

Town of Siler City

The Siler City Town Board of Commissioners met in regular session on **Monday, October 21, 2013** in the City Hall Courtroom with Mayor Pro Tem John Grimes Presiding. The invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem John Grimes after which the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sam Adams, Cindy Bray, Larry Cheek, John Grimes, Thomas K “Chip” Price, and Tony Siler.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Mike Constantino

TOWN STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager, Bryan Thompson, Town Attorney William Morgan, Planning Director Jack Meadows, Police Chief Gary Tyson and Dee Lee Thompkins, Administrative Support Specialist.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS: *A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Commissioner Siler, seconded by Commissioner Price and unanimously carried.*

CONSENT AGENDA: *Commissioner Cheek stated that the minutes from the October 7th meeting when the board was discussing Ernest Ramsey Gym needs to read Donald has talked to Gene Morrow Roofing & Repairs not McRae Roofing. Commissioner Cheek made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the proposed amendment to the October 7, 2013 minutes, which unanimously carried upon a second by Commissioner Adams.*

Item A. Minutes from October 7, 2013 Meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Roger Person, 405 W. Elk St., Siler City, NC: Mr. Person stated that he was an artist and small business owner in the Historic Downtown Siler City District. He told about several weeks ago a group of representatives from the City of Berea, Kentucky consisting of Berea Tourism Directors, City Council member and investors from Churchill County and a community consultant came to Siler City to interview those of us who make up the art community. They came to seek advice from our artists for ideas and knowledge to apply from their downtown. Mr. Person told about speaking to one person who purchased a 56000 sq. ft. mill building with sole purpose to establish a community of studio artists, restaurants and a performing arts center. They were all impressed with the artists we have here and how we worked together as a group sharing our knowledge and ideas. There was talk about making us a sister community. They were aware that an art community was a huge asset, it can help draw positive attention to any small struggling town. He added Siler City needs to take advantage of this asset and seek ways to help promote this treasure. Mr. Person suggested that the board take advantage of what Siler City have and promote this opportunity to help bring tourism dollars to be spent across all of the business in Siler City.

Ann Bass, 207 S Evergreen Ave., Siler City, NC: Mrs. Bass stated that the Pedestrian Plan should be seen as more than crosswalks. She asking the board to not only adopt it but also to embrace the attitude and set a priority to create a community where we can live healthfully and conveniently without dependence on a vehicle.

Mrs. Bass reported that nearly all of us can walk or roll under our own power but only some of us can drive a vehicle. And some of us who drive vehicles should not for our own safety and that of our fellow citizens! Oldsters, youngsters, partyers all of us for important parts of life.

Mrs. Bass explained that by 2030 already 1 in 5 Americans will be over 65, but by 2050 the number of us over 85 will triple from 5.4 to 19 Million.

Mrs. Bass reported that Mitchell Silver, Planning Director for Raleigh told at the Main Street conference that: Seniors and empty nesters are increasingly searching for and investing in walkable communities, transit accessible housing that is close to daily amenities and they seek a healthier lifestyle through walking.

Mrs. Bass stated that Siler City is a small rural community, it is the perfect physical size, healthy walk or jaunt on the bicycle should get us easily to groceries, pharmacy, bank, doctor and into the natural environment. Sadly we are woefully short on lifelong recreation opportunities although we all know the benefits of such exercise. It is criminal that people have to drive somewhere to walk in pleasant, natural surroundings. Paths and trails are critical infrastructure for a vibrant future.

Mrs. Bass explained that beyond sidewalks, investment in making Siler City a pleasant and convenient place to walk will translate into density discussions, mixed use requirements, more small living options and a desperate need for entertainment and public space. Our downtown is the key to our future. That is the only location that can support the lifestyle that younger generations X,Y,Z (62% of the US population) are demanding:

Urban lifestyle – density, diversity and activity

Smaller housing options – rent instead of own

Fun, alternative transportation options – bicycle, pedi-cab, segway,

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cart, etc.
Walk to work, shopping, and entertainment

Mrs. Bass added that as you adopt this plan, I hope that you will also adopt a new resolve to develop the infrastructure that will entice, and support the needs and desires, of Siler City's residents of the future.

As we discussed during the joint session regarding the MegaSite—we need to invest: *“If you aren't a city where people want to live, you aren't a city where people want to invest.”* Mayor Littlefield of Chattanooga

NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation and Consideration of Siler City Pedestrian Master Plan

Lindsey Smart with Alta/Greenway introduced herself to the board. She explained that she is here to do a slide presentation of the Siler City Pedestrian Master Plan. She shared the purpose, background vision & goals for the Pedestrian Plan. The plan offers opportunities for enhancing Siler City walkability. After her presentation some of the commissioners discuss some of their concern areas with Ms. Smart. Mayor ProTem Grimes suggested that the board review the plan more before board action.

B. Consideration of Siler City Airport Aviation Transportation Improvement Plan

Town Manager Thompson told the board that town staff and consultant engineer Brigid Williams of WK Dickson have been working to develop a proposed Transportation Improvement Plan for the Siler City Airport. Thompson reviewed the improvement plan with the members. He said that they looked at safety issues projects first, then program enhancement of the airport facility and runway extension. Thompson explained that action is sought by staff for the approval of the proposed plan.

Mayor ProTem Grimes stated looking at the future on the mega site that this plan is very important to our airport.

A motion to approve the plan was made by Commissioner Price, seconded by Commissioner Larry Cheek and unanimously carried.

C. Consideration of NCDOT SPOT 3.0 Recommended Ranked Project List

Matt Daye, Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization (TARPO) referred to the SPOT 3.0 Recommended Ranked Project List that was included with the board agenda. He stated that the list was put together with a committee of staff from Chatham County, Town of Pittsboro, Town of Siler City, Chatham Transit and himself. They will be presenting it to all the boards to seek their approval on the list. The list contains the projects that they are planning to submit to NCDOT for scoring. Mayor ProTem Grimes asked how the committee did the ranking. Mr. Daye replied that the staff did the ranking. Daye said there are some projects that are not ranked within the top 20 but will be submitted. Also, there are some projects that they are asking for removal from the previous 2008 and 2011 lists. Mr. Daye added that this is a very complicated process. He explained to the board that the last time they went thru this process there were about fifty highway projects and one hundred bike pad projects and there were only three projects awarded. Mr. Daye said this is a new process this year and they are not sure how the scoring will be done. He added that the funding that is available will be for the year 2016 thru 2020. Grimes asked since there is a possibility of Siler City getting a certified mega site would that enhance Siler City chances. Mr. Daye said he does not believe so because most of the data is based on existing conditions. He explained that the final draft of the approved projects should be finished by the end of 2014.

A motion to approve the plan was made by Commissioner Cheek, seconded by Commissioner Price and unanimously carried.

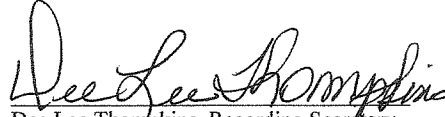
MANAGER'S REPORT

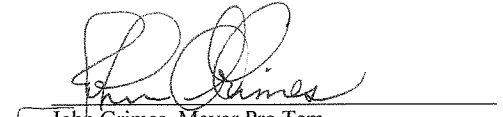
Town Manager Thompson reported with your agenda is a memo that gives you an update on the UDO Review Committee and Engineering for Mega Site Water and Sewer Improvements. He is going to try to keep the board informed on what is going on with both of these issues. Thompson informed the board that the Halloween Hoopla has been canceled because of a conflict with a neighboring community. Thompson added there is supposed to be a Veteran's Day Parade on November 9th but he does not have any information on it. He asked Police Chief Tyson if he had any information on it. Tyson reported that the parade is supposed to start at 10:00 but the Veterans have not got a permit yet for the parade. Thompson said he got an email from Public Works Director Terry Green this afternoon and he informed him that everything is set for the "Ice Picking" on December 16th at Boling Park. Thompson said they will be communicating that to the neighborhood. He reminded the commissioners of the bridge dedication on Friday, October 25th at 3:00 pm. The Jordan Matthews Homecoming will be Thursday,

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October 24th. Commissioner Cheek commended Planning Director Jack Meadow and Town Manger Thompson for their work on the TARPO Committee.

With no further business, *motion was made by Commissioner Siler to adjourn at 8:10 p.m., Commissioner Bray seconded, followed by unanimous consent.*


Dee Lee Thompkins, Recording Secretary


John Grimes, Mayor Pro Tem