

**TOWN OF SILER CITY**

The Siler City Town Board of Commissioners met in regular session on **Monday, December 3, 2012** at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Courtroom with Mayor ProTem John Grimes presiding. Commissioner Adams gave the invocation after the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Sam Adams, Cindy Bray, Larry Cheek, John Grimes, Thomas K. Price, III and Tony Siler.

**COMMISSIONER ABSENT:** Commissioner Constantino.

**TOWN STAFF PRESENT:** Town Manager Joel J. Brower, Planning Director Jack Meadows, Parks & Recreation Director Donald Dones, Police Chief Gary Tyson and Town Clerk Karen Alman.

Mayor ProTem Grimes passed around a get well card for everyone to sign for Mayor Johnson . He asked that everyone remember Mayor Johnson and his family in their prayers.

All minutes were unanimously approved upon the following motions:

Open session minutes from November 13, 2012 special meeting:

**Motion: Commissioner Siler 2<sup>nd</sup>; Commissioner Adams Approved**

Closed session minutes from the November 13, 2012 special meeting:

**Motion: Commissioner Cheek 2<sup>nd</sup>; Commissioner Price Approved**

Open session minutes from November 15, 2012 special meeting:

**Motion: Commissioner Adams 2<sup>nd</sup>; Commissioner Siler Approved**

Closed session minutes from November 15, 2012 special meeting:

**Motion: Commissioner Adams 2<sup>nd</sup>; Commissioner Price Approved**

Open session minutes from November 19 regular meeting:

**Motion: Commissioner Adams 2<sup>nd</sup>; Commissioner Cheek Approved**

Closed session minutes from November 19, 2012 regular meeting:

**Motion: Commissioner Siler 2<sup>nd</sup>; Commissioner Price Approved**

**NEW COMBINED MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION RENEWAL & PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION SYSTEM PRESENTATION, TINA STONE, CHATHAM CO. TAX ASSESSOR:** Tina Stone, Chatham County Tax Assessor, gave a presentation regarding the combined motor vehicle registration renewal and property tax collection system ("Tag & Tax System") passed by the NC General Assembly to become effective July 1, 2013. The new law transfers the responsibility for motor vehicle tax collection from the counties across the state to the Division of Motor Vehicles (License Plate Agencies). The annual vehicle inspection, registration renewal and property tax will all be due the same month each year. This should make it easier to manage from the system that is currently in place. The new system will require the entire tax amount to be paid in order to obtain the registration. She pointed out the DOT Fiscal will distribute the revenue to the counties who will then in turn distribute to the municipalities monthly. Mrs. Stone stated educating the public will be the number one priority. Inserts are already being sent out with the current motor vehicle bills explaining the new law. Pamphlets are also available which will be placed at the License Plate Agency. Meetings will be held around the county along with a statewide campaign. Mrs. Stone also advised that the LPA's will not be able to handle issues such as disputing the value of the vehicle, etc. These issues will continue to be handled through the tax assessor's office through a visit or a phone call. The first year could have a significant financial impact on persons who have not paid their vehicle tax from the previous year. LPA's will not be able to collect this money making it necessary for citizens to pay this tax at the county level and then go back to the LPA to pay for the current year and their registration renewal. The County will continue their efforts to educate the public. (*Schedule 17-A*)

**APPROVAL OF OFFICERS OF SILER CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR 2013:** Town Manager Brower advised the annual election of officers for the Siler City Fire Department for year 2013 was held on November 26, 2012. The following officers were elected:

Fire Chief:	Scott Murphy
1 <sup>st</sup> Asst. Chief	Burt Phillips, Jr.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief	Billy Scott
Secretary	Charles McLaurin
Asst. Secretary	Darden Jarman

Appointed captains for approval are: Todd Williams, Tory Williams, Michael Braxton, Wes Cockman and Michael Powers.

A motion to approve this slate of elected and appointed officers for the Siler City Fire Department effective January 1, 2013 was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Cheek and unanimously carried. (*Schedule 17-B*)

**SILER CITY DISTRICT FIRE INSURANCE CLASSIFICATION, FIRE CHIEF SCOTT MURPHY:** Fire Chief Murphy advised, after an inspection in July 2012 by the NC Department of Insurance Office of the State Fire Marshall, the public protection class has improved from a 5 to a Class 4 for the Siler City Fire District. The district outside the Town's corporate limits will remain a Class 5. This makes the Siler City Fire Department the best rated department in Chatham County. This is a good rating for a volunteer fire department. Murphy pointed out the list of improvements made by the

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department since the last evaluation. He thanked Town Manager Brower, the Board of Commissioners and citizens for their support in allowing them to have a paid fireman who can handle paperwork and maintenance of equipment, the purchase of a ladder truck and the new tanker purchase two years ago. The 100% rating on all four fire trucks was helped by some of the equipment purchased through the budget process and the pumping capacity. An average of 22 volunteer firemen are present at structure fires day or night. They currently average 400 calls per year. These firemen meet every Monday night for 3 hours of training as well. In response to a question from Commissioner Adams, Murphy stated the fire department has 36 volunteer firemen with room for 44. They added three young guys last year and try to recruit every year, however, with schedules as busy as they are it is hard to find new volunteers. Murphy thanked Public Works Director Terry Green and the Public Works Department for their help in testing the flow of fire hydrants. The Class 4 rating will become effective in March 2013 with insurance companies receiving notification of this change. Commercial policies should show a savings under this new rating; however, residential citizens will not see much of a cost savings, if any. Murphy asked the Town Board to promote this new rating to businesses that might be interested in locating in Siler City. If the Board approves, he would like to contact WNCA radio and The Chatham News to publicize this improved rating to the citizens. Chief Murphy again thanked the Town Board, Manager Brower and citizens for their support and to let them know the Fire Department is working hard for the citizens of Siler City. (Schedule 17-C)

**APPOINTMENTS TO PLANNING BOARD/BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT:** Brower reported that three letters of interest have been received for one full-status ETJ member and one alternate ETJ member to serve on the Planning Board/Board of Adjustment. Letters were received from Stephen Crotts, Pamela Hawe and Chris Murchison. Commissioner Adams made a motion to appoint Stephen Crotts to the full-member ETJ position and unanimously carried upon a second by Commissioner Cheek. Chris Murchison was unanimously approved as the alternate ETJ member upon a motion from Commissioner Cheek and second by Commissioner Bray. These appointments will need to be approved by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. Brower will send letters to County Manager Charlie Horne and to these two new appointments. (Schedule 17-D)

**PRESENTATION ON CONCEPTUAL LAND USE PLAN FOR CHATHAM COUNTY, JOE GLASSON, CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF EDC:** Mr. Glasson advised he has been working with the Chatham County Board of Commissioners for the past year and a half to embark on some form of land use plan. The EDC is aggressively pursuing and marketing to medium and large size businesses to possibly locate in Chatham County. They get the question "Tell me what your county is going to look like in 5 to 7 years? Tell me what your county looks like today on an antiquated basis with utilities, infrastructure, schools, highway systems, etc.?" Glasson stated the EDC is unable to answer these questions because the County has not had a land use plan since 1994 and then was not used. This would allow them to tell potential employers where they can find heavy-industrial, etc. He would also like to integrate the towns and County into one map offering a singular view. Mr. Glasson made a presentation to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners asking them to consider the land use plan idea; however, they advised they were not interested in doing this. He countered with a conceptual land use plan understanding that a comprehensive land use plan is very detailed. With a conceptual land use plan, persons could look at the County as it is today from 30,000 feet and at the same time superimpose a series of scenarios of what the County may look like in the next 5 to 7 years and to show how Chatham County and towns are planning for the future. Glasson stated this plan could be a great economic planning tool. He advised the EDC has offered to put together a team of the five EDC Board members along with five additional members to include Planning Director Jack Meadows as Siler City's representative. This plan "would not get into issues of buffers, water quality, etc.". In response to a question by Commissioner Adams, Glasson stated "if we present to someone the conceptual land use plan, that is not going to be land use zoning, but it will lead to a comprehensive land use plan which will". He hopes to have this conceptual land use plan completed by April 30, 2013. Commissioner Cheek asked if the County's LDP will be compatible with the three local municipalities with Glasson answering "we hope so" stating that the municipalities are further advanced in this area than the County.

**CLOSED SESSION:** At 7:56 p.m., Commissioner Adams made a motion to adjourn from open session and convene into closed session for personnel. The motion unanimously carried upon a second by Commissioner Siler.

The Board reconvened into open session at 8:05 p.m. A motion to appoint Bryan Thompson as the new Town Manager of Siler City effective January 2, 2013 was made by Commissioner Cheek, seconded by Commissioner Price and unanimously carried.

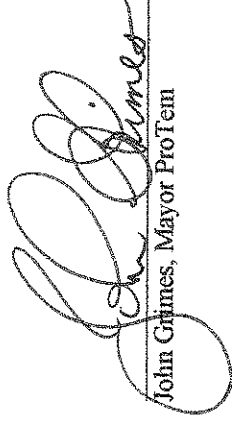
**RESERVOIR LEVELS:** Town Manager Brower advised Chatham County is one of 65 counties that has been placed in the moderate drought category. The level of the reservoir is at 74-percent of remaining capacity available for consumption. He reminded Board members that the minimum release increases during the winter months which is 7 cubic feet per second effective December 1, 2012.

With no further business, Mayor ProTem Grimes adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

ATTEST:



Karen C. Alman, Town Clerk

  
John Grimes, Mayor ProTem