

**TOWN OF FOUR OAKS
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 13TH, 2021
AGENDA**

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Approval of Minutes
 - a) Town Council Meeting – November 8th, 2021
- 4) Presentation for Mayor Linwood Parker
- 5) Public Comments
- 6) Acceptance of Election Results for the Municipal Election Held on November 2, 2021
- 7) Oath of Offices – Administered by the Honorable 11th District Court Judge Frank Wood
 - a) Vic Medlin – Mayor
 - b) John Hatch – Commissioner
 - c) Mike Hines - Commissioner
- 8) Proclamation for Linwood Parker
- 9) Public Hearings – None
- 10) New Business
 - a) Adopt 2022 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule – Clerk Garris
 - b) Employee Compensation – Commissioner Hardy
 - c) Sewer Rate Increase – Commissioner Hardy
- 11) Mayor’s Comments
- 12) 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
DECEMBER 13th, 2021
MINUTES**

Call to Order

Mayor Linwood Parker called the December 13th, 2021 regular scheduled Town Council meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Those present included Commissioners Andy Hardy, John Hatch, Mike Hines, Vic Medlin, and Charles Surlis. 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 Conner Johnson leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Town Council Meeting – November 8th, 2021

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

Presentation for Mayor Linwood Parker

Commissioner Medlin began the recognition of Mayor Parker by commenting that he had served the Town for 34 years and the one thing he had requested was the American flag that had hung in the Town Hall Chamber for many years. Mayor Parker began by saying thank you to Mrs. Pat and everyone for the afternoon events and commented there comes a time for change and the time had come. He commented on how blessed he has been and that he has served 34 years with many folks of current and that have gone on before him. The flag was a fine example of what Four Oaks is and explained the significance about the flag. Many years ago, a police officer was cleaning his gun, the gun fired and the bullet pierced the flag which is a reminder of how Four Oaks is like Mayberry. Four Oaks is and will always be a small town as long as we remember the importance of community, family, church, education, and a marketplace. American Legion Post 346 Post Commander Tom Britt and Adjutant Reggie Parker performed a flag folding ceremony. Commissioner Medlin presented Mayor Parker with the flag and a trophy case with an engraved plaque to store the flag in from the Town. Mayor Parker closed his comments about the Dash, life has a beginning and an end and what matters is what you do in life with the dash in between.

Public Comments

Patricia Chisolm-Jones, brought greeting from childhood friends and neighbors on Smith Street and Allen Street where Mayor Parker was raised. Mrs. Chisolm-Jones compared her and Mayor Parker's stories with the Protocol son and daughter. She left Four Oaks, returned, and she was welcomed back with open arms as the little Chisolm girl. Mayor Parker left for school and when he returned everyone was awaiting his return with open arms. Mrs. Jones compared Mayor

Parker to the meaning of the ABC's from his friends and neighbors: A – apple of our eyes; B – bold; C – christian, courageous, & celebrates life; D – determined & dedicated; E – energetic & an entrepreneur; F – family man, friend in need, & a friend in deed; G – gentleman, goal setter, giver from the heart; H – happy, humorous, & a heartfelt person; I – innovator; J – joyful; K – kind hearted; L – lover of all people, all color & race; M – manager; N – nature lover; O – others first & outstanding in all areas; P – people person; Q – quiet sometimes when Pat is talking; R – respectful; S – storyteller; T – talkative; V – vivacious; W – worker, witty, & a winner; X – extraordinary; Y – youthful regardless of age; & Z – zealous. On behalf of the ancestors, childhood family, friends and neighbors on Smith Street and Allen Street, Mrs. Chisolm-Jones wished Mayor Parker love and wished him well.

Chris Haley, resident and former commissioner for 6 years, spoke of Mayor Parker when his father Hunter Parker would go into the local stores, talk with the guys, and shared how much that meant. He commented that Mayor Parker is a dear friend that will stick by you to the end through thick and thin, and he hated to see him go because of how much he has helped the town. He thanked the Mayor, the Board, and Four Oaks.

Mayor Parker thanked everyone for the kind comments share then and over the past few months.

Levi Cooper, resident, thanked God for Four Oaks. He commented Mayor Parker stood by him and helped work though trials and tribulations. Mr. Cooper thanked God for where we have come from and where we are going.

Mayor Parker commented its all about where we live, who we are, and it was time to move on and turn things over to Mayor elect, Vic Medlin.

Acceptance of Election Results for the Municipal Election Held on November 2, 2021

Motion to accept the election results held on November 2, 2021 was made by Commissioner Hardy, seconded by Commissioner Surles, voting unanimous.

Oath of Offices – Honorable 11th District Court Judge Frank Wood Vic Medlin – Mayor; John Hatch – Town Commissioner; Mike Hines – Town Commissioner

Honorable Judge Frank Wood read each Oath individually swearing in the Mayor and each Commissioner. The Oaths were signed accordingly.

Proclamation Honoring Linwood Parker

Mayor Medlin read and presented Linwood Parker with the proclamation. He also presented a photo of Mayor Linwood Parker to be hung in the Town Hall Chamber with all previous mayors.

Linwood Parker thanked everyone and spoke about each commissioner individually. He commented that Four Oaks has a great board and encouraged everyone to get behind and support them.

Mayor Medlin called for a 5-minute recess.

Mayor Medlin called the meeting back to order at 7:54 pm.

Public Hearings - None

New Business

Adopt 2022 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule

Clerk Garris presented the 2022 Town Council regular meeting schedule to the Board. Motion to approve the 2022 meeting schedule was made by Commissioner Hines, seconded by Commissioner Surles, voting unanimous.

Employee Compensation

Commissioner Hardy commented that inflation had increased 6.8% over the past year and the south increased 7.2%. He asked the Board to consider or have a discussion on employee compensation to give a mid-year salary increase for town employees to help offset inflation. He commented a 3% increase would be an approximate \$15,000 all in 6-month cost effect increase and then it could be reevaluated for the 2022-2023 budget. Commissioner Hines clarified this was the increase amount for January – July 2022. Motion to approve an employee compensation increase of 3% for inflation purposes was made by Commissioner Surles, seconded by Commissioner Hines, voting unanimous.

Sewer Rate Increase

Commissioner Hardy clarified that the sewer rate proposal was totally unrelated to the employment compensation increase. Johnston County notified the Town about July 2021 about a faulty sewer meter issue, they had been undercharging the town for approximately 15 years. They informed the Town that sewer charges would be increasing approximately 100,000 gallons per day. This increase is significant and needs to be passed thru to residents for cover the Towns cost to the County. The County will not be back charging the Town for the fault meter. In the Spring of 2021, the NC Rural Water Association (“NCRWA”) did a water & sewer rate study of our rate revenue verse our operation expenses to break even and based our rates on what we knew then providing the Town with a 5-year plan. After receiving the notification from the County, the NCRWA recalculated our sewer rates. The immediate increase would consist of \$2.45 for inside customers and \$4.90 for outside customers. NCRWA will perform our annual reevaluation for water and sewer rates in the Spring of 2022 which will be used for our next budget year. Motion to increase sewer rates based on the NCRWA rate study was made by Commissioner Hardy, seconded by Commissioner Hines, voting unanimous.

Patricia Chisolm-Jones asked the Board to share this information with citizens when doing a rate change.

Mayor’s Comments

Mayor Medlin thanked the Town and residents for allowing him to be Mayor. He also thanked Joan Pritchett for a great job on heading up all the Christmas events. Joan thanked the Town and Fire Department for helping make the Tree Lighting and Movie Night a magical, Hallmark moment event. He also thanked Reid Williams for his work for the Town.

Public Comments Continued

Joan Pritchett, Chamber of Commerce, commented December 13th was the last Board meeting for her as the Chamber Director. She will be stepping down as director as of December 31. She commented it had been an honor being the Chamber Director. Mayor Medlin thanked Joan on how active the Chamber has become because of her.

Department Reports

Police – Hatch

Chief Anderson read the monthly police report (attached).

Parks & Rec and Outreach – Hines

Commissioner Hines reported 1) Barbour's Grove Park will be getting rewired soon; 2) basketball registrations went well and the number of teams consisted of 11 boys' teams and 3 girls' teams; & 3) plans are in process to get quotes to paint the Main Street Kiddie Park equipment.

Water and Sewer – Medlin

Mayor Medlin read the water and sewer report (attached). Water had revenue of \$26,438 and the sewer had revenue of \$29,368. The 12-month daily average per gallon was a 12% loss for water and 2% loss for sewer. He commented that Commissioner Hines will be taking over water and sewer for the Town.

Sanitation & Streets

Commissioner Surles reported: streets & sanitation were good with a slight increase in garbage customers.

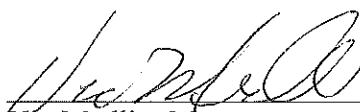
Finance – Hardy

Commissioner Hardy read the financial report (attached) with total funds of \$2,310,580 and made a motion to approve the November payables listed in the attached report, seconded by Commissioner Surles, voting unanimous.

Patricia Chisolm-Jones congratulated the new mayor and commissioners and commented on how much it means for their support to the community. She commented that she asked about giving a donation for the police escort for Mayor Parker around town but was told no it wasn't necessary.

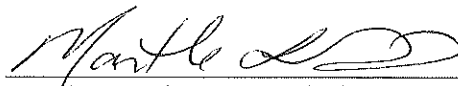
Adjournment

With no further business brought before the Town Council, motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. was made by Commissioner Hardy, seconded by Commissioner Hines, voting unanimous.



Vic Medlin, Mayor

ATTEST:



Martha Garris, Town Clerk