**Town of Haw River**

**Town Council Meeting**

**Monday, November 4, 2013**

The Town Council of the Town of Haw River held its Town Council Meeting on Monday, November 4, 2013 in the Haw River Municipal Building at 7:00 pm.

Council Members Present: Mayor Buddy Boggs, Lee Lovette, Kelly Allen, and Ashley Warren

Council Members Absent: Jeff Fogleman

Also Present: Manager Jeff Earp, Clerk Melanie Hamilton, Attorney Rob Jennings

Mayor Boggs called the meeting to order and gave the invocation at 7:00 pm.

**Consent Agenda**

7:00 pm

**The Council reviewed minutes from the October 7, 2013 regular meeting and Budget Amendment 2014-1.**

Councilmember Lovette made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

**Old Business**

7:01 pm

**The Town Council reviewed and considered a donation of property by Judith Settle regarding property legally described as Alamance County Tax Map #13-12A-4 located at 1345 Haywood Street.**

Manager Earp presented the Council with a proposal of donation from Judith Settle for a parcel of land located at 1345 Haywood Street in the Ha River ETJ. This parcel’s tax value is $19,813. The land does not perc, but it could eventually be connected to the Town’s water/sewer system.

Following discussion, Councilmember Allen made a motion to accept the donation of a parcel of land located at 1345 Haywood Street (Tax Map #13-12A-4) by Judith Settle. Motion carried 4-0.

**New Business**

7:09 pm

**The Town Council heard a presentation of audit results for FY 20131.06.30 from Jim Winston with Winston, Williams, Creech, Evans & Co, LLP.**

Jim Winston from Winston, Williams, Creech, Evans & Company, LLP spoke to the council regarding the recent audit that was completed for fiscal year ending June 30, 2013. The firm issued an unqualified opinion for the town, which is the best possible result for this audit. Mr. Winston guided the council through a presentation (presentation outline attached) detailing the major points of the audit and provided some insight into the results including the fact that the water/sewer fund and the general fund made money this year and fund balances those funds also increased.

Following the audit presentation, Mayor Boggs asked Manager Earp to return to the Council in December with financial data for the Council regarding possible 3-5% employee raises and recommendations concerning any adjustments that may be needed in order to keep the Town’s workforce stable.

7:32 pm

**The Town Council reviewed and considered a substitute contract concerning the Town’s Major Medical Insurance program for employees.**

Manager Earp informed the Council that all employees were notified by letter on September 30, 2013 that Independence American Insurance Company (IAIC) will stop servicing NC on March 31, 2014. In anticipation of this happening David Moore of Moore & Associates/Eben Concepts has made arrangements to replace our current insurer by December 1, 2013 with no lapse in coverage or price changes.

Mr. Moore then spoke to the Council in greater detail regarding this switchover. Our new coverage will be provided by Cambridge Life and is has been guaranteed that our benefits/policy, network, and cost will remain the same.

After discussion, Councilmember Lovette made a motion to approve the insurance contract with Cambridge Life effect December 1, 2013. Motion carried 4-0.

7:40 pm

**The Town Council reviewed and considered a resolution concerning use of the “Private Sale without Council approval of each sale” method for disposing of some surplus property.**

Manager Earp asked the Council to consider a resolution concerning disposition of personal property using “private sale without council approval of each sale” method. In the coming months, the Town will have some surplus property to dispose of that has nominal value. Adoption of the reference resolution will allow the Manager to dispose of this property without Council approval, provided that:

1. The property is valued at less than $5,000
2. Fair Market Value is determined using
	1. Comparable Sales and/or
	2. Opinions of experts and/or
	3. Consideration of Replacement Value
3. Manager must keep a record of property sold

Following discussion, Councilmember Lovette made a motion to approve the Resolution Declaring Personal Property as Surplus and Authorizing Disposition by “Private Sale without Council approval of each sale” Procedures. Motion carried 4-0.

7:47 pm

**Manager’s Update**

Manager Earp gave the Council an update on the following projects/issues:

* The Flood Pain maps have been updated and a community meeting will need to be held in the upcoming months.
* A man has been visiting our Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies declaring that our signs prohibiting firearms in Town buildings are in violation of his constitutional rights. We have confirmed with our attorney that we are within the limits of the NC General Statutes in regards to our firearm signs.
* The sweepstakes lawsuit has been voluntarily dismissed without prejudice. This suit can be re-filed within 12 months.
* NCDENR has approved the Council’s watershed ordinance changes.
* Staff is currently getting quotes for the replacement of the 1st street pump station. This expenditure was already budgeted for.
* The Manager has had to make some expenditures to fix private sections of sewer lines because these sections are under Town roads. In an effort to keep the Town’s roads from being compromised, the Manager has had these sections fixed with Town funds. Council agreed by consensus to continue allowing the Manager to make these judgment calls.
* Financial Update
* The money paid to the NCLM to fight the Duke Energy rate increase was money well spent as the proposed rate increase was drastically reduced from the proposed 15% increase to less than a 4% increase.
* The Sidewalk project is still waiting on NCDOT and it could be June 2014 before completed.
* Manager Earp asked the Council to consider setting a special meeting in the upcoming weeks in order to address the Downtown Master Plan and possible expansion of the Town’s water/sewer lines. By consensus, the Council set a special meeting on Monday, November 18, 2013 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers at 403 E Main Street.

**Announcements**

* Councilmember Allen reminded everyone to vote in the upcoming election.
* Councilmember Lovette thanked staff for all of their hard work in keeping the Town financially sound.

8:06 pm

There being no other business, Councilmember Allen made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0.

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Buddy E. Boggs, Mayor Melanie R. Hamilton, Clerk