

MINUTES OF
CITY OF CREEDMOOR – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2009
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Mayor Darryl D. Moss, Mayor Pro-tem Tim Karan, Commissioner Otha Piper, Jr., Commissioner Larry Robinson and Commissioner Herman Wilkerson. Also present was Tom Mercer, City Manager, Sandra Harper, City Clerk and Attorney Tom Currin. Absent was Commissioner Jimmy Minor.

Mayor Moss called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Room at City Hall and welcomed everyone.

INVOCATION:

Mayor Moss

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Robinson

MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY REPORT:

Mayor Moss read his State Of The City Report as follows:

“To the Board of Commissioners and fellow citizens, I'm pleased to present the 2009 State of the City Report. It is truly an honor to serve as the Mayor of Creedmoor and to share with you the state of our wonderful city. The annual report is an opportunity to briefly celebrate the city's accomplishments over the past year and highlight the programs and achievements that help keep Creedmoor moving forward even through difficult and challenging times.

I think that we can all agree 2008 was a very difficult and challenging year. Creedmoor's financial crisis, the national housing mortgage crisis and the Wall Street financial meltdown impacted each of us in different ways. Still, we found the ways and means to provide public services that are required by residents for their everyday well being. Public Safety, recreation, refuse collection, water and wastewater and public landscape maintenance are just a few examples of municipal services that are conducted on a daily basis which sometimes we all take for granted.

Accomplishing the many goals and objectives within a city environment requires practical planning, collaboration and efforts of many groups and individuals. City-wide projects and activities are not accomplished by one individual. Teamwork, compromise and cooperation are essential elements in the success of our city.

I am proud to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our Board of Commissioners, City staff, citizen advisory committee members and the numerous active organizations that contribute to our progress. We work together to provide the best possible public services with the available resources at our disposal.

The following is a brief overview of the City's achievements and challenges for the past year:

Finance and Administration

The number one challenge we faced last year, and are not done with yet, was to address serious deficiencies in our finance operation. Specifically, we were cited for noncompliance with federal and state taxing authorities, preparation of financial statements, failure to perform reconciliations of significant accounts and inadequate internal controls.

Under the leadership of Commissioner Larry Robinson, Finance Chair, we set a new direction by approving the hiring of Tom Mercer as City Manager to improve our City administration.

Because Tom was already part of the organization he was able to hit the ground running. Tom took immediate steps to reorganize City administration to improve the performance and responsiveness of the organization.

Despite a challenging environment the Board of Commissioners was able to come together on issues impacting the City and determine how to work towards addressing those issues in a uniform, transparent fashion.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Safety of our residents, children and visitors has always been the City of Creedmoor's highest priority. Commissioner Jimmy Minor, Public Safety Chair, and Chief Tim Benware were diligent in providing improved technology, training and adopted policies that enhance public safety.

These are several key statistics for the Creedmoor Police Department:

- Overall crime was down 15% in Creedmoor as of 10-31-2008 compared to same time period in 2007.
- Auto Crashes went down 24%
- Citations issued went up 33%
- Cases closed went up 3%
- Felony arrests went up 26%

- Misdemeanor arrests went up 2%
- Drug arrests went up 65%

It should be noted that during this period of time staffing at the Police Department was down on road patrol by as much as 50% for months. Since 2000 the Population went up 22% and the Police Department staffing has remained the same.

The Creedmoor Police Department has worked hard to reduce the crime rate and not have the same problems that plague other areas of the county. Chief Benware's intent is that their problems do not bleed over to Creedmoor.

The Creedmoor Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD) continued to provide an exceptional level of service to our community. The CVFD supports the emergency and non-emergency needs of their fire district and beyond.

This is the very thing that makes them so visible, respected, and so much appreciated in the community.

Community and Economic Development

We continue to work with the community to foster economic vitality; preserve and enhance neighborhoods, quality of life and the environment; and promote equity and opportunity for all residents of Creedmoor.

Commissioner Otha Piper, CED Chair, encourages us to think about ways to focus at the community level. This means acting at the community level and fostering economic, social and cultural growth.

2008 saw construction begin on two new businesses on Main Street - CVS and Cardinal State Bank. Additionally, the Creedmoor Business Park opened its doors with APU, an auto parts distributor, as one of its first tenants.

We expect to see activity at the old Southern States building and BP site in the very near future.

To enhance existing businesses in the B-1 and B-2 districts I asked Deuard Bowden to lead an initiative, the Business Advisory Council (BAC), to work on ideas as to how our City Government can help them be more successful.

Later tonight Mr. Bowden will give us an update on their work.

Community events the city either sponsored or partnered on included:

- Annual Easter Egg Hunt – Partnership with the South Granville Women's Club

- Inaugural Car Show sponsored by the BAC
- Annual Music Festival & Car Show, featuring Tommy Keith
- July 4 Celebration at Lake Rogers – partnership with the Creedmoor Chamber of Commerce
- National Night Out – sponsored by the Creedmoor Police Department
- National Day of Play – coordinated by Commissioner Tim Karan and KaBOOM.
- Alive After 5 - partnership with the Granville County Chamber of Commerce
- Fireman’s Day Parade sponsored by the CVFD
- Creedmoor’s first Community Playground Build at Lake Rogers on Nov. 22 – another Tim Karan production
- Lighting of the Greens & Christmas Parade – sponsored by the Creedmoor Chamber of Commerce

This year Commissioner Wilkerson is taking the lead in resuming the spectacular aerial fireworks show at Lake Holt. Commissioner Wilkerson is recruiting Granville County and our fellow municipal governments to partner on this event.

We were awarded a \$2.1 million grant from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CMTF) to go towards buying the Fontaine Development, roughly 200 acres, for a much needed recreation complex. We are not quite there yet, but definitely made a giant step forward.

Continuing on the recreation theme, thanks to Commissioner Karan Creedmoor was again named a “Playful City, USA” by the KaBOOM, an organization seeking to building playgrounds within walking distance of every child in America.

For two years running Creedmoor is the only Playful City in NC.

The Board of Commissioners continued to pursue improving wireless communication facilities for the community.

The Board of Commissioners restated its request to the Granville County Board of Commissioners to extend our Extraterritorial Jurisdiction.

The Board of Commissioners restated a commitment to improving community appearance by working to remove junk cars and dilapidated houses.

Last but not least, the City continued its support to the South Granville Senior Center. The center provides a wide range of senior services.

Energy, Environment and Natural Resources

Last year the record-setting drought forced the Governor to plead for conservation, homeowners to shelve their lawn sprinklers and farmers to drain their ponds for irrigation.

The drought hit Creedmoor both operationally and financially. As the water level in Lake Rogers dropped we struggled to maintain water quality and were ultimately forced to buy water from the South Granville Water and Sewer Authority.

Commissioner Tim Karan, EENR Chair, and Commissioner Jimmy Minor, our SGWASA representatives are leading the discussions on how we provide a long term solution to meet both our water and wastewater treatment needs.

Water and sewer capacity limits our growth and development. Of the 392 towns in North Carolina that run their own water and/or sewer systems, 343 are small towns of fewer than 10,000 people. This represents 71 percent of all small towns. Some of these systems are plagued with crumbling pipes, leaks and infiltration problems. Many towns that have lost major industries also have lost their biggest water and sewer customers, resulting in shortfalls in operation and maintenance budgets.

Does this story sound familiar? It should. This is Creedmoor's story too.

In addition to seeking the long term solution, we respond to breaks in an aging water and sewer system almost daily.

Projects the Board of Commissioners funded included:

- Upgrades to our primary pump station at Joe Peed Road
- A bypass pump at the water plant to improve water the delivery system
- The automated meter reading system

Transportation Infrastructure

Under the guidance of Commissioner Herman Wilkerson, the Transportation Committee initiated planning a Traffic Control Policy. The guidelines are designed to resolve traffic issues including safety, circulation and traffic complaints in our city.

A strategic plan was initiated to develop a street improvement program to pave our unpaved streets and to provide added life to existing street surfaces.

The Transportation Committee is coordinating with the NC Department of Transportation and the Capitol Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to obtain a "Safe Routes to School" Sidewalk Grant and a corridor study for Hwy 50.

The stoplight at Highway 56-Crescent Drive-Hawley School will be installed before the next school year.

Creedmoor has signed on to Granville County's Greenway plan.

Conclusion

In closing, the state of the City of Creedmoor continues to be on the upswing. We will fix our finance operation. This will provide a solid foundation that allows us to maintain existing service levels and be able to respond to changes.

However, I would be remiss in my role as mayor in delivering the State of the City address if I did not say that there are economic challenges that we as a community, state and nation will face in the upcoming months and years that will test our patience and fortitude.

We need to be committed to working together in overcoming the economic distress that impacts each and every household as well as the ability of local government to assist and deliver its basic services. It will not be easy. Revenues may decline and ongoing maintenance of our infrastructure - streets, water and facilities - are vital. We continue to play catch up and the present state of economic conditions will slow down our progress.

We need to be vigilant, patient and work together for the common good and continue to support our wonderful City of Creedmoor.”

Mayor Moss thanked everyone for listening.

Mayor Moss received a round of applause.

REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

No one was scheduled to address the Board this evening.

MINUTES:

Moved by Commissioner Karan and seconded by Commissioner Piper to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2008, January 9, 2009 Emergency meeting, January 10, 2009 Retreat and the January 14, 2009 Work Session. The motion received a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Commissioner Wilkerson expressed that he voted to re-elect the Mayor Pro-tem on a yearly basis; however the Attorney has read to the Board that this shall be done every two years; therefore, he requested the removal of item 11-b.

Mayor Moss requested in the absence of Commissioner Minor that item-10-c Scheduled Dates for All Board's Regular Meetings for 2009 be removed from the agenda.

Moved by Commissioner Wilkerson and seconded by Commissioner Karan to approve the agenda with the deletion of item 10-c and item 11-b. The motion received a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No one wished to speak so Mayor Moss closed the Public Comments section.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Tom Mercer, City Manager/Finance Officer gave an overview of the report that was in the Board's packet in reference to important events, water, sewer, refuse collection, roads and miscellaneous.

Mr. Tom Mercer, City Manager/Finance Officer expressed that the IRS 941 forms received a favorable ruling for the abatement from the Appeals Office on the \$42,000 penalty for late filing and failure to pay penalties. For the IRS W-2 forms the City needs to supply additional defense information to the Appeals Office for a final decision. The deadline date is February 10, 2009.

Commissioner Wilkerson referred to the cross walks in the City Manager's report and asked if there would be any parking spaces lost at Lyon Street and Main Street.

Mr. Steve Colenda, City Inspector said that there would not be any parking spaces lost in front of the Tatum CPA building at the corner of Lyon Street and Main Street.

Commissioner Karan expressed that he and Commissioner Minor talked with the American Legion members and they have been informed that they are not allowed to enter into a long term lease of the American Legion Building. He said that there are other options that the City can review to promote a local Farmers Market at that location. He noted that the City owns the small triangle lot in front of the building.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tax Resolution Update:

Mayor Moss said that the City Manager gave an update under his report.

Department Head Reports:

Mayor Moss advised that the yellow plastic devices at the CVS construction site are a specifically engineered retention pond that will be placed underground.

Mr. Steve Colenda, City Inspector said that this is an underground retention pond contrary to what they have at the Food Lion lot. This is a major engineering system and the manufacturing engineers are on site for installation. Mr. Colenda said that this retention

pond will handle the drainage for the CVS, South Granville Animal Hospital, the school and Douglas Drive. The installed volume will be 10,411 cubic feet, which calculates to 77,874 gallons of detention. He explained that the pond holds the water and lets it drain slowly.

NEW BUSINESS:

Board of Adjustment Appointments:

Moved by Commissioner Karan and seconded by Commissioner Wilkerson to reappoint Mr. Bobby Wheeler to the Board of Adjustment as the City member. The motion received a unanimous vote.

Ms. Sandra Harper, City Clerk advised that the BOA also needs a City Alternate member, an ETJ Board member and an ETJ Alternate. She expressed that there was a legal advertisement published two times in the Butner-Creedmoor News for the BOA positions; however, Mr. Wheeler was the only applicant.

Commissioner Karan suggested that they ask the County to help find ETJ members.

Attorney Currin said that the County can suggest applicants; however, the City Board will have to nominate them.

Mayor Moss said that he would draft a letter of request and also mention this suggestion at the upcoming Granville County Retreat.

Business Advisory Council Update:

Mayor Moss said that Mr. Bowden was unable to attend this evening to give his Business Advisory Council Update.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Moss said that he and Commissioner Piper will be meeting on February 6, 2009 to discuss the Music Fest/Car Show.

Commissioner Piper said that he spoke with Mike Satterfield that helps coordinate the May Car Show and he requested that all of Main Street be closed for the event.

By consensus of the Board, Chief Benware is to coordinate the closing of Main Street for the May 2, 2009 Car Show sponsored by Mike Satterwhite and Tommy Keith.

Mayor Moss gave a brief update of the January 22, 2009 TCC meeting. He expressed that at that meeting Mr. Dave Roesler presented the draft Strategic Plan to the members for review. Mayor Moss said that he anticipated that the process will take approximately one year.

Community and Economic Development:

Commissioner Piper advised that the planning of the September Music Fest/Car Show is to begin in February. He expressed that with early planning he hopes for more participation from citizens, local churches and other organizations.

Commissioner Piper expressed that the CVS and Cardinal State Bank is progressing. He said that the proposed BP will also be an asset to the City of Creedmoor. Commissioner Piper expressed that he felt that the City needed to work towards the cleanup of Highway 15 to make a good impression as people come into the City of Creedmoor.

Finance, Administration & Intergovernmental:

Commissioner Robinson said that he had nothing to report at this time.

Energy, Environment & Natural Resources:

Commissioner Karan suggested that the City offer a challenge grant to other businesses in the area to help the car show raise money. He noted that there is \$15,000 in the Downtown Development Fund.

Commissioner Piper expressed that this would be a consideration once the Music Fest/Car Show Committee is established.

Commissioner Karan referenced the Manager's Report about the climbing slide playground equipment. He said that it is in storage and he would like the Board to consider the City owned lot located in Whitehall Subdivision for the placement of the equipment. He said this location would be within walking distance of the downtown area for all to enjoy. Commissioner Karan said that the lot would need some improvements.

Commissioner Robinson said that he felt this location would be ideal because there are a lot of children at play in Whitehall Subdivision.

Commissioner Karan announced that Granville County Medical is sponsoring a free education program on children and hypertension. The event has been scheduled for Monday, February 2, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at no cost. Dinner will be provided.

Transportation Infrastructure:

Commissioner Wilkerson said that the Transportation Committee met in reference to the sidewalks on Main Street in front of the new bank. He said that he was hopeful that the City would help with the sidewalk in that area. Commissioner Wilkerson deferred the recommendation until the next meeting in the absence of Commissioner Minor.

Commissioner Wilkerson referred to the fireworks contract and advised that it was currently being reviewed by Attorney Currin. He expressed that he would like to defer signing the contract until the February Work Session to give him time to talk with Butner, Stoval,

Granville County, Oxford and Stem. He hopes to get participation from all entities of Granville County. Commissioner Wilkerson said that there would be 751 fireworks.

Attorney Currin advised that he was in the process of revising the fireworks contract to relieve the City of liability and that he would present the contract to the Board at the next meeting.

Commissioner Wilkerson inquired about other grants for the Fontaine property.

Mayor Moss said that the City was going to submit an application for the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant application for the Fontaine property.

Commissioner Wilkerson said that he received an e-mail in reference to the speed bumps at Whitehall; however the Transportation Committee is not ready to make a recommendation until they receive further information from the Police Chief.

Commissioner Wilkerson inquired about the closing of one lane traffic on Elm Street.

Mr. Steve Colenda, City Inspector gave a brief overview of the water problem at Elm Street and advised that the lane was opened this afternoon.

Commissioner Wilkerson said that he needed the information on the five (5) priorities for streets of Creedmoor and County roads by the February Work Session.

Moved by Commissioner Robinson and seconded by Commissioner Karan to go into Closed Session on the matter of Attorney/Client Privilege and Property Acquisition in accordance with GS 143-318.11. The motion received a unanimous vote.

Upon return to Regular Session, moved by Commissioner Piper and seconded by Commissioner Robinson to adjourn. The motion received a unanimous vote.

Mayor

City Clerk