

MEBANE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 10, 2011

Members Present: Patty Philipps
Ed Hooks
Everette Greene

Tim Bradley
Jill Auditori

Mayor Glendel Stephenson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 6:05pm.
Councilmember Hooks gave the invocation.

Mayor Stephenson requested Council's approval to remove both Public Hearings to be heard from the agenda and rescheduled. The first Public Hearing being a request for consideration of an Economic Development Incentive Grant for the location of a new industry. The second Public Hearing being a request from Old Hillsborough Partners, LLC to amend the CU-R-8 (Conditional Use Multi-Family) to CU-R-8 (Conditional Use Single Family) to allow for the construction of patio homes. Councilmember Hooks made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Greene, to approve the requests to remove both Public Hearings from the agenda and to reschedule the Public Hearing for consideration of an Economic Development Incentive Grant for the location of a new industry until Monday, October 24, 2011 at 5:00pm and to reschedule the Public Hearing request from Old Hillsborough Partners, LLC to amend the CU-R-8 (Conditional Use Multi-Family) to CU-R-8 (Conditional Use Single Family) to allow for the construction of patio homes until the November regular monthly meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The Council received a request from Old Hillsborough Partners, LLC for approval of a Final Subdivision Plat of "Arbor Creek, Phase II-A. City Manager Robert Wilson spoke concerning this issue. He stated this item is completely separate from the Public Hearing request. He said this request is for the single family residential area of the "Arbor Creek" subdivision. Councilmember Philipps made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Auditori, to approve the request as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The Council received a request for approval of a Municipal Agreement between the NCDOT and the City of Mebane. Public Works Director Jimmy Jobe explained that the City has two culverts that fall under the category of a bridge which are located on N. Fifth Street and N. Ninth Street. Last year the NCDOT included Mebane in the list of bridges to be inspected and will contract the inspection the bridges again this year. The cost of the inspection is 80%/20% split with the Federal Highway Administration paying the 80% and the City paying 20%. The average cost is \$520.00 each. Councilmember Philipps made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Auditori, to approve the request. The motion carried unanimously.

Finance Officer David Cheek requested approval to increase the City's return check fee from \$8.00 to \$25.00. Mr. Cheek explained that the fee had not been raised in over 20+ years. After some discussion, Councilmember Philipps made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Bradley, to increase the City's return check fee from \$8.00 to \$25.00 under the condition that the charge not be in excess of what it cost the city to process returned checks and that there be no violation of the General Statutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Finance Officer David Cheek stated, at Council's request, City staff has been evaluating various solutions related to providing agenda packets electronically versus the traditional paper packets. Mr. Cheek explained that he and City Clerk Stephanie Shaw have extensively reviewed three different solutions with the following goals in mind:

- Reduction of paper consumption
- Reduction in time preparing the agenda and minutes
- Electronic distribution of agendas to iPads, the internet, and our website
- Provide easy, efficient public access to public records and minutes
- Ease of use to the public, City Council and City staff

Mr. Cheek stated two proposals were obtained, one from Granicus and one from BoardDocs. He further explained that Granicus is used by a significant number of local governments in North Carolina and while BoardDocs proposal was cheaper, staff believes the Granicus proposal

would be the best solution for Mebane. Mr. Cheek then introduced Jack Melnicoff of Granicus, Inc.

Jack Melnicoff of Granicus gave a brief presentation of what Granicus has to offer to the city staff in attaining the goals expressed by the Council and staff as being imperative to creating an efficient and “open” government for the citizens, City Council and City staff. Mr. Melnicoff stated in order to help the City of Mebane reach a positive ROI (Return on Investment) within the first year of implementing Granicus they are willing to offer monthly managed services free until July 1, 2012. After considerable discussion, Councilmember Bradley made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Greene, to have staff proceed by creating an implementation plan including a time frame and a cost benefit analysis with using Granicus. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Stephenson called for a break at 7:05pm. Mayor Stephenson called the meeting back to order at 7:15pm.

Gwen Harvey, Orange County Asst. County Manager, and Steve Brantley, Orange County Economic Development Director, spoke and shared a slide presentation concerning the ¼ cent tax, a proposal which will be on the Orange County’s voter ballot in November. They presented information encouraging voters to vote on this issue. They explained that the proceeds from the proposed tax would be split 50/50 with the Orange County schools and Orange County’s Economic Development. Kristin Smith, Director of Public Policy and Member Engagement with the Chapel Hill/Carrboro Chamber of Commerce, shared a brief statement from her co-worker Abbey Spoon and also spoke advocating the proposed ¼ cent tax.

The Council stated the City’s stance on the proposed ¼ cent tax should be one of educating the voters and not a role of advocating the proposed tax.

Tom Boney, Editor of Alamance News, shared his opinion that Orange County and the City of Mebane should be careful not to cross the line from education to advocacy of the proposed ¼ cent tax.

The Council received a request from the homeowners of Arbor Creek Subdivision petitioning the City to reduce the speed limit within their subdivision. No one was present to speak on behalf of the request. No formal action was taken.

The Council received a request from Gary Linz, 1514 Saddle Club Road, to waive sidewalks and lighting along a portion of North Lebanon Road. Mr. Linz spoke concerning the request. He explained that his request is for the 6+ acres on the corner of Lebanon Road and Saddle Club Road. City Manager Robert Wilson stated that the City of Mebane’s UDO Section 7-6.6 Sidewalks, allows for the Council to waive the sidewalks in an area which is not reasonably expected to generate a significant amount of pedestrian traffic and lighting would only be in place when the entire street is within the City limits. Mr. Linz stated a sidewalk right-of-way shall be maintained as there may come a time when growth of the city would warrant sidewalks. Councilmember Philipps made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hooks, to approve the request to waive sidewalks and lighting with the condition that Mr. Linz maintain the sidewalk easement for possible future development. The motion carried unanimously.

The Council received a request for approval of a proposed policy on the use of the Antique Fire Trucks. Councilmember Bradley requested to be recused from the matter due to his position as Asst. Chief with the Mebane Fire Department. Councilmember Hooks made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Greene, to recuse Councilmember Bradley. The motion carried unanimously. City Attorney Charles Bateman spoke concerning the request. He stated he made revisions to the policy as requested by Council at last month’s meeting. Councilmember Greene made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hooks, to approve the Antique Fire Truck Use policy as presented. The motion carried unanimously. The Council unanimously agreed to have Councilmember Bradley rejoin the meeting.

During the Public Comment period, Brooks Gardner, 517 N. Carr Street, expressed his in views in opposition of having the press participate in council meetings.

The Council received a request for a budget amendment. Finance Officer David Cheek spoke concerning the matter. Mr. Cheek stated this budget amendment is for the 2010 Historic Preservation Fund Pass-Through Grant for the Old South Mebane Historic District and the Commercial Historic District Register Nominations. He stated the work is already completed. He said Alamance County applied for this grant on our behalf and the county is requesting to be reimbursed for Mebane's 40% match of the \$24,000 grant. Councilmember Hooks made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Greene, to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$9,600, Mebane's 40% match of the \$24,000 grant. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Bradley commended Esther Bennett for her work on the City's quarterly employee newsletter and requested that it be made viewable by the citizens. Council agreed.

As an additional item, Councilmember Auditori suggested that Council meet to revisit and discuss possible amendments to the City's sign ordinances. City Manager Robert Wilson stated he would look into this matter.

The minutes of the September 12, 2011 regular monthly meeting and the September 26, 2011 special meeting/work session were approved as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Glendel Stephenson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Stephanie W. Shaw, City Clerk