

TOWN OF SILER CITY

The Siler City Town Board of Commissioners met in regular session on **Monday, November 19, 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 ProTem Grimes gave the invocation. A motion to approve the regular session minutes from the November 5, 2012 meeting was made by Commissioner Siler, seconded by Commissioner Price and unanimously carried. Commissioner Check made a motion to approve the special session minutes from the November 8, 2012 meeting and were unanimously approved upon a second from Commissioner Price. Closed session minutes from the November 8, 2012 special meeting were unanimously approved upon a motion by Commissioner Adams and second from Commissioner Price.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sam Adams, Cindy Bray, Larry Check, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

No one signed up to address the Board. (*Schedule 15-A*)

APPLICATION 2012 CDBG NC CATALYST PROGRAM 2ND PUBLIC HEARING: Brower advised this public hearing has been properly advertised and is specific for the various improvements to be made with these funds at Bray Park, Paul Braxton Field and Boling Lane Park. Improvements at Bray Park include new bathrooms, new soccer field and tennis court and fence repair for a total of \$335,000. The Town has now completed the purchase of an additional 50.8 acres at a cost of \$138,000 which adjoins Bray Park and will provide the location for the new soccer field. The proposed improvements at Paul Braxton Complex include new basketball courts, new walking trail and resurfacing of existing basketball court in the amount of \$59,000. Brower pointed out that the Chatham Soccer League has committed up to \$40,000 in grant funds given by the Oak Foundation to be used for a multi-purpose soccer field to include renovation of the field, re-sodding, irrigation, excavation, fencing and possible moving of a light. At Boling Lane Park, improvements to the tennis court are proposed to include sealant and fence repair totaling \$11,500. Building renovation assistance to the rear building at the Braxton Complex to be used by the Boys & Girls Club totals \$30,000 which when added to their fund raising efforts should complete these renovations. Engineering design and inspection of the new soccer field at Bray Park is estimated at \$17,950 and grant administration by Hobbs Upchurch & Associates totals \$45,345. The CDBG NC Catalyst Program grant application totals \$498,795 plus an additional \$35,000 of Chatham Soccer League improvements at Paul Braxton Field for a grand total of \$533,795. Tony Patnode with Hobbs Upchurch & Associates has been working on the grant application pointing out he feels Siler City has a good application. This grant is aimed at helping those in the low to moderate income range and Siler City's range is 69.2%. Patnode has prepared a resolution for the Board's approval if they choose to proceed. Mayor Johnson declared the public hearing open at 7:13 p.m. With no one coming forward to speak, it was immediately closed. A motion to approve the Resolution for the Application for Community Development Block Grant Funding for the Siler City Recreational Improvements Project was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Siler and unanimously carried. (*Schedule 15-B*)

REQUEST FOR USE OF BRAY PARK FOR RELAY FOR LIFE EVENT: Terric McLaurin with the Siler City Relay for Life thanked the Board for allowing the Relay for Life to be moved to Bray Park last year and spoke of the success of the event. She requested permission for the Relay for Life event to be held at Bray Park again this year on Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4, 2013. Recreation Director Donald Dones added that the event held last year worked out great and he enjoyed working with the Relay for Life staff. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the use of Bray Park for the Relay for Life event in May 2013 and unanimously carried upon a second by Commissioner Check.

NC RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER BUILT ASSET ASSESSMENT AND FINANCE PROGRAM APPLICATION: Planning Director Meadows provided the Board information on this program stating that this is another opportunity for NC STEP towns. He advised that he and members of the Siler City STEP team attended a workshop and heard members of the Construction Professional Network Institute (CPNI). They provide site assessments of existing industrial and commercial buildings in communities that are underused or vacant with a mission of revitalizing these buildings. The program will provide 1) a comprehensive assessment of its built assets, legacy buildings, and commercial and industrial buildings by CPNI, a group of professionals from the construction and development industries, 2) assistance developing revitalization strategies for vacant or underinvested commercial buildings and industrial facilities, and 3) intensive technical assistance in structuring and financing public-private partnerships to attract private investment into promising revitalization projects by the School of Government's Development Finance Initiative. Meadows explained this is a competitive application process. Some of the requirements of participants are setting up meetings and having a Town staff person and a member of the Town Board to participate in all aspects of the program. Chatham County EDC Director Diane Reid was in the audience to offer her support of the program. Meadows advised the STEP Team members will be a good place to start in finding persons in being a part of the "stakeholder group", but would also like additional persons from the community to be a part as well. He stated he is asking permission to make Round 1 application which is due December 14, 2012. In response to a question from Commissioner Price, Meadows advised the cost to the Town will be finding a meeting place and staff time involved with meetings. There will be no monetary costs. A motion to authorize Planning Director Jack Meadows to begin the application process was made by Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Price and unanimously carried. (*Schedule 15-C*)

NC DOT PEDESTRIAN PLANNING GRANT STEERING COMMITTEE: Meadows advised this committee was appointed at the November 5th Town Board meeting and he has since been advised that Donna Sivulka will not be able to serve on this committee due to her work schedule. Marcia Grimes has been recommended by the NCSTEP Pedestrian Plan Committee to serve instead of Ms. Sivulka. Commissioner Bray moved to approve Marcia Grimes to serve on the NCDOT Pedestrian Planning Grant Steering Committee and unanimously carried upon a second from Mayor ProTem Grimes. (*Schedule 15-D*)

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PLANNING BOARD VACANCIES: No letters of interest have been received. Board members are still in the process of personally asking individuals to serve.

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO UDO REGARDING VISIBLE OUTDOOR STORAGE & APPEARANCE IN DOWNTOWN OVERLAY DISTRICT: After public input on this issue at the November 5, 2012 meeting, the Board voted to send this item back to the Town staff to "tweak" and take into consideration the comments from the business owners and bring to a future Town Board meeting. Mayor ProTem Grimes stated that he had given this issue much consideration and in light of the current economic situation and with the current property owners making efforts to improve the appearance of their businesses, he made a motion that the "work on the appearance ordinance be stopped" and was seconded by Commissioner Bray who stated she did not believe the Town needed this restrictive ordinance but would like to see the Board work with the property owners. Commissioner Adams advised he would like research to continue on façade programs that could assist these property owners stating he does not have a problem with discontinuing work on the ordinance at this time. He would like to see the work that is currently being done such as painting and clean-up around downtown properties to continue and be the "minimum goal" of the Town. Commissioners agreed that taking a positive approach and encouraging the property owners by seeking some type of grants to help them should be the direction of the Town at this point. With the motion and second on the floor, Mayor Johnson called for a vote which unanimously carried. It was mentioned that helping these property owners could be built into the next budget with a suggestion to let Town staff work on this in the FY 13/14 budget.

CLOSED SESSION: At 7:30 p.m., Mayor ProTem Grimes made a motion to adjourn from regular session and convene into closed session for the purpose of personnel and unanimously carried upon a second by Commissioner Siler.

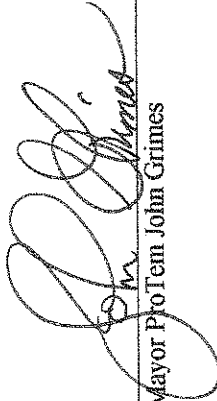
Commissioner Constantino arrived at 7:30 p.m.

The Board reconvened into regular session at 8:02 p.m. and with no further business, Mayor Johnson immediately adjourned the meeting.

ATTEST:



Karen C. Alman, Town Clerk



Mayor ProTem John Grimes