

**TOWN OF FOUR OAKS  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2021  
AGENDA**

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Approval of Minutes
  - a) Town Council Meeting – October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- 4) Presentation
  - a) American Legion Post 346
- 5) Public Comments
  - a) Eric Fogleman
- 6) Public Hearings – None
- 7) New Business
  - a) Approval of CDBG-CV Funds Duplication of Benefits Plan
  - b) Town Council to recommend Linwood Parker as the Town of Four Oaks representative on the Johnston County Economic Development Advisory Board
  - c) On-Call Multidisciplinary Engineering Services Agreements – Reid Williams
    - i. L.E. Wooten & Company dba The Wooten Company
    - ii. WithersRavenel
    - iii. McKim & Creed
- 8) Mayor's Comments
- 9) Department Reports
  - a) Police – Hatch
  - b) Parks & Rec & Outreach – Hines
  - c) Water and Sewer – Medlin
  - d) Sanitation & Streets - Surles
  - e) Finance – Hardy

Adjournment

**TOWN OF FOUR OAKS  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Linwood Parker called the November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 regular scheduled Town Council meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Those present included Commissioners Andy Hardy, John Hatch, Mike Hines, Vic Medlin, and Charles Surles. Also, present were Public Works Director Barry Stanley; Police Chief Stephen Anderson; Town Clerk Martha Garris recording minutes; I-95 / I-40 Crossroads of America Economic Development Alliance President Reid Williams; and Mike Dart from FO Benson New in Review.

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Hatch gave the opening Invocation with Tom Britt leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Town Council Meeting – October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Commissioner Hardy made a motion to approve the Town Council regular meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Hines, voting unanimous.

**Presentations**

**Proclamation Recognizing American Legion Post 346**

Mayor Parker presented a proclamation to the American Legion Post 346 under the leadership of Post Commander Tom Britt and Adjutant Reggie Parker for services provided to the Four Oaks Community.

**Proclamation Recognizing American Legion Post 346 Post Commander Tom Britt**

Mayor Parker presented a proclamation designating American Legion Post 346 Post Commander Tom Britt as General Tom Britt and requested Adjutant Reggie Parker to record and make public this pronouncement.

Adjutant Reggie Parker commented the Town of Four Oaks' support to the American Legion has been fantastic over the years. The culmination of that is the beautiful Veteran Memorial. He thanked the town. Mr. Parker reminded everyone the American Legion is selling bricks in memory and honor of a veteran for service to our nation from WWI thru the present time.

Mayor Parker thanked Commissioner Surles, who is also a Veteran, for his service.

**Public Comments**

Eric Fogleman, Resident and Business Owner, commented he had seen many families sitting at the picnic table beside the Veterans Memorial in the park and asked about putting another table

on the other side of the memorial for folks to sit. Mayor Parker referred that to Commissioner Hines to look into in the future.

Mr. Fogleman asked, since November 18<sup>th</sup> was also Third Thursday on Main Street from 5:00-8:00 pm for the merchants, if the time for the Town's Public Meeting could be extended until 9:00 pm to give him & other merchants time to get there and have a Q&A discussion period about his merchant concept proposal. Reid Williams explained the meeting was laid out as floating 5:30-8:00 pm for people to mingle and ask questions but he could ask the FO Baptist Church if the reservation could be extended until 9:00 pm.

Eric Fogleman presented survey results from his Merchant Concept Public Meeting which consisted of six questions. The survey questions asked for yes or no answers and below were the results from 19 surveys summarized by Mr. Fogleman. He gave the surveys to Clerk Garris.

- (1) Is having plenty of parking important to you?  
Results - Yes 19;
- (2) Do you want trees lining Main St., potentially blocking view of businesses?  
Results - Yes 2, No 17;
- (3) Would you prefer a flexible plaza for different events?  
Results - Yes 14, No 2, No Response 3;
- (4) Is safe pedestrian access important to you?  
Results - Yes 19;
- (5) Are you satisfied with the town's proposal?  
Results - No 12, Not Sure Until the updated town plan comes out 7;
- (6) Do you feel the proposals made today (Oct. 28 Fogleman's Merchant Concept) would improve the original plan?  
Results - Yes 9, Not Sure because have seen updated town plan 10; &

He expressed it seems frustrating from some of the merchants point of views because they feel their voices have not been heard and the Plan by WithersRavenel looked the same as a year ago.

Mayor Parker explained he does not want anyone discouraged because everyone has worked hard but there are two sides to every issue and at the moment the Board was trying to gather the funds to make the project happen and no one knows what will be done until funding is determined. Initially the #1 thing everyone wanted was taking down the power poles and put up ornamental lights. That may be all we can do to start with. If budgets are ever approved, there will may be moneys available at the State and Federal levels to complete more of the downtown revitalization project. The project has been an open process from day 1 and will continue to be an open process for public knowledge and involvement. Mayor's message was the planning isn't over and will not be over until the funding is determined and then the plans will be finalized at some point. He stressed the Board had not voted on any proposal yet. Mr. Fogleman commented most of his concerns are cosmetic and will cost less money. He said he wished for the Board to get engaged to find out what the true people of the town want to do and what merchants want to do and to figure out what is important to increase foot traffic, make it more profitable & economically viable with retail. The majority don't want trees in the front of stores blocking views plus they have concerns about losing parking. He showed Mayor Parker an example concept of his White Swan Restaurant currently with 8 or 9 parking spots and if it were in Four Oaks going down to 4 parking spots. He asked if he thought the restaurant could make it with only 4 spaces? Mayor Parker explained that parking is about turnover with vehicles coming and

going which is what you really want to increase traffic. The Town has incorporated a tremendous amount of parking around town on Railroad Street, behind Tim Grady's building, and beside the Barbour's Grove Park over the years. Mayor encouraged Mr. Fogleman not be frustrated because his work is not in vain and everyone will have to come together to discuss more about what to do once the funding is in place and the Board will then have to make decisions and vote on plan at that point. Mr. Fogleman commented at his public meeting the committee representatives present said they were not doing according to his Merchant Concept plan because they were going to do what WithersRavenel says so he told the mayor he needed to talk with his representatives and get things straight. He concluded there are things on the list from the Downtown Development Association since early on that are being disregarded from the plans and if they could all get straightened out, he would be so happy with the focus on improved pedestrian safety and having downtown get developed right. Mayor Parker explained all recommendations will be put together to help make decisions but not all recommendations will be incorporated.

Joan Pritchett, Chamber of Commerce, gave an update for the Chamber: (1) November 11 Oyster Roast from 6-8 pm at Four Oaks Fire Station #2 on Lassiter Rd – contact the chamber office, town hall, or a chamber member to purchase tickets at a cost of \$50 per ticket for all you can eat Oysters, Shrimp, Slaw and Hushpuppies; & (2) November 10 there will be 2 Veteran recognitions awarded (the Lifetime Achievement Award & the Dedicated Service Award) in the Barbour's Grove Park at 11:00 am; (3) December 3 Santa, Christmas Tree lighting, & Movie in Barbour's Grove Park; and (4) December 4 Christmas parade at 11:00 am.

Roger Price, resident and business owner, commented with everything going on with the Downtown Revitalization project, everyone needs to stay positive and work together. Mayor Parker agreed and responded we will take the ideas, figure out what we can do with the money we have and move forward in a positive direction.

Keith Smith, resident, asked if the amount of funds receiving had changed. Mayor Parker responded the town will receive \$900,000 CDBG-CV grant funds already appropriated, possibly \$200,000 more from the state, then if the state passes its budget there could be additional funds available for water & sewer and drainage, and possibly some money from Washington if the federal budget passes. If the funds are made available, there could be enough to complete the whole project otherwise it would be done in 3 phases over multiple years. The goal is to see a rebirth and growth in the community, increase business, and add restaurants.

## **New Business**

### **Approval of CDBG-CV Funds Duplication of Benefits Plan**

Clerk Garris relayed from Skip that the following Duplication of Benefits Plan needed to be approved for the CDBG-CV Project #20-V-3502:

“The Town will not seek funds to replace/duplicate the CDBG-CV funds. Any person or entity receiving CDBG-CV assistance (including sub-recipients and beneficiaries) must agree to repay assistance that is determined to be duplicative.” Motion to approve the statement as presented was made by Commissioner Hardy, seconded by Commissioner Medlin, voting unanimous.

### **Town Council to recommend Linwood Parker as the Town of Four Oaks representative on the Johnston County Economic Development Advisory Board**

Commissioner Medlin explained he will be stepping down from the Johnston County Economic Development Advisory Board since he is Mayor elect for the Town and he made a recommendation for Linwood Parker to replace him. Motion to recommend Linwood Parker as the Town of Four Oaks representative on the Johnston County Economic Development Advisory Board was made by Commissioner Medlin, seconded by Commissioner Surles, voting unanimous.

### **On-Call Multidisciplinary Engineering Services Agreements**

Reid Williams presented three on-call engineering firm service agreements to the board that will allow for the town to secure engineering services by one of the three firms without having to go through the bidding process. Motion to approve the engineering service master agreements for L.E. Wooten & Company dba The Wooten Company; WithersRavenel; and McKim & Creed was made by Commissioner Medlin, seconded by Commissioner Hines, voting unanimous.

### **Mayor's Comments**

Mayor Parker thanked everyone for allowing him to represent the Town of Four Oaks during his time in office since 2003. During his years, he has met many folks, served on various committees locally & at the state level, attend 3 presidential inaugurations, 4 governmental inaugurations, and many other fortunate opportunities. The faith of the Four Oaks residents has allowed him to do so many things. He, the Boards, and residents have accomplished many great things for the Town of Four Oaks by working together. Mayor commented there comes a time for an end and his time has come. He knows the board is very capable to carry on. He plans to continue to help with the Alliance to make the Four Oaks and Dunn areas a great place to live and work by improving economic opportunities for the area. He thanked Patricia Chisolm-Jones for her work and all she has done on Smith Street, along with many others that have helped rebuild our community.

### **Department Reports**

#### **Police – Hatch**

Chief Anderson read the monthly police report (attached). Chief reported the motor had gone bad in the night shift care making the agency two cars down. He relayed that there was approximately a 20-25 weeks delay in getting a Ford Explorer, 1 year delay for the Durango, and the sedan is basically obsolete. A new motor, new front-end, & tires for the existing car would be \$7,000 to \$8,000. Mayor Parker asked about the State Surplus option. Chief responded there wasn't much available and most things are worn out in Surplus. Chief commented he would rather get by with what he has and wait until something new can be purchased. Commissioner Medlin suggested to also check on the Chevrolet Tahoe's timeframe because we need to make some decisions as soon as possible.

#### **Parks & Rec and Outreach – Hines**

Commissioner Hines reported 1) football season had finished and it was a success; 2) basketball registrations had begun; 3) would be getting quotes to paint the Main Street Kiddie Park equipment; & 4) Halloween events were a great success.

**Water and Sewer – Medlin**

Commissioner Medlin read the water and sewer report (attached). Water had revenue of \$26,928 and the sewer had revenue of \$33,296. The 12-month daily average per gallon was a 14% loss for water and 1% loss for sewer. He commented the guys had found some leaks and asked everyone to keep a look out for leaks around town.

**Sanitation & Streets**

Commissioner Surles reported: streets & sanitation were good. Commissioner Hardy reported that Forest Hills and Benson Avenue are in the plans for paving in the Spring but prep work has begun to give time for settling of the ground before paving. Mayor Parker commented it was his idea to put the islands on South Main Street and the wrong bushes were planted there. He suggested the holly bushes need to be replace with a better selection of trees to improve the visibility.

**Finance – Hardy**

Commissioner Hardy read the financial report (attached) with total funds of \$2,119,205 and made a motion to approve the October payables listed in the attached report, seconded by Commissioner Medlin, voting unanimous.

Roger Price thanked the mayor for his service to the Town.

**Executive Session**

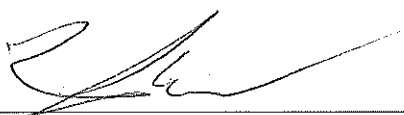
Motion was made by Commissioner Hardy, seconded by Commissioner Hines to move out of regular session and into executive session to discuss economic development matters for the Town of Four Oaks Development Corporation, voting unanimous.

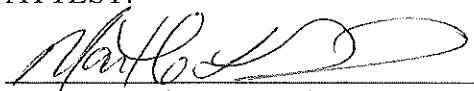
No motions were made

Motion was made by Commissioner Medlin, seconded by Commissioner Hardy to move out of executive session and into regular session, voting unanimous

**Adjournment**

With no further business brought before the Town Council, motion to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. was made by Commissioner Medlin, seconded by Commissioner Hardy, voting unanimous.

  
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Linwood Parker, Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
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Martha Garris, Town Clerk