

**MINUTES**  
Town of North  
December 12, 2011  
North Town Hall

Mayor Jeffcoat called the regular meeting of Council to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Council members Jones, Carson, Lane and Washington. Also in attendance were Chief Mark Fallaw and Town Clerk Carrie Garrett.

Mayor Jeffcoat led council and visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Jeffcoat declared a quorum and welcomed visitors.

Councilman Jones made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2011 meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Lane, and upon vote minutes were approved.

Public Comments:

Sandy Sigmon made a presentation regarding a grant from Golden State Foods. This is a \$7,000 grant that would be used for playground equipment for the Drew-Owen Park. Ms. Sigmon gave a list of ideas for items that could be purchased, and indicated that council needs to decide which items are desired so they can be indicated on the grant application. Ms. Sigmon is preparing this grant through the North Family Community School which has the required 501(c)(3) status.

Water/Sewer Report:

Mr. Jeffcoat presented the Water/Sewer report for November, 2011 (copy attached).

Police Report:

Chief Fallaw reviewed the North Police report for November, 2011 (copy attached).

Chief Fallaw also responded to a request of Councilwoman Carson from a prior meeting regarding the cost involved in hiring Sergeant Arant. Chief announced that the Town spent \$2,050.33 on items related to the hiring of Sergeant Arant, and \$134.74 in items of that amount were not recovered (i.e. notary seal, etc.), but the remaining items are in the possession of the North Police Department.

Councilwoman Carson asked Chief Fallaw if he was on "town time" or on the clock when he attended the SCANA Elected Officials Dinner at Pine Island on November 9<sup>th</sup>, and that her concern was for spending taxpayer funds for a social event. Chief Fallaw responded that he didn't attend as a social function but a networking event and was there to represent the Town of North and make contacts with SCANA executives, to make contacts with other local officials and even discuss legal issues.

Old Business:

- o Jeffcoat reviewed the financial statement for November, 2011.

New Business:

- o Jeffcoat discussed that the Community of Character Trait for December is Leadership.
- o Bill Hancock, CPA/PFS, presented the 2011 audit report with an unqualified opinion and no material deficiencies to report. Acceptance of the audit will be taken up at the January 9<sup>th</sup> council meeting.
- o Bids for the sign for Drew-Owen Park were reviewed. No action taken. It was agreed that the Town should post a plaque thanking Golden State Foods for their donations.

Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Jeffcoat mentioned how well the North Christmas Parade went, along with the Drew-Owen Park Dedication program.
- Mayor Jeffcoat also noted that the large cedar tree across from town hall is normally lit up during the Christmas season, but the lights at the top are not working and we will have to have the help of Aiken Electric through their bucket truck to replace the lights. Therefore, the lights are turned off for now until we can coordinate that light-strand replacement. He also noted that the Town might consider different options for a Christmas Tree.
- Mayor Jeffcoat wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

#### Council Announcements:

- Councilwoman Carson asked for an update regarding the Emergency Water Service Contract with Silver Springs Water District. Mayor Jeffcoat responded that the contract is still outstanding, as we are waiting on a meeting with Adam Livingston to go over specific details. It was noted that our water system is using water from the emergency supply valve, and we may look at changing valve or pressure settings to decrease the amount we purchase from them.
- Councilwoman Carson asked for an update regarding the contract with Advance Disposal. Town Clerk Garrett announced that she contacted Mr. Horne and noted that if the contract was to be re-negotiated that it would need to go out for bids. Mr. Horne spoke with this supervisors and Advance Disposal agreed to honor the existing contract with the existing rates until its expiration in the spring of 2013.

#### Public Comments:

- Mr. Buckheister thanked the Mayor and Harry Drew for their hard work organizing the North Christmas Parade. He also thanked Councilman Jones and Councilwoman Lane for his participation in the North Day of Prayer.
- Mrs. Fallaw asked if spouses were invited to the SCANA dinner. Councilwoman Carson responded that her spouse was invited, Chief Fallaw responded that his invitation did not include a spouse invitation. Mrs. Fallaw suggested that when an event is considered a social event, that spouses are typically included. Mrs. Fallaw asked for an update on the Beautification Committee headed by Councilwoman Carson.  
Carson stated that she has met with Lyle Davis (DOT) twice and has spoken with a landscape architect in Columbia. The property she was looking at for the beautification project is actually owned by CSX Railroad and is not a DOT right of way. Therefore she needs to get with the Railroad to discuss any potential projects on their right of way. DOT needs a formal written plan with drawings of any projects to be done on their right of way. Additionally, she does intend to apply for a grant in the future for the beautification project. She will work on finding a good contact for CSX Railroad and will continue with the efforts of the beautification project.
- Mr. Carson stated that he attended the function at Pine Island with Councilwoman Carson, and he believes it should be considered a social event since, in his opinion, the purpose of those attending would be to eat oysters and drink beer, because he went to eat oysters and drink beer.
- Chief Fallaw spoke on behalf of Rev. Simmons from the Powerhouse of Deliverance, which had opened the facility in town to give youth wholesome a place to hang out. He stated that he had to close the facility because the people that came in there only wanted to steal, sell dope and gamble.
- Paul Owen offered his gratitude for the Park Dedication Ceremony.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Lane to adjourn to Executive Session regarding a Personnel Matter, a Legal Matter and a Contractual Matter. Motion was seconded and meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m. Chief Fallaw closed the meeting in prayer.

Mayor Jeffcoat reconvened the meeting at 7:46 p.m. Councilwoman Carson made a motion to approve overtime hours and pay for Officer Blanchard until a decision is made regarding the hiring of a new

officer, up to six months. Motion was seconded by Councilman Jones and upon vote carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Councilwoman Lane made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, January 9, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Garrett

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**APPROVED: DECEMBER 12, 2011 MINUTES**

Mayor Earl Jeffocat: \_\_\_\_\_

**Council Members:**

Harriett Lane: \_\_\_\_\_

Julius Jones: \_\_\_\_\_

Jeff Washington: \_\_\_\_\_

Patty Carson: \_\_\_\_\_

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