

TOWN OF SILER CITY

The Siler City Town Board of Commissioners met in regular session on **Monday, May 21, 2012** at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Courtroom with Mayor Charles Johnson presiding. After the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Johnson gave the invocation. A motion to approve the minutes from the May 7, 2012 meeting was made by Commissioner Siler, seconded by Commissioner Price and unanimously carried.

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: John Grimes.

TOWN STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager Joel J. Brower, Police Chief Gary Tyson, Finance Director Tammy Speicher and Town Clerk Karen Alman.

Mayor Johnson congratulated Jordan Matthews High School on their recognition as the 4th top ranked school in North Carolina. He also welcomed all the non-profits and others in the audience.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION – HISPANIC LIAISON YOUTH GROUP: Mr. Silvio Balcazar, Youth Coordinator with the Hispanic Liaison, thanked the Board for recognizing this Youth Group who competed in the TeenFest Talent Competition in Raleigh, NC on April 14, 2012 placing 4th in the competition and bringing home the “Audience Choice” award. The music and words performed by the group were written by one of the performers. The message of the TeenFest project is to spread the drug-free and violence prevention messages. Mr. Balcazar shared a video of the performance with the audience. Mayor Johnson read the Certificate of Appreciation and presented it to the youth and Mr. Balcazar.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Norma Harris, 808-B Sheffield, Siler City, NC 27344: Mrs. Harris advised she is a concerned citizen who feels the speed limit of 35 miles per hour on Sheffield Drive is too fast for that area. She noted she has spoken with several police officers, Mayor ProTem Grimes and Commissioner Siler recently, but has been working on this problem for three years with no results. Chief Tyson has advised Mrs. Harris he will check into this matter and will report back to her. She is asking the Board to lower the speed limit on this street stating that children have nowhere else to play so they play in the road and there are many senior citizens who live on this street as well. Harris added there have been a couple of incidents in the area. There is a school-crossing sign with a speed limit of 10 mph in one particular area; however, Mrs. Harris stated no one obeys this. She pointed out she has asked for police officers to sit in the area actually offering her parking space to catch the speeders and she has not had a response. Harris stated, “why not stop a fatality before it happens” asking for the Boards cooperation in this matter. Mayor Johnson asked if there were certain times of day that were worse than others with Harris responding it is all day long and even during the night. Commissioner Siler advised he drove his vehicle on this street and could not get over 30 mph agreeing it is too fast. Chief Tyson and the Police Department are checking into this problem. *(Schedule 1-A)*

PROPOSED 2012/2013 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING: Town Manager Brower stated the proposed budget for FY 2012/2013 totals \$9,768,618 which is a reduction of \$829,258 or 7.8% decrease in spending. With the addition of the License Plate Agency, Pedestrian Planning Grant and STEP Implementation Grant, the overall spending has actually been reduced about 10%. He highlighted capital outlay requests from each department and also revenues and expenditures for General Fund, Enterprise Fund - Water & Sewer, and Enterprise Fund – License Plate Agency. The current tax rate of \$.45 per \$100 valuation will remain the same as well as the current district fire tax rate of \$.08. Brower explained the proposed water rate change. There will be a minimum water bill of \$23.00 and an additional \$3.51 for each 1,000 gallons used for residents in the town limits. An outside customer would pay a double rate which will be \$7.02 for each 1,000 gallons used. An increase in the charge for fire inspections at daycares are proposed to increase to \$50.00 from the current \$30.00 and implement a \$30.00 for fire inspections at foster homes.

BUDGET SUMMARY

FUND	AMOUNT
General Fund	\$5,750,048
Enterprise Fund (Water & Sewer)	\$4,113,503
Enterprise Fund (License Plate Agency)	\$102,500
Less Interfund Transfer	\$17,433
TOTAL BUDGET	\$9,768,618

A motion to approve a budget public hearing was made by Commissioner Adams and unanimously carried upon a second from Commissioner Siler. Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing at 7:35 p.m.

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Judy Morris, 807 Cliftwood Dr., Siler City, NC: Mrs. Morris represented the West Chatham Food Pantry and thanked the Board for their consideration and past support. This is a non-profit pantry which has over 185 volunteers with a minimum of 10 working when open. None receive a salary or are reimbursed for gas when picking up donations. The Pantry receives funding from grants and donations and they try to make their dollars stretch as far as possible. Families can come every other week to receive groceries. Morris pointed out that the first four months of this year saw 94 new families served stating the need continues to grow. The Pantry also packs backpacks for the Fuel Up program at two of the elementary schools and they were able to pack an extra twenty this school year which "was a blessing to many".

Richard Church, 4086 Old Coleridge Rd., Siler City, NC: Mr. Church spoke on behalf of the NC Arts Incubator, Inc. He pointed out that even though they have been through "trying times" there has been an outpouring of new leadership and new support in the community. There is also a renewed focus on how to operate the organization such as performing an energy audit, working through long-term debt to see how it can be restructured, focused on fund-raising from the private and business communities and new uses for buildings that are becoming available again to the Arts Incubator. One of the uses of these buildings will hopefully be for training educational programs bringing persons in who will use motel rooms, restaurants, etc. Church pointed out that funding is crucial and is appreciative of the Town's support for the past ten years. Commissioner Price asked where the restructuring of the loan is at this point? Church replied that he is talking with the bank every week and advised they have submitted a proposal to the bank and are currently supplying them with follow-up documentation.

Shirille Lee, 58 Elder Rd., Siler City, NC: Ms. Lee is representing Chatham County Together which is a non-profit that has been in existence for 23 years with nine employees. She pointed out that "all children deserve an education". This organization services children from ages 5 to 17 and works with all 15 schools in the County. Some children do not get the support at home that is necessary for them to be successful academically or socially. CCT partners with other agencies with "a goal to do what is best for the youth so they can become successful, productive citizens of Chatham County". She advised there are currently 46 kids matched one on one with volunteers. They provide several group activities each year such as college campuses, museums, plays, etc. to allow them to see what is outside of Chatham County.

Hispanic Liaison: Pamela Citrynell, Resource Development Coordinator with the Hispanic Liaison thanked the Board for their past support and asked that they consider all the programs that were presented at a previous meeting.

Sarah Marion, Chief Professional Officer, Boys & Girls Clubs: Ms. Morrison advised the Boys & Girls Club has been open in Chatham County less than two years and has seen improvements in grades and end of year testing scores in the kids who have been in the afterschool program. Requested funds will help with the move once they secure a building of their own plus fund a full-time staff person for the summer and support a ½ time person during the afterschool program. Another area they want to grow is a 16 to 18 year old program opening as many opportunities as possible. Ms. Marion thanked the Board for their past support and asked for continued support.

Mayor Johnson closed the budget public hearing at 8:00 p.m. *(Schedule 1-B)*

RESOLUTION REGARDING A NC DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN 457, TAMMY SPEICHER, FINANCE DIRECTOR: Finance Director Tammy Speicher explained that the Town currently participates in the NC State Retirement System and the NC 401-K Plan. The NC Deferred Compensation 457 Plan would provide another investment option to Town employees without any costs to the Town. Speicher pointed out the Plan has significant benefits especially for younger employees and Police Officers. This Plan is also available for elected officials. Contributions are pre-taxed dollars and withdrawals are never subject to a 10% penalty. In response to a question from Commissioner Price, Speicher responded that Prudential would administer the Plan and would answer any questions employees may have. A motion to approve the Resolution to offer Town employees the NC Deferred Compensation Plan 457 under the State of NC was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Cheek and unanimously carried. *(Schedule 1-C)*

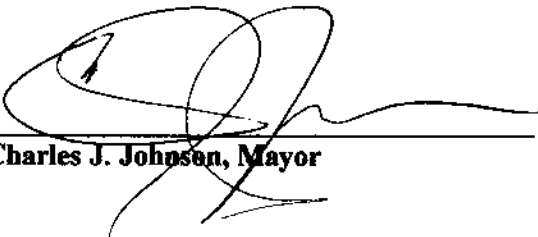
FINANCING PROPOSALS FOR COMTECH SERVER AND CSI ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE: Commissioner Adams asked to excuse himself from this agenda item as his employer has a bid for this software. A motion to excuse Commissioner Adams from this agenda item was made by Commissioner Cheek, seconded by Commissioner Siler and unanimously carried. Finance Director Tammy Speicher advised she has requested informal bids for the financing of the ComTech Server and CSI Technology Outfitters Governmental Software package. Most of the equipment has been paid for; however, there are still two modules that need to be implemented before June 30, 2012. This financing includes repayment of \$75,000 to the Siler City Fund Balance over a five year period. Speicher recommends the bid from BB&T with an annual payment of \$15,953.47 and an interest rate of 2.09%. Commissioner Price moved to approve the bid from BB&T as recommended by Finance Director Tammy Speicher and unanimously carried upon a second by Commissioner Bray. *(Schedule 1-D)*

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CLOSED SESSION: A motion to adjourn from regular session and convene into closed session was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Price and unanimously carried.

LEASE LAW: Before starting the closed session, Commissioner Constantino reported his neighbors have called him about a couple of dogs that are not on a lease with one jumping on his neighbor Nancy Oldham causing injury and hospitalization. He advised the dog was not aggressive, but jumped up to be petted knocking Mrs. Oldham down. As she is now very afraid of this happening again, she went to her mailbox and another dog, a golden retriever owned by Art White, came towards her barking and acting somewhat aggressive. The Oldhams and Commissioner Constantino have tried to call Mr. White, but have not received a callback. Town Manager Brower advised the Town operates under the Chatham County Animal Control Ordinance stating there is not a lease law but the ordinance states that a dog must be under the owner's control at all times. Chief Tyson commented a citizen can call the Police Department who will then contact Animal Control. Constantino noted that Animal Control has been contacted, but they do not feel they are getting any cooperation from them. Brower will contact John Sauls with the Chatham County Animal Control and advise him of the necessity of enforcing this law.

The Board reconvened into regular session at 8:54 p.m. A motion to proceed with the incentive process for EPC was made by Commissioner Price and unanimously carried upon a second from Commissioner Cheek. With no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.



Charles J. Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Karen C. Alman, Town Clerk

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