



MINUTES OF
CITY OF CREEDMOOR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2011
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT

Mayor Darryl D. Moss, Mayor Pro-tem Jimmy Minor, Commissioner Ralph Seagroves, Commissioner Otha Piper, Jr., Commissioner John Stallings and Commissioner Herman Wilkerson. Also present was Mr. Tom Mercer, City Manager, Ren Wiles, Finance Officer/City Clerk, and Attorney Tom Currin.

INVOCATION

Mayor Moss called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Wilkerson led the Board and those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2011 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS: The Mayor noted that the tradition of this presentation began in 2000 and that this was the 12th presentation of the State of the City Address. Following is the text of the speech.

There is a line that is often quoted. Its origin is debatable. Its meaning is ambiguous. It can be taken as either a blessing or a curse. It has never been more applicable than it is today:

“May you live in interesting times.”

Whatever your political leanings, whatever your chosen path in life, whatever your economic status.....you must admit that we live in interesting times. And as some have said, it's (not JUST) the economy. It's more, it's structural. It's structural in our culture and structural in our society.

Who would have ever thought that we would see such rapid decline in the futures and fortunes of some of our most basic, most elemental foundational enterprises: to name one in particular - our financial industry. Who would have ever thought that our mass media, those pillars of journalism would find themselves challenged by bloggers and Facebook and Twitter.

The way that we live and work, the way that we keep and manage our money, the way that we travel from one place to another are all changing.

Interesting Times.

It is safe to predict that in the future, the near future, the places that we call cities will be very different. This city will be very different. Now, as we wrestle with “The Great Recession”, experts have assessed the state of the nations’ infrastructure – our streets and roads and highways, our pipes and treatment plants, and all that links us together and makes it possible to support our civilization and lifestyle. The findings were not encouraging. Looking at the collective condition – considering current conditions and projections, the latest assessment begins with a sobering conclusion:

In the United States, the road, public transit, and aviation systems have gotten worse, and U.S. water and sewage systems are in the worst shape in 100 years. Repairs are estimated at approximately \$2.2 trillion. While President Barack Obama’s Stimulus Bill included over \$132 billion for infrastructure of all kinds, it is still only a beginning. State and local governments are confronting “a perfect storm of credit crunch, revenue shortfalls and deferred maintenance.”

The expert writers refer to this particular point in time – this season of change – as the “Pivot Point”. This is the time for bold and aggressive actions to move future development in new directions.

It’s time to break the mold. Crisis can raise awareness, focus attention, and even spawn opportunity. For the nation and Creedmoor, 2009 marked a pivot point where a financial emergency helped steer the nation and our community towards a different path.

While some were hopeful that we would fail, others, and I include myself in this number, saw it as an incredible opportunity to get things right. Communities face a clear choice – either invest and innovate or hurtle into more stagnation, congestion and potential systemic failure.

So why, you might ask, why is all this a matter for concern here in Creedmoor? The simple answer is that we cannot divorce ourselves from the state of the nation or the state of the state. We must be mindful of the forces at play and the potential effect on our future. Throughout all of this discussion on conditions and options and infrastructure needs to support our hopes and dreams for the future is a common thread - and that common thread is that all of this relates to planning and the provision of services in such fashion that we create a sustainable community.

I can say without exaggeration or reservation that Creedmoor is well served by a team of skilled veterans that are quite likely the finest group of professionals that I have ever had the privilege to work with - it is truly a team focused on getting results.

For this speech, our collective list of accomplishments for the past year is too long to even begin to recite in this evening. I will give you a few highlights.

Public Safety

- Greatly reduced turnover in staff – compared to a 23% turnover rate in 2007, which also indicates high employee satisfaction and morale levels. This is needed in order to be competitive and retain good officers.
- Low Crime Rate, with an increased population and more businesses
- Increased CPD effectiveness – as indicated by a increased arrest rate with a lower number of crimes
- The CPD has aggressively pursued grant funding. To name a few awards - tasers, bulletproof vests, digital in-car cameras.

Transportation

- An on-going Powell Bill program for street assessments and improvements
- Pedestrian crosswalks on Main St
- A street sweeping program
- NC50 Corridor Study
- Creedmoor Connector Loop Functional Design
- NCDOT Pedestrian Planning Grant Awarded

Community and Economic Development

- CMAQ grant for the Cross City Trail
- Lake Rogers Park Rejuvenation Project
- Downtown Beautification Efforts
- Joint effort with SGAA for improvements at Battle C. Roberts Field
- Re-Winning the \$1.2 million CWMTF Grant for the Fontaine Project – a collaborative effort with Barton Development, Unique Places, Granville County Schools and the City of Raleigh
- Community Events – Music Festival, 4th of July Fireworks at Lake Holt, National Night Out
- We became a Playful City, USA for the fourth consecutive year.

Energy, Environment and Natural Resources

- Awarded a USDA Water & Sewer Infrastructure Grant – Project Total - \$9.4 million
- Completed construction of the Joe Peed Road Booster Pump Station
- Participated in the Falls Lake Rules Initiative
- Collaborated with Granville County on the Hester Road Waterline Project to serve homes with no water
- Collaborated with Granville County to provide water to the new school being built in Wilton

Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations.

- Implemented Identity Theft Policy
- Implemented internal process improvements – Electronic Records Program, code of ordinances update, risk management
- For our employees we implemented – Employee Assistance Program, Customer Service Training, employee training initiative
- Finance – awarded the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), received an updated Bond rating from the NC Municipal Council, completed the audit on time, consolidated 10 cash accounts into 3, resulting in cost savings from reduced bank fees

Simply, let it be noted and underlined and highlighted that you are well served by your elected officials, the departments and the professional administrators that lead them. Creedmoor has never been in better hands – especially in these challenging and interesting times. Sowhat is the state of the city....our city? Ladies and gentlemen, the state of the city is good.

These are interesting times, challenging times, times of great opportunity and perhaps dangerous times. It is a time when the national debate will swirl around the role of government. It is a time when our financial foundations have been shaken and we are struggling to gain new footing.

It is a time when we can move ahead as a community and make greater strides toward that often stated goal of being the best small city in America.....or we can shrink back, allow ourselves to be frightened by the prospects of the future and rest somewhat comfortably in just being another place blessed with opportunity but lacking the courage to grasp it.

What's next? Well we do have important questions that must be addressed regarding the provision of adequate services – services to sustain and support our growing population. And we have the question of our growth boundaries – an issue that is still open for debate – but an issue that is relevant now more than ever – an issue that will determine how we protect our environment.

Then again maybe it is not so much a question of “What’s next?” as “Who is next?” And that brings me to our citizens in Creedmoor.

Successful communities must meet challenging and interesting times with a spirit of energy, enthusiasm, optimism and collaboration. Among our greatest assets as a community is a group of interested, engaged citizens.

We must constantly look for ways to debate and seek consensus on how we go about the process of “raising a brave and beautiful city” – a city worthy of the setting that God gave us and a city worthy of talented young people that soon will inherit all that has been accomplished, so far.

Let me close by saying that in these “interesting times” the state of the City is good, but we have only reached a benchmark beyond which we can progress – a foundation for a new and more prosperous and hopeful city. In the last year, we have received blessings that - previously - we could only dream of - and we have obtained a foothold on the ladder of progress that we might not have imagined to be possible only a short time ago.

In spite of the economy, in spite of these interesting times, it is a good time to be in Creedmoor and I can say to you with absolute certainty that the future can be bright that if we respond with energy and enthusiasm and youthful vigor.

The best is yet to come. May God continue to bless the city called Creedmoor, North Carolina.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Mayor called for the adoption of the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Wilkerson asked for an executive session at the end of the meeting. Motion by Commissioner Piper to adopt the agenda with the call for an executive session. Seconded by Commissioner Stallings. The motion received a unanimous vote.

REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Mayor placed the minutes of the following meetings before the Board for approval: December 14, 2010, Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting; December 17, 2010, Continuation of 12-14-2010 Regular Meeting; January 8, 2011, Board of Commissioners Off-Site Meeting; and January 10, 2011, Board of Commissioners Work Session Meeting. Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Wilkerson to adopt the minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Minor. The motion received a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one came forward to speak.

RURAL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE GRANT (RBEG) APPLICATION

Business Development and Transportation Manager Wilkins made the presentation to the Board about the City's efforts to obtain grant funds to create a revolving loan fund to supplement business development in Creedmoor. In summary, the US Department of Agriculture has grant funds the City could use to loan to area businesses, creating jobs and/or expanding the tax base. As the loans are repaid, the money becomes available to be loaned to new applicants. Manager Wilkins informed the Board that the application is complete except for the final part, adoption of the Revolving Loan Plan by the governing board. A full copy of the plan was provided to the Board.

Commissioner Stallings questioned the match requirement and budgeting for this. Manager Wilkins responded that no match is required but that providing funds would give the City "extra points" in the competitive evaluation process. Commissioner Stallings questioned about why the City did not apply last year. Manager Wilkins responded that the City became aware of this opportunity late in the process last year and did not have time to prepare a plan to manage a revolving loan fund. Manager Wilkins confirmed the Mayor's question that this application would not affect the current designation of Creedmoor as a rural community. Motion by Commissioner Stallings to move forward with the City's application and to adopt the presented Revolving Loan Plan. Seconded by Commissioner Minor. The motion received a unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION 2011-R-02, ENDORSING THE NC 50 CORRIDOR STUDY

Business Development and Transportation Manager Wilkins provided an overview of the study efforts to date and reported that the study phase is concluding. The coordinating body will be presenting it to the Dept. of Transportation. Manager Wilkins presents the resolution to support the results of the study. Commissioner Piper made the motion to adopt Resolution 2011-R-02, supporting the NC 50 study. Commissioner Seagroves seconded the motion. The motion received a unanimous vote.

At this point, the Mayor called Administrative Services Manager Korena Weichel to come forward. The Mayor announced that Manager Weichel had recently been certified as a Professional in Human Resources, confirming her knowledge of theoretical concepts, practical experience, and a mastery of the field. The Mayor formally presented the certification to Manager Weichel.

MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Mercer reported on the priority results of the Off-Site Meeting, when the Board members ranked their priority items for each committee. Manager Mercer summarized the results. A full listing of the results was provided to each Board member in their agenda packets. A general discussion of this ranking and prioritization followed. Commissioner Minor expressed his understanding that this information was to be used to develop a shorter list. The Mayor responded that the intended action was that each committee head follow up with the relevant items. As progress was made, the committee chairs would report to the Board.

Manager Mercer continued with planning aspects for the Fireworks event. Currently, the vendor has the City scheduled for Saturday, July 2. A discussion followed about the impact of scheduling on a Friday, i.e. easier to get volunteers, the vendor will reserve the First Friday in July going forward for us. A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Wilkerson to hold the annual Fireworks event on Friday, July 1. Seconded by Commissioner Seagroves. The motion received a unanimous vote. The Board continued by instructing the Manager to set Friday July 8th as the Rain Date.

Manager Mercer reported that the USDA has given the City authorization to solicit bids for the water/sewer project. Tentative dates include pre-bid conference on 2-16-2011 and bid openings on 3-8-2011. Manager Mercer reported on efforts to include local manufacturers and businesses that are potential material suppliers.

Manager Mercer reported on the budget calendar. Key dates include, 2-7-2011, budget to actual reports to department heads, 3-11-2011, individual and collective meetings with department heads about budget requests, 3-22-2011, first draft of budget to Board, 5-24-2011, public hearing, and 6-13-2011, adoption of the Fiscal Year 2012 budget. Mayor Pro Tem asked for a copy, to relay to the Greenway officials.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Paddington Update: Code Enforcement Officer Ganus reported on Paddington Officials' efforts to recombine property lines to facilitate the installation of the required recreation facilities. The revisions have been approved by Planning Administrator Flowe. Summarized as, "We're moving forward."
- B. Alamo, 4-Way Quick Stop, Burned Building: The hearing has been held for the Alamo building. The owner is appealing and is scheduled for the 2-7-2011 Board of Adjustment meeting. 4-Way Quick Stop, Officer Ganus met with the owner last week and expects to see clean up efforts in the near future. The owner intends to rent out, lease or sell the property. Burned out building: Owners attended the scheduled meeting. Bid packages for demolition will be sent out if needed. General discussion followed. Commissioner Minor questioned the specifics and timing of the inspections done.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor disclosed that the Board of Adjustments still needs a member to represent the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) of Creedmoor and an alternate ETJ member. The Mayor called for suggestions of people to serve.

The Mayor reported on the coming trip to Washington, DC, to meet with elected officials. The Mayor reported other meetings and activities he, or Creedmoor staff attended, including, the Granville County Chamber of Commerce meeting.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT(S):

Commissioner Piper: No report.

Commissioner Stallings asked that the Planning Department provide names and/or addresses of those parties receiving permits and that such information be included in the Managers Report. He also asked for an update on the installation of video surveillance equipment. Manager Mercer responded, in summary, that ADT has been selected as the vendor and that their bid is below \$18,000. Commissioners Stallings and Wilkerson reiterated their request for permit recipient information in the Manager's Report.

Mayor Pro Tem Wilkerson reported allegations that a horse has been buried on property in the Pine Street vicinity. City Code Enforcement Officer Ganus indicated that in speaking with people in the vicinity, no one had mentioned a horse burial. The Mayor asked for an update in a couple of weeks.

Commissioner Minor complimented Manager Mercer about his efforts to improve the utility system. Commissioner Minor did inquire about what the threshold was for contracts to come to the Board for approval. A lengthy discussion followed. The Mayor tasked Commissioner Piper, as head of the FAIR Committee, to determine if there is a better way to handle the communication on contracts.

Commissioner Seagroves proposed a motion that parking on Main Street, from Church Street to Park Avenue, be 2 hour parking, 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays. A lengthy discussion followed, with comments from commissioners, the Mayor, and the Chief of Police. After confirming procedural questions with the city attorney, the Mayor confirmed that Commissioner Seagroves motion was to add Saturdays in the Traffic Schedule, as a time exempt from the established parking limits. Commissioner Minor seconded the motion. The motion received a unanimous vote.

The Mayor addressed Mayor Pro Tem Wilkerson's request to go into closed session for personnel matters at approximately 8:23 PM. The motion received a unanimous vote.

The Board returned to regular session.

ADJOURN

The Mayor called for a motion to adjourn at approximately 9:11 PM. Commissioner Piper made the motion to adjourn the meeting; Seconded by Commissioner Stallings. The motion received a unanimous vote.


Darryl D. Moss, Mayor

ATTEST:



Ren E. Wiles, Finance Officer/City Clerk