economic boom to the Town" and asked them not to think of it as an investment that will require a lot of money to accomplish or maintain. He mentioned his sons and grandchildren have been involved in soccer and he knows it will bring many people to town to eat, purchase gas, shop and possibly spend the night during tournament week-ends. Constantino then asked Finance Director Tammy Speicher to give her testimony regarding her experience as a soccer playing family. Constantino then mentioned the fact that there is no place for the kids in town to play soccer as they are usually runoff by young adults who are playing on the fields. Commissioner Cheek again stated he is not against this effort, but he hears the same things about baseball --if there were better fields, the town could have tournaments going on every week-end bringing in lots of people. He wants to let the citizens know that the Board is not just focusing on one division of recreation but looking at all of them. In response to a question from Commissioner Price, Mr. Cuadros stated that the next step is to meet with Recreation Director Dones and the Chatham Soccer League President and figure out what can be done with the \$40,000 to improve the field and come back to the Board for approval. They would like to see soccer play begin by next spring, so time is important regarding getting the field ready by that time. Commissioner Price asked if it were possible, he would like to see a drawing of exactly what is planned for the soccer conversion at Paul Braxton Field and also an estimate on annual operating expenses. He pointed out he feels the Town will incur some costs. Adams noted that the Town is currently spending money on the Paul Braxton Field now. Cuadros will bring a rough budget to the Town Board on August 20th. A question was asked if soccer is currently played at Paul Braxton Field at night utilizing the lights, with Dones replying that the adult soccer league plays about every Saturday night until 10:00 p.m. Brower asked if this group would be able to continue playing? Dones replied not with the current proposal. (Schedule 5-G)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FILING OF APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF A FINANCING AGREEMENT AUTHORIZED BY NCGS 160A-20: Brower advised he contacted the Local Government Commission who has suggested a schedule to allow approval of a refinancing option at the September 11th meeting of the LGC Board. Finance Director Tammy Speicher has prepared a request for proposals for the possible refinancing of the Town's reservoir loan which are to be opened on Thursday, August 9th. Hopefully, the Town will receive some good proposals that will result in savings to the Town. The resolution before the Board will authorize Town Manager Brower to act on behalf of the Town Board in filing an application with the NC Local Government Commission for approval of the refinancing of the reservoir and the proposed financing contract. A public hearing will also need to be set for citizens to make comment on this possible refinance. Commissioner Adams made the motion to approve the resolution authorizing the filing of an application for approval of a refinancing agreement authorized by NCGS 160A-20 for refinancing of the Town's reservoir loan and was unanimously approved upon a second by Commissioner Cheek. A motion to approve a public hearing for August 20, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. was unanimously carried upon a motion by Commissioner Adams and second from Commissioner Price. (Schedule 5-H)

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With no further business, the meeting adjourned at



Charles J. Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Karen C. Alman
Karen C. Alman, Town Clerk